

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!

VOLUME 1, NO. 36

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1935

PRICE 5 CENTS

'REACTION' GAINING POWER

PACK'S PARTY LEAVES UNION STILL SOLID

Address by High Executive
Warns of Unemployment Horror

Gives No Indication That
Wages Will Be Raised
in Plant

The big family party given by the Northern States Power Company at the Municipal Auditorium Thursday, December 19, was, from a social standpoint, a grand success.

The turkeys that had been promised were there in abundance—that is, 100 turkeys for 1,236 employees. The Marigald Ballroom band was on hand to furnish dance music for those so inclined. The Kelvinator, the electric stove and the many other articles were all raffled off and are now safely in the possession of their new owners.

What was perhaps the highlight of the evening's entertainment was the speech that Mr. Pack, General Manager of the Company, made to his "loyal" employees. Many members of the union, which is sweeping through the entire organization, feared, before the meeting, that Pack was going to attack their organization. But that was not the case.

Mr. Pack was much more subtle and clever. He merely pointed out to the workers, their wives and children, how disagreeable it was to be unemployed. He painted a vivid and extremely disagreeable picture of the horrors of the breadlines.

By inference, at least, he indicated that it was better to be satisfied with a job, however poor, than to have recourse to the federal dole. He complimented and praised the Northern States Power workers for the splendid co-operation they had given the company during the past year and urged them to make even greater efforts in the future.

He neglected, however, to say that co-operation, however good, would not be rewarded in a manner that would mean more wages for the workers. Indeed, he gave quite the opposite impression.

The general consensus of opinion of those present was that Mr. Pack meant exactly this: If you work harder than ever, your jobs are safe, but at the same old salary.

Christ Moe, steward at the Fuel Distributors, wishes to thank all of his friends and fellow workers in the various yards where collections were taken up to help him defray expenses incurred during the illness and death of his wife.

Coal Companies Slashing Prices

Although the coal yards are better organized than ever before in the history of the coal business in Minneapolis, the coal industry, itself, is rapidly drifting to a position where the wellbeing, wages and working conditions of our members in that industry are being jeopardized.

When the coal barons start cutting each other's throats for business someone has always had to pay the piper. That someone, up until now, has always been the worker in the industry.

This year, as last year, the relief coal set-up is responsible. The coal companies who were the successful bidders for relief coal, notably the Cedar Lake, now find themselves, due to the WPA set-up, which removed thousands of former relief clients from the relief rolls, with many thousands of tons of coal for which there is no market. So, in order to move this vast amount of coal that is on their hands, or that has been contracted for, they are selling relief coal to the general public at relief prices.

This has led other coal companies to retaliate and so the war is on. Already there are numerous complaints of contract violations.

Local 574 is fully aware of what is taking place and intends to move speedily to force all companies to comply with the wage provisions of the coal agreement. Members working in the coal industry are urged to report any and all violations of the union contract to the office.

Immediate action will follow.

Car Union Men Fail To Wear Buttons

This pillar of workers truth is compelled to report that an error crept into last week's issue. In reporting the fact that the Street Car local members put on union buttons and wore them to work Monday, Dec. 16, we are compelled to admit that we actually did not see the buttons.

On Friday we heard that such action was going to be taken. We wrote the story on Saturday, Dec. 14, believing that the decision of the union would be carried out without fail. But between Friday and Monday something happened.

A timid representative of the union decided that it would be safer if the company was consulted about the matter first. Anyone with a spark of imagination could predict what followed. The company said NO.

The matter has now gone to a board of arbitration. So it may be months yet before street car riders will be able to distinguish between union men and rats.

To date Pack has not signed an agreement with Local 160.

Peace on Earth, Good Will to Men



SPECIAL BULLETIN

As we go to press comes the news of the conviction of all three of the defendants in the Strutwear case. The three prisoners, two of whom are members of the Hosiery Union, were haled into federal court on a criminal contempt charge in connection with the Strutwear strike.

David Ellis and Lawrence Swanson, both members of the

Hosiery Union, who were defended by Irving Green, were sentenced to six months in the City Workhouse.

Alfred Russell, who was defended by Gilbert Carlson and Francis Heisler, of the Non-Partisan Labor defense, received a four months sentence. The Non-Partisan Labor defense announced, Tuesday that the case of Al Russell would be appealed.

Christmas for the Unemployed

Lights, decorations, beautiful show windows, hurrying, scurrying crowds, bundle-laden mobs that jam the sidewalks, cars and busses; merry greetings, drinks and friendly salutations of the season's almost universal joy.

This is the typical picture that is painted by the apologists of the system that gives only a tiny minority of the population true joy and contentment at Yule time.

Nothing is said of the 15,000,000 unemployed and dispossessed that will know nothing of lights, music or joy at this Christmas time. Many millions will crouch in their wretched shelters and dream of a time when they too knew something of the joy of the season. Millions will go hungry and cold while the few fortunate will revel in gifts, good food and warmth.

Young boys, who should still be under a mother's care, will sleep cold in box cars and will eat the black bread of bitterness and despair. Girls, who should be sweet and good, will sell their bodies on Christmas day that they may eat.

Nations, at war for spoils of gold, will send workers at each other's throats where they will bleed and die to fill an unmarked and unhonored grave.

