

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 follow you.

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

VOLUME 1, NO. 38

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 1936

PRICE 5 CENTS

OWNERS HIT ROTATION PLAN

UNION MEMBER FACES COURT IN FRAME-UP

**Ray Rainbolt Indicted on
Phony Charge by
Ice Dealer**

**Longtime Union Member
Charges Plot Involves
Meyer Lewis**

All indications point to another labor frameup in the Raymond Rainbolt case. Last week the Hennepin County Grand Jury, a Grand Jury panel that did not contain one single representative of labor, indicted Rainbolt for "attempted extortion."

The complainant, a Big Lake, Minn., ice dealer, charged that Rainbolt had attempted to extort \$200 from him with the threat that if he did not comply his ice house would be burned down.

So ridiculous is this charge that those who have any understanding of the situation prevailing in the ice industry are making light of the whole affair. Although the Grand Jury called literally dozens of witnesses, it is reliably reported that they were barely able to summon a majority to vote the indictment.

Those who know Rainbolt, a lifelong resident of Minneapolis, know him to be incapable of engaging in any such transaction as is charged by the indictment. The whole slimy trail from the charges preferred by the ice dealer to the indictment voted by the Grand Jury and the exorbitant bail demanded by the County Attorney's office leads directly to the door of Meyer Lewis and those who are aiding and abetting him in his attempt to destroy Local 574.

At the present time Rainbolt is free on \$2,000 bail. His trial is set for January 8.

He will be defended by Fred Ossanna.

Restaurant Employes Hold a Celebration

Local 458, Hotel and Restaurant Employes, held a meeting Friday, January 3, where newly elected officers of the local were installed.

After the meeting open house was held for their many friends in the Trade Union Movement. During the dance a buffet lunch was served and refreshments of all kinds were on tap. Their hall had been specially decorated for that occasion and presented a beautiful appearance.

The Cooks and Waiters outdid themselves in providing a perfect evening for their guests. But we haven't told you the best part about it yet.

It was all free.

Hudson Relief Report Startling

At the last meeting of the City Council, Alderman Edwin Hudson, 12th Ward representative and recently ousted as a member of the Welfare Board, submitted an interesting document to the City Council.

Charges contained in Hudson's statement, while startling to those not completely informed in regard to the local relief setup, are known to be facts by those who have made some study of the administration of the public relief.

Among other charges made by Hudson is one that explains, in part at least, why relief clients have waited weeks and longer for investigators to call at their homes.

Hudson's statement disclosed the following facts: while 66 relief investigators were employed, who were directly charged with the investigation of relief cases, 327 held down administrative jobs in relief offices. Space does not permit the publication of the entire statement made by Hudson.

It can, however, be found in the current issue of the Labor Review.

Relief Committee Holds Meeting

Thursday, January 2, was held the first full meeting of the newly formed Labor Relief Committee. This committee, made up from the Trade Union Movement and members of various Farmer-Labor organizations, has determined to stage a real investigation into the present Minneapolis setup.

At the Thursday meeting which was held at 1111 Nicollet Ave., over thirty members were present. A report was made by the committee that had made an investigation of the administrative reorganization of the relief department. The committee's report which endorsed changes made by Mrs. Fodness, temporary relief administrator, was endorsed by the body.

Various committees were named including the following: Budget Committee, T. Mueller, G. Dunne, A. H. Urtubees, Mrs. Humpfner and Mrs. Hillerman. The Problem Committee is headed by Ernest Lundeen. The Finance Committee consists of Bob Greenberg, Oscar Erickson and Pat Corcoran.

Continued on Page 2

Local 160, I. B. E. W., Will Hold Meeting to Take Strike Vote

The special meeting held by Local 160, I. B. E. W., was one of the best attended meetings that has been held by that local union in the past few months. This meeting was called for the purpose of discussing whether or not a meeting should be called in the near future for the purpose of taking a strike vote.

Since the revival of Local 160 from late last summer, the Executive Board has attempted, without success, to secure an agreement with the Northern States Power Company as represented by Robert Pack. Despite strenuous efforts of the committee to secure a working agreement with the firm they have met only evasion, delay and finally an outright refusal of the company to enter into any sort of a written agreement of the union.

Instead of entering into an agreement with the union and negotiating with them, as is required by the Wagner Disputes Bill, the company has countered with an offer to deal with grievances on an "individual" basis.

This offer on the part of the company to settle grievances on this basis not only constitutes an outright refusal to deal with the union but opens the door for intimidation, coercion and discrimination.

As a matter of fact, this method of settling grievances is the one that has always been used by the Northern States Power Company. So unsatisfactory has this method proven that the workers in that

industry found it necessary to unionize to protect themselves from this very system. The company has offered to deal with its workers "individually" which means that they do not intend to change their method or deal with their employes collectively.

At the January 3rd meeting, it was decided by unanimous vote to call a special meeting January 15 for the purpose of taking a strike vote.

Developments that take place between now and the 15th will determine when the strike will become effective, if it is the decision of the meeting to vote strike authority to the Executive Board.

All Northern States Power workers are urged to attend the January 15th meeting.

November Banner Month Despite Lewis

November was the month when Meyer Lewis sailed into Minneapolis, under a full-headed steam, and announced to all and sundry that he was going to put Local 574 out of business.

