

# THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

Official Organ of the Northwest Labor Unity Conference

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

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

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

VOLUME 2, NO. 3

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 1936

PRICE 5 CENTS

## MAY DAY SPEAKERS ASK FOR UNITY

### 574 FEDERALISTS FORCE RAISES IN ROBBINSDALE

Federal Section Gets Scale  
on New Schoolhouse  
Project

Contractor Forced to Pay  
Union Scale to All  
Workers

The fight of the Federal Workers Section on the new Robbinsdale High School has ended with a complete victory for the workers involved. This school, a PWA project, has been in the process of construction for about a month. Despite the fact that the prevailing wage scale is required on all PWA projects the contractor on the Robbinsdale job was evading this provision by employing WPA workers at the rate of \$60.50 per month.

Protests of the Federal Workers Section finally succeeded in compelling the contractor to pay the union scale for building laborers, 67½¢ per hour. 26 laborers on the project were granted the new pay rate Monday.

### Arthur Thompson Dies Suddenly

Arthur Thompson, long time member of Local 574 and one of its most militant and staunchest defenders, died Saturday, May 2, at 11:30 p. m. Brother Thompson was taken violently ill Saturday morning and was removed in the afternoon to the General Hospital where he passed away.

Thompson, who has been employed by the Reeves Coal Co. for the past five years, is survived by a five-year old daughter. Thompson will be sadly missed by Local 574. Thompson was a real union man in everything that that implies.

### Building Material Drivers Organize

The Sand, Gravel and Building Material drivers who are negotiating a separate agreement with the employers in this industry report that real progress has been made and that a signed agreement can be expected soon.

The season is now at hand when the greatest number of workers in this industry will be employed. It is important that all workers engaged in this line of work become members of Local 574 and come under the provisions of the prospective union agreement.

#### CURIOUS FACT DEPT.

Ray Scribner, of the Minneapolis Holmes Co., doesn't like mice.

### Flash

As we go to press comes the news of the arrest of 48 of the striking workers at the Northern Oats Company. Monday evening 50 police broke into the plant and removed 40 men and eight women to jail. All were charged with "disorderly conduct," and all were released without bail. Trials were set for Tuesday. All will be defended by Gilbert Carlson, of the Non-Partisan Labor Defense.

### G. J. Dunne, Wife In Auto Accident

G. J. Dunne, Recording Secretary of Local 574, and his wife were victims of a serious auto accident Friday evening. While on their way to Austin, where Dunne was scheduled to speak, his car was struck by another auto one mile south of Faribault.

They were removed to the hospital at Faribault where they remained until Sunday night at which time they were brought to Minneapolis. Dunne suffered two broken ribs and was severely cut by flying glass. Mrs. Dunne received a pelvic fracture, broken shoulder blade, a severe head wound and numerous cuts and bruises. The accident occurred at 8 p. m.

### 574 Baseball Team Wants Outside Games

Local 574 Baseball team, who will open their season against Winoona Sunday, May 10, are desirous of booking games with fast teams anywhere in the northwest. The team is willing to travel anywhere within a radius of 250 miles from Minneapolis.

Local 574 team is composed of former college and professional players and will have on its roster names of players who are excellent drawing cards wherever they perform. The baseball aggregation that will play under the colors of Local 574 will be one of the fastest ball clubs in this part of the country.

For games or other information address Fred Nelson, Manager, 257 Plymouth Ave. N.

### National Tea Drivers

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
All members of General Drivers, Helpers and Inside Workers Local 574 employed at the National Tea Company will hereafter meet at the union hall the second Sunday of every month at 10:30 a. m. The Sunday date for meetings has been selected for the reason that, owing to the nature of the work at the National Tea, Sunday will find the greatest number of workers available for a meeting. It is important that all union members attend these meetings regularly.

### The Barrier



### May Day Celebration in Minneapolis Biggest Demonstration of Workers Solidarity Seen Here for Decades

Friday, May 1, saw the greatest May Day celebration that has taken place in Minneapolis for over a decade. Fully seven thousand workers gathered at postoffice square and marched to the Parade Grounds. The column, the width of which filled the entire street, was over 22 blocks long.

