

(Continued from page 2)

visited workshops and collected £11 12s 6d for the relief committee.

The general strike in Wellington was triggered by the shipwrights' strike in October 1913. The shipwrights union requested support from the carpenters and this was promised.

By the second week in November, there had been several violent clashes between specials and strikers in Wellington, the city was in an uproar, public opinion was strongly with the strikers and several strike leaders had just been arrested.

The Wellington Carpenters called a special general meeting and there was a large turnout. The debate was not about whether to strike but how much financial support to give the watersiders. The conservative view – to have a voluntary collection – was defeated two to one by a decision to give £100 to the watersiders' distress committee. Motions to levy members one day's wages a week or 5% of their wages were defeated. The district council of the union was concerned about the legality of the donation. However the donation was endorsed by the union's NZ executive and by a second general meeting. At a time when skilled workers earned around £3 10/- a week, £100 was a sizeable contribution.

Like the Dunedin engineers and the Wellington carpenters, the Wellington Typographical Union included a minority who argued that the union should be

part of the labour movement. The general strike crystallised the debates within the union.

On 8 November 1913, 159 members of the union attended a special meeting to consider the latest developments in the strike. They voted to support the right of the Waterside Workers Union to control its own affairs within the law, to donate £100 to the watersiders' relief fund and to call on the government to withdraw the specials and legislate to ensure a fair settlement of the strike. A ballot of members strongly approved the donation.

A week later another special meeting was held to discuss an appeal from the UFL to support a general strike to force the specials to leave Wellington. There was a fierce debate about whether the union should reject the appeal out of hand or whether it should leave its options open in case members were asked to typeset material that would be printed on paper unloaded by strike breakers. The conservative view prevailed but only narrowly.

On 20 November, the union received advice from its lawyer that the contribution to the watersiders' relief fund was probably illegal. It accepted his advice that the union should test the issue in the Supreme Court and the case was heard on 10 December. The main issue was whether the IC & A Act limited the activities of registered unions to the industries in which their members worked. If so, the Typographical Union could not give money to the watersiders. On 12 December, Sir Robert Stout, the Chief Justice, ruled that unions registered under the arbitration act

were limited to their own industries and that printers could not help striking watersiders.

Stout's decision was a blow to the strike and set an important precedent. You might expect that this was the end of the matter.

Conservative though they were, typographers were also stubbornly independent. The union simply ignored the Supreme Court's ruling. A special meeting instructed the union's trustees to immediately sign the cheque for £100 and resolved that union members would be asked to sign a guarantee indemnifying the trustees against any legal proceedings or monetary loss. By the end of December, members had guaranteed £117.

The last word should go to the Dunedin Engineers. At their branch meeting in December 1913 a letter was received from one Bro. Hindley stating that he had got work on the wharf and asking the branch if joining the new Waterside Workers Union would affect his membership of the [engineers union]. "It was moved and seconded that the letter from Bro. Hindley be put in the waste paper basket."

*Text of a contribution made at
the 1913 Seminar by*

Peter Franks

TUHP NEWSLETTER

LETTERS TO EDITOR WELCOME

**Address to: The Editor
 TUHP
 Box 27-425
 WELLINGTON**

*Extracts from ... TUHP AGM Minutes — 22 November 2003***Present:**

Jock Philips, Erik Olssen, Pat Walsh, John RobsRona Bailey, Mark Derby, Ray Grover, Sally James, Peter Franks, Kerry Taylor, Larry Haist, Gerard Hill, Ronald Nelson, Neill Atkinson, Pat Bolster, Donald Anderson, Jim McAloon, Cathy Casey.

Apologies

Melanie Nolan, Colin Hicks, Dean Parker, Dave Morgan.

Matters Arising from the 2002 Minutes

- (a) the meeting agreed that there was an urgent need to encouraged supporters to advance their 2004 fees; and
- (b) the meeting agreed that an increase in fees was not realistic.

Matters Arising from the Financial Report

- (a) Gerard Hill noted the recent strong support of the Seafarer's Union and he expressed the hope that the new industrial configuration would continue.

Election of Executive Committee

No existing members declined reappointment. The following additional persons accepted appointment to the Executive Committee:

Mark Darby
Donald Anderson
Neil Atkinson
James Taylor
Ronald Nelson

Auckland Working Party

That \$142.18 be given to Cathy Casey for her contribution to the Auckland 1913 Exhibition Cossacks and Comrades.

Moved: Gay Simpkin
Seconded: Gerard Hill

Carried

The Aucklanders present further indicated that they would meet in solemn conclave and report back with respect to a future operations, structure, and relationshipsd with the Wellington organisation.