In the jungles, in the box cars, in the hovels of the poor and in the mansions of the rich the Christmas bells will be heard. For a few the bells will bring a message of joy and revelry. For the millions their brazen tones will ring the death knell of contentment, joy and security.

SCOTT, HUDSON OUSTED FROM WELFARE POST

Farmer-Laborites Join With
Conservatives in Friday
Action

Organized Labor Voices Pro-
test as Reactionaries
Triumphs

Friday morning, December 20, there was staged in the City Council a scene that should convince the most skeptical that the Farmer-Labor Party is a weak and impotent instrument for workers' rights, particularly as it applies to municipal government.

While the Friday meeting was a regularly scheduled meeting of the Council, the principal item on the agenda was the removal of Aldermen I. G. Scott and Edwin Hudson from their positions as City Council representatives on the Welfare Board.

Thursday afternoon it became apparent, during caucuses that were held by the conservative members of the Council, strengthened and aided by some Farmer-Labor aldermen, that Scott and Hudson were slated to go.

Friday morning, although representatives of organized labor which included a delegation from the Minneapolis Central Labor Union and representatives of Local 574 were on hand to protest against this high-handed action on the part of the conservatives, Scott and Hudson were removed with scarcely a protest being lodged in their behalf.

Voting for the removal of Scott and Hudson were seven aldermen, all elected from working class wards and all who had been previously aligned with the liberal faction in the Council. Among them were several who, in the last election, had received the endorsement of the trade union movement of Minneapolis and of the Hennepin County Central Committee.

They were: Aldermen Harold Kauth, Daniel F. O'Brien, W. Glen Wallace, Henry H. Bank, William Meagher, John Peterson and O. A. Pearson.

These so-called liberals who threw in their strength with the conservative faction were the balance of power that allowed the representatives of the bankers and the taxpayers association in the Council to have their way.

Voting in opposition to unseat Scott and Hudson were the following: Chas. R. Rosander, A. G. Bastis, A. R. Gisslen, Herman Miller and Michael J. Foley.

Representatives of the Central Labor Union said that the removal of Hudson and Scott would be "an affront to 30,000 persons who belong to the Central Labor Union."

(Continued on page 4)

Make Minneapolis a Union Town

STRUTWEAR STRIKERS FIGHT FEDERAL COURT BATTLE

The Strutwear strikers are fighting a clear-cut struggle in Judge Molyneaux's Federal Court. Three workers from the picket line are on trial, charged with criminal contempt. Alfred Russell is being defended by the Non-Partisan Labor Defense, whose attorneys are Gilbert Carlson and Francis Heisler. David Ellis and Lawrence Swanson are represented by Irving Green, attorney for the American Federation of Hosiery Workers.

These workers were arrested on federal warrants in the hands of United States Marshals when they stood their ground and tried to persuade non-union truck drivers, sent in from Winona, Minnesota, to haul goods from the plant.

It will be recalled that all Twin City trucks had been withdrawn from this work following a strike action by Local 574. A "stooge" company, called the Peacock Knitting Company, had been set up in St. Joseph, Missouri. What appears to be a deal between the Strutwear Company and the "stooge" Peacock Company gave recourse to replevin action. This brought in the Federal authorities.

All strike action to prevent the movement of goods became contempt of court. This method of procedure circumvents both the Anti-Injunction Law and Wagner Labor Dispute Act.

The defense of Dave Ellis, Alfred Russell, and Lawrence Swanson is the opening skirmish in what is sure to be a new legal war for the rights of labor unions.

Arrayed against these fighting young workers is the usual lineup of police, under-cover dicks, and flunkies. In addition to these regular enemies of Labor, there now appears the United States Marshal and the formal majesty of the United States Court.

Under the rules of Federal Court procedure, no jury trial is allowed. The judge accuses, issues the warrants, sends the boys to jail, and sets the bail. The judge also acts as jury and will determine the guilt or innocence of these strikers.

Bail in each case has been set at \$2,500. For Dave Ellis and Lawrence Swanson the bail has raised by the Hosiery Workers Union.

Alfred Russell is still in jail.

Efforts to raise the necessary amount have been slow, due, it seems, to the fact that he is not a member of any union.

Attorneys Carlson and Heisler for the Non-Partisan Labor Defense, have presented motions calling into question the jurisdiction of the Federal Court. They have contended before Judge Molyneaux that there is evidence of fraud on the part of the Strutwear Company. The motion demanded that Judge Molyneaux issue an order to bring the books of the Strutwear Company and the Peacock Knitting Company into court. They presented powerfully documented arguments to show that the whole action of the court should be set aside.

This contention by the Non-Partisan Labor Defense attorneys brought forward the real issues in the case. They offered to prove, by an examination of the records of the Strutwear Company, that the Strutwear Company is, in fact, in contempt of court. Judge Molyneaux refused to issue the order.

Motions for separate trials were made by both Attorneys Irving Green and Heisler. Here it was shown that the evidence in each case would be different and that the boys were entitled to separate defense. These motions were also overruled by the judge.

Motions to discharge the action against the defendants after the prosecution had presented a very weak case, were also denied.

A proposal by Francis Heisler and Gilbert Carlson to reduce the excessive bail under which Alfred Russell is held did not find favor with Judge Molyneaux.

The bail remains at \$2,500.

