

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

Official Organ of the Northwest Labor Unity Conference

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

As from this hour
You use your power,
The world must fol-
low you.

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

VOLUME 1, NO. 23

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1935

PRICE 5 CENTS

THE BOSSES ARE ON THE RUN!

Lockout Turned Into Strike At De Soto Plant; Extended To All Other Poultry Firms

**Strike Still on at Werners
As Three Firms Grant
Pay Increases**

**Strikers Ask Leadership by
Local 574; Will Seek
Federal Charter**

Over 100 workers, mostly women, have been involved in a controversy this week with the four leading poultry houses in the city. The trouble began on Monday, September 23, when the girls at the De Soto Produce Co. were locked out upon their refusal to accept a pay cut. They immediately formed a picket line about the plant.

The strikers, not organized into any union, called upon Local 574 for leadership and were given immediate assistance.

An agreement has been obtained with the De Soto Produce, Fairfax-Parsons Co. and the Hilbert Co. which provides pay increases and a reduction in hours. As we go to press, the workers are still on strike at the Werner Poultry Co.

Arrangements are being made to secure a Federal charter in the A. F. of L. for these workers.

Market Workers Plan New Drive

The market workers will meet on Wednesday, September 25, to select an active committee to cooperate with the Executive board of Local 574 in a drive to enforce compliance with the union agreement by the market firms.

A complete, well arranged program, is now in the making, which will create the machinery necessary to maintain good conditions in the market at all times. In the process, firms which may well be considered as outlaws will be singled out for special attention.

Union Members To Get Legal Aid

Recognizing the fact that many of its members are duped and swindled by ambulance chasers and other legal sharks, Local 574 has made provisions to see that its members shall receive the greatest possible assistance in solving their legal problems when they arise.

All members are urged to communicate immediately with Farrell Dobbs at union headquarters in the event they have an accident or are faced by some other problem. The union will give each case careful attention and it will be found that much good will come to the members from this service.

This is just one of the many benefits which a wide-awake union can bring to its members. The union is for the members and is just as valuable as the members make it.

Come to your union with your troubles. That is what it is for.

Meeting Schedule Local 574

Wednesday, Oct. 2—Ice Drivers.
Thursday, Oct. 3—Independent Truck Owners.
Friday, Oct. 4—Federal Workers.
Monday, Oct. 7—Coal Workers.
Wednesday, Oct. 9—Market Workers; Ice Drivers.

Federal Workers Getting Action

The grievance committee of the Federal Workers' section has been working diligently on all complaints brought to the union.

Great credit is due them for the excellent results they are obtaining for workers who are discriminated against on the relief roles.

Ice Men Make Plans for 1936

The ice men have pretty well rounded out their busy season and are now reviewing the season's work with a view toward making 1936 an even better year.

Handicapped by a long cold spell at the start of the season, it was only by the tireless and effective work of the union that the industry was put on a paying basis before the season closed.

Veterans in the game are unanimous in stating that 1935 has seen the most sweeping improvements ever effected in the industry in a single season.

Work is now under way for the drafting of new agreements and mapping a program for the coming year. Ray Rainbolt will be in charge of this work for the union.

All Complaints Must Be Made in Writing

A special questionnaire has been printed for use in recording cases of discrimination against members of Local 574.

This form, which contains questions which will bring out all facts needed by the union representative, will serve to handle cases in the quickest and most efficient manner.

Wherever possible members are urged to come to the union office to register complaints. When this cannot be done the complaint may be given to the job steward.

Do not be satisfied until you are sure that your complaint, when you have one, is recorded on the special questionnaire. In this manner you will be guaranteed quick and efficient service.

574 Football Team Has Real Material

Local 574 has a football team in the field for the 1935 season. Sunday the boys played a 0-0 tie against a tough team of park-leaguers at the Parade Grounds.

All aspirants for the team are asked to see Jack Novak at union headquarters.

Why Aren't These Plants Organized?



Minneapolis at the Cross Roads

Labor in Minneapolis today must choose between two roads. One leads upward through solid union action to better living conditions for the workers. The other leads downward through the sell-outs of the right wing fakers to a return of the miserable open-shop conditions which have been overcome in recent struggles.

The Minneapolis Journal deceives no one when it talks about the passing of the lumber and flour industries and the threats of sweat shop proprietors to leave town if their plants are unionized. If these unscrupulous and hypocritical individuals are fearful of "labor trouble," it is because they know that they are exploiting their workers mercilessly and are fearful that they will no longer submit to this yoke of oppression.

When Tetzlaff threatened to move the Flour City Iron Works to St. Louis, he learned quickly that this was no solution. Local 1313 contacted the metal workers in St. Louis and they assured them that the strike would be continued in that town as soon as Tetzlaff arrived. Any other boss who tries this tactic will be confronted with the same opposition. When a struck garment factory moved to New Ulm the striking garment workers moved the picket line right with them.