Banners carried by the various organizations included such demands as "Make Minneapolis A Union Town," "Remember Ness and Belor," "Unity between Unemployed and Employed," "Smash the Citizens' Alliance," "For United Labor Action" and a great number of other banners calling upon the workers to unite for common action.

Although the day was gloomy and it appeared that it might rain at any time the threatening weather did not discourage the workers on the 1936 May Day. Long before the appointed hour when the march was scheduled to start thousands of workers crowded into the area adjacent to the new post-office.

A car with a loud speaker from which the marshal of the parade gave directions as to how the parade was to be formed was busy an hour before the march started.

The honor of leading the parade was given to a truck, driven by an independent truck owner of the General Drivers Union bearing the banner of 574. Immediately

behind this followed the uniformed band of the Independent Union of all Workers of Austin, Minnesota. When the parade got under way a spirited air was lent to the column as they marched in cadence to the working class music played by the band. The 574 motorcycle squadron, bearing appropriate banners, cleared the street in front of the marching column.

The parade presented an inspiring spectacle as the workers swung down the appointed line of march and gathered around the Knoll at the Parade Grounds. Prominent in the line of march was the Independent Truck Owners Section of Local 574 who were in line with over 100 trucks.

At the Parade Grounds Walter Frank, Lathers Union, opened the meeting as chairman. In his opening remarks Frank asked for unity of all workers. George Lund, Petroleum Workers Union, spoke on the issues involved in their impending strike against the oil companies.

Bill Brown, President of Local 574, was the next speaker. Brown said that this was the greatest May Day celebration Minneapolis had seen in 20 years. Speaking of "red purges" Brown said that from the time Paul Smith, A. F. of L. red baiter, had done his work in Minneapolis in 1924, the labor movement went into a

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### GOOD PROGRAM IN 574 HALLS ON MAY FIRST

Unions, Unemployed and Political Groups Take Part

Good Music and Speaking Program Please All Present

The May first celebration meeting held May Day night in the General Drivers auditorium was a most successful affair from every standpoint. Despite the inclement weather a crowd numbering about 600 was on hand when the meeting got underway. Prior to the convening of the meeting the waiting crowd was entertained by music played by the Austin band who represented the Union of All Workers, Austin, Minnesota.

William Brown, President of Local 574, acted as chairman and opened the meeting by introducing Rubin Latz, who spoke for the Workman Circle branches and for Local 18005-183 Joint Local, Cleaners, Drivers and Laundry Workers Union. Among other things Latz announced that his organization was conducting a strike against the Artistic Cleaners.

George Phillips, President of Local 160, Northern States Power Employees Union, was the next speaker. The electrical workers President stressed the need for industrial type of union organization and showed the gains that his union had made by this method of organization.

The "sit-down strikers," Local 1859 Furniture Workers Union, was represented by John Janasco, its president. He said that his union was proud to participate in a May Day demonstration to demonstrate to the enemies of trade

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### Surprise Planned By Truck Owners

The Thursday meeting of the Independent Truck Owners Section promises to be one of the most interesting sessions of that section that has been held this season. An entertainment feature has been provided which the committee indicates will be a pleasant surprise for the members.

Along with the entertainment there are several serious organizational matters that must come before the meeting. Communications from Senators Shipstead and Benson have been received in regard to the pay rate for truck drivers on all state contract jobs where Federal funds are used. The committee urges every member to be present.

# Make Minneapolis a Union Town



### Will Remodel 574 Union Clubroom

Plans for remodeling General Drivers hall are proceeding smoothly and it is expected that within a short time a complete plan of the revamping of union quarters can be announced. Tentative plans call for the partitioning off of two additional halls on the second floor. These two halls, which are sorely needed would be made from part of the space now occupied by the club room.

According to estimates that have been furnished, two halls, each seating about 200 people, could be located in this space and still leave ample space for the recreation room. A hallway about four feet wide would be partitioned off from the present check room which hallway would give access to the new halls and also to the club room, according to the present plans.

The over crowded condition of the halls at the present time makes it imperative that more meeting space be provided. At present there are occasions when it is impossible to hold all the meetings that have been scheduled due to lack of meeting space. A remodeling of the present office is also being contemplated.

