

# THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

As from this hour  
You use your power,  
The world must follow you.

Official Organ of the Northwest Labor Unity Conference

MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE: 257 PLYMOUTH AVE. N.  
GENERAL OFFICE: 286 E. 6TH ST.  
St. Paul, Minn.

Stand all as one  
Till right is done!  
Believe and dare  
and do!

VOL. 1, NO. 15

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 1935

PRICE 5 CENTS

## METAL WORKERS' STRIKE IS SOLID

### DEMAND RELIEF RAISE AT ONCE

#### Relief Committee Promises Quick Action

An increase of about 40 per cent to clients on the relief rolls was granted by action of the Relief Committee of the Welfare Board, Monday morning, July 28.

Representatives from Local No. 574, other unions and workers organizations were present with detailed and specific proposals.

The Committee from Local No. 574 stressed the importance of an immediate raise and August 1 was set as the time limit for action. Hot weather pressure on the ice supply was cited as sufficient reason for a revision of the ice book policy of the Relief Board. Pointing to the lamentably inadequate amount allowed by the former order, the union committee asked prompt attention.

A motion was adopted by the Relief Committee instructing attendants at the various stations to issue ice books on demand. Any relief client in need of ice may receive an additional card without reference to the day or date of last issue.

The Union Committee further  
(Continued on page 2)

### Sept. 1 Deadline On Reinstatement

During the past several months General Drivers Local 574 has been going through continuous stages of organization work which have necessitated a broad flexibility in the requirements for the payment of dues. The local has now reached a stage, however, where it is possible and necessary to consider its present sections as well organized and permanently established. This requires that the by-laws of the organization be definitely stated in printed form. A special committee has been selected to do this work and is now functioning.

The executive board will recommend to the union at the membership meeting on August 12 that the committee be instructed to write into the by-laws the following provisions on dues payments: members who are not more than three months in arrears may reinstate by paying up the back dues; members who are more than three months in arrears must pay a reinstatement fee of \$10; new members, \$3 initiation fee; those who have appeared on the union books since September 1, 1934, shall be subject to the \$10 fee if over three months in arrears; the above to become effective September 1, 1935.

### Tetzlaff, the Slave Driver

Vice President Tetzlaff of the Flour City Ornamental Iron Works has published paid advertisements in the employers' press stating that there is no strike at his plant, that the workers are contented and anxious to work, and that they are prevented from doing so by mob violence. This is utterly false as the actual history of the activities of the benevolent Mr. Tetzlaff will disclose.

During the past 25 years Tetzlaff has made it a regular practice to bring workers from Germany and Austria to labor in the Flour City plant. He has done this under the guise of philanthropy toward these workers, but in reality his object was to secure skilled mechanics, unable to speak English, who would not know the extent to which they were being exploited. As late as 1924 Tetzlaff went to Germany and brought back about 60 men, all artists in their line. This number exceeded the immigration quota but he got around this by claiming that this was specially skilled help not available in America. He also brought over 60 trunks filled with equipment for the plant on which an import tax must be paid. He got around this by having each man claim one of the trunks at the U. S. customs, swearing that the contents were Red Cross gifts.

Tetzlaff paid the men's fare and put them to work in the Flour City plant at 45 to 50 cents per hour when American mechanics were getting one dollar per hour. Out of this low pay he deducted the fare which he had advanced, plus 6 per cent interest. In many instances these highly skilled workers received less pay than their helpers.

One of the workers, who could speak a little English, soon learned of this and, having been a union member in Germany, went to the local metal workers union to find help. The union found work for him in Chicago at the regular scale of one dollar. He immediately told the other German immigrants of this, and they began to save what they could so that they might attend night school to learn our tongue and thus obtain work in some other plant and escape the yoke of Tetzlaff.

Another of Tetzlaff's benevolent practices is the farming out of special jobs to the gang foremen at a certain price. This inspires the petty tyrants in the plant to chisel on the men for their own interest as well as for the interest of Tetzlaff. Most notorious of these is John Swoboda in the bronze department. Here is how he does it. If there is a special job for Swoboda's department it is given to him at a price of let us say \$250. Swoboda changes the price figures on the job plans to read \$135, telling the men how little margin there is on the job and how hard he tried to get a higher price. On the strength of this he will beg and plead with the men to help him get the job out within the stipulated cost. This means that they must work at a terrific pace and work extra hours without pay.

When the Minnesota State Office Building was under construction the Flour City Ornamental Iron Works had a contract to

supply twisted brass rods for the building. We do not know whether these were supposed to be solid brass rods or not, but the fact is that hollow brass tubing was used and an iron rod shoved inside the tube for a core. What aroused the suspicions of the workers was that whenever an inspector for the State Office Building job came through the plant, and the men happened to be working on the rods, they were told to throw the rods under the work bench so as to put them out of sight.

