

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

Official Organ of the Northwest Labor Unity Conference

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

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

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

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MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1936

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LAUNCH WORKERS ALLIANCE

BOX FACTORY WORKERS WIN PAY INCREASE

Pay Equalized for Workers
Doing Same Kind
of Work

All Wage Levels Increased
Ten Per Cent After
Equalization

One of the most significant and important victories that has been won by any union in Minneapolis was the settlement effected by Furniture Workers Union, Local 1859, with the J. R. Clark Company.

It will be recalled that some months ago the Furniture Workers Union negotiated a contract with the J. R. Clark Company, covering seniority, hours of labor and conditions of employment. This was one of the soundest working condition agreements that has been negotiated with an employer in Minneapolis for a considerable number of years.

The Furniture Workers Union, whose Local comprises almost all the employees of the J. R. Clark Company, manufacturers of wooden ware specialties, is less than two year old. The workers at this company have organized a union on the industrial basis that takes in all of the employees of the J. R. Clark Company with the exception of the office workers.

This Union is not the first one that has been organized in the Clark plant. About 10 years ago union organization was affected in the plant but owing to the inefficient methods used by the organizers and due to the restrictions laid down by the craft union lines of the International Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, the organization was unsuccessful in gaining reforms for its members and as a consequence, died a peaceful death.

The recently organized local whose membership is composed of a new generation of workers who, for the most part, have forgotten the disastrous experience of ten years ago, has been organized on different lines with a new and militant leadership. This union accepts as members everyone who toils at the Clark Company without respect to craft distinction.

No sooner had Local 1859 secured a seniority contract with the employer than they were laying plans as to how to secure wage raises for the membership. Low wages had been paid at the Clark Company for years and the organization of the union was primarily due to the fact that wage reforms could not be secured by the workers there without some form of organization.

Last week the union committee
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Meyer Lewis and Tobin Gang Open War On Petroleum Workers Union No. 19802; Move Is Plot to Steal Truck Drivers

Oil Workers Call on Unions
to Rally to the Defense
of Their Local

FLASH—As we go to press we are informed that George Lund, organizer for Local 19802, has been "cordially" invited by Meyer Lewis to attend a meeting he is holding today with the Executive Board of the Central Labor Union. Lewis unquestionably intends to attempt to carry through his policy of smashing this union. It will be interesting to see where the Central Labor Union stands.

The Petroleum Workers' Union, Local 19802, today announced, through its organizer, George Lund, that the union has taken a definite stand for industrial unionism. Meyer Lewis, Wm. Green's lo-

The Federal Workers Section of Local 574 wish to heartily thank all of the Washington and Plymouth Avenue merchants who so generously donated articles that were used at the Federal Workers Dance as prizes. The list of merchants is too long for detailed publication but each prize given away was marked with the name of the merchant making the donation.

cal union-buster, has endeavored through threats of charter revocation, to split this local.

Tobin's fink union, Local 500, with the support of the Teamster's

Joint Council, has demanded that the petroleum truck drivers be turned over to them. These drivers were turned over to Local 19802 by Local 574 in the interest of furthering a more efficient form of organization among the petroleum workers.

The Petroleum Workers Union has recently negotiated an agreement securing better wages and working conditions for the vast majority of the workers in this field. It was during the negotiations for the agreement last November that Meyer Lewis started his now discredited union-busting activities. Making charges of "Red domination" in Local 19802, he

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POWER UNION TAKES ACTION ON GRIEVANCE

Overhead Department Elects
Union Committee to
Settle Wages

Members of Local Union 160 employed in the overhead department of the Northern States Power Co. met Sunday at the union headquarters to discuss wage schedules for that department. The meeting was very well attended despite the cold weather.

The agreement between the union and the company clearly specifies that all wages shall be restored to not less than the scale paid before the general wage cuts. This provision has been violated by the superintendent in the overhead department. With a few exceptions the men in this department have been working by the hour. Those few who were employed by the month were used by the company on this basis to dodge payment of overtime. The net result has been to not only dodge overtime payment but also to cut short the time of the hourly rated men.

In restoring the cuts, the company did not increase the hourly rates of pay in accordance with the agreement, and, in addition, the superintendent contacted certain hourly rated employees attempting to induce them to accept a monthly wage schedule which was below the scale provided in the agreement. This program, prior to the Sunday meeting, was having the desired effect on the men, the entire department was in an uproar.

After more than three hours of

Radio Workers Reject Tracy

Sunday, in Washington, D. C., the Radio Workers Union, assembled in convention in that city, dealt the Executive Council of the A. F. of L. a crushing defeat. The Radio Workers' Union, 30,000 strong, had been ordered by the highest executive body in the American Federation of Labor to join the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, a craft union in the building trades department. Daniel Tracy, President of Electrical Workers Union, appeared personally at the Radio Workers convention and pleaded that the delegates vote to join his organization, as ordered by the A. F. of L. Executive Council. No sooner had Tracy left the platform after his plea, than the delegates were on their feet shouting down the proposal. Only two delegates in the entire convention voted to affiliate to the Electrical Workers International. James Carey, president of the Radio Workers' union, told reporters that the Sunday action of his organization would probably mean expulsion from the A. F. of L. Significant is the fact that the Electrical Workers Brotherhood had offered to take the Radio Workers into their International at reduced membership fees and at low dues. This apparently was no inducement to the radio workers, who are now organized on an industrial basis under a federal charter.

discussion the meeting voted unanimously to instruct the grievance committee to meet with the department superintendent to present the following demands: 1. All employees to be paid by the month on the basis of the wage scales provided in the agreement. 2. One week vacation with pay after one year of
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PACKINGHOUSE COMMITTEE IS MOVING AHEAD

Drive for Industrial Union
Movement Gets Under
Way

The local unions which are participating in the Committee For Industrial Organization in the Packinghouse Industry are making good their word by immediate and practical action. Rapid progress is being made in gearing the committee for action. The Committee is taking an active part in pressing a Labor Board hearing on discrimination against union members by the Wilson Co. in Albert Lea. It is also preparing to cooperate with all local unions with membership in the Wilson plants to obtain a general wage increase.

