

Negotiating Committee will not resolve our differences, but will tend to make them worse.

"OKANAGAN GROWERS BRACED FOR STRIKE"

"Packers' Walkout Will Hit Small Farmer, Growers' Leader Claims"

Oliver - "Thirty-five hundred fruit growers in the Okanagan are bracing themselves against a possible strike in their fruit-packing industry. The government supervised strike vote will start Tuesday in all packing houses certified by the Federation of Fruit and Vegetable Workers Union."

"A.R. Garrish, Oliver fruit farmer and president of the B.C. Fruit Growers Association, said today that "This strike is directed straight at the farmer, the small fruit grower with five to fifteen acres of orchard. These are the same growers who were hard hit by the big freeze in 1950, who lost most of their peach crop in 1954, who haven't had a good cherry crop in the last four years, and whose net returns have been getting less and less since 1950. We have the pages of figures to prove that."

"The fruit growers' representatives," concluded the leader of the big Okanagan farm organization, "all through the negotiations have expressed a willingness to arbitrate the dispute over wages. The union has refused to arbitrate. A year ago an arbitration board decided in favor of a wage increase. This year the conciliation board headed by Dean F. N. Clement, after viewing all the evidence, decided the fruit growers were in no position to increase wages."