When the workers began to organize into the Ornamental Iron Workers, Local 1313, Tetzlaff began to discriminate against them. He had his stool-pigeons on the job, and whenever there was a lull in the work, the union men were invariably the ones laid off, many of them after working for the company from 12 to 27 years. When work picked up again, they were not rehired but were replaced by non-union workmen. Even this did not stop organization at the Flour City plant so Tetzlaff resorted to more drastic measures. At the first slack period available he laid off half the crew, putting the remainder of the men on a 60 hour week, an open violation of the NRA code. This by a company where three-fourths of the work was on government jobs. The union filed a complaint with the Labor Board, and in the hearing, the Flour City officials admitted that the crew had worked as much as 5,800 hours overtime in a period of one month.

The great patriot, Mr. Tetzlaff, also gives and sells stock to his employes. It seems that he has many types of stock, a type to fit each occasion. Along with his vicious drive against the men who joined the union, he gave stock, absolutely free, to the non-union employes. This stock, however, pays no dividends and has no maturity date. Much earlier in his career he sold stock to his employes, making it convenient to pay for it by deducting the money from their pay checks. Shortly after the sale he lost control of this stock issue to an eastern holding company. He regained the control at a later date, but to the dismay of the workers, their certificates had become practically valueless in the process.

During the process of organization and negotiations prior to the strike, the Flour City workers sent word that they were with the union men but could not come out openly for fear of being fired. Even during the strike the men have made it plain to the union that they are with the strike but are still fearful of Tetzlaff.

Furthermore, in examining the list of names on the ad, the Flour City workers out on strike report that only 16 of the 62 can be classed as old employes of the firm, and many of the 16 are the Swobodas of the plant.

In the face of all this it is evident that the struggle at the Flour City Ornamental Iron Works is not only for wages and working conditions, but also for the rights of the workers to organize for their own mutual benefit, a right that Tetzlaff has bitterly fought as long as the Flour City plant has been in existence.

### UNION SHUTS DOWN PLANTS

#### Other Unions Rally to Support Strike

The strike of the Ornamental Iron Workers, Local 1313, roars on with continuous successes. The Flour City Ornamental Iron Works, C. W. Olson Company, Stanley Iron Works and several medium sized plants have been completely shut down since the first days of the strike, with the exception of a one day attempt by the Flour City plant to reopen. The union has now turned its attention to the closing of the smaller shops which are being closed for two reasons. First, because the workers in these plants want to go out with the rest of the workers but do not dare because of intimidation by the bosses, and second because the small shops have been attempting to handle work for the big plants against which the union is striking.

The strike committee is also keeping a very close eye on other metal plants, not within the scope of the strike, but which could handle a part of this work.

The major happening in the  
(Continued on page 2)

### Big Plant Signed Up by Local 382

Climaxing organization work over a period of six months, Machinists Local 382 has obtained a working agreement with the Minneapolis-Moline Power Implement Company which brings large gains to the metal trades workers. The entire production force in the plant, the largest in the entire northwest, is organized on an industrial basis.

The workers are to be represented by a general shop committee of 60 with smaller grievance committees in each department. These committees, which are recognized by the company, will continue the organization work among the few workers who are not yet members of the union and will see that the  
(Continued on page 2)

#### Open Mass Meeting

The striking Ornamental Iron Workers, Local 1313, will hold an open mass meeting at the Central Labor Union, 18 N. 8th St., on Monday, August 5, at 8 p. m. Come and hear the truth about the strike and the victory of the workers at the Minneapolis-Moline Power Implement Company. All union men and women and sympathizers are welcome to attend. EVERYBODY OUT.

# ALL WORKERS INTO THE UNIONS ALL UNIONS INTO THE STRUGGLE



## THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

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"When I ply my needle, trowel or pick,  
I'm a decent Sheeney, Wop or Mick,  
But when I strike, I'm a Bolshevik  
I'm labor."

### Close the Plant, Mayor Latimer

Mayor Latimer, by appearing personally at the Flour City Ornamental Iron Works, and using a large detachment of police to escort scabs through the picket line, has committed an irretrievable act against the workers, a clear cut repudiation of the strike policy of the Farmer-Labor platform on which he was elected. Vindication of this act is impossible.

It is possible, however, for the mayor to make partial restitution to the workers by complying with the demands of the strike committee of Local 1313—close the Flour City Ornamental Iron Works, issuing an immediate statement to the public that he is doing this because the company has proven itself to be incapable of conducting a business without disturbing the peace; question each of the employes of the company, individually, including those who were discharged for union activity before the strike was called, to ascertain the true facts surrounding the controversy; issue a public statement on the basis of this investigation, this statement to be prepared in the spirit of union principle.