Planning Meeting

It was agreed that a planning meeting would take place at Muareen Birchfield's residence in early February.

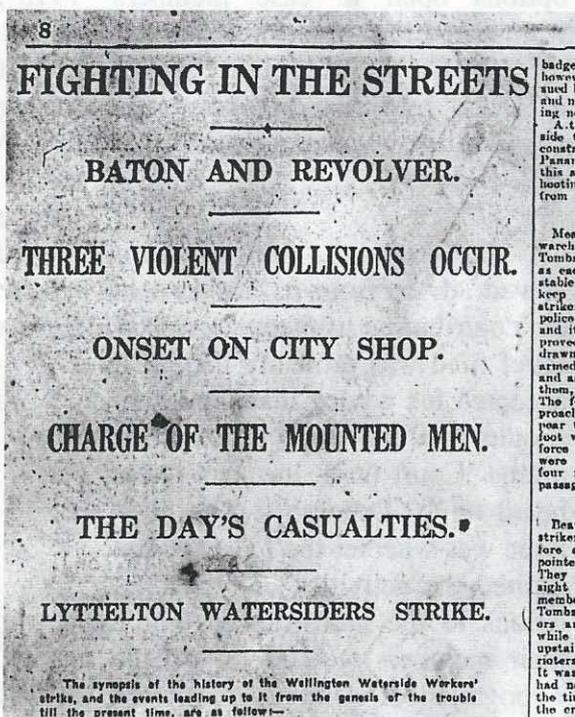
John Robson, Minute Secretary

(Continued from page 7)

went. The order came, 'Charge!' In came the specials with their batons."

"In those days the Post Office Square had wooden paving blocks with a slight coating of tar. I scuttled into a doorway to get out of the road, and I could hear the difference in the note of the horses' feet on those woodblocks and the slight tapping on the heads of the fugitives. Not hard enough to break a bone but enough to make a noise. It sounded like a queer duet. That was the finish of the unlawful assemblies."

Tom Bloodworth — unionist



"I was at the Trade Hall of course, and next door to the Trades Hall was a Catholic bookshop."

"And, that day the then Catholic Bishop, Dr Cleary, came to the bookshop and somebody told him about what was going on, and he came in to see us. And, we told him that we weren't permitted to go on the wharf and talk to some of the seamen from some of the overseas ships. And, the Bishop said 'I can take you onto the wharf.'"

"I said to him, 'you know, Bishop, I'd not one of your flock, I'm not a Catholic.'

And, he put his hand on my shoulder and said, 'Bloodworth, I'm in this as a citizen, not as a priest.'"

Chairperson's Report: Annual Meeting 2003

During the past year the Trade Union History Project has focused primarily on two main events. The first concerned encouraging progress towards the publication of the edited speeches of the 1951 waterfront lockout seminar that we organised and ran in February 2001. The production of this book, sometime early in 2004, is now a certainty. The second involves the seminar we have organised for 22 November 2003 to commemorate the 90th birthday of the 1913 general strike.

The book publication was made possible by TUHP securing funding from the History Group of the Ministry for Culture and Heritage through an 'Award in History', and grants from the Environment and Heritage Division of the Lottery Grants Board and the New Zealand Seafarers' Union. This enabled TUHP to me as a professional historian for three months to edit selected transcribed speeches and to edit and write some other material in preparation for publication in 2004.

Canterbury University Press has agreed to publish the manuscript. David expects to spend one more month on the material through mid January-February 2004 before the draft is sent to the publisher for proof reading and publication. The TUHP has acquired some subsidy money to assist with the costs of the publication. The book will include a full range of Max Bollinger cartoons, many of which have not been seen before in a public forum, and some other illustrative material from Len Gale.

It was decided early in 2003 that its major activity for the year TUHP would organise and run a seminar marking the 90th birthday of the 1913 general strike. Consequently members of the committee, and in particular the four members of a sub-committee (Peter Franks, Richard Hill, Melanie Nolan, James Taylor and David Grant) collegially put together an exciting and successful programme for 22 November entitled "A Laboratory or a Battle Ground for Democracy". TUHP is grateful to the Industrial Relations Centre of Victoria University, the Public Service Investment Society, and the New Zealand Seafarers Union for their sponsorship of the event and the Public Service Association for allowing us to use their premises at no cost.

We secured the services of some of New Zealand's best-known historians with two keynote speakers-Erik Olssen and our own James Taylor-and 10 other contributors to the four panel sessions. I wish to acknowledge the excellent work done by Hilary McGeachy a Victoria University history honours student who did a sterling job in coordinating the administration of the seminar and of committee member and Film Archive education co-ordinator Alex Burton whose material and technological input was essential to its success.

