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TRANSPORT

INTERNATIONAL

World fleet up by 8.3% in 1967

The increase in the world fleet was 8.3 per cent in 1967, compared to 8.2. per cent in 1966, a rise of 19 million tons dwt. Tanker deliveries totalled 8.3 million tons, and bulk carriers 10.7 million. 1968 and 1969 tanker deliveries are expected to set new records, as are overall deliveries, but those of bulk carriers are likely to drop. Tankers scheduled for delivery in 1968 include 30 vessels in the 170,000 - 312,000 ton range, and in 1969, 43 vessels of 200,000 tons and over.

BELGIUM

Language laboratory on board ship

The first ever language laboratory on a merchant ship has been installed on a Belgian training ship owned by the Compagnie Maritime Belge. The laboratory will be used to teach modern languages to cadets serving their apprenticeships at sea. Similar installations are planned on three other training ships. The courses will emphasize maritime vocabulary, and have been instituted mainly because the short turn-round time of the ship - a maximum of three days - does not allow the cadets to take language classes ashore.

GREAT BRITAIN

Britain's first ever female cadet

For the first time ever, a woman has been accepted by a British shipping company for a post as Navigating Officer. The 18-year-old girl, who has A-levels in pure mathematics, applied mathematics and physics, will go to sea in September, after completing the first part of a Nautical B.Sc. course at Plymouth College of Technology.

JAPAN

New network for super-fast trains in Japan

The Japanese railways have drawn up a plan for an entire rail network for ultra-rapid trains, following the example of the Tokaido line. 2,500 miles of track would be constructed, linking Japan's

major cities, without level crossings and with only very broad curves. The trains, both passenger trains and long-distance goods trains, would have maximum speeds of over 150 mph.

UNITED STATES

Department of Transport Trades to be set up in AFL-CIO

The recent AFL-CIO Convention in the United States voted overwhelmingly in favour of a resolution to set up a Conference of Transportation Trades. The object is to form a Department of Transport Trades within the AFL-CIO with a membership of up to 9 million.

SOCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL NEWS

BELGIUM

Belgian public service workers attack Sabena staff cuts

The ITF-affiliated Civil Aviation Section of the Belgian Public Service Workers' Union has decided to oppose by all the means at its disposal any dismissals of employees, except along the lines already established by the joint union-management consultative committee. The union considers that the Company is committing a flagrant injustice by making staff bear the brunt of management's faulty communications. It has confidence in the competence of staff, who are subject to strict tests, and points out that members of the union are quite prepared to carry out a number of jobs available within the Company, and a short period of retraining would make redeployment a simple matter.

GERMANY

Pay increase for salaried staff on German Railways

The ITF-affiliated German Railwaymen's Union has informed us that agreement has been reached with the Federal Railways on an increase of 3.5% on basic rates for salaried staff, as of 1 January 1968.

GREAT BRITAIN

Union to take court action for enforcement of pay rise agreement

The ITF-affiliated Transport and General Workers' Union has decided to go to the courts to try to obtain legal enforcement of its agreement with 97 municipal bus authorities for a pay rise of £1 per week for busmen (see Newsletter No. 12/'67, p. 107). The Government is likely to use its powers under the Prices and Incomes Act to impose a compulsory six-month standstill on busmen's wages.

First general purpose crew on British dry-cargo ship

Agreement has been reached with the ITF-affiliated National Union of Seamen (NUS) for general purpose manning of the first British ship other than a tanker. In return for a monthly bonus of up to £18 for senior ratings, the union has accepted a reduction of crew on a 4,840-ton-gross collier from 22 to 15. Crew members have been instructed in the work of several departments; mooring arrangements have been mechanized, advanced instrumentation has been introduced in the engine-room, and catering arrangements have been rationalized.

GREECE

Better food for Greek seafarers?

A committee consisting of three doctors has been set up by the Greek Merchant Marine Ministry to determine the quality and dietary value of food for crews on ships of 250 tons and over. The committee has met once to consider evidence that unsuitable diet had resulted in crew members suffering from stomach complaints, heart ailments and related illnesses. The drawing up of new standards will almost certainly raise costs, and discussions with ship owners are expected to be long-drawn-out.