Recognizing that its first task is one of educating the packinghouse workers to the need for industrial unionism, the committee is setting up machinery to collect the actual facts about the present disorganized state of the workers in the industry, together with an analysis of why these conditions exist and definite recommendation on how they can be corrected. This information will be widely circulated throughout the industry.

The next meeting of the Committee For Industrial Organization in the Packinghouse Industry will be held at Austin, Minnesota, on February 29 and March 1.

In 1919 there were 49 strikes in Minnesota, 50 strikes in 1920, 45 strikes in 1921, after which the number decreased to 14 or less per year up to 1935 according to United States department of labor data.

ORGANIZATION OF WPA GROUP A FOUNDATION

County Conventions Will Be
Called Before March 8
by Workers

Permanent Committee to Be
Set Up by Delegates
on March 14

Saturday afternoon at 2 p. m. the State-Wide WPA Conference was called to order. Despite the fact that the weather was intensely cold and a blizzard was raging over the entire state 102 delegates were in the hall when the meeting opened. Over 40 WPA and Relief Organizations and Trade Unions were there with delegates. G. J. Dunne, recording secretary of Local 574, opened the meeting and called for the election of a temporary chairman and secretary. Nominations for chairman were as follows: Frank Ellis, Independent Union of All Workers of Austin, Minnesota, and Harold Bean, United Relief Workers' delegate. Ellis was elected. Three were nominated for Secretary. Wm. Felton, Big Stone Labor Association; Wm. Brown, President of Local 574, and Glen Roberts, Unemployed Councils. Brown was elected. A Credentials Committee of eight was then chosen. They were Sam Davis, Harold Harlan, E. C. Lasher, Grant Dunne, Dick Adams, A. C. Seibert, Herman Pearson, Cliff Patrick, and Harry Stanley. While the Credentials Committee was preparing its report the meeting was addressed by Miles Dunne, Editor of Northwest Organizer and Chairman of the Conference Publicity Committee. In a 40 minute speech, Dunne stressed the need for a State-Wide federation of unemployed and WPA organizations and Trade Unions. The speaker made definite recommendations as to the make up and functions of such a federation and pleaded with the delegates not to adjourn the Conference until such an organization had been formed. The Credentials Committee reported that 104 delegates were present representing 50 organizations. The Committee reported that of the 50, 10 were Trade Unions. Only delegates from bonafide Relief and WPA Organizations and Trade Unions were seated. On a motion from the floor the Permanent Chairman and Secretary were elected. The Temporary officers elected earlier in the day were the Convention's choices. The Conference then adjourned until 7:30 p. m. When the evening session convened a Resolutions committee of seven were elected. They are as follows: Harry Stanley, E. C. Lasher, Glen Roberts, Ray Dunne, Harold Bean, Sam Davis
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Make Minneapolis a Union Town

John Brophy Answers Attack Of Green; Says Craft Unions Are Cause of Dual Unionism

In order that there may be a clearer understanding of the aims and objectives of the Committee for Industrial Organization, the ORGANIZER publishes herewith a statement by John Brophy. It was written in answer to a statement issued by William Green attacking the Committee.

The purpose of the Committee for Industrial Organization is to bring the unorganized into the American Federation of Labor. It aims to do this by carrying on education within the Federation for industrial unionism, in order to win over a majority, and by giving advice and help to groups of newly-organized workers in the mass production industries.

Some of the craft union leaders, who themselves have far from a notable record of growth, have taken wild alarm at the formation of this Committee. They are using the old trick of shouting "split-ters" and "dualism" instead of squarely facing the issue:

How can the unorganized be brought into the American Federation of Labor?

Even President Green of the AFL has permitted himself to be drawn into this misleading attack. His letter to the heads of the international unions who make up the CIO is remarkable because it completely ignores the main problem of increasing labor's strength.

Green's stand is all the more remarkable because many of the workers in auto, rubber and other industries learned their lesson in industrial unionism from him when he was active in the United Mine Workers. It is puzzling to them, and no doubt embarrassing to Green, when he now shakes his head at the very words they used to hear from his lips.

The Real Issue

It is vital that the members of unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor see what the real issue is. . . If any one doubts the seriousness of the problem facing these new unions in the mass production industries, let him read the proceedings of the last day of the 1935 AFL convention. Every delegate who spoke for the new unions in these industries told the same story of the demand of the workers for industrial unionism, and of difficulties resulting from the objections of the craft unions.

This same story is repeated daily in the hundreds of letters that pour into the office of the Committee for Industrial Organization. We have received official resolutions on the matter from many steel locals affiliated with the American Federation of Labor in five different states, from a large part of the membership of the United Auto Workers, an AFL affiliate, and from many locals in rubber, gas and coke, cement, aluminum, electrical manufacturing, radio, and other industries in all parts of the country.