Howling about "outside agitators," the Journal appeals to the bosses to extend a hand to the conservative labor leaders "who are at last awake to the danger which threatens them." The workers listened to these conservatives for years and nothing happened. The unions remained small, wages low and working hours were long. The Citizens Alliance boasted about Minneapolis being an open shop town. It is for the return of this heaven for the bosses and hell for the workers that the Journal urges the workers to support the Cunninghams, the Boscoes and the Alexanders.

The bosses are being "harassed" today, not by outside agitators among the workers, but by the rank and file workers of Minneapolis who have sickened of low wages and big promises and are demanding a progressive leadership which will guide them in their fight for a decent standard of living.

The workers reject the program of the Journal, the Citizens Alliance, Latimer and the labor fakers for a return of the open shop and continue to rally around their own fighting slogan, "MAKE MINNEAPOLIS A UNION TOWN."

Outside Agitator Seeks to Increase Police Violence Against the Unions

Masquerading as a 100% red-blooded American citizen, an outside agitator and agent provocateur yesterday let loose a scathing blast against Minneapolis labor. Richard E. Enright, former New York police commissioner, urged that the Minneapolis police force be increased to 1,200 and that they "give the 'Reds' the works."

"The police should be plenty hard-boiled with the Reds and other lawless elements to keep them on the move," says Enright, as he strains himself to incite violence against striking workers in

the city.

Our Farmer-Labor mayor now well feel proud of the fact that he too has asked for a large increase in the police force, since Mr. Enright has so carefully explained the use to which these additional cops would be put.

The part where Enright tells about breaking up workers' demonstrations, raiding workers' meeting halls, destroying literature and smashing furniture, of course, when done by the cops, comes under the heading of "law and order."

METAL STRIKE WIN INSPIRES OTHER UNIONS

**Settlement Provides Basis
for Rapid Growth of
Local 1313**

**Strong Shop Committees Are
Being Formed at All
Metal Plants**

The metal workers have added another win to the long string of victories for labor during the past two years. After a 74 day strike seige, the employers were forced to capitulate in the face of the determined resistance of a picket line which was well reinforced from the ranks of other unions.

The battle was a bitter one in which the Citizens Alliance used up its entire bag of tricks—paid advertisements, court injunctions, hired thugs, police, armored cars, the grand jury, the Employer-Employee Board, "racketeer" charges, etc., etc.

Mayor Latimer, quivering and quaking under the threats of the grand jury, sent his police, with their armored cars, tear gas, clubs and guns, to oppose the strikers. Two workers were killed and dozens wounded by the police, but the pickets stuck to their posts in the face of these brutal repressions.

Again obliging the bosses, Latimer called a star-chamber conference, with the assistance of the right wing labor skates, and issued a statement to the press branding everything progressive in the

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574 Spikes Move For Fake Union

A company union idea which attempted to spring up at the International Fuel and Great Lakes Coal Co. was even more short lived than Solomon Grundy of primer fame. Born on Tuesday by an enterprising coal salesman, who was trying to feather his nest with a job as B. A., word of the company union move came immediately to Local 574 and the whole scheme died a natural death on Wednesday.

The members of Local 574 have put too much into their union to permit any self-seeking pie-card artist to lightly toss it all aside. They clearly realize the scope of the gains made by 574 and are aware of the many gains yet to be made through the future work of the union. Such understanding as this makes Local 574 unbeatable.

Coal Jobs Promised By Truck Salesmen

Members of General Drivers Local 574 have been approached by salesmen from the McDonald-Gillfillan Motor Co. and the H. J. Minar Motor Co. who have offered to furnish jobs in a coal yard if they will purchase trucks from them.

The union is vigorously combating this practice as a detriment to the welfare of the workers and is calling upon all its members to co-operate in this campaign.

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Published every Wednesday under the auspices of the Northwest Labor Unity Conference

OFFICE OF PUBLICATION
257 PLYMOUTH AVE. N.

GENERAL OFFICE: 286 EAST 6TH STREET, ST. PAUL, MINN.

Subscription Rates

One year in advance.....	\$1.00
Six months in advance.....	.65
Bundle copies (10 copy minimum), each.....	.02 1/2

Entered as second class matter May 1st, 1935, at the Postoffice at Minneapolis, Minnesota, under act of March 3, 1879.

"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."

Sign Up or Get Out

The metal strike is settled. After weeks and weeks of evasion by the employers, during which time they consistently claimed that there was no strike, that there were no differences between the management and the employees, that the union was a group of racketeers, etc., etc., the bosses were forced to admit that the union represented their employees, and they signed an agreement. Tetzlaff, the chief orator for the bosses, heads the list of signers.

This action poses a very sharp question to the Strutwear Knitting Company. What are they going to do? They have followed the line of the Flour City Metal Works—paid advertisements, charges of "outside agitators" fomenting trouble among "satisfied" employees, appeals for "law and order," and mass parading of scabs to the Dayton department store. The capitulation of Tetzlaff and his colleagues makes the Strutwear gang appear ridiculous. No person of normal intelligence will any longer believe the misrepresentations and falsifications which have been printed in the newspaper ads and news columns.

All Minneapolis will now say to the Strutwear Company, "Settle with the union or get out of town. We will not tolerate sweat shops."

And you, Mr. Mayor, might well take the lead in raising this demand. As you sit now and gaze at your empty, bloodstained hands, you might seize upon this as an opportunity to make some feeble gesture of restitution for your acts of violence against the workers. You have committed an act against the workers on the average of once every four days since the day you took office. See if for once, just once, you can muster the courage to carry through one of your campaign promises.

Organize These Plants

There is another question which the workers are raising. Why is there no union of any consequence, why is there no working agreement at the General Mills plants and the Northern States Power Co.? The General Mills have a company union. The Northern States Power Co. has repeatedly and ruthlessly attacked Local 160. Why does Latimer shield these plants by putting Pack and Davis, their managers, on his "secret-six"?

The metal workers, machinists, auto mechanics, truck drivers, upholsterers, fur workers, lathers, have secured improved conditions under union agreements. The hosiery workers and the station attendants have organized strong unions and are fighting a winning battle with the bosses. And yet some of the largest plants in the city remain unorganized.

Organize the General Mills and the Northern States Power Company.

Determination

The girls in the poultry industry have demonstrated in their struggle with the employers the courage and determination which is so typical of the American worker.

They know little about the mechanics of organization, but they make up for this by their complete willingness to fight and their natural habit, born through years of American capitalism, to carry the brunt of their own battle.

It will take more than the propaganda of the boss press and the repressions of the police to crush such a fine spirit as this.

Transfer Men Will Discuss Agreement

A special meeting has been called for the transfer section of Local 574 on Thursday, September 26. Results of the negotiations for a new agreement between the union and the transfer companies will be reported, discussed and acted upon at this meeting.

The men working in the different companies are urged by the Executive board to select job stewards where none have been selected, and in all cases to see that the conditions of the new agreement, when signed, will be lived up to by the employers.

Oil Dispute Will Go to Arbitration

Right at the eve of the deadline set for strike action by the gas station attendants, the oil companies agreed with the union to arbitrate the question of hours, wages and the commission rates to be paid on lease stations.

The arbiter will be Dr. Lapp, chairman of the Petroleum Labor Policy Board, Washington, D. C., who is now enroute to Minneapolis from Washington.

Mayor Latimer's Employer-Employee Board was not acceptable to either of the parties to the controversy.

Metal Strike Win Inspires Unions

(Continued from page 1)

movement as "racketeer." A "secret six" was appointed which grew into the Employer-Employee Board and bats 4 to 3 against the fakers and 7 to 0 against the workers.

The metal workers, spurning Latimer's phoney board, negotiated directly with Mac Aloon of the Citizens Alliance in the offices of Attorney John Goldie. It is interesting to note that Mac Aloon, long the ace stool pigeon herder of the Citizens Alliance, now disclaims any connection with that organization and poses as director of the Bureau of Industrial Relations. It is a difficult task to find anyone who will admit membership in the Citizens Alliance, so thoroughly has it been discredited.

The agreement provides for the return of all strikers to their former positions without discrimination. The minimum wage scale is very close to the original demands of the union: helpers, 45c per hour; semi-skilled labor, 48c; mechanics, second class, 55c; mechanics, first class, 67 1/2c. There will be no reduction where the present scale exceeds these minimums.

The regular week will be 40 hours with time and one half for all time over 8 hours per day, overtime to be paid on regular pay days. A six week peak period is permitted in each six months, during which time overtime will be paid for time over 48 hours per week.

Work may be staggered during slack periods, and all hiring and discharging will be done on the basis of seniority rights. Differences over the interpretation of the agreement which cannot be ironed out otherwise will be arbitrated.

The agreement, running to January, 1937, has been signed by the union with the following reservations:

1. The agreement may be opened at any time on 30 days notice.
2. At the Flour City Ornamental Iron Works, employees who were discharged for union activity prior to the strike must be reinstated.

The settlement includes the Flour City Ornamental Iron Works, Crown Iron Works, Kienzle and Merrick, Challman and Co., Demueles Bros., Standard Iron and Wire, Baker Iron Works, Minneapolis Ornamental Iron Works and Stanley Iron Works.