TUHP membership currently stands at 120, which is an increase on 2002. Financially we are also in good heart. As of 31

October 2003 we have an excess of income over expenditure of \$9,286.32. Nonetheless, TUHP needs to continue to evolve to be a relevant organisation in the future. Early in 2003 Colin Hicks proposed a new path for TUHP as a 'Labour History Trust' and this likely to be a key focus of the committee's energies in 2004.

On a personal note, I would like to thank all the committee for their work for TUHP in the past year. I would like in particular to acknowledge the work of our long-time secretary Maureen Birchfield and after she relinquished this position mid-year, the other committee members who have stepped into the breach; the work of treasurer Colin Hicks, not only for his efficiency in handling the financial and other administrative tasks but also for the production of three magnificent newsletters; and the hospitality of Rona Bailey at whose home the committee met for much of the year.

The need to explore, work for and promote the historical experiences of working people, alongside union and labour history, has never been more necessary. In schools and universities such history is no longer 'flavour of the month' and it is up to us, our membership and kinfolk to keep the flame burning. We look forward to a challenging future.

Kia kaha

David Grant
Chairperson

*TUHP Financial Report as at 31 Jan 2004*Opening Balance Of Bank Accounts 1 Apr 2003

BNZ cheque account	\$	608.07
BNZ term deposit	\$	8,900.54
National Bank term deposit	\$	12,812.50

Total Opening Balances of Bank Accounts \$ **22,321.11**

Cash Receipts

Subscriptions	\$	1,590.00
Donations	\$	3,768.77
Interest received	\$	345.96
Sundry income	\$	75.00
1913 seminar receipts	\$	1490.00
Tax adjustment	\$	4.21

Total cash receipts \$ **7,273.94**

Cash Payments

1913 seminar expenses	\$	2,439.06
1951 book project	\$	15,000.00
Sundry purchases	\$	250.00
Sundry expenses	\$	128.95
Newsletter	\$	321.00
Postages	\$	232.50
Donations made	\$	142.18
Bank charges	\$	88.30
GST paid	\$	839.84

Total cash payments \$ **19,441.83**

Net movement in cash -\$ **12,167.89**

Closing Balances of Bank A/cs. as at 31 Jan 2004

BNZ cheque account	\$	6,265.76
BNZ term deposit	\$	3,887.46

Total Closing Balance of Bank Accounts \$ **10,153.22**

1913 Seminar StatementIncome

Registrations	\$	1,490.00
Donations	\$	1,949.96
	\$	3,439.96

Payments

Printing - flyers	\$	202.75
Air fares	\$	449.96
Laminations	\$	225.00
Food	\$	886.50
Seminar - additional expenses	\$	129.85
Admin. assistance	\$	545.00
	\$	2,439.06

Surplus \$ **1,000.90**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Executive Committee are grateful to the various organisations and individuals who have made donations to TUHP during the year.

In particular, the Committee wishes to place on record its very real appreciation to the Industrial Relations Centre at Victoria University of Wellington for their continued support, and to the Chief Executive of PSIS Ltd; Gırol Karacaoglu, for assistance with the 1913 Seminar held last November.

Notes to Accounts

At the AGM on 22 Nov 2003 it was agreed that there was no justification for increasing subscriptions.

The accounts show a good level of income, and realistic control of costs. The 1951 book project affects the net movement in cash in a negative way, but represents a good use of funds.

We expect subscription income to increase slightly before the end of the financial year, and we are not anticipating any major expenses in the immediate future.

Colin Hicks
Treasurer

1913 : The Price of Your Cursed Wealth

According to participants the TUHP 1913 Seminar held on Saturday 22 November 2003 was a great success, owing to the quality and variety of presentations.

A feature was the playing of some unedited extracts used in Tony Simpson's 1976 radio documentary production, *The Price of Your Cursed Wealth* (obtained from Radio NZ's Sound Archives files on 1913).

The following are a selection of transcribed, edited pieces from those files:

F.M.B. Fisher — a member of Massey's Cabinet

"It seems today almost incredible that in 1913 the revolutioners (sic) took complete possession of the port and town of Lyttelton and that this alien force had to be surrounded by loyal troops at early dawn and force to surrender. It all seems today like a disagreeable nightmare, like a happening in central Europe."

"We had to man our ships with civilian volunteers — we had to buy coal abroad from India, from Africa, — to keep ships moving. No-one could send a telegram. The government was dependent on the radio services supplied by the warships in our ports."