So businesslike did Meyer sound that the daily papers were printing obituaries and even some of our friends were sending us flowers and expressions of sympathy—but during this same month when all the heat was on and the grave diggers were busy preparing our final resting place. Local 574 took in 117 new members and reinstated almost twice that many.

A fairly active corpse.

Council to Act on Coal License Fee

The Minneapolis City Council Committee on Ordinance and Legislation in their meeting of Friday, January 3, recommended to the City Council the passage of an amendment to an existing City Ordinance regulating the license fee for licensed Coal Dealers.

They recommended a fee of \$20 for the license; \$5 for the first truck, \$2.50 for the second truck and \$1 for each additional truck owned by the dealer.

They also recommended that the additional funds so raised be turned over to the Department of Weights and Measures where it would be used to employ five additional inspectors who would devote their attention to the coal industry.

It is proposed that their duties would include a check-up to determine if the correct weights were being used, to inspect the quality of the coal and to determine the wages and hours of work of the delivery men.

The Council will take final action on the Committee's report sometime next week.

Federal Workers Dance January 18

The Federal Workers' dance which will be held in the General Drivers' Auditorium Saturday, January 18, promises to be one of the most successful and well-attended affairs given in recent months by Local 574.

The rapid growth experienced by the Federal Workers Section in the last few months, and the interest that is being shown by project workers in the organization will draw many of them to meet in the first social affair they have sponsored during the winter season.

Efforts of the Committee in securing prizes has assured that hundreds of prizes will be distributed during the evening.

Cermak's orchestra, which has played at many union dances, will be the band of the evening. Tickets are 25c per couple. They can be secured at the union office and from the stewards on the jobs.

Don't forget the time and place. January 18th. General Drivers' Hall. All are welcome!

At the next meeting of the Central Labor Union will be held the election of officers. This should be good.

ELECTION NOTICE

The polls will be open for balloting in the election of officers for 1936 on Friday, Jan. 10, and Saturday, Jan. 11, from 7 a. m. to 6 p. m. at the union headquarters, 257 Plymouth Ave. N. Only members in good standing will be eligible to vote.

ELECTION BOARD
LOCAL 574

TRUCK OWNERS WIN VICTORY ON PROJECTS

**Independent Truck Owners
Stop Truck Rotation
Plan**

**Strike Averted by Action of
WPA Officials at Last
Moment**

The Independent Truck Owners of Local 574, Monday morning, January 6, won a smashing victory on WPA projects in District No. 5.

Their united action defeated the proposed program of State WPA officials that the trucks, owned by individual drivers employed on these projects be "rotated." Despite the fact that these truck owners had established seniority on these jobs, ruling of local WPA officials decreed that after 30 days' work they be laid off indefinitely and new trucks be put on the job.

Shortly after the first of the year WPA administrators sent out notices laying off, for an indefinite period, 178 trucks who had previously been working on the job. These trucks were to be replaced by trucks that had registered on the waiting list with the Procurement Division.

The Independent Truck Owners objected to this procedure, claiming first, that they had established seniority on the job, and second, that the huge waiting list of trucks was there because of lax methods employed in the Procurement Division.

A mass meeting of all union truck owners was called for Friday night. There it was voted to strike the WPA projects unless this order was rescinded. A strike committee of 40 was elected. A meeting was arranged at 1021 Metropolitan Bank Building for three o'clock Saturday afternoon. Two demands were drawn up at the meeting which were to be submitted as a basis for settlement.

1. That all dump trucks laid off, effective January 3, 1936, be returned to work during the investigation.
2. On completion of the investigation all dump trucks that have established seniority on WPA projects prior to the investigation, and who are subsequently found to be bona fide dump truck owners, shall continue to hold seniority until completion of projects.

At the Saturday meeting with the WPA officials, the demands of the Independent Truck Owners were rejected. Sunday afternoon at 2:30 a mass meeting of Independent Truck Owners was held.

Continued on Page 2

Make Minneapolis a Union Town

Ortonville Conference Will See Huge Labor Gathering

The Ortonville Conference which has been called for Saturday and Sunday, January 11 and 12, promises to be the largest delegated meeting of relief organizations ever held in this state. A broad call has been sent out to all relief organizations in the state to send delegates.

So far the results have been gratifying and it is indicated that this conference which will give organized expression to the resentment that is felt against the Federal relief setup, will be able to form a unified program of relief demands on a state-wide basis.

Prominent among the sponsors of the conference are the various units of the Big Stone Labor Association and the Federal Workers of Local 574. Every organization of relief clients or Federal Project Workers is urged, whether or not they have received the call, to send delegates to Ortonville on Saturday and Sunday. The call that has been issued by the sponsoring committee is printed below.

Date.....

CONFERENCE CALL

To All Organizations of W.P.A. Workers

Greetings:

Just like the C.W.A. and the F.E.R.A., the W.P.A. is intended to provide a limited amount of time-killing activities over the severe winter months, when unrest and suffering among the unemployed is most intense. It is a shot in the arm for the feeble economic system, to throw a large amount of quick purchasing power into the market to bolster up private business and industry.

At its very best, in theory, the W.P.A. will provide only the most meager living allowance to the unemployed. By the time it has been ground through the mill of Federal, State, County and Municipal red tape, and the trimmings have been removed through the political spoils system, there is very little left for workers.