Ortonville Meeting of Import to Workers

The conference of unemployed and WPA organizations that will be held in Ortonville, Minnesota, on January 10, 11 and 12, is one of the most important and significant developments that have taken place since the inauguration of the Works Progress Administration.

Developments that have taken place prior to the calling of this conference indicate that it will be a vitally important meeting.

For the first time an attempt will be made to adjust the WPA wage scale on a statewide basis. Every unemployed WPA or federal relief organization is invited to send delegates to the Ortonville conference.

More information in regard to the conference can be secured by addressing General Drivers Union, Local 574, at 257 Plymouth Avenue, Minneapolis.

If your organization has not received a call to the conference, get in touch immediately with the conference committee at the above address.

Communist Sheet Is Late With Local News

The last issue of United Action, a Communist Party sheet, published in Minneapolis, comes out with the following headline: "Strike Threatened at Clark Box Plant." This news was news about a month ago. Their reporter seems to have overlooked the fact that an agreement was signed between the Clark Box Factory and the union over a month ago.

Acting with the Clark Box Factory Union in getting their agreement signed were representatives of Local 574.

We believe that the slogan that appears at the masthead of many newspapers, "All the news that's fit to print" is O. K.

But at least it should be printed while it is still news.

Bill Brown Says—



BILL BROWN President of 574

They removed Scott and Hudson from the Welfare Board on what grounds the Farmer-Labor aldermen voted for this is over my head. They say that Scott and Hudson made mistakes. I say that if they did make mistakes the mistakes were all in favor of the workers. If it is a mistake to want to feed and clothe cold and hungry children, then I want to make lots of the same kind of errors. Although Scott and Hudson are shoved off the Welfare Board they have the satisfaction of knowing that they have done their best. And too, relief clients can still vote.

FEDERAL JUDGE NULLIFIES WAGNER DISPUTES ACT

The Wagner Labor Act enacted at the last session of Congress was declared unconstitutional in Kansas City, Missouri, December 21.

Judge Merrill E. Otis, Federal Judge in that district, ruled that this recently enacted piece of labor legislation was unconstitutional. The case, upon which the decision was based, involved a small, and relatively unimportant concern.

The firm involved was the Majestic Flour Mills of Aurora, Missouri, a small town in southwestern Missouri.

The plant which had become recently organized refused to deal with their employees collectively. This act, technically, constituted a violation of the Wagner Labor Disputes Bill. The owners of the plant obtained a restraining order to block a hearing ordered by the National Labor Board.

The government moved for a dismissal of the order and the opinion handed down by Judge Otis was a notice that a temporary injunction would be issued against the Labor Board, preventing them from forcing a hearing.

The order of Judge Otis constitutes a declaration that the whole Wagner Act is unconstitutional. In the decision handed down by Judge Otis he makes a bitter attack against labor unions, among other things he said, "The government must protect him (the worker) even against himself."

This decision strikes another body-blow at the reactionary trade union leadership of the American Federation of Labor, who have based their whole hope, in the past year, of getting reforms for the American worker, on the passage and enforcement of the Wagner Labor Act.

It will be interesting to know what the reaction of the top leaders of the A. F. of L. will be to the upsetting of their pet reform measure.

J. L. Lewis Offers Green Council Post

In a half-ironic, half-threatening letter addressed to Green last Saturday, John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers of America, and chairman of the committee, formally called upon Green to surrender his present leadership of the federation and accept a new job that would be "as permanent" as the presidency.

In a highly sarcastic mood, Lewis offered Green the chairmanship of the industrial union organization and hinted that that position, admittedly a temporary one, would provide at least as much security of tenure as the increasingly unsteady seat of the AFL presidency.

Green, of course, promptly refused the "offer" but in doing so he was quite obviously placed on the defensive.

From now on, not only will the craft unionists demand his undivided support for their policies, but the new committee will at the same time, undoubtedly make him the target of frequent attacks similar to that implied in the letter of last Saturday.

That the labor movement is not by any means split asunder by the present hot fight over policies was indicated, however, by the patching up of the schism that has developed within the building trades unions during the past 18 months.

Rotation Plan Hit by Independent Truckers

The Thursday night meeting of the Independent Truck Owners, Local 574, was one of the largest meetings held in recent months. Special notices had been mailed out to the entire membership of that section and the response was very good.

The principal item of discussion was in regard to the latest Bulletin issued by the state administrator's office of the WPA. The Bulletin states that owners of independent equipment who have gotten in 30 days' work on WPA projects will be required to lay off and allow the owners of such equipment as is now on the waiting list to take their place on these projects.

The question of seniority was raised in the meeting and Miles Dunne was called upon to define the meaning of seniority as it applies to layoffs and discharges.

At the conclusion of Dunne's talk it was voted unanimously that the Independent Truck Owners insist that seniority be maintained on these jobs.

A committee was appointed to draft a resolution dealing with this subject and it was further decided that this committee wait upon the State WPA administrator to lodge formal protest against the putting into effect the so-called "rotation plan."

Thomas Warns of Fascist Danger

Norman Thomas, Socialist party leader, charges there has been a steady recession in civil liberties under the new deal.

To prove his statements he points to the 27 killings in Alabama during the attempt to organize farmers and industrial workers; the Shoemaker murder in California; Governor McNutt military rule in Terre Haute and the use of troops against textile strikers in Georgia and elsewhere.