Special Constable

"All of us that were there from all over the Wellington area were formed up and were marched or

rode down through Willis St and right down through Featherston St. And, when we got down to the wharves the column was halted in front and I happened to be right at the rear of the march and the rocks and stones all started to come at us, and a few of us were getting knocked around."

"We had no orders but we decided we'd had enough and a few of us turned our horses around and charged the crowd that were filling the street behind us."

Woman bystander

"I remember the incident very well. I lived around by Oriental Bay and decided to come into town to see the strike that my brothers were in. They were water-siders. I walked to Courtney Place where there was a big crowd. Also, there were the special constables on horseback and they were charging the crowd."

Special Constable

"The crowd started to disperse straight away — started to disappear in shop doorways and that sort of thing, and some of them retired into a timber yard and some of our fellows chased them in there, but of course the advantage was all on their side because they could shelter behind stacks of timber."

"A few of our fellows got hurt. A chemist shop (very good of him), opened up and bandaged up their

heads where they'd been hit by rocks."

Woman bystander

"There was a lot of bitterness between the farmers and the strikers — they thought it was unfair to them. But they didn't regard us as human beings at all, I don't think. They seemed to look down on us as if we were just dirt and they went right through us and they waved their batons around, and if you was unfortunate enough to be near them, then they would hit you, which they did very often. And, it was the Massey government which gave them these batons."

Leo Fanning — journalist

"Those days the waterside band used to play in Post Office Square and speeches were made. They used to play *Keep the Red Flag Flying*, and *The Marsellaise*, and other revolutionary songs. Well, the day came when these assemblies were prohibited. There was a gazette notice declaring these tumultuous assemblies as they were called, forbidden."

"At midday along came the troops and the mounted specials and the officer said, 'Disperse, this is an unlawful assembly'."

"The band kept playing on and on. 'Disperse, this is an unlawful assembly'. *Toot, toot, toot!* went the band again. Third time, 'Disperse, this is an unlawful assembly'. *Ta, ra, ra, ra*, the band

(Continued on page 4)

Trade Union History Project
P O Box 27-425
Wellington

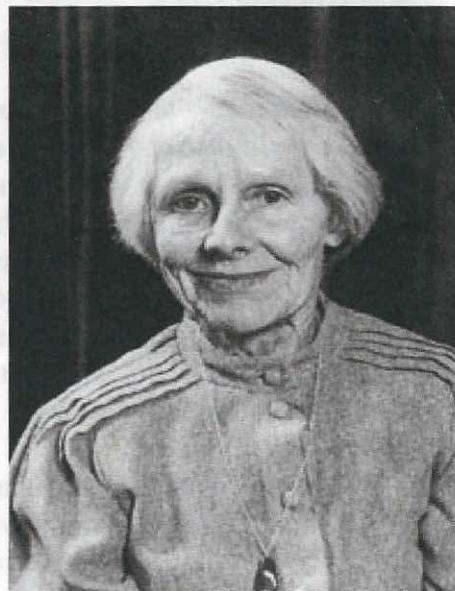
Editor: Colin Hicks
200 Main Street
Greytown 5953
New Zealand

"An injury to one is a concern to all"

Elsie Locke

Feminist and
socialist

1912-2001



Wanted — Contributions for Important Biography

The New Zealand History Trust Fund offers financial assistance to people carrying out projects that will significantly enhance the understanding of New Zealand's past.

Last year the Trust received 80 applications. There were eleven successful applicants for 2004, and we would like to congratulate them all, but specially our stalwart committee member.

- Maureen Birchfield, 'An Authorised Biography of Elsie Locke' - \$30,000

To assist her research Maureen asks :

"I would love to hear from anyone who knew Elsie, or has any material relating to Elsie (letters, photographs, memorabilia). Just contact me at to contact me if you have anything to contribute." My address is:

Maureen Birchfield
4 Sand Track
Paekakariki
Kapiti Coast
New Zealand

Phone 64 4 905 8816
Fax 64 4 9058817
m.birchfield@paradise.net.nz

Peter Jarrett Coleman

1926—2004

We are all saddened by the death in March of our good friend and most respected historian, Peter Coleman.

Peter was a great supporter of TUHP, and we were honoured that he took such an interest in our activities.

A quiet, unassuming and modest exterior belied his long and distinguished contribution to history scholarship and teaching in the United States. Peter returned to New Zealand (as the first research fellow to the Stout Centre) in 1986, after 37 years' absence. His last position in the USA was at the University of Illinois where he became Emeritus Professor of History.

We will miss you, Peter, but you leave us with a rich legacy of scholarship, and a positive example of integrity and endeavour.