The inadequacies of the W.P.A. have already become clearly evident to the large majority of the relief workers. All that remains is the need for organized effort to win real improvements. Such action has already had its inception through a conference of relief workers' organizations recently held at Montevideo, Minnesota. A committee was sent by this conference to see W.P.A. Administrator Victor Christgau in St. Paul to present the following demands:

1. The union wage scale of 67½¢ per hour for unskilled labor and the union wage scale for skilled labor on W.P.A. jobs.
2. The 30 hour week to consist of five six-hour days.
3. All projects to be governed by the Compensation Laws.
4. Relief workers be employed on projects nearest their homes.
5. Workers have representation on County Relief Board.
6. Unemployed be put to work on constructive projects so that they may be self-supporting and not recipients of dole.
7. Abolish the practice of allowing sponsors of projects to name supervisors, foremen and timekeepers.

Mr. Christgau had one uniform answer for the committee on all points—"No!" He indicated that he had the authority to pay the union wage scale to unskilled workers, the same as it is now paid to skilled workers in localities where the unions are well organized, but he said that he had no intention of doing so.

At the conclusion of the interview the committee reassembled in a special meeting in Minneapolis at which they drafted a letter to Christgau informing him that the workers would continue to press

their demands. To back up their statements the committee decided to hold a state-wide conference to prepare for action.

The conference, which has been endorsed by the organizations signing this call, will be called to order at 10 a. m. on Saturday, January 11, 1936, at Ortonville, Minnesota, and will continue in session through Sunday, January 12.

All organizations of relief workers are urged to send delegates to join in the preparation of a plan of action which will force the autocrats of the W.P.A. to recognize the human rights of the unemployed, and all relief workers are urged to prepare themselves to go the limit in this fight.

Any additional information desired by any organization or delegate may be secured by writing Wm. Felton at Ortonville, Minnesota.

Packing Workers Hold Conference

One of the most important developments in Northwest Labor circles is the call that has been issued by the Provisional Committee for the Mid-West Conference of all Packing House Workers, for a conference to be held in Mason City, Iowa, Saturday and Sunday, January 11 and 12.

The conference is being sponsored by various independent unions of packing house workers; prominent among them are the Independent Union of All Workers and the Mid-West Union of Packing House Workers of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. The conference is being called for the purpose of attempting to form a genuine industrial union in the packing industry.

Although the conference is being sponsored by independent unions, not affiliated with the A. F. of L., an invitation to attend the conference has been extended to various local unions of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workers, the A. F. of L. Union in the packing industry. Indications are that there will be a large response from the Amalgamated Locals. Following is the call issued by the Provisional Committee:

A CALL

To all Packing House Organizations and Unorganized Packing House Workers:

Greeting Brothers:

For two years the idea of a conference has been in the minds of the Packing House Workers in the Midwest. Preliminary attempts were made by individual organizations to secure such a conference. An essential thing necessary was lacking. There was little co-operation among unions and workers. Recently, however, with the meeting of representatives of two major Packing House Unions, the Midwest Union of All Packing House Workers of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and the Independent Union of All Workers of Austin, Minnesota, the foundation was laid for a successful conference.

The above named committee was set up to call a Midwest Conference of All Packing House Unions and Unorganized Packing House Workers to consider problems of mutual interest and to combine the strength of workers in the whole industry for mutual benefit.

It is not necessary to describe the need of co-operation and unity. We are all faced with the organized strength of the Packing Trust, aiming to crush any effort at organization. The establishing and maintaining of an American

Bill Brown Says—

Meyer Lewis has opened an office in the National Building. If my memory serves me right, the National Building, which was built for the Studebaker Corporation, was erected by scab labor, bannered by the Building Trades and was finally boycotted by the labor movement.

This building is a fitting home for Meyer Lewis. He is here to break up and destroy the labor movement so there is no reason why he should not go completely open shop.

So, let's all of the real Minneapolis trade unionists give three cheers for Splitter Lewis, his non-union office help and his new office in a scab building.



BILL BROWN
President of 574

War Department Issues New Orders On Handling "Domestic Disorders"

National Guard at Cloquet Strike

January 4, 1936, troops were again called out in the liberal State of Minnesota in a labor controversy. This time the scene is Cloquet, Minnesota.

Striking match factory workers have been on strike at the Berst-Forster-Dixfield Company since November. Violence had broken out several times previously due to the company's attempt to reopen the plant with scab labor. Ned Beagle, president of the company, has consistently refused to deal with a committee of the striking union workers.

Ignoring the Wagner Bill, as is the wont of such officials, and standing on the rights of the so-called rugged individual capitalist he has defied the organized workers in his plant.

The cause of the lockout was an attempt on the part of the management to increase the weekly hours from 40 to 48 with a 3¢ an hour wage reduction. The workers resisted the attempt to lower their standard of living and as a consequence the plant has been shut down for over two months. Despite the fact that no actual violence at any time has taken place, Colonel Elmer McDivitt of Duluth, Saturday, January 4, reported to the Governor's office that the situation was beyond the control of the local law enforcement agencies.

The Guard took possession of the plant but were unable to disperse the pickets who continued to maintain a close watch. Monday, January 6, it was reported that high-tension electric lines had been severed and that the plant was without light or power.

The Cloquet match factory workers are to be congratulated on the determined and militant stand they have taken in face of National Guard rule.