"In all of these acts of terror against the most elementary democratic liberties can soon be the rise of Fascism," Thomas said.

"Apples do not rot all at once. They begin to rot in one spot. Fascism does not come in one moment, though there comes, of course, the final crisis when Fascism can take control. That final crisis is prepared for by just such instances as these."

What Thomas neglects to say in regard to the coming of Fascism is precisely this: Fascism can never take control when and where the workers are organized into strong, class-conscious organizations of their own kind.

Sample Ballot

Minneapolis General Drivers, Helpers and Inside Workers Local No. 574

Polls to be open for balloting at 257 Plymouth Ave. N., on Friday, January 10, 1936, and Saturday, January 11, 1936 from 7 a. m. to 9 p. m. Members who will be unable to come to the polls on the above dates may vote by absentee ballot to be secured at the union headquarters. The following officers are to be elected for a term of one year from January 13, 1936.

President—	Vote for One
WM. S. BROWN	
Vice President—	Vote for One
GEO. FROSIG	
Recording Secretary—	Vote for One
G. J. DUNNE	
Secretary-Treasurer—	Vote for One
FARRELL DOBBS	
Trustees—	Vote for 3 only
MOE HORK	
HARRY DeBOER	
RAY DUNNE	
L. GARDNER	
CURT ZANDER	
AXEL SODERBERG	
L. ABROE	
R. F. DEPEW	

Move to Probe Tampa Outrage

Joseph Shoemaker, horribly beaten by a masked mob which included a policeman in uniform, died at Tampa, Florida, from the effects of the beating. Shoemaker was chairman of the Modern Democrats, a progressive political group which had supported production for use candidates in a recent election. On the night of November 30, as told in last week's EPIC News, he and five others were taken from a committee meeting at the home of the Truck Drivers' Union secretary by ten uniformed detectives and given the third degree at headquarters.

Three of them—Shoemaker, Eugene Poulnot, president of the Florida Workers Alliance, and S. D. Rogers, Socialist party member—were then seized in front of the city hall by the masked mob, driven to a remote spot, flogged, tarred and feathered, and left to their fate.

Shoemaker, beaten to unconsciousness, lay in a ditch for 24 hours. Shoemaker's doctor, who described him as "horribly mutilated," amputated a leg in an effort to save the patient's life. His bodily movements were largely paralyzed. Shoemaker is said to have known his assailants and to have communicated them before his death.

The Tampa joint Committee for the Defense of Civil Rights, including representatives from the League for Industrial Democracy, Workers' Alliance of America, General Defense Committee, Negro Labor Committee, and many labor and church bodies, is determined to throw the spotlight of national attention on the most flagrant anti-labor outrage of the year.

John Janasco, president of the Clark Box Factory Union, was presented with a beautiful brief case by members of the organization at their Wednesday night meeting in General Drivers' Hall.

Our office force raffled off a turkey last week. "Skulduggery," says we.

Mankato Drivers To Form Union

Last Monday night Bill Brown, Carl Skoglund and Moe Hork went to Mankato to attend a meeting of truck drivers that had been called in that city.

The purpose of the gathering of drivers was to form a union of the general driving crafts there. Local 574 had been contacted by this group some time ago and had been asked to lend the assistance of the union in helping organize a drivers' local in Mankato.

A small meeting had been held two weeks before at which a representative of 574 was present.

The Monday meeting brought a good turnout of local drivers. Over 70 men were present. During the course of the meeting it was brought out that wages and conditions were very bad among the driving crafts. Work weeks of 70 to 80 hours were common. Wages as low as \$10 per week were reported.

Present at the meeting were coal, milk, ice, building material, and wholesale house drivers. An organization committee was set up to further the work of organizing all of the truck drivers, helpers and inside workers in Mankato. A counter meeting will be called and news, future.

Christmas Party Is Great Success

The Christmas Party given by the union for the children of union members Saturday afternoon in the Union Hall was a grand success.

The arrangements committee, who had charge of the affair, were astounded by the huge turnout of children that attended the affair. Between four and five hundred little ones from the ages of a few months to ten years made up the crowd that greeted the program, the Christmas tree, the gifts, and Santa Claus with shrill shouts of approval.

Long before the appointed hour of three o'clock had arrived the kiddies were flocking into the hall. A beautiful Christmas tree, 16 feet in height decorated with all the things that go to make a Christmas tree what it is supposed to be, stood in the center of the hall.

By the time three o'clock had arrived the hall was a bedlam of laughing, shouting, playing, children. At that time they were called to the front of the hall and the program began.

First an accordion player, who led the children in community singing. Then a magician entertained for 20 minutes. The uproar that greeted his mystifying tricks showed that he had pleased his audience of little people. A dog act was next on the program.

After that was concluded the real highlight of the entertainment was staged. It was a puppet show, put on by the Workers' Education Division. This was, perhaps, the most popular feature of the program.

After a few more songs Santa Claus put in his appearance. Under his guidance the distribution of bags of candy, nuts, apples, oranges, etc., took place. Santa was very popular with the little people as he listened to their many requests.

The party adjourned about five o'clock with everyone satisfied, happy, and stuffed with the good things they had received.