Want Unions

Many central labor bodies have likewise endorsed our stand. The workers in the mass production industries want unionism—but they do not want to be divided up into dozens of crafts. The convention of the AFL instructed the executive council to proceed with organizing campaigns in steel, autos and other industries. Past experience shows that these industries cannot be organized successfully on a craft union basis.

But we believe that it can be done on the basis of industrial unions, the kind of organization the workers want. The executive council will have the wholehearted co-operation of the Committee for Industrial Organization in such endeavors.

Green in his letter raises a point

about democracy but in doing so himself takes a stand that is entirely undemocratic. There are, indeed, adequate precedents, if that were necessary, for the formation of the CIO within the framework of the AFL. The Conference for Progressive Political Action finally won over the executive council to its candidate and platform, and it was not branded as dual even though it included unions and other organizations outside the American Federation of Labor, which our Committee does not. The Railway Labor Executives Association is today not subjected to this smoke-screen of "dualism" even though it includes unions not in the AFL that have jurisdictional conflicts with affiliated unions.

We raise these examples not because we are critical of such organization but, on the contrary, because we believe we have an equal right to existence and to fair play, and that we are of equal value to the whole labor movement.

To Help AFL

Now that the cries of dualism are being hurled, it may be well to examine this oft-used term of opprobrium. Dualism involves attempting to break up and replace an existing organization, and is accompanied by efforts to take away members. There is no resemblance between this and what the Committee for Industrial Organization is doing.

Our aim is to strengthen, not to break up, the American Federation of Labor. We are seeking to bring in outside groups, not to take away members. Nor do we wish to harm the legitimate aims of a single craft union. Our objection is to paper jurisdictional-claims among hitherto unorganized workers, with the resulting confusion and division.

Under certain conditions, workers naturally turn to organization. If existing labor organizations do not meet their needs, they turn to some new form. When craft unions claim jurisdiction over certain types of workers but do not admit them to full and equal membership, they should not be surprised if the workers form an independent union of their own. The history of the labor movement shows this is the inevitable outcome. Nor should they be surprised when conflicting craft claims, or craft claims that mean division of the workers into dozens of groups, similarly lead to organization outside the AFL. In such cases, the craft unions involved are responsible for the resulting dualism, whether it takes the form of company unions or independent organizations.

Eager to Enter

Past experience shows that where an established union is really willing to take care of the needs of an independent union group, such groups are ready and eager to come into the AFL organizations. The United Textile Workers, for example, by intelligent action, was able to absorb the hitherto independent unions in hosiery and silk.

The Committee for Industrial Organization is seeking to remove the roots of dualism in the movement by urging the organization of the unorganized. It is attempting to bring about the end of dualism, whether in company unions or independent organizations, by

Bill Brown Says—

The best efforts of union buster Meyer Lewis have so far failed to make a dent in Local 574. Tobin tried to split the union. The Citizens Alliance tried the same thing. Meyer Lewis, with the help of the Teamsters Joint Council, is still trying. Help now comes to you, Meyer, from a source you never dreamed of! The leaders of the Communist Party have recently given instructions to their membership to: "Drag into the open their (the leaders of 574) real Trade Union policy, to drive the Trade Union functionaries and membership further away from them."



BILL BROWN
President of 574

Power Workers Union Takes Up Grievances

(Continued from page 1)

service, and two weeks vacation with pay after two or more years of service. 3. Full pay for time off because of sickness. 4. Time to be taken off for overtime on the basis of six-week periods. 5. A wage differential for "Wagon Dogs" in accordance with hours worked and previous wage standards. 6. Special cases affecting individuals and certain other grievances of a miscellaneous character will also be taken up by the committee. All of these demands are in conformity with the previous practices of the company.

A second special meeting of the overhead department will soon be called to hear the report of the committee and decide on further action on the basis of the report. If necessary the grievances will be carried to higher company officials by joint action of the department committee and the union executive board. The meeting voted unanimously to leave the matter entirely in the hands of the committee and to carry through to a successful conclusion by organized action. Individuals approached by the company supervisors will refer them to the union committee.

The grievance committees in the meter and the meter reading departments have held meetings with the supervisors and report good progress in ironing out differences. The union committee in the arc department is now gathering facts necessary to present a grievance on the question of hours. Committees are now being formed in the other departments. A standard grievance report form has been prepared by the executive board. Printed blanks are now available at the union headquarters.

A patent, No. 1,915,721, has been granted to Senor Diaz, construction superintendent of Frederick Snare Co., in Havana, Cuba. In his office at 16 Beaver street, in the heart of Wall street district, he demonstrated his electric glove. "The policeman can quietly slip the glove on when he wishes," explained Diaz, "he can grab the striker by the wrist and he will consent to go back to work for a feed of grass." But if the striker is wise he can cause a short circuit by getting a hold of the cop's nose.

furthuring a policy within the American Federation of Labor that will enable the workers to enter on the only basis millions of them will accept—industrial unionism.

No one who wants to see these unorganized millions brought into the AFL has any reason to be alarmed at the activities of the Committee for Industrial Organization. The official organs of certain craft unions have seen fit to misrepresent the purpose of the CIO by making it seem that we are working for industrial unionism in those industries where the crafts are established. It is to be hoped that the members of these organizations will read our statements for themselves to learn the truth. We want the co-operation of all workers in building a powerful and united labor movement.