Gas Tax Strike Halts Traffic in Iceland

Reykjavik, Iceland, Dec. 21.—Traffic in the capital was at a standstill today because of a strike of private automobile owners, chauffeurs and bus drivers against a proposed increase by parliament of 50 per cent in the tax on gasoline.

standard of living and the rights of an American citizen to organize and bargain collectively to maintain union wages and working conditions can be realized only through uniting our efforts.

Therefore, we appeal to you to elect delegates to this first conference. The number is not limited, and a large representation will be welcome. The Midwest Conference of All Packing House Workers will take place at Mason City, Iowa, Saturday and Sunday, January 11th and 12th, starting at 6 p. m. Saturday, January 11th. Delegates should register at the Moose Hall on South Federal Avenue.

Fraternally yours,
THE COMMITTEE

Washington.—New regulations for handling "domestic disturbances," whether strike disorders or otherwise, reveal that army officers are under war department orders to direct their forces to shoot to kill on the first volley in dispersing mobs.

The orders differentiate between a "crowd" and a "mob," saying "as a rule, rifle fire should be used against a crowd only as a last resort."

An army officer faced with, say, a picket line, would know whether it was a crowd or a mob, because regulations say a crowd is a "group which has not yet lost its collective sense of fear," and a mob is a group that "has so lost its collective sense of fear that the leaders can be brought to their senses only by an overwhelming display of force."

No provision for withholding its fire because of the presence of women and children in the mob is made in the order, which reads:

"Blank cartridges should never be used against a mob nor should a volley be fired over the heads of a mob, even if there is little danger of hurting persons in the rear. Such things will be regarded as an admission of weakness, or as an attempt to bluff, and may do much more harm than good."

The regulations, which include detailed instructions ranging from the use of artillery to the use of the American Legion in strike troubles and other "domestic disturbances," are dated Aug. 1, 1935.

Relief Committee Holds Meeting

Continued from Page 1

The Re-employment Committee is Genis, Lundeen, Bean and Dunne. The publicity will be handled by the following committee: Robley Cramer, Bob Greenberg, Dave Lundeen and Maria Le Seuer.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 6, 1 p. m., in the Mayor's office. The Labor Committee went on record unanimously as being opposed to Mayor Latimer's relief committee.

United Workers Meet in St. Cloud

The United Relief Workers Association of St. Cloud, a live flourishing organization of relief clients and project workers, will hold a mass meeting in that city Friday, Jan. 10th.

It is a fact worthy of note that real solid organizations of workers are being formed in almost every part of the state. It is a demonstration of the need that is felt among workers for more united action.

An official from 564 will be the principal speaker at the Friday meeting.

Tony, the wop, has been having judge trouble.

* * *
The Relief coal situation is causing a big rumpus in the coal yards.

TRUCK OWNERS WIN VICTORY ON PROJECTS

(Continued from page 1)

pendent Truck Owners was held in the Drivers' Hall. Over 600 were present. There it was voted to allow all trucks working on WPA and State financed projects to operate Monday, provided, however, that these truck owners and drivers be completely unionized and that they give all possible assistance to the striking truck owners on WPA projects.

The owners and drivers on these projects agreed to the conditions and the meeting voted unanimously to strike all WPA projects. Sunday night, however, the Strike Committee was contacted by WPA officials, who indicated that if a meeting could be arranged, they were prepared to make concessions.

The Committee met WPA officials at 12:30 A. M. Monday. When the meeting was over at 3:30 A. M. the following settlement had been arranged:

1. All the trucks that had been laid off were to return to the job Monday morning.
2. A sweeping investigation was to be conducted into truck registration for WPA work.
3. A Committee from the union was assigned to the WPA office to assist in the investigation.

The basis on which the final settlement was made coincided almost exactly with the original demands. It is almost a certainty that a thorough and sweeping investigation will disclose hundreds of fraudulently registered trucks. During the short time allowed Monday to investigate the trucks now registered at the Procurement Office startling facts have been uncovered. In the A, B and C classification, out of the 179 trucks, 100 already have been rejected.

It is almost an established fact that when this investigation is completed, rotation will no longer be necessary.

Great Britain Miners To Strike January 27

London, Dec. 10.—Nearly half a million coal miners in England, Scotland and Wales will strike January 27, it was decided at a national conference here today. Action was taken after a breakdown in negotiations with mine owners, in which the government participated. A 50-cent a day increase is demanded by coal diggers. Changes in the government plan for centralized selling of coal are also sought.

The walkout will be the largest since 1926, when the famous general strike occurred. The latter was precipitated by a mine strike.

F-L Women Condemn Latimer and Lewis

At the last meeting of the Hennepin County Farmer-Labor Women's Federation, held January 8, 8 p. m., at the AOUW Hall, a motion was passed condemning Mayor Latimer for the disruptionist attitude he has taken in aligning himself with Meyer Lewis.

The meeting also went on record to demand of Mayor Latimer and the Farmer-Labor Aldermen in the City Council, that Aldermen Hudson and Scott be returned to their former post on the Welfare Board.

Why was Curt Zander carrying a hammer handle Monday?

Hired Gangster Army Made \$10,000,000 for Strikebreaker King

Pearl Berghoff's Profit from Slaughter of Union Men Exposed

Today the best known, though no longer the most extensive, of the strikebreaking agencies is that operated by a gentleman named Pearl L. Berghoff, whose bare offices and waiting room full of eager strikebreakers are located behind the ornate facade of a Fifth Avenue building in New York. In the past 12 months, Mr. Berghoff has managed in one way or another to get himself into the public eye.