### Furniture Workers To Dance May 9th

Saturday, May 9, Furniture Workers Union Local 1859 will hold a dance in Local 574 halls. The Furniture Workers announced that this dance will be in the nature of a celebration over their victory in the sit-down strike at the J. R. Clark Company. Elaborate plans have been made for making this affair one of the best attended that they have ever given. Members of the union have been given tickets and reports indicate that the sale has been very successful.

Local 574 band, which is making a real name for itself in musical circles, will furnish the dance music for the occasion. All members, friends and sympathizers of 1859 are cordially invited to attend this dance and help the union stage its celebration.

### Agricultural Workers Strike Jap Ranchers

A strike of all agricultural workers employed by members of the Japanese Ranchers Association is spreading to many other ranches and lines of produce, as flying squadrons of pickets in automobiles tour Los Angeles county.

Carloads of deputy sheriffs are dashing into the agricultural areas too, instructed to put down militant picketing. Near the El Monte berry fields, Carlos Moreno was arrested for "blocking traffic." Near Compton, three strikers were charged with "attempting to intimidate workers." Lettuce hands are out in Venice, and a general tieup in the citrus groves is in prospect.

The Public Works and Unemployed Union pledge that none of its members would scab. The agricultural workers are demanding higher wages and union recognition.

### Red Baiter Ignored At Wisconsin School

"We didn't deem the letter worthy of reply," University of Wisconsin regents told John B. Chapple, Chicago Tribune's candidate for governor of Wisconsin. Chapple wanted the regents to bar student May Day celebrations from the campus. Chapple, a renegade radical, specialized as a political red-baiter.

### Bill Brown Says—



BILL BROWN President of 574

The B. A. for Local 125 must be finding the going pretty tough in his union. He complained at the B. A.'s meeting about a threatened settlement of a strike at one of the hotels and not including his union as against Yellow Cab drivers, all members of Local 574. And now there is a move by some of the 125 people to add more cabs and put the fare back to the old 25 cent rate which means back to the old rate of pay of \$7 a week and less and the rest from the City Relief Department.

### Housewife Tells How Women Can Assist in Union Organization

#### Urges All Wives to Ask for Union Button or Card

Ever since the beginning of the American Labor Movement women have played an important role in the building and growth of union in the building and growth of unionism. In the east this is especially true there you find many more women employed in industry than here in the middle west. However, the fact that we have fewer women actually employed in the various trades needs not mean that the women of Minneapolis and elsewhere can not play just as important a role as their eastern sisters.

Every housewife is a potential union organizer. Her opportunities for aiding and abetting the growth of organization are limitless. She can demand a union button for practically every service rendered her by industry. Her packages must be delivered by a union truck driver; her laundry must be done by union laundry workers and delivered by a union route man; her coal, ice, and milk men must wear union buttons; the plumber, painter, and paperhanger must show union credentials; and when the family car goes haywire, a union mechanic must render it assistance. The union service that she can, and should, and must demand is too long to list.

Recently a new field of organization has been opened to Minneapolis "housewife-organizers." Local 160, the employees of the Northern States Power Co., has just won a hard fought battle for union recognition, a raise, and better working conditions. Their fight is by no means over. These men need the co-operation of every union man and woman in Minneapolis, to keep the things for which they have struggled so hard. The wives of union men can help substantially by demanding a union receipt from the man who come to their door to read the electric meter. Many women do not know that they have a perfect right to refuse entry to these men if they do not carry a union receipt. Your home is your castle and none may enter without your consent. These non-members received the same raise that the union men fought for. They reaped the benefits of the other's labor. But they refuse to identify themselves with our union brothers, and help carry on the fight. They are scabs.

What earnest, hardworking wife of a union man cares to have one of the earth's lowest creatures enter

ter her home? And that is what a scab is. A leech.

Demanding a union receipt from your meter reader will help Local 160. Every victory won by a labor organization is a victory for the entire working class. A union wife can do her share in the battle without ever leaving her own doorstep by merely demanding—and getting—union service from union men.

### Package Delivery Men Are in Unions

The Package Delivery drivers, helpers and inside workers are fast fashioning themselves into a solid union group. As announced in the Organizer last week the package men started their organizational campaign by a mass meeting held in the Drivers hall Sunday, April 26.