This is the very least which Mayor Latimer can do.

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### Banquet Tables and Picket Lines

It is not a coincidence that the progressive labor leaders who bitterly opposed the Minneapolis Committee of One Hundred, when the question of Labor's approval of that Citizens Alliance brain child was before the Central Labor Union, are the only leaders of other unions who are to be seen actively supporting the strike of Local 1313 and fighting shoulder to shoulder with them on the picket line at the Flour City Ornamental Iron plant. Nor is it a coincidence that the conservative, "safe and sane" leaders, who supported the Committee of One Hundred and attempted to substitute it for union action, are not to be seen on the strike front.

The conservatives do not possess the courage or the vision to face the cold facts of the class struggle and lead the workers in the light of this understanding. They prefer to seek out false alliances with "fair" bosses. The bosses, on the other hand, have aligned themselves solidly with the would-be union-busters who operate the metal plants and now make no pretense at conciliation with any section of the labor movement.

In defending the Committee of One Hundred the conservatives contended that they were showing their bravery by going right into the lair of the Citizens Alliance and debating with them. The workers rightfully believe that it is the duty of their leaders to demonstrate to the bosses that they are just as tough on the picket line as they are at a banquet table.

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### Sabotage, But Not a Split

There has been a malicious rumor afloat recently that there is a split in the ranks of General Drivers Local 574. This is a vicious lie and a deliberate attempt to sabotage the union. There is no split. Dan Tobin and his colleagues, Corcoran, Hall and Co., would like the workers to believe so, but the facts are that Local 574 is holding its ranks solidly despite the vicious, underhanded attacks of the Tobin tribe.

Local 574 has lost only 19 of its members to the Tobin union, Local No. 500. Of these, three have since returned in a very penitent mood. The remaining 16 are deserters, not by choice, but because of pressure brought on them through their employer as a result of a series of underhanded moves on the part of the double play trio, Spielman to Corcoran to Hall. If this represents a split, Daniel Webster didn't understand his own dictionary.

## Union Has Closed All City Plants

(Continued from page 1)

struggle occurred at the Flour City plant when on the morning of July 26 a detail of 68 police, with Mayor Latimer present and participating, herded about 30 scabs into the plant. News of this act flashed quickly across the city, and by the time the plant was ready to close for the day, a thousand union men and women were on the picket line ready to meet the scabs when they came out. Support came quickly to the strikers from the Structural Ironworkers, Upholsterers, Machinists Local 382, Drivers Local 574, and the unemployed organizations.

When the scabs came out, they were met by the strikers and taught a lesson in union principle despite the presence of a strong police detail which attempted to protect them. Since that time the plant has been completely shut down.

After obtaining an injunction, which was smashed by the union, the company resorted to the publication of paid advertisements in which they branded the strikers as a riotous mob, declared that there was no strike against them, and demanded that the mayor furnish them police protection. In answer to this attack, and as partial restitution for the act committed by him against them on July 26, the strikers have demanded that Mayor Latimer publicly declare the Flour City plant closed as a menace to the public peace and investigate thoroughly the working conditions at this plant, issuing a public statement regarding his findings.

The strike was called after fruitless attempts to negotiate an agreement with the employers in the ornamental iron industry where conditions for the workers have been constantly worsened. With the coming of the NRA, the employers, as did all chiseling bosses, made the minimum code wage the maximum wage for the industry. Forty cents per hour became top wages for these highly skilled mechanics who had at one time earned from 35 to 45 dollars per week. As a result the workers began to organize.

In June 1934, Local 1313 asked for a conference with the employers in the industry for the purpose of reaching an understanding on wages and working conditions for all the plants. This the employers refused to do. A month later a second request was issued, backed up with a strike vote by the men. The employers again refused to meet, but at the last minute gave the workers a small pay increase, telling them that the union had nothing to do with their getting this raise.

The men worked on patiently through the fall and winter and, in the spring of 1935, were forced by economic necessity to again ask for an increase. Again a joint conference was asked but refused by the bosses. Some of them made

### Voorhees Elected President IUAW

The convention of the Independent Union of All Workers at Albert Lea on July 27 and 28 was a real live affair, symbolic of the intense union spirit among the workers in southern Minnesota. Joseph Voorhees of Austin was elected president of the Central Union by the convention. This is a fitting reward to a capable and vigorous young man who by his splendid services has earned the support of the workers. Complete details of the convention procedures have not yet been released.

### Instructions

All those holding Exposition ticket books are instructed to return them before Sunday, August 4, at either the Exposition grounds at 29th and Nicollet or 257 Plymouth Ave. N.

pretenses at negotiating with the union individually, but nothing constructive could be accomplished. With no other alternative open to them, the union was forced to go on strike for its demands.

These demands are very modest—class A mechanics, 67 1/2 cents per hour; class B mechanics, 55 to 62 1/2 cents per hour; helpers, 45 to 50 cents per hour; common labor, 45 cents per hour; 40 hour week; time and one-half for overtime; seniority rights; union recognition and shop committees.

Directing the fight for these demands is a large strike committee representative of the entire cross section of the workers in the industry. At the head of the strike committee is a capable and efficient action committee. Delegates from other workers' organizations, especially those who have had previous strike experience, sit on the committee to advise and assist in the work of conducting the strike. The strike committee meets daily to consider the problems and plan out the best course of action.

Open meetings for the pickets and sympathizers are to be held daily at 12 o'clock noon at the strike headquarters at 2525 East Franklin. A spokesman from the strike committee will give a report for the committee at these meetings. Speakers will also be present from other unions in the city.

On Monday, August 5, at 8 p. m., an open mass meeting will be held in the Central Labor Union hall at 18 North 8th Street. At this meeting a true and accurate account of the strike will be given, and the workers will also be told about the victory of the metal trades workers of Local 382 at the Minneapolis-Moline Power Implement Company.

The strike of Local 1313 is solid, and the workers have declared their determination to fight it out to the finish with the bosses. Organized labor in Minneapolis will soon be able to add the ornamental iron industry to the list of unionized trades, and another long stride will have been taken toward making Minneapolis a union town.

It is the duty of every union to help Local 1313 financially and on the picket line. This fight must be won, and with united labor action it will be won.

### Union Notes

The workers at the LaBelle Transfer and Storage Company, who last summer voted against the union, are now 100 per cent organized in Local 574. They have now demanded that LaBelle sign a contract with the union covering their working conditions. During the past year, the management of the LaBelle Company has done everything possible to stop the unionization of the workers but without success. Friday morning has been set as the deadline for signing of the contract. Too much credit cannot be given those active union men at LaBelle's who, in the past year, have worked unceasingly for the organization of all of the workers there.

The D. M. Gilmore Company, dealers in plumbing supplies, have seen fit to deny Local 574 in a case of rank discrimination at that company. The D. M. Gilmore Company has been struck by the Drivers Union. There will be no settle-

## Big Plant Signed Up by Local 382

(Continued from page 1)

provisions of the agreement are met by the company.

The union negotiating committee held three meetings with the company officials. Pleading poverty, the company offered only the most meager concessions to the union and it appeared that a strike was necessary. The committee made this very plain to the company, and as the deadline for union action approached, the company suddenly capitulated offering gains which the committee considered acceptable under the circumstances. The proposed settlement was presented to the membership by the committee with the recommendation that it be accepted, and with the promise that, if it was rejected and a strike called, they would lead the workers in a militant fight on the picket lines.

The agreement provides a 5 per cent increase in piece work rates, a minimum of 45 cents per hour for helpers and 55 cents per hour for machine operators, and seniority rights, together with union recognition and shop committees.

This splendid achievement has given great hope to the striking members of the Ornamental Iron Workers, Local 1313, and it marks another important mile post toward the complete unionization of the metal trades industry, a vitally important section of the union movement.

This agreement represents only the first step toward decent living conditions for the metal workers. It is a victory and an important one. It will lead quickly to far greater gains.

## Demand Relief Raise at Once

(Continued from page 1)

pointed out that insolent treatment by investigators, officials and attendants was, under the present regime of Kjolraug, a growing menace.

Evidence was produced to show that this has become a settled policy of the present Supt. Kjolraug. Although not clearly stated, it is well understood by the workers, that the removal of Kjolraug must be one of the first steps to a real reorganization of the relief setup.

Ray Dunne speaking for Local No. 574 also demanded that discriminations being practiced against our active workers and organizers must stop.

A few foremen and supervisors on widely scattered projects have gone out of their way to make removals and shifts in personnel with the object in mind of disrupting the organization work of the union.

This sort of thing will not be tolerated without a fight, Dunne said. The Union is preparing to back this as well as all other demands.

Adermen Scott and Hudson gave meaning to the decisions of the committee by announcing that they were prepared to move in the Welfare Board for an immediate realization of the program adopted.

ment until Arnold Johnson, the driver in question, has been returned to his job with full pay for the time he has lost.

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With the exception of a few companies, the Minneapolis Coal Dealers have signed a new agreement with Local 574. This agreement, covering hours, wages and working conditions, has one year to run. Out of the 76 coal companies in this city only seven have not lined up with the union. It looks like a good winter for union coal men.