Three Departments

As one of the outstanding strikebreakers (Berghoff lays claim to being the third and reigning Strikebreaking King) his methods richly illustrate the technique of the profession. His direct and thorough manner with strikers somewhat justifies the title of "Red Demon," which the newspapers bestowed upon him 25 years ago.

The Red Demon has divided his men into three principal departments, in reality selling points rather than actual divisions of his organization. These have been the "Undercover Department — male and female mechanics and work-people . . . to furnish accurate information of the movements and contemplated actions of their fellow employees; Open Shop Department—to keep the wheels of industry moving during a strike; Protection Department—composed of big disciplined men . . . for the protection of life and property."

"Finks," "Nobles" and "Boots"

Within the profession less formal descriptions are used. The men hired by a strikebreaking organization to keep the wheels of industry moving are "finks;" the guards are "nobles," while the spies are "boots." It was imaginative members of the I. W. W. who first called strikebreakers "finks." They borrowed this underworld term used to designate "a criminal who is dissatisfied with his loot" and gave it a new significance: one who betrays his fellow workers for money. The professional strikebreakers have accepted the designation with complete unconcern as to its implications.

The nobles, most of whom are gangsters, act as overseers as well as guards. Finks are frequently unreliable. Some will enlist as strikebreakers for the sake of free transportation and then try to depart. Others will flee at the first sign of violence, while still others will discover, belatedly, that the jobs for which they signed up are strikebreaking affairs. In these cases the guards have the additional duty of keeping the finks in line.

Paid \$10,000,000

Berghoff has sent his army against workers in more than 300 strikes since 1907. Over a period of 10 years, from 1914 to 1924, the Red Demon and his partners divided \$10,000,000 in income. In 1909 the Pressed Steel Car Company at McKees Rocks, Pa., called the Berghoff bureau to its aid. The determined strikers staged a 50-day siege of the fink barracks, while inside, the nobles ruled a panic-stricken army with club and fist. Rebellion broke out within the stockade, while 11 strikers and guards were killed outright.

Philadelphia Blacklist

The Federal Department of Justice came on the scene and caused the arrest of Berghoff and his aides for peonage. Only the speedy settlement of the strike, in victory

for the workers, halted the prosecution.

In Philadelphia a year later, Berghoff undercover men prepared a blacklist of 612 union men, of whom 125 were promptly discharged. A strike with more than the usual amount of rioting and bloodshed followed. As a result of the disruptive work of Berghoff undercover men within the union, the walkout ended in defeat for the strikers.

The agency reaped its gains for years after. Berghoff sent his spies from city to city, ferreting out blacklisted Philadelphia strikers. When one of them was discovered, the agency immediately dispatched letters of warning to the traction managers. The former strikers lost their new jobs, and with their families moved once more in search of new employment. This service the Berghoff agency performed gratis as an indication of its efficiency and a sample of the type of work it was prepared to offer.

Seventeen Strikers Killed

Berghoff has given freely of his men in service to American industry, yet the score is altogether in their favor. If the record of fatalities in nine major strikes which Berghoff tried to break were reduced to box-score simplicity, the table would show:

Strikers killed by strikebreakers, 17; strikebreakers killed by strikers, 6; men, women and children killed by strikebreaker-driven trolley cars, 21; bystander killed by strikebreaker, 1; strikebreakers killed at work, 3 (two of them on trolleys); strikebreakers killed by strikebreakers in barracks, 4; strikebreakers killed in Berghoff's New York office, 2. Total killed, 54.

Though the field for professional strikebreaking is today narrowed by company unions, by racketeers (themselves introduced into industry as gangster nobles), and by private espionage systems such as those maintained by the automobile industry and the United States Steel Corporation, there is not a large city in the country where private detective agencies will not be glad to furnish informers, finks and nobles. Of the 187 licensed detective agencies in New York, 55 make urgent solicitation for strikebreaking work. Their technique differs only in degree from that of the Red Demon, while half a dozen have had careers fully as violent as that of the Berghoff Service Bureau.

Citizens Alliance Is Worried Over Rights

In the latest Citizens Alliance Bulletin, dated December 30, they shed crocodile tears over the plight of the workers at the Strutwear Hosiery plant. They say that nine hundred workers employed in the plant, who are ready and willing to go to work, are being deprived of their "constitutional rights" to earn a living.

We would like to inquire of the Citizens Alliance if they do not also consider that the owners of the plant are also acting in a manner that is contrary to law and statute.

What of the Wagner-Disputes Bill, Mrs. Struthers?

Does not that law say that you are compelled to deal with your employes collectively? Of course it does. You are the violator of the law and the strikers who are merely demanding their legal and lawful right, demand that you cease your unlawful stand and assist them in gaining their "constitutional rights."

MEETING SCHEDULE	
Friday, Jan. 3:	Coal Stewards; Federal Workers.
Monday, Jan. 7:	Coal Workers.
Wednesday, Jan. 8:	Market Workers.
Friday, Jan. 10:	All Stewards; Federal Workers.
Monday, Jan. 13:	Full membership—installation of officers.
Thursday, Jan. 16:	Independent Truck Owners.
Friday, Jan. 17:	Coal Stewards; Federal Workers.
Monday, Jan. 20:	Coal Workers.
Friday, Jan. 24:	All Stewards; Federal Workers.
Monday, Jan. 27:	Full membership.
Tuesday, Jan. 28:	Cab Drivers; night drivers, 1 p. m.; day drivers, 7 p. m.
Friday, Jan. 31:	Federal Workers; Coal Stewards.

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

Old Eight-Hour Law Attack Then as Now

In 1877 a law was passed restricting the hours of work of all government employes to eight. The bosses didn't like this, any more than they like today the Wagner labor disputes act or the anti-injunction act. So they had the Supreme Court of the United States declare unconstitutional the eight-hour law on government work.

The Labor Standard, of New York, in commenting on this, wrote: "This will teach the workers not to put their confidence in Congress and to trust only in their own efforts. No law of Congress could be of any use to the worker if he is not so organized that he can enforce it. And, if the workers are strong enough to do that, if they succeed in solidly forming the federation of their trade organizations, then they will be able, not only to force the legislators to make efficacious laws on the hours of work, on inspection, etc., but they will also be able to make the law themselves, deciding that henceforth no worker in the country shall work more than eight hours a day."

This is good common sense, and the Organizer can do no better today than to quote one of its grandsires, the Labor Standard: "Don't put your confidence in Congress! Trust only in your own efforts! Organize the Unions!"

Mayor's Meeting Brings Letter From Coal Employers Committee

If the meeting in the Mayor's office last week with the committee of fifty business men did nothing else it at least still further strengthened the position of Local 574. Not only did the employers indignantly reject the proposition of Latimer and Lewis that contracts with 574 be broken but the committee representing the solid fuel industry sent out a letter to all members of the coal exchange informing them that they were under contract to General Drivers Union and that this agreement was valid and must be lived up to.

The committee warned all members that this was neither the time nor the place to "rock the boat." The letter follows:
Gentlemen:

There is at the present time an effort being made by certain union officials to secure members among the coal drivers and helpers for the unions in which they are respectively interested.

The General Labor Committee that has handled labor matters for our industry in Minneapolis for the past two years has taken notice of this situation and has concluded to write this letter to the Solid Fuel Dealers of Minneapolis so that there will be a uniform understanding of the situation.

We have a signed agreement as an industry with General Drivers Union Local No. 574, which was effective September 2, 1935, and runs to April 30, 1936. Most of the track dealers and many of the wagon dealers of Minneapolis signed a compliance with that agreement. The agreement covers all the essentials of rates of pay and hours and conditions of employment during that period. The agreement was made after a long study of the situation, with the best counsel that could be obtained, and after a full discussion with the leaders of the industry. The purpose of the agreement was to insure uniform labor conditions throughout the industry and to protect it from labor difficulties, or in other words—Strikes. Under that agreement we have had harmonious conditions and your Labor Committee believes that these conditions can be maintained if

the industry continues to act as a unit.

The industry has no interest in quarrels between competing labor unions. We, as employers, have no right, under the existing labor law, to interfere with or guide our employes in whatever affiliation they care to make with labor unions or with their remaining non-union; and so the sensible and wise and legal position for every member of our industry is to operate under the present agreement and pay no attention to efforts made to nullify it.

Your Labor Committee at the expiration of the present agreement, binds itself to consider all of the factors in the situation at that time and to then determine after consulting with members of the industry. However, nothing can be gained and much will be lost by any "rocking of the boat" at the present time.

Yours very truly,
GENERAL LABOR COMMITTEE
SOLID FUEL INDUSTRY OF MINNEAPOLIS
By Wm. T. Hopkins

N. D. Farmers Face Federal Frame-up

The need for a genuine Labor Defense Movement is well illustrated by the defense meeting that was held in the Crosby Court House, County Seat of Divide North Dakota.

The meeting was called for the purpose of mapping a defense for seven local farmers recently indicted by the Minot Federal Grand Jury for taking part in a "penny sale" of a farm in Divide County.

The meeting was addressed by William Langner, ex-governor of North Dakota, and Senator Charles E. Taylor, editor of the Producers News, Plentywood, Montana. A defense committee was elected to take charge of defense and to raise money that will be needed if these prosecuted farmers are to be freed.

All communications should be addressed to David Leininger, Fortuna, North Dakota.

Sob Columnist Tells How to Raise Wages

In the Dorothy Dix column of a local paper appears a letter written by a girl to the love sage saying in effect that she has been going with a man for a number of years; that they wish to get married but they are unable to do so because the prospective bridegroom does not receive enough salary to support two people.

The girl ends the letter by saying "What shall we do about it?" Miss Dix comes back with a profound reply that should go ringing down through the ages as a gem of wisdom. She says, "I would certainly advise you to ask for the raise you need so much and deserve so well but do it tactfully."

Miss Dix should give up writing a sob column and become the business agent of a union.

Profits Soar While Labor Faces Want

Los Angeles, Dec. 12.—Despondency over lack of employment was ascribed by police yesterday as probable cause of the suicide early yesterday of John R. Mulloy, 48, former Home Owners Loan Corporation clerk, who plunged screaming to his death from a downtown office building.

Mulloy dived from the eighth floor of a building at Fifth and Spring streets with H. O. Bedwell, elevator operator, futilely striving to forestall the act.

Drivers' Wages Low At Hatch Package

The tragedy of the non-union driver is well illustrated by the condition that prevails at the Hatch Package Delivery.