The committee which was set up at this meeting has met several times and have finished the draft of a union agreement, covering their industry, which will be presented to the package employers sometime during the coming week. The union contract provides the standard wage of 60c per hour for drivers and specifies a union work week with the regular overtime provisions.

The drivers in this industry have suffered in wages and working conditions due to the fact that they have remained outside of the fold of organized labor. Because they were disorganized the employers have, during the past period, dealt with them as they have seen fit. Protests of these drivers against intolerable labor conditions, brought quick action from the bosses in the form of discharge.

The package delivery men have found that they are helpless before the discrimination and intimidation of the package employers. They have now come to the realization that union organization is their only effective weapon. Many package delivery drivers and helpers have joined the union during the past week.

### Pottery Workers Catch Silicosis

Hundreds of New Jersey sand and pottery workers are suffering from silicosis, and one Newark lawyer alone has handled 200 cases for victims of the dusty trades. Employers are sometimes able to drag cases out for years in the courts to force settlement at a low sum. Reactionary manufacturers last year defeated legislation to put silicosis under the workmen's compensation statute, but the fight continues.

### Philly Truckers Win Union Wages, Hours

Ninety striking truck drivers at Wanamaker's Philadelphia department store are back at work, having won a preferential shop and union wages and hours. The Brotherhood of Transportation Workers is named collective bargaining agent.

### Rats Sicken, Die On Relief Rations

Rats, fed on relief rations, live unhappily together, do not increase in weight and become stunted and badly-proportioned with poor coats. Disease of the lungs is twice as common among them as among well-fed rats, and gastro-intestinal disease is very frequent.

Such is the result of an experiment in nutrition and national health, described by Major-General Sir Robert McCarrison before the Royal Society of Arts at London. It is not unreasonable to expect, he said, that other things being equal, similar results would arise in man from the use of these diets.

In the experiments, the rats were fed a diet such as is commonly eaten by the poorer classes in England and those on relief—white bread, margarine, over-sweetened tea with a little milk, boiled cabbage potatoes, tinned meat and cheap jam.

After 16 days of relief rations, the rats were not only biting the attendants but killing and eating their weaker fellows. But rats fed cereal grains, milk, and milk products, vegetables and fruits, with egg or meat occasionally, lived happily together, increased in weight and flourished.

### Package Men Meet Monday Evening

The Package Delivery Section of Local 574 met in the union hall Monday night at 8 o'clock. A splendid turnout of package drivers attended the meeting. George Frosig acted as chairman and the package drivers were addressed by M. Dunne.

While the drivers were gathered in their meeting, officials of 574 were meeting with the package employers. The new contract drawn by the package delivery men was presented to the bosses at that time. Reports at the meeting indicate that a vast majority of all package delivery drivers are now members of General Drivers Union.

### New Trial Pending In Fargo Courts

In Fargo the demand for a new trial in the cases of William Cruden and Austin Swalde is still hanging fire. Although hundreds of valid exceptions were noted by the defense attorneys during the course of the trial, Judge Paulson still has the plea under advisement. There is little question but that, in the event that the judge denies a new trial, he will be overruled by the higher court. In the meantime, Cruden and Swalde are free on bail.

### May Moving Season Is Slow This Year

The May first moving season this year did not bring the volume of business that was anticipated by the transfer companies. While it appears that many families were desirous of changing their residence the acute housing shortage prevented many of them from moving. It is expected that this housing shortage will prolong the usual moving season until all the usual spring adjustments are made.

### Pittsburgh School Fires Liberal Prof

The University of Pittsburgh, already on the unfair list of the American Association of University Professors, has fired another liberal. The victim is Richard Murphy, nationally famous debate coach. Chancellor Bowman won't talk.

### ARIZONA STATE FEDERATION OF LABOR

Phoenix, Arizona  
April 27, 1936  
Mr. Farrell Dobbs, Sec'y-Treas.  
General Drivers, Helpers and Inside Workers Union,  
Local 574  
257 Plymouth Ave. N.  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Dear Sir and Brother:

Thank you for the fine co-operation in our fight against the McDaniel Packing Co.

It is hoped that we can make sufficient progress in this battle to make the employers all over the Western states deal with the members of the California and Arizona unions.

I am sending a copy of your letter to the Yuma, Arizona, branch of the Fruit and Vegetable Workers' Union.