Workers Protective Ass'n Elects Officers

Workers Protective Association of St. Louis Park, affiliated with Federal Workers Section, Local 574, held its annual election of officers, Tuesday, Dec. 17.

Those elected to serve the following year are: Chairman, Carl Fagerstrom; vice-chairman, E. D. Dahlquist; corresponding secretary, Victor Anderson, 2633 Kenwood Ave.; financial secretary, Frank W. Hoppe, 6321 West 37th St.; sergeant at arms, E. S. Erickson; alternate, Einar Sunblad.

Members of Control Committee: Alfred A. Miller, Frank Ross, Gerda Anderson, Beatrice Jensen, Lars Shultz.

Meetings are held second and fourth Tuesday each month at the Lincoln school at 8 p. m. Until further notice the meeting on the second Tuesday each month will be open house. Refreshments, entertainment and speakers.

All are welcome.

Non-Partisan Defense To Ask for Re-Trials

Fargo, N. D., Dec. 16—The local branch of the NPLD, after discussing the matter with the defendants, decided to ask for a re-hearing of the decision against the 13 striking truck-drivers whose conviction was upheld before the Supreme Court.

Francis Heisler, attorney for the NPLD in Chicago, will present the petition for re-hearing during this week.

History of the Fargo "Riot" Cases

By F. X. Ferry

Last week a new—but apparently not yet the last—chapter was added to the history of the labor struggle so valiantly carried on by Local 173 of the General Drivers, Fargo, North Dakota. The Supreme Court of North Dakota, after more than two months of deliberation, handed down its decision in the case of the striking truck-driver members of Local 173, who in February, 1935, were convicted of riot. The case, as many readers of this paper will remember, grew out of the strike of the coal truck drivers of the cities of Fargo, North Dakota, and Moorhead, Minnesota.

Strike Called Jan. 22

From November, 1934, until January, 1935, Local 173 attempted in vain to get a hearing from the employers of the transportation industry. Many of the employers were ready, even anxious, to negotiate, but because of the injunction given to the bosses by the Associated Industries and the Citizens' Alliance, which were out to break the union, the attempted discussions came to naught. Public opinion was with the workers who were receiving wages as low as \$14 for a 06 hour week; the Citizens' Alliance, however, defied public opinion the easier because it had as its ally the reactionary city and county authorities, including the State's Attorney, Bergeson, and the Sheriff of Cass County.

The former showed himself openly to be a stooge of the bosses when he repeatedly threatened union officials with arrest in case they would attempt to strike and interrupt coal deliveries. This handy-man of the Citizens' Alliance declared that he was "against coal strikes in the winter time," but the union, after almost three months in vain attempts to negotiate, was forced to call a strike on January 22.

Vigilantes Attack Hall

The fifth day of the strike, January 27, was what is known today as "Gas Sunday." While some of the strikers went to the Red River to persuade the scabs—who were engaged there in ice-cutting, to desist from further work, about 200 "specials," together with the regular deputies and police officers, appeared in front of the Union Hall and demanded that President Cruden and Secretary Swalde of the union be "sent down" to them. The officers of the Union, in order to avoid a clash, were ready to follow instructions even though no warrant was presented; but the members and their wives who were present in the hall for a social gathering, rightly measured the lynch spirit of the specials and prevented Cruden's and Swalde's exit. The official lynch mob then proceeded to force the occupants of the hall into the open by using the gas guns of the city police to shoot gas bombs through the windows, filling the hall with a choking gas-cloud, and injuring some of the union members' children.

After about 10 minutes of vain resistance against the gas, the hall was cleared; all the men present, 95 in all, were arrested at the entrance to the union headquarters.

Gas Attack Arranged in Advance

That the gas attack was arranged for well in advance was shown by the hundreds of faces lining—hours before—the Masonic Temple and hotel windows opposite Union Hall. The attack, accomplished with unheard of brutality, provoked great resentment, not only among the work-a-day people of the city of Fargo, but also throughout the state; so much so that even the State legislative body felt itself constrained to investigate the city and county authorities so notoriously and brazenly out to help break the strike.

The state's attorney, encouraged by the Citizens' Alliance, countered the state-wide accusations level against him with an attempt to show that the raid upon the Union Hall was to prevent "further violent acts of the strikers." Being unable to show that the union members and their families, assembled for a social, were guilty of anything approaching a violent act, he created a smoke screen by charging the pickets, who at the time of the gas raid were attempting to dissuade some scabs from working at the river, with "riot."

Packed Jury Greets Strikers

Before the completion of the trial, two of the defendants were discharged because of their extreme youth and two others for the utter lack of evidence against them. The remaining 16 were tried before a hand-picked jury (selected out of a list of 200 made up by the city and county supervisors), and even though no violence was shown on the part of any of them, even though three were admittedly not present at the river, all of them were found guilty.

Thirteen of them were given two month sentences each; Cruden, Swalde and Hughes, probably because they failed to go to the river and failed to be present at the place of the alleged riot, got six months each, showing conclusively that the whole trial was arranged to get at the union by doing away with its officials, the other 13 defendants being thrown into the case just for good measure or as trimmings.

The defense was ably conducted by two young local lawyers, Martin N. Burdick and Lee F. Brooks, who, because of the lack of funds in the union treasury, were assigned to the work by the court.

Union Continues to Fight

After the riot trial, the union, instead of the hoped for breakup, astounded and enraged the bosses by its vitality and consistent work for further unionization. To break this spirit, injunction suits, one after the other, as well as other criminal prosecutions were instituted against the officers and members of the Local, which even though it was affiliated to the A. F. of L., received no help from the International of the truck drivers. However, Local 173 received outside help from other unions such as Local 574, which requested and obtained the legal aid of the Non-Partisan Labor Defense.

The mid-west attorney for the NPLD, Francis Heisler of Chicago, was sent out to Fargo, and he, together with Attorneys Burdick and Brooks, defended the injunction suits and carried the case of the 16 convicted workers to the Supreme Court of North Dakota. The appeal work, though handicapped by lack of funds needed for the cost of the transcript of the trial, stenographer and other expenses, was completed and the brief submitted to the Supreme Court in August; oral argument was heard in October of this year.

Supreme Court Gives Decision

On December 7, 1935, the Su-

preme Court handed down its decision in which it reversed the conviction of the union officials, Cruden, Swalde, and that of Hughes, and ordered a new trial for them. It affirmed the two month sentences meted out to the other 13 strikers. In a 16 page opinion, the high courts of the State of North Dakota explains that "because of the importance of the case," they have carefully gone over the record and found that as to the 13 strikers "the indisputed evidence proved that there was force and violence used and language which amounted to threats accompanied by the immediate power of execution."

How did the learned judges arrive at this conclusion? The opinion states:

"The employees of the ice company were not asked to quit, they were told to quit. Such language as this was used, namely: 'This is your last load. Go home and don't come back.' 'We mean business. No fooling.' 'If you come back it will be just too bad for you.' 'You are nothing but a bunch of rats.' 'You better quit or we will make you.' 'You got to quit, that is all.' 'Into the river with everything'."

Violence Not Proven

One may not be sure that the quotations will show violence or use of force; therefore it is necessary to see how a scab feels when he is called a rat. One of them testified that: "I quit because I did not want to get into any trouble." Another one of the State's witnesses who was told by the pickets, "Go on home, if you know what's good for you," stated that he "didn't pay much attention to what was said," which shows the lack of intimidation that must have been also felt by the judges of the Supreme Court who, in their opinion, mistakenly quote this scab's testimony to the effect that he "didn't pay much attention to what ELSE was said." The little word "else" makes a great deal of difference since the first, the actual testimony shows no intimidation and thus no apprehensible act on the part of the pickets, while the testimony with the word "else" inserted shows a terrified scab who heard nothing but what the Supreme Court considered threats to the scab's bodily safety.

The opinion of the Supreme Court refers to certain State exhibits, such as a piece of seasoned hard maple wood, a piece of maple flooring, in the possession of the pickets, all with the apparent intention to show that the poor scabs could have been beaten if the defendants wanted to do so; as a matter of fact, the learned appeal judges say that "all the employees did quit" but two of the scabs, "and they were immediately assaulted by the strikers and would PROBABLY have been injured except for the timely arrival of the police." It seems that God is good to the Fargo scabs because the pickets could have used force against them but didn't; they "PROBABLY" would have been injured, but they were not; nevertheless the high court of the state found that the charge of riot was made out against 13 of the union members on the flimsiest of all evidence.

Leaders Get New Trial

While the appeal court does not seem to have any difficulty in convincing itself that the rank and file was guilty of riot, it was forced to conclude that President Cruden, Secretary Swalde and

Hughes, who were gassed out of the Union Hall at the time when the scabs, about a mile away from the hall, were told by other strikers that scabbing is not a nice thing to do, could not, by any stretch of imagination, be connected with the so-called riot. It must be a great disappointment for the Citizens' Alliance, the Associated Industries, and for their flunky, the State's Attorney, to see the Supreme Court spoil their game by reversing the judgment as to Cruden, Swalde and Hughes. All the work to frame the union leadership now goes down the chute, unless they do a better job the next time, if and when Cruden, Swalde and Hughes are retried. The opinion of the Supreme Court, which is full of inferences, should teach the State's Attorney where he failed in his frameup against the officers of the Local.

"Presumably," Says Court

In referring to the evidence pertaining to the Union Hall before the gassing, the learned judges say that:

"The inference from this testimony is that the information that men were working on the river, and the speech that was then made excited the men to action and caused them to rush to the river and enflame a riot." (Underscored in original opinion). "But there is not a word in the testimony to prove that Cruden, Swalde and Hughes were present, or that they knew that men were working on the river, or that they heard the speech which presumably caused the trouble"

"Presumably," say the learned judges; "presumably" the State's Attorney will know better next time and will not again disappoint the Citizens' Alliance in failing to build up a good case framing the union leadership.

Concerted Action Hit

Back and forth from presumptions to inferences, the Supreme Court concludes that it is not possible to let the conviction of Cruden, Swalde and Hughes stand though it finds it proper to have the two month sentences against the other 13 men affirmed. One looking upon the case with the eyes of a layman must come to one conclusion, and that is not a presumption either, that the Supreme Court of North Dakota fell in line with the eastern appeal courts and their method of dealing with so-called riot cases.

Riot is considered by the high courts as anything and everything which shows a concerted action of the workers or farmers to enforce their rights. Because of the present day conditions, the authorities are determined to prevent any and all concerted action, and to do so they obtain the new judicial interpretation by appeal courts of the term "riot."

Effective Weapon Needed

And the workers, the farmers, the relief clients, the small home owners, who are they to do? They must resort to one "inference." They must "presume" that since their concerted action on their own behalf is considered by the authorities so dangerous that it must be suppressed by all means, fail or foul, such concerted action must be an effective weapon in the hands of the masses.

May it not be a fair "inference" that the masses, learning from their oppressors, will resort always more and more to concerted action, an action which is the only effective weapon at their disposal?

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

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."

"Liberal" Aldermen Show Colors

The removal of Scott and Hudson as the City Council representatives on the Board of Public Welfare is convincing proof that relief clients and workers can expect little or anything from most of the representatives they have elected to the Council.

The very fact that several of the so-called liberals, among whom are several bona fide Farmer-Laborites, threw in their lot with the conservative clique in the Council to unseat Scott and Hudson should reveal to the duller person that they have little to expect from such representatives.

The pertinent question that must be raised at this time is:

Just why were Scott and Hudson forced from their position on the Welfare Board?

Alderman Wallace said that they lacked "tact and diplomacy." Charges were made that they had proceeded in "too impetuous" a manner in reorganization of the Relief Department. Statements were made that they were unable to "get along" with the rest of the Welfare Board members.

Perhaps Scott and Hudson do lack tact and diplomacy. It may be that they acted in an impetuous manner. It is a known fact that they had intended to reorganize the Relief Department.

But one significant fact that no worker should lose sight of is that all the mistakes they made were in favor of the workers and of the relief clients. They committed that heinous crime, according to the representatives of capitalism, of wanting to feed and clothe relief clients decently. This, itself, is treason to the representatives of the taxpayers' association on the City Council.

The fact that seven so-called liberal aldermen threw in their lot with the representatives of reaction should brand them forever as turncoats and traitors to the working class.

Hosiery Worker on A. F. of L. Split

The last issue of the Hosiery Worker, official organ of the American Federation of Hosiery Workers, has the following to say in regard to a possible split in the American Federation of Labor:

"The group headed by John L. Lewis is fearful that the timid, shortsighted or selfish policies of some craft unions, which now unfortunately dominate the official policies of the American Federation of Labor, will keep the movement weak and tend to foster disharmony in the ranks of labor.

The Committee on Industrial Organization is out for a stronger and more powerful American Federation of Labor and the only "split" that could take place in the movement would be the sort of break that occurs when a branch decays and falls from the trunk of the tree. There is a real danger that by following traditional tactics too closely some units within the American Federation of Labor may become so weakened, so decayed, as to "split" away because they have not the strength to achieve to the more vital and lusty section of the movement."

Tobin Decries Cheapness

In the December issue of the Teamsters Journal, Dan Tobin, the sage of the Teamsters International, has the following to say:

"I never had any use for a cheap pair of shoes or a cheap man. Pay your men well and get good service. One blunder may cost more than a year's wages. One foolish strike by a swell-head business agent would cost maybe the whole future of the local. Away with cheap jacks. . . . It is not hard to understand that Tobin does not believe in cheap shoes, jacks or anything else that is cheap. \$25,000 per year sort of puts anyone out of the cheap class.

Railroad Workers Urged to Contribute

During the Subscription Drive the Organizer has received hundreds of subscriptions from railroad men in various parts of the Northwest.

At the present time, there is a great turmoil and transformation taking place in the railroad industry.

The Organizer would like very much to keep abreast with the newest developments that are taking place in the railroad unions. We invite correspondence and dis-

cussion articles from railroad men in this part of the country.

The transportation industry, of which the truck drivers and the railroad men are a part, is one of the most important branches of American industry.

If we receive sufficient response from railroad men, we will, in the future, devote a column to that branch of the transportation industry.

Let's hear from you, rails!

There is going to be a real showdown on the Belt Line job between the Federal Workers and the United Front (so-called).

SCOTT, HUDSON OUSTED FROM WELFARE POST

(Continued from page 1)

Local 574, General Drivers Union, introduced a resolution in the City Council protesting against the removal of the only real representatives of the workers who have ever sat on the Welfare Board. The resolution is printed elsewhere in this issue.

Chosen to fill the place of Scott and Hudson were Alderman Pearson, President of the Council, and Alderman Miller from the 10th Ward. After the vote had disclosed that they were definitely unseated from the Welfare Board, both aldermen made a short statement on the Council floor.

Scott said, "I will reciprocate for this at the first opportunity."

Hudson declared, "The liberal members of the Council will have this action to regret when the next election time comes around."

Improvements in Paper Suggested

The following letter was received by the editorial office of the Organizer last week. We consider it sufficiently interesting to reprint.

The Northwest Organizer 257 Plymouth Avenue Minneapolis, Minnesota Gentlemen:

As a subscriber to the paper that is published by your organization I want to assure you that your newspaper gives me more satisfaction than any labor paper that I read.

I subscribe to a considerable number of labor publications, both local and national. I think that your paper is doing a fine piece of work in this part of the country.

I do not think it would be out of place, however if I tell you how I think your sheet could be improved. Your paper handles the local news in fine shape but I believe that you should publish more news that is of national interest.

Great events are taking place in the national labor movement and, in my opinion, your paper could well afford to run more of the national news. Wishing you all luck and success with the Northwest Organizer, I am, Fraternally yours, ANDREW MILLER Minneapolis, Minnesota.

HEARST

Hearst in Peace—Hearst in War Hearst in the Hearts of His Countrymen

The following lines are from the New York Call:

I can make you want to fight, Prove to you that black is white, Show that no is really yes Through the power of my press. I am William Randolph Hearst.

If you join the Ku Klux Klan, You're a good American. If you help to break a strike, You're the kind of guy I like. I am William Randolph Hearst.

You all know that I despise Men who try to organize—I will fight with guns and gas Those who help the working class. I am William Randolph Hearst.

Alien names with sik or witz Make me have terrific fits; Rally round ye Smiths and Sloans Help me fight subversive Cohens. I am William Randolph Hearst.

What if workers die in war? I make profits from their gore. Let the war gods dance for joy It's human nature to destroy. I am William Randolph Hearst.

Keeping Step With 574 By Mickey Dunne

Grant Dunne's problem boy, A. Johnson, has been working for the union the last few days.

Since when did Charlie Quick go into the pastry business?

The Independent Truck Owners are going to insist on seniority on all WPA jobs.

Skoglund and Frosig are the new delegates to the Building Trades Council.

Sewer and Water Service Workers met in General Drivers' hall Tuesday night. They had a good turnout. The meeting was addressed by Austy McNerny, Business Agent of the Plumbers' Union.

Local news item says, "Department store earnings are up 10 per cent." That must be a comforting bit of news to department store workers who have had their wages slashed and their hours lengthened since the breakdown of NRA.

Subscriptions to the Northwest Organizer continue to come into the union office at a rapid pace. This week saw a big influx of subs from the western and southern part of Minnesota.

Members of the union and all other readers of the Organizer are invited to write to the paper for publication anything that they think may be of interest to its readers.

The Organizer staff moved into their new quarters last week. Very slick!

CARD OF THANKS

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Hansen, 811 19th Avenue South, wish to thank General Drivers Union, Local 574, for the kindness shown during and after death of their six months old daughter. Signed, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Hansen.

To the many friends and sympathizers who are working to get subscriptions to the Northwest Organizer: Money that is turned in to subscription agents should be remitted by check or postal money order to the following address: General Drivers Union, 257 Plymouth Avenue North, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The Executive Board of the Clark Box Union met in one of the small halls Friday night.

The Street Railway Employees Union elected last Wednesday night. Rice, president during the past year, was voted out. C. Coles is the new presiding officer. He is a working trainman from the Lake Street station.

Who stole the chair out from under Shields the night of the Frolic?

Mrs. Patterson, of the Junior High in Robbinsdale, told the children that she would rather work for 25 cents a day rather than accept relief. We propose that Mrs. Patterson have her salary reduced to that amount in order to demonstrate that it is possible to live on two bits per day.

Little Known Sayings of Obscure People

John J. Doakes, head of a family of 10, who is just winding up his fifth year on relief, says: "We

Central Market Wages Slipping

The situation in the Minneapolis Central Market is one that should be the concern of every member of General Drivers Union. In the last 18 months a great change has taken place in that once busy part of the city's commercial life.

Once the center and the hub of the produce business in Minneapolis, a place where fully 1,000 men were employed, it has gone back to a place where it employs less than half of the number that worked there less than two years ago.

From a union standpoint it is still a well organized industry. But we must seriously ask ourselves the question: what has become of the large number of men who were formerly employed there and what has happened to the business that kept these men in employment?

The answer to this question is not hard to find. A new trend in the distribution of groceries and produce which has almost completely eliminated the independent grocer is responsible.

The large wholesale grocery houses, who found their market, the independent grocer, unable to meet the competition of the huge grocery chains, answered this loss of business by forming chains of independent grocers.

These grocery wholesalers, not content to tie up the grocery business of the independent chains, decided to also furnish their chain customers with produce, fruit, etc., without going through the central produce market. They did this by purchasing cars of fruit and produce direct through brokers.

These cars were pooled among grocers and were hauled from the cars direct to the retail stores. Some of the wholesalers installed ice boxes and started in the produce business in a big way.

Despite the fact that almost all of the produce business so handled resulted in a loss both for the wholesaler and the retail merchant, it is still being carried on to provide profitless "leaders" for the independent chain grocer.

What is the concern of the Drivers Union in this case is who hauls the produce to the grocer, what are these drivers paid and what are their hours of work?

We know the answer to these questions.

The hauling and helping is done by boys 16 to 18 years old who receive as little as \$10 a week. Their hours of work are often well over 70 per week. The Drivers Union insists that whoever hauls produce must be paid the scale that is now in effect on the Minneapolis Central Market where the firms are under contract to this union.

This is the one and only way to prevent a drive against the wages and living standards of union men who are working in a legitimate industry.

are getting a little tired of sowl-belly and beans."

As each month passes by, the Roll of Dishonor in the City Council, grows longer.

From Meyer Lewis' speech in Duluth last week: "I don't know why everyone in Minnesota picks on me. I haven't any tail or horns." He might have added, or brains, either.

How many of Mayor Latimer's committee of 57 have ever been out relief?

574 was on hand at the City Council meeting Friday.

O. K. nov, Josephs?