The strike committee will continue to function until such time as it can be replaced by well organized shop committees which will carry on the day to day work of the union. The agreement leaves much to be desired, it is true, but there is provided an excellent foundation from which a live union with aggressive shop committees can go forward to great gains.

It is our estimation that the Ornamental Metal Workers, Local 1313, is that kind of a union.

Keeping in mind the terrific odds against which it carried on the fight and in view of the treachery from the Latimer administration in league with the "secret six," the victory is a noteworthy achievement.

Union Entertainments Every Saturday Night

Now that the indoor season is coming on, the union is preparing to provide for the needs of its members by holding regular entertainments each week.

The best music will be provided and every effort will be made to make an evening at the union hall a real pleasure on entertainment nights.

Come down and meet your friends and join in the good time.

Labor Looks at the Press

The bosses in the depression of 1884 were not at all hypocritical. In that year, the New York HERALD declared editorially: "The best meal that can be given to a regular tramp is a leaden one." And the Chicago TRIBUNE went their Eastern brethren one better by writing: "The simplest plan is to put strychnine or arsenic in the meat and other supplies furnished, as this produces death in a short time and is a warning to other tramps to keep out of the neighborhood."

The bosses today feel the same way about the unemployed workers, only they're smart not to say it. Instead, they promise us the WPA, and give us—tear gas.

No less a person than General Johnson was forced to say recently: "One out of every six unemployed workers in New York City is unsuitably qualified for any kind of work because of nervous, ulcer and heart conditions. . . The years of depression and long unemployment have permanently broken so many men in health that they probably will never be employable again."

It is terrible to feel your health slowly give way under the ravages of capitalism which is no longer able to give men jobs. There is only one answer: ORGANIZE AND DECLARE WAR ON THE PRESENT SHAMEFUL SYSTEM!

One great working class leader once said: "Capitalist society always was and always will be a terror without end!"

Here's an item for those who think capitalism can reform itself. From the New York TIMES: "Seven partners and stan members withdrew from J. P. Morgan & Co. today to form the investment banking house of Morgan, Stalney Co. The new firm will take over the investment banking business the Morgan house was forced to relinquish under the 1933 banking act, which bars any one firm dealing in both investment and deposit banking. Henry S. Morgan, younger son, is one of the heads of the new firm."

Is anyone so naive as to believe that old man Morgan won't control the new firm lock, stock and barrel. The wealthy, you see, can always dodge any law. They see to that when they make the laws.

Headline: Republicans May Change Name to Constitutional Party.

A Republican by any other name would smell as bad.

Roger Babson: "Persons on relief should be asked to practice birth control. The very fact that a family is on relief shows that too many of that group exist."

The very fact that millions of families are on relief

shows that the economic system is all cock-eyed.

International News Service item: "Bullets charged with the deadly germs of anthrax, tetanus and other swiftly-spreading diseases will be used in the next war, and their destruction will not be confined to the ranks of combatants alone."

But think of the glory of dying for God and Morgan.

Six and possibly all of the metal working plants of Minneapolis which are closed by strikes, plan to remain closed indefinitely. . . Several concerns have sublet contracts to out-of-town manufacturers for orders on hand."—Minneapolis Tribune.

But they signed up just the same.

Famous Lines in History: "Officials of the closed plants blamed agitators for the trouble and said there are no serious differences between the employers and the workers."

Union Notes

Spencer Johnson lays claim to a new record for his brother members in 574 to envy. He has just successfully completed a 74-day, one man sympathetic strike with the metal workers at Crown Iron Works.

We are glad to report that Ray Dunne is able to be out and around again, and we warn all brothers to be very careful about his ribs. They are still pretty sore. Ray testifies that your ribs hurt just as bad when they are broken by Latimer's police as they do when broken by Bainbridge's police.

Talk about a resourceful membership. No matter whether it is an idea, a violet ray machine or a portrait painter which is wanted, you will find what you seek somewhere in 574.

Speaking of portraits, be sure to see the picture panel which Squirrel Palmquist is painting in the conference room.

Support the Organizer

The ORGANIZER is a free workers' press which obtains its financial support solely from the subscriptions of individuals and organizations, together with the bundle orders obtained from workers throughout the northwest. Bundles of the first issues have been sent without charge so that you might become acquainted with the editorial policy and stimulate a demand among the workers in your organization and locality. Funds are needed to continue publication. Subscription rates and bundle order prices have been set at a figure which will barely meet the cost of publication. Use the subscription blank provided in each issue to send in individual subscriptions and bundle orders. Support the ORGANIZER so that you may get the labor news in an undiluted form.

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