Fraternally,  
A. S. Holihan, Sec'y

## GOOD PROGRAM IN 574 HALLS ON MAY FIRST

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unionism that theirs was a fighting militant organization.

H. C. Duke spoke for the I. W. W. Duke stressed the international aspect of the world's working class. Milton Arms spoke for the Young People's Socialist League.

General Drivers Union, Local 574, was represented on the speaking program by Carl Skoglund, organizer for Local 574 and well-known figure in northwest labor circles. Brother Skoglund spoke on the necessity for present day trade unions. He said that men who did not have a program of action, the courage to carry it out and the honesty necessary to win the confidence of the workers could not qualify as a leader of workers movements.

Harry Miller, member of the American Federation of Teachers from Kenosha, Wisconsin, and long time Socialist, spoke on the necessity of workers organizing mentally as well as numerically and warned the workers that they were confronted by two dangers: facism and war. He said that big industrialists were arming themselves to resist the attempts of the workers to win a decent standard of living for themselves. He warned that trade union organization was not the end of workers' aims but was only a means towards the end of workers assuming political control.

All in all the May Day meeting was one of the most satisfactory demonstrations of workers solidarity that has ever been held in Minneapolis. The musical and speaking program went off smoothly and each speaker was given an enthusiastic reception by the audience. General Drivers Union donated the use of their hall for the occasion.

### Local 160 Meeting Schedule

- Wednesday, April 22—Stewards and open organization meeting
- Thursday, April 23—Executive Board
- Wednesday, May 6—Regular membership meeting
- Thursday, May 7—Executive Board meeting
- Wednesday, May 13—Stewards and open organization meeting
- Thursday, May 14—Executive Board meeting
- Wednesday, May 20—Regular membership meeting
- Thursday, May 21—Executive Board meeting
- Wednesday, May 27—Stewards and open organization meeting
- Thursday, May 28—Executive Board meeting



## May Day Celebration in Minneapolis Biggest Demonstration of Workers Solidarity Seen Here for Decades

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decline that it was just recovering from. In spite of Meyer Lewis, Brown said that Minneapolis today was the best union town in America.

Mrs. Lundquist, Woman's League for Peace and Freedom and President Farmer-Labor Woman's Federation, spoke on the war menace. The next speaker was H. C. Duke of the Industrial Workers of the World. Duke pleaded for racial, national and religious toleration. He asked for solidarity of the international working class. Harold Bean, United Relief Workers Association, spoke on the needs of the unemployed.

Walter A. Miller of Kenosha, Wisconsin, representing the American Federation of Teachers, spoke in the name of the Socialist Party. Miller posed the question of revolutionary versus parliamentary working class reforms. Nat Ross, district organizer for the Communist Party, closed the speaking program.

As the crowd reluctantly left the Parade Grounds after the two-hour speaking program was completed, many workers expressed pleasure at the splendid turn out on the day that has been set aside to honor American working class heroes.

The Central Labor Union, Painters Union, Building Laborers who had taken part in the United Front Committee, which planned the May Day celebration, were conspicuous by their absence in the line of march.

### Progressive Slate Wins in Auto Union

Homer Martin of Kansas City, onetime minister who turned auto-worker and union organizer during the depression, swept into the presidency of the United Automobile Workers of America as delegate meeting in South Bend rose and elected him by acclamation. He succeeds Francis J. Dillon, picked by President William Green of the American Federation of Labor a year ago to head the union during its first probationary year of existence.

Martin headed a victorious slate regarded as progressive in character. Wyndham Mortimer, head of the White Motor Co. local in Cleveland and a rank-and-file leader from the time of the union's inception, was chosen first vice-president. Ed Hall of Milwaukee, former secretary-treasurer, was named second vice-president, and Walter Wells of Detroit, third vice-president. George Addes of Toledo was picked as secretary-treasurer.

### Non-Partisan Group In Benefit Dance

The Non-Partisan Labor Defense will hold a carnival dance in Local 574 halls Saturday, June 6. This affair is for the purpose of raising money to aid in the defense of working class prisoners.

The Non-Partisan Labor Defense has conducted the legal end of several court battles in the northwest. They are now engaged in the court fight for the victims of the Fargo "riot cases."

**MEETING SