

Clerical Compromise

The bitter 4½-month strike at the Johns-Manville plant and mine in Asbestos, Que. ended last week, after tall, intense Mgr. Maurice Roy, Archbishop of Quebec, had brought about a settlement.

The Roy compromise formula gave the men a 10¢-an-hour raise (to a 95¢ minimum) instead of the 15¢ they had sought; and continued their seniority, pension, health and sick-benefit rights. The company stood firm in refusing to rehire strikers found guilty of violence by the courts. The National Federation of Mining Industry Employees, whose bargaining certificate had been revoked for calling an illegal strike, was recertified.

Said Rodolphe Hamel, president of the federation, of Archbishop Roy: "He is a real gentleman, a quiet, solid man. He helped us a lot and I'm sure the company appreciated his work."

At week's end nearly 2,000 Asbestos strikers went back to work. They had fared better than the 2,500 strikers in the nearby Thetford Mines area, who returned at the old wage rate pending negotiation (or arbitration) of an increase.

Source: [Time Magazine \(Canadian edition\)](#), July 11, 1949, p. 21.

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