MEETING SCHEDULE LOCAL 574	
Monday, Feb. 3:	Coal Workers.
Thursday, Feb. 6:	Independent Truck Owners.
Friday, Feb. 7:	All Stewards; Federal Workers.
Monday, Feb. 10:	Full Membership.
Wednesday, Feb. 12:	Market Workers.
Friday, Feb. 14:	Coal Stewards; Federal Workers.
Monday, Feb. 17:	Coal Workers.
Thursday, Feb. 20:	Independent Truck Owners.
Friday, Feb. 21:	All Stewards; Federal Workers.
Monday, Feb. 24:	Full Membership.
Tuesday, Feb. 25:	Taxi Drivers; night drivers, 1 p. m.; day drivers, 7 p. m.
Friday, Feb. 28:	Coal Stewards; Federal Workers.

Pekin General Strike Compels Arbitration

One of the most significant labor actions that has taken place in recent months in the United States was the General Strike called in Pekin, Illinois, Wednesday, February 5th.

Not significant because of the number of workers involved (Pekin is a comparatively small center) but because it was the first general strike call issued by a City Central Body of the American Federation of Labor since the San Francisco general strike in 1934.

The direct cause of the general walkout was the refusal of the American Distilling Company to deal collectively with their employees, who had been on strike for some weeks insisting on that demand.

February 4th, pickets at the Distilling Company rushed non-union workers who were attempting to enter the plant to act as strike-breakers. The strikers were greeted by a barrage of tear-gas, laid down by the city police chief. Tuesday night, in protest against the brutal gassing of the striking distillery workers, the Pekin Trades and Labor Assembly voted a general strike.

Wednesday and Thursday, saw a complete shutdown of commercial activities in Pekin. Barbers, icemen, drivers, building mechanics, and all organized workers laid down their tools, marched into the streets and issued a decree that all business must cease. As a result, no stores were open, and no business was transacted in this Illinois town, with the exception of necessary deliveries of coal and milk.

Friday, the general strike was brought to a termination when the American Distilling Company was forced to agree to arbitrate with their striking workers.

The American Liberty League, the new propaganda agency for the manufacturers and the bankers, with its 59 overfed, well heeled attorneys has offered to defend—free of charge—any person who feels that his constitutional rights are being denied.

Why don't you start defending Tom Mooney, Norman Mini or Angelo Herndon? Or aren't you gentlemen interested in that kind of constitutional rights?

The Railroad Brotherhoods

Among the industries that could perhaps be best benefited by amalgamation and consolidation of their varied unions, is the railroad industry. Numerous letters have been received by the Northwest Organizer, advocating that we give space to the expression of views of railroad workers who are now demanding reforms in the railroad union organizations.

The workers on the railroads are organized into 21 separate and independent unions. The first one of these unions was started at Detroit, Michigan, in 1863. The other 20 were started later, one after the other. All attempts by the progressive minority in the railroad brotherhoods to bring about amalgamation of these small and helpless craft unions have so far been defeated by the swarms of overpaid officials who infest this type of organization. Many of these unions have very little function beside that of collecting dues for their officials. The Switchmen's Union, Sheet Metal Workers, Stationary Firemen and Oilers, and the Telegraphers, are notable examples of this type. However, labor unions cannot be maintained indefinitely on the sole function of collecting dues for the personal benefit of craft officials. A union has got to do something for its members if it is going to keep them. The railroad workers are gradually becoming conscious of the fact that it is to their growing detriment to be divided into 21 labor unions. That is why about one-half of the railroad workers only belong to the unions. A worker hates to pay his hard earned money into a union which is hopelessly out of date. Many workers refuse to join for the same reason. That is why the railroad industry is only about 50 per cent organized today. And this in spite of the fact that it is 73 years since trade unionism first started on the railroads.

The Present Outlook

As was stated above, so far the brotherhood officials have been able to stifle every effort on the part of the progressive minority to amalgamate any of these crafts. But in spite of this and in spite of gag laws and a rigid censorship which has been clamped down on the membership, things do not stand still. Things move just the same, even in the railroad brotherhoods. The present development seems to be that a few of the unions are showing some sign of healthy activity. This is true especially of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. And the workers in train, yard and engine service are commencing to concentrate into these two organizations. In other words, the railroad union which shows some good and healthy activity in behalf of its membership is going to get members at the expense of those railroad craft unions who refuse to move forward. From the way things look at present the B. of R. T. and the B. of L. E. is taking the lead in progressive activity. Both of these unions occupy strategic positions in the railroad industry and in the trade union field. If these two leading unions take advantage of the position they hold they can either force amalgamation or absorption on those who are trailing behind.

Further discussion on the railroad unions will appear in the Organizer under the heading, "The Railroad Brotherhoods." Brother "rails," spread subscriptions of the Organizer among your ranks, and send your ideas to our Brotherhood column.

ORGANIZATION OF WPA GROUP A FOUNDATION

(Continued from page 1)

and Harold Harlan. The Committee went into session at once and began consideration of the many Resolutions that had been presented. The balance of the evening session was devoted to reports from delegates from various organizations. At 10:20 a. m. Sunday the Conference again got underway. The Committee that had been set up to confer with Christgau, State WPA administrator, reported that they had been unable to contact Christgau but had seen Sassman, Assistant Administrator, who would be at the Conference during the afternoon session to give an answer to the demands that were presented. Upon Sassman's appearance the Convention listened for 30 minutes to his explanation of why none of the demands could be granted. When the Resolutions Committee reported the principal subject of discussion was the resolution submitted by Federal Workers Section of Local 574. This resolution called for the setting up of a state federation of all WPA and Relief Organizations and Trade Unions. It recommended a central headquarters with a Permanent Secretary. It called for the election of a broad Executive Committee selected along geographical lines. The Committee recommended concurrence in this Resolution. It was adopted by the Conference. An Organization Committee was set up to carry on the work of the Conference. A committee of eleven were elected. Prior to adjournment of the Conference, the committee went into session and recommended to the Conference, the following actions: 1. That this committee send out a call for county conventions. 2. That these conventions be held prior to March 8th. 3. That one delegate to the central body be elected from each county. 4. That the Central Committee meet March 14th in a location yet to be elected. The committee's proposals were accepted by the Conference. The late Sunday night adjournment found many of the out of town delegates compelled to remain in Minneapolis because snow blocked roads.

Independent Truckers Elect New Committee

Tuesday, February 6th, was a specially called nomination meeting of the Independent Truck Owners Section, Local 574. Notices had been sent through the mail to all members, informing them of the importance of being on hand for this meeting where their committee would be elected. A splendid turnout was the result of the activities of the committee in attempting to get a well attended meeting for this important session. There were numerous nominations for each office. For chairman, the following were the nominees: Tom McCue, Curt Zander, Wm. Ambrose and Win. McNeil; for Vice-Chairman, Axel Soderberg and John Holm were selected; there were two nominations for Recording Secretary, E. Lundholm and John Larkin. A new office, that of Assistant Recording Secretary was sought for by Milt Hodson and Richard Harnig. For the Ways and Means Committee. Fourteen were nominated. Five to be elected. The nominees were as follows: H. Muri, K. Aslakson, J. Hough, E. Marstad, M. Hodgson, L. Hagen, E. Dodge, B. Ambrose, F. Chessey,

The Austin Herald Retracts

Editor's Note: Under the title "Creating or Destroying Wealth," the Austin Daily Herald of Austin, Minnesota, recently printed an editorial viciously attacking Local 574 of Minneapolis. The union started legal proceedings to recover damages and the charges were retracted by the Austin paper in a second editorial entitled "574 Protests." The two editorials appear below.

CREATING OR DESTROYING WEALTH

There is scriptural authority for the version that he who lives by the sword must also expect to die by the sword. There are barnacles in business—ostensibly business men—who seek their income from extortion, shakedown or whatever other method that can be successfully employed to obtain funds from others under pressure or threat. They do not help to create wealthy, they prey upon those who have labored and saved and created something in the form of wealth that can be employed to the benefit and comfort of mankind and seek to wrest it from its rightful owners.

The outlaw truck drivers unit No. 574 in Minneapolis is a good illustration. Like scorpions and leeches its members threaten fruit dealers and other produce merchants with bodily injury and other property damage unless they pay toll to their group for "protection." Refusal may result in loss of trade by customers of the produce dealers for their stores are stoned, customers intimidated and windows smashed. The only way to safety is to pay the toll to the racketeers and hijackers. They operate unmolested in Minneapolis, where city administrations are palsied with state control.

There are extortion "sheets" that derive revenue from threats of exposure of one thing or another. They likewise belong to the destroyers or confiscators of wealth, not creators. It is slower, more difficult and less glamorous, to be sure, to create wealth in the routine, honest, American way, but by the same token it is safer and considerably more satisfactory to the peace of mind, soul and body.

The extortion method, the levelers of humanity course, the distribution and destruction of wealth theory retard normal living, stultify progress, blight hope, corrupt and corrode the body politic. They should be rooted from American life. The methods are reprehensible and unAmerican, yet murder is still not justified of those who resort to such tactics.

What Minnesota needs is more creators of wealth, fewer destroyers and so-called distributors of it.

574 PROTESTS

Officials of Truck Drivers Union No. 574 at Minneapolis did not like the editorial that appeared in the Herald on December 21, 1935. They resented the implications and charges that that organization had been guilty of hi-jacking and racketeering tactics as the result of which Minneapolis produce merchants were alleged to have paid protection. Further inquiry now reveals that there is no foundation in fact to the reports upon which our original editorial was based. The Herald regrets that such suggestion or intimation has been made by it regarding a group working so determinedly in behalf of the truck drivers and others associated with No. 574.

From their protest it is gratifying to note that extortion tactics are not only frowned upon but are actually and vigorously opposed by the officials and members connected with that Union. The Herald is glad to make this correction.

UNION MEETINGS HELD REGULARLY AT 703 THIRD AVE. S.
First Wednesday in Month—Laundry Section.
Second Wednesday in Month—Dry Cleaning.
Third Wednesday in Month—Drivers Section.
Fourth Wednesday in Month—General Membership Meeting.
Initiation Fee Only \$2
Monthly Dues Only \$1
Help to improve our conditions
—Join Our Union Now
In Union there is strength
See
RUBIN LATZ, Business Agent
Office: Room 201
703 Third Avenue South

L. Sackter, J. Holm, A. Soderberg, G. Doake and C. Zander.

For Sergeant-at-Arms, three will stand for election. C. Quick, M. Mengelkoch and F. Chessey. The present officer holders of the Independent Section are: Chairman, Tom McCue; Vice Chairman, Axel Soderberg; Recording Secretary, E. Lundholm. The Ways and Means Committee is composed of M. Hodson, A. Soderberg and C. Zander. The present Sergeant-at-Arms is Charles Quick.

The election in this section will be held Thursday, February 20th.

Congress to Probe Tunnel Death Car

Charging contractors building the Hawk's Nest power tunnel showed "grave and inhuman disregard for the welfare of the employees," the House sub-committee investigating the deaths of over 476 from silicosis asked the House labor committee for full powers of subpoena and appropriation to carry out a wide and sweeping inquiry. Summarizing testimony before the committee, the report signed by Cong. Marcantonio (R., N. Y.), Cong. Griswold (D., Ind.) and Cong. Wm. P. Lambertson (R., Kan.) said, "The record presents a story of a condition that is hardly conceivable in a democratic government. It is the story of a tragedy worthy of the pen of Victor Hugo."

Public Workers "Sit Down"

Akron news item: "1,000 workers of the Firestone Tire and Rubber Company remained idle today in a 'sit-down' protest because the company refused to reinstate Clayton Dicks, a union worker. Dicks was fired for engaging in a fist fight with a non-union (scab) worker."

Miners Threaten Craft Unionists

The United Mine Workers Convention closed its session in Washington, D. C., with the adoption of several resolutions, both good and bad. On the good side of the ledger was one refusing to accept the A. F. of L. executive council decision calling upon the Committee for Industrial Organization to dissolve. Adoption of an irrevocable stand for labor organization of mass production industries along industrial rather than craft lines. On the other hand, the convention denied the pleas for local autonomy for seventeen districts. Just prior to the adjournment of the convention Lewis, Kennedy and Murray refused to accept a 100 per cent pay increase that had been voted them by the convention.

St. Louis Park Unit Dances February 15

The Workers' Protective association, St. Louis Park, Minnesota, will give a dance, Saturday, February 15th. The object of this dance is to raise funds with which to carry on the organizational activities of this very militant working-class organization.

The affair will be held at the Legion Hall, St. Louis Park. A splendid orchestra has been secured and it is assured that everyone who attends will be well repaid. The ticket which sells at 25c will include lunch and a chance on one of the valuable door prizes which will be given away. Checking is free. The public is invited.

BOX FACTORY WORKERS WIN PAY INCREASE

(Continued from page 1)

succeeded in having an agreement signed by the company, granting the workers at the Clark Company, a blanket ten per cent increase in wages. But previously to signing the agreement the union committee had accomplished something that was even more remarkable.

The union insisted that the company effect an adjustment of wages which meant that the pay for the same class of work in each department would be equalized. The Clark Company had long used that device which is the common and accepted weapon of the employers, the creating of division and dissension in their employees ranks, by maintaining different wage classifications for the same type of operation. It was the old story of pitting the highly paid worker, wage bribery.

The union in a few short days negotiation with the company, not only succeeded in abolishing the vicious practice of wage discrimination but succeeded in securing from the company a signed agreement, guaranteeing a ten per cent increase throughout the plant, over and above the new adjusted wage schedule.

This union is to be congratulated for the splendid work they have done in securing wage increases and working reforms for its members.

West Coast Labor Faker Is Opposed to Defense of Mini

Tries to Cripple National Sacramento Appeal Committee

San Francisco—Union labor circles here were indignant to read in the arch-reactionary Sacramento Bee an interview with Paul Scharrenberg opposing support of the National Sacramento Appeal Committee's fight to free the Sacramento criminal syndicalism prisoners.

Scharrenberg is secretary of the state federation of labor, but was recently expelled by an 11 to 1 vote from the Sailors' Union of the Pacific for his anti-labor activities.

The National Sacramento Appeal Committee has received support from the National Executive Boards of the International Ladies' Garment Workers and the Amalgamated Clothing Workers and many of their locals and joint boards; the United Hebrew Trades of New York; the National Executive Boards of the Workmen's Circle and the Workmen's Sick Death Benefit Fund and hundreds of their branches, as well as scores of local unions. Among the California unions endorsing the committee is that of Walter Cowan, vice president of the state federation of labor.

Among the constituents of the National Sacramento Appeal Committee are the League for Industrial Democracy, the Socialist party, Workers party, Non-Partisan Labor Defense and General Defense Committee.

In reporting the national campaign of the National Sacramento Appeal Committee, the Sacramento Bee quoted Scharrenberg as saying that he would not support the fight for Norman Mini and the other seven prisoners because "they have been actively antagonistic to A. F. of L. organizations."

Norman Thomas sharply at-

tacked Scharrenberg as a "reactionary" for his hostility to the Sacramento prisoners, and declared that "It is the blindest sort of folly for the reactionary Scharrenberg to imagine that any aggressive labor union can be safe in California if the Sacramento convictions are to remain unchallenged as a precedent for clapping aggressive labor folks in jail." Thomas' statement appeared in the February 8th issue of the Socialist Call.

"We do not appeal," declared Thomas, "to any idealism or sense of labor solidarity in Scharrenberg and people like him but simply to enlightened self interest. If Scharrenberg isn't enlightened enough to help the Sacramento cases, he might at least have enough enlightenment not to try to keep other people from helping. The day may come when California vigilantes or fascists won't even recognize Scharrenberg as their friend. His freedom is in danger so long as freedom is only worth fighting for in behalf of those who have always spoken well for the A. F. L."

Refusal of judicial authorities to provide the two separate legal staffs with copies of the trial proceedings, as required by California law, has delayed the appeal to the state supreme court. Raymond Henderson, noted Socialist and labor lawyer, retained by the National Sacramento Appeal Committee, is suing for a writ of habeas corpus, on the ground that the state's obstructive tactics are preventing Norman Mini and the other defendants from securing a new trial.

Celebration Dance
 Local Union 160 will hold a celebration dance on Saturday, February 22, at 257 Plymouth Avenue N. The best of music and entertainment. Everybody out.

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

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

The New WPA Alliance

The recently concluded WPA conference held in General Drivers Auditorium, Minneapolis, Minnesota, saw a real advance made in working-class organization in the Northwest. Despite division and dissension that, at times, threatened to throw the convention into a disorganized mass of individual opinions, ultimately the real objective of the conference was accomplished, and a statewide federation of WPA, Relief Organizations, and Trade Unions, is now an accomplished fact. The labors that brought this new organization into being were great. It is to be hoped that the birth pangs suffered will be rewarded by the growth of a healthy child. Great things are ahead for a sincere, honest organization of WPA workers on a statewide basis, that has the interest and welfare of these workers as its first consideration. There is no place in it for those individuals or organizations who are only ambitious for their own political advancement. Honest, sincere and courageous leadership is a necessary prerequisite for the success of this newly born organization. The need for it is great. The responsibilities of its leadership are tremendous. We salute this new weapon of Minnesota workers.

Toward Industrial Unions

The recently concluded Industrial Conference which was held last Sunday in Minneapolis, was one of the most forward progressive steps that has been taken by the local labor movement in years. Motivated, perhaps, by the new turn of events in the national labor movement, local labor unions responded to the call for an industrial conference in Minneapolis with a feeling that a new day was dawning for Minnesota unionists. The setting up of a permanent industrial committee for the advancement of industrial unionism in Minneapolis is a logical step to take at this time. In due time the most remote city and Hamlet in the United States will feel the effects of the struggle that is now taking place in the top strata of the A. F. of L. Labor, everywhere, must be prepared to take sides in the battle that will decide whether the American labor movement is going to fall before the concerted attacks of highly concentrated American industrial barons, or whether it is going forward to serve as a real instrument for the economic advancement of the American working class. Craft unionism cannot longer serve. It is an outworn and outmoded weapon. Powerful industrial unions must be brought into being. The step taken by the Sunday conference was, comparatively, a tiny one. But it is a step in the right direction.

Rubber Workers Play Checkers While Belt Line Stands Still

"Sit Down" Forces Company to Return Union Man to Job

Unionization of Akron rubber workers has received an impetus from the prestige acquired by United Rubber Workers' locals in leading "sit down" strikers at the Firestone and Goodyear plants. Stoppages were dramatic and instructive exhibitions of the strength of organized protest. Firestone tire builders are about 80 per cent organized, union officials say. Back of the 58-hour "sit down" strike of 1,200 workers on the Firestone conveyor line was gathering discontent against a cut in the piecework rate, which led tire builders to refuse to speed up production enough to earn the basic guarantee. A non-union pace-maker, put on the job to tell the others how to do it, started a fight with Clayton Dicks, active unionist, who was then suspended. As a result of the stoppage, Dicks was reinstated and the strikers received half pay for the time they spent playing checkers, talking and lying on benches. Clogged conveyors soon forced other departments, employing 1,900 workers to cease operations. "Our families will soon find out where we

are," the strikers reassured company officials who were sure their families must be worried to death. They continued their checkers and ate lunches donated by workers from other departments. The heat was turned off in an attempt to freeze them out, but it soon came back, supposedly as a result of the fraternal gesture of a union engineer who jammed the valve to prevent another shut-off. The strike was followed by a brief "sit down" protest in the cure pits at the Goodyear plant, where a 10 per cent cut also went into effect recently.

Police Guns Threaten Dover WPA Strikers

In Dover, Ohio WPA workers, striking to compel the project foreman to reinstate a discharged worker, were met by policemen armed with machine guns who, at the point of these weapons, forced the workers back on the job. Striking workers who are organized into a Project Workers' Union were gathered around the timekeeper's shanty peacefully protesting to the foreman when this fascist inspired demonstration by police took place.

Meyer Lewis Attacks Petroleum Workers

(Continued from page 1)

demanding a statement from the executive board repudiating Local 574 and severing all friendly relations. This was flatly refused by the Petroleum Workers Union, and Meyer Lewis' insinuations were branded as foundationless.

It was pointed out at that time by the NORTHWEST ORGANIZER that the charge made by Meyer Lewis was merely a smoke screen to cover his work of splitting and destroying this militant local union which stands for industrial unionism and rejects the old craft form which has failed to organize the petroleum workers in the Twin Cities. That this is actually the case is proven now by the fact that Meyer Lewis threatens to revoke the charter of Local 19802 when this organization is bringing the benefits of unionism to the unorganized field in St. Paul.

The role played in this nasty game by the Teamsters' Joint Council is a particularly despicable one. Finding it impossible to break up Local 574, the leaders of the Joint Council have turned their attention to another field for their disruptive work. They propose, so to speak, to kill two birds with one stone. Their game is very plain. They wish to split up the Petroleum Workers Union so that they may steal the drivers. They care very little what happens to the remnants which they do not wish to steal. These drivers they will attempt to use as the base for fink Local 500 which has neither leaders, principles nor membership.

Failing in this they will next attempt, as they did with the laundry drivers under identical circumstances, to create a dual union of petroleum drivers under a new charter. The main theme underlying these actions is the thirst of Daniel Tobin for per capita tax, and Tobin and his henchman, if permitted to do so, will wreck the movement to gain their selfish ends. Honest union men will solidly oppose such unprincipled tactics.

Fear Stair Climbing; Bosses Sign Contract

Agreements calling for wage increases, shorter hours and closed shop contracts have forestalled a strike of 20,000 elevator operators and building servicemen that threatened to tie up several New York office buildings. Conferences in the city hall, called by Mayor F. H. LaGuardia, led to the settlement, regarded as a sweeping victory for the Building Service Employees Union. All workers affected won a \$2-a-week increase, with a 48-hour week for elevator men and other service employes. Watchmen, though still bound to a 72-hour week, won a \$5-a-week raise.