NETHERLANDS

Pay rise and shorter working week for dockers in Netherlands

Over 20,000 dockers in Amsterdam and Rotterdam are to receive a 4½% increase backdated to 1 January 1968, and the working week will be reduced from the present 41¼ hours to 40 hours from October 1968, bringing it into line with that of West German ports. The agreement is still subject to approval by members of the ITF-affiliated Netherlands Transport Workers' Union (NBV).

REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Korean railwaymen's dispute

A dispute has broken out between the ITF-affiliated Korean Railway Workers' Union and the Korean National Railway authority following the breakdown of negotiations on overtime rates, family allowances, bonus and special technical allowances. The General Secretary of the ITF, Hans Imhof, has cabled the President of the Republic and a number of Ministers affirming the ITF's support for the union.

UNITED STATES

11th hour settlement averts New York transit workers' strike

A strike of 36,000 members of the Transport Workers' Union (TWU) on the New York buses and subways was averted on 1 January, a few hours before it was due to take effect. The settlement reached between the TWU and the New York City Transit Authority provides a 5% pay increase in the first 18 months of a two-year contract, effective from 1 January 1968, and 6% on 1 July 1969. Pensions were improved to provide 50% of average final years' pay after 20 years of service at 50 or over. 1% will be added for each year of service over 20 years, increasing to 1½% after 1 July 1968.

Pay increases and job protection agreement for US railwaymen

The Brotherhood of Railway Clerks have negotiated a two-year contract with US railroads, providing a four-step pay rise for 180,000 union members, plus improved holiday benefits. The pay rise will average about 13%, and the first step, a 2.5% increase, took effect on 1 January.

A new agreement negotiated between the American Train Dispatchers' Association and railway companies gives train dispatchers a 6% pay increase, backdated to 1 January, with a further 4.3% rise from 1 January 1968, and three weeks' paid holiday after 10 years' service, instead of the previous 15 years.

A job protection agreement has been negotiated by six US rail shopcraft unions, to protect more than 10,000 workers against any adverse effect from the planned merger of four north-western railroads. The unions have won a guarantee of lifetime jobs for members on these railroads. If business falls off by more than 5%, the pay guarantee will be slightly reduced, but the job safeguards will be maintained.

The decision taken by a US appeals court last autumn (see Newsletter No. 10/'67 page 93) establishing the right of railway unions to negotiate the size of train crews with individual railroad companies, was confirmed in January this year when the United States Supreme Court refused to review the case.

Pay rise for New York taxi drivers

29,000 New York taxi drivers staged a one-day protest demonstration over delays in implementing a contract agreement approved by union members on 27 November. The agreement, which raises the cost of average rides about 25 cents, gives taxi drivers an additional \$15 a week and higher commissions.

IAM - Quantas strike

Members of the ITF-affiliated International Association of Machinists (IAM) employed by Quantas Airlines went on strike on 18 December 1967, in support of their claim for higher wages and better working conditions. Management has so far refused to negotiate, although present wages and working conditions are inferior to those of other carriers.

PERSONALIA

New full time Executive Secretary of the CRLEA

On 1 January 1968, A.R. Gibbons, who succeeded Frank Hall as General Vice President of the Canadian Labour Congress in 1961, took up his post as the first full time Executive Secretary of the Canadian Railway Labour Executive's Association. Brother Gibbons, Vice President and National Legislative Representative of the ITF-affiliated BLF&E, also serves on the Economic Council of Canada.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Railwaymen's Section Committee	-	London, 15-17 February 1968
Dockers' Section Conference	-	London, 19-20 March 1968
Fair Practices Committee	-	London, 21-22 March 1968
Inter-Section Conference	-	London, 18-19 April 1968
29th ITF Congress	-	Wiesbaden, 28 July-3 August 1968.

AFFILIATED UNIONS REQUIRING FURTHER
INFORMATION ON ANY ITEM IN THIS
NEWSLETTER MAY OBTAIN IT ON REQUEST
FROM THE SECRETARIAT OF THE ITF.