These drivers, who only a short time ago were preparing to join the union, fell for the honeyed promises of the employer and instead of coming into the union, allowed themselves to be talked into forming a company union. If promises could be cashed in at the grocery store and if the landlord would accept them for rent, the drivers at Hatch's would be sitting on top of the world.

But, unfortunately, promises never find their way into the pay envelope. Instead of working on an hourly basis as do all union drivers, the employes at Hatch's deliver on a piecework basis.

They receive 2½ cents per package.

During the Christmas rush, when they worked as many as 70 hours per week, their earnings ranged between \$15 and \$22. Had these drivers been members of Local 574, considering the overtime they put in during this period, their earnings would have averaged over \$50 per week.

At 55¢ per hour, the union scale, they would have earned \$26.50 for a 48 hour week. In this case the \$1.60 per month that these drivers would have paid in as union dues would have brought them handsome dividends.

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 1/4

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."

The Grand Jury Report

The report of the Hennepin County Grand Jury that concluded its labors Saturday, January 4, was a little more sinister and threatening for labor than is the usual Grand Jury report. The jury which concluded its session was characterized by the fact that not one single representative of labor was included in the panel.

Their final report attempted, in the most threatening and provocative manner, to call upon all the forces repression and reaction to down what they are pleased to call "racketeering." Their final message, presumably based upon findings during their almost continual sessions, attempted to link legitimate attempts of bona fide organizations of labor to better their conditions, with racketeering, crime and vice. They issue a call to all organizations of ex-soldiers, law and order leagues, anti-union groups to down what they are pleased to call violators of "law and order."

No member of organized labor can afford to blind his eyes to the danger that is implied in this Grand Jury report. Couched in ambiguous and misleading language, its attack is too plain to be ignored.

Even a minister of the gospel who has never been connected with labor could not help comment on the attempt made by the jury to link labor and gangland. He said, "It is a great pity that in so excellent a report that the Grand Jury has confused labor disturbances with the activities of gangland."

Labor must be prepared to make a determined stand against this Grand Jury report.

Grand Juries left entirely in the hands of the employing class constitutes a real and constant threat to every worker, organized and unorganized.

Value of Organized Effort

The value of strong, militant labor organization has just been forcibly brought home to several hundred independent truck owners who have been engaged in working on WPA projects.

The threatened lay-off of almost 200 of their number which was made known to them January 3 and which would have been effective January 6 would have been an accomplished fact had it not been that they were organized into a labor organization whose sole aim was to protect the interests of its members. Unorganized and without the ability to confer with one another and solve their problems in common, they would have proven an easy prey to the manipulation of the WPA administration.

But united in a labor organization where they could discuss their problems in common and by such discussion arrive at a decision as to what action should be taken they were able to maintain the gains they have made.

The victory that they have won, if it has done nothing more, should teach every independent truck owner, and every worker for that matter, the accomplishments that are possible through organized disciplined effort.

The Strike Committee that led the actions of this group deserve praise. They acted in a courageous and intelligent manner. It is to be hoped that the gains made by the organized independent truck owners will lead every unorganized trucker to his proper place—the organized labor movement.

Unite in Tampa Defense

The Tampa, Florida, outrage is now receiving the full glare of light that is being brought upon it by the nationwide publicity this case has caused. On December 18 six policemen were indicted for the murder of Joseph Schoemaker.

For perhaps the first time in recent years, almost every labor defense organization in the United States is co-operating to the end that the Fascist fiends who killed Shoemaker and brutally assaulted and wounded two other workers will be brought to justice.

Although the indicted policemen are known to have been directly connected with this outrage, it is felt by those who know conditions that prevail in Tampa, that the indicted ones will never be brought to justice, unless determined and unrelenting efforts are made by the entire labor movement, defense organizations and all those interested in the welfare of the working class to bring them to justice.

Among the labor defense organizations co-operating in the Tampa case is the Non-Partisan Labor Defense, who have conducted defense of class prisoners in Fargo, Minneapolis, Sacramento and many other places in the United States in the last year.

The organization that has been set up to assist in the Tampa affair is the Committee for the Defense of Civil Rights in Tampa, 112 East 19th Street, New York City, Norman Thomas, Chairman; Mary Fox, Treasurer, and Bruno Fischer, Publicity.

Labor Looks at the Press

Washington, D. C.—"The mayors of the United States are demanding that relief spending be increased rather than decreased in the coming Congress. The demand, made public by Paul Bettors, executive secretary, arises because the federal program is not absorbing all able-bodied persons now on relief."—Christian Science Monitor.

There are certainly hundreds of Republican mayors among them, and yet the Republican Party has come out for drastic relief decreases. Could it be that the mayors themselves see what they would be up against if relief were cut down?

Santiago Chile—"Preparations for the American Labor Conference to open here January 2 are moving ahead rapidly. The United States is sending a strong delegation, headed by Miss Freida Miller and including the new Ambassador, Hoffman Philip. The conference is being called by the International Labor Office at Geneva."

Who the hell is Miss Freida Miller? Did the American workers have anything to say about her? Of course not—it's the international company union of the bosses.

George Chandler, secretary of the Ohio Chamber of Commerce:

Willmar Notes

Despite the fact that there are two trucks here equipped with snow plow and wings that are owned by county taxpayers, the County Engineer has to go to Minneapolis to get trucks to plow Kandiyohi roads. Perhaps Kandiyohi snow sticks to Kandiyohi trucks.

One of the workers employed on the new auditorium suffered a rupture last week—and so a man's body is ruined for 33 cents per hour.

All members of the Kandiyohi County Labor Unit are urged to subscribe to the Northwest Organizer. Sub blanks at Murphy's Pool Hall.

The men employed on the State Farm Project are forced to walk 2 1/2 miles, most of the time facing a northwest wind. Transportation should be furnished on this project.

The Court House is still in the hands of the County Dictator. What we would like to know is, to whom does the Court House belong?

The next meeting of the Unit is election. All members should turn out and vote. It is your organization and its success or failure depends upon the interest you take in it. Our organization is the only insurance you have for maintaining a decent wage. Get new members! Help build it!

All our members who received Christmas baskets wish to thank all those who made the baskets possible. They were fine.

Be sure that your son joins the National Guard and learns the strikebreaking business while he is young. That is the sole role of the present State troops.

Don't forget the Ortonville conference.

"Government relief destroys the sense of neighborly sympathy and community responsibility. Prior to the present era, one's neighbors and friends were sympathetic to those who were out of jobs."

Yes, and prior to the present era, one's neighbors and friends had jobs. But today over 50,000,000 of us are on government relief. And there we'll stay until capitalism is abolished, and a socialist form of government is ushered in.

That's the only way a Republican can keep any prestige, even with his own people. The minute they open their mouths, people see how stupid and hollow they are.

Secretary of War Dern: "Anything and everything containing implications unfavorable to compulsory military training in schools and colleges is seditious propaganda."

All right, Dern, come out to Minnesota and arrest several millions of us.

Report of the Naval Intelligence Service: "The Federal Council of Churches is a Communist organization."

And no doubt the U. S. Chamber of Commerce consists of a wretched group of wild-eyed hungry bomb-throwing anarchists.

Lathrop C. Harper, New York book collector: "Since 1531 over ten thousand English texts of the Bible have been printed."

And the rich are still richer, while the poor are as usual.

Detroit news item: "A long line of fiery burning crosses along the boundaries of the Metal Products plant greeted strikers this morning when they arrived at the picket line at 6 o'clock. The crosses were placed there by a strike-breaking agency."

Columbus, Ohio, news item: "5,000 glass workers in eight cities went on strike Jan. 1 for a 7 1/2 per cent wage increase."

That's the way to greet the boss on New Year's Day.

David Lawrence in the Star: "The American press remains the only medium by which the American people can get quickly a balanced view of national affairs and both sides of political controversies."

For the past 100 years of capitalism, the brass check American press has NEVER given the American people an unbiased report of any significant event. Build the Labor Press!

Style notes: Belts will be worn tighter this year . . . The wives of truck drivers will wear very little diamond jewelry during the winter season.

Terse Definitions

A Republican: He hates the workers and is reaching the point where he doesn't care who knows it.

A Democrat: He hates the workers but feels he must fool them. A Farmer-Laborite: He hates the big bosses, but the workers scare him to death.

Report of the American Bankers Association: "Today, little men and not big corporations now have the money."

State Representative Displays Indignation

Last week in the Minnesota House of Representatives, Marius Waldahl, State Representative from Plummer, rose to what is perhaps his greatest height in his political career.

He introduced a resolution in the house which among the two or three dozen whereas contained the following paragraph:

"Whereas, Minnesota has been further branded by the reckless conduct of its inspired labor disputes which have cost the lives of law-abiding non-combatants, damaged property to an unreckoned amount, seriously wounded at least one Federal officer, as he attempted to preserve law and maintain order, and," etc., etc.

But in spite of all that, Marius, the Strutwear plant is still closed.

Keeping Step With 574

By Mickey Dunne

The local water wagon has acquired a rider since the first of the year. Guess who it is? None other than our old friend W. Samuel Brown.

As a Bloomington street car rounded the corner of Ninth St. and Seventh Ave. the other morning, a little boy, seated on the side seats looking out the window, grabbed his father by the arm and exclaimed, "Oh daddy, look at the Boy Scouts."

The boys at the Ready Mix Concrete are wearing natty new uniforms.

Monday was a banner day for applications. The Belt Line boys were doing their stuff.

Meyer Lewis has opened an office in the National Building. At the present writing his stenographer is NOT a member of the Office Workers Union.

Alderman I. G. Scott was a visitor at the Drivers Hall Monday evening.

Mike Boyle is in town!

The settlement reached by the Independent Truck Owners, on WPA projects, which includes an investigation into all trucks registered with WPA, has already hit some of the boys. Several members of the committee have been removed from the job.

Pain in the Neck Dept. Downtown labor leaders voting "moral support" to strikers.

All stewards are requested to make lists of all members who do not receive the Organizer and forward the names and addresses to the union office.

Leslie Hempel is looking for George Froisig.

There is no doubt that Carl should be known as Tactful Skoglund after his search for the editor Sunday night.

The new bookkeeping system will be in shape by January 10th.

The Match Workers Union in Cloquet is doing mighty well for small town boys.

From the official magazine of the Teamsters International: "Every driver of a brewery truck comes under our jurisdiction."—How do you Brewery Workers like that?

Strutwear is silent.

Headline: "Gov. Landon Gains G. O. P. Prestige by Being Mum."