Minneapolis news item: "An organization meeting for the formation of the Minneapolis Industrial Bridge League will be held at the Leamington Hotel Wednesday. . . The purpose of the organization is to give bridge enthusiasts an opportunity to meet and play competitive bridge."

Even bridge players are smart enough to organize on an industrial rather than a craft basis.

The next sectional meeting of the Inside Laundry Workers will be held on Wednesday, February 5th, at 8 p. m., at 703 Third Ave. S. A sectional chairman, a recording secretary, and sergeant-at-arms, for 1936 will be elected. Every member is urged to be present.

RUBIN LATZ,
Business Representative.
JOINT LOCAL 18005-183

Building Laborers Strike Still Solid

The strike of the Building Laborers' Union on the Sumner Field project is now going into its fifth week. So far, the weather has been on the side of the union. Scarcely any picketing has been necessary due to the fact that the weather has been such that any work outside has been impossible. Up until now the government has shown no disposition to change the wage scale on this job from 40 cents, the minimum now in the contract, to 67 1/2 cents, the scale demanded by the union. The Building Laborers' union announces that the strike will continue until their wage demands have been met. Work on the project is at a standstill.

Laundry Notes

A special and very important general membership meeting of Cleaners, Dyers and Laundry Workers will be held by Local 18005 Wednesday, February 19th, 8 p. m. at 703 3rd Ave. S.

Open to all unorganized laundry and cleaning workers, this meeting will discuss new steps to be taken in the struggle to prevent union buster Meyer Lewis from revoking the local union charter. All laundry and cleaning workers are urged to attend.

A hard time dance and party has been announced by the entertainment committee of the Cleaners Dyers and Laundry Workers

Labor Looks at the Press

London news item: "The four-power naval conference here has decided that major reductions in naval tonnage are now regarded as impossible because of the unsettled condition of world affairs and Japan's recent withdrawal from the conference."

And so Disarmament Conference No. 17 has blown up, and the world is further from disarmament and closer to war than ever.

New York news item: "The Bethlehem Steel Corporation reported net earnings of \$4,291,253, the largest net income since the depression began."

But the steel workers didn't share in this advance, because they're not organized into strong industrial unions.

New York item: "Despite business recovery, there remain approximately 12,300,000 unemployed in the United States."

How in hell can anyone talk about "business recovery" when one-third of the people are unemployed?

Annual report of the British and Foreign Bible Society: "The society has supplied both Italian and Ethiopian soldiers with Bibles."

Once again we can witness nations cutting into another's throats in the name of Christ's teachings and love of one's neighbor.

Colonel Frank Knox, Republican agitator: "The Supreme Court is the one remaining American body in Washington."

What the hell, Colonel? Ain't the munitions lobby and the navy lobby and the power company lobby American?

State of the world, as revealed by a Chinese general, Feng: "I propose that China's 400,000,000 people stop buying buttons for their clothes. This will save enough money each year to buy 400,000,000 bullets, which will kill at least

Keeping Step With 574

By Mickey Dunne

Due to the sudden illness of Miles Dunne this column cannot appear in this issue. We trust the readers join us in wishing our editor a speedy recovery.

union for Wednesday evening, February 19th at 703 3rd Ave. S. Tickets, twelve in a book, are for sale to the membership at \$1 per book. They can be resold at ten cents per ticket. This gives union members and friends an opportunity to help the union and at the same time earn some money. The committee, Margaret Mathews, Alvina Baldwin and Bill Borchart, together with R. Latz, business agent are in charge of ticket distribution.

The Laundry Workers' union sectional meeting was held on Feb. 5th in spite of the cold weather. A good turnout of union members and friends enjoyed a well balanced program of education and entertainment.

The excellent debate team from the Workers' Education Bureau presented the live question of the day in union circles, Industrial vs. Craft organization. Questions were asked and ably answered by members of the debate team at the conclusion of the debate.

A banquet lunch, tastily served, added to the festive occasion. Brother Leslie Sinton of the Cooks' and Waiters' union, officiated in installing union officers. Dancing concluded the program.

50 million Japanese."—Christian Science Monitor.

How the heck can a soldier shoot if he has to hold his pants up all the time?

A laugh from Athens, Greece: "Greece has been endeavoring to ease its unemployment problem through voluntary contributions from the well-to-do people."

Looks like the poor won't have much of a future in Greece.

The Machinery and Allied Products Institute says: "The introduction of modern machinery has increased, and not decreased, employment."

The Secretary of Labor report for the five-year period from 1923-1927 shows that automobile production increased 69 per cent, while employment decreased 48 per cent; electrical production increased 70 per cent, employment decreased 52 per cent; meat packing increased 20 per cent, employment decreased 19 per cent.

It isn't the new machines that are wrong. It's the system that prevents these machines from being owned by all the people that is wrong, and that is contributing to the mass unemployment and misery.

Meeting Schedule Local 160, N. S. P. Co.

Wednesday, February 5th, full membership meeting.
Thursday, February 6th, Executive Board.
Wednesday, February 12th, Organization Committee.
Thursday, February 13th, Executive Board.
Wednesday, February 19th, full membership meeting.
Thursday, February 20th, Executive Board. Wednesday, February 26th, Organization Committee.
Thursday, February 27th, Executive Board.
All meetings at 257 Plymouth avenue north, second floor.
Members may present grievances at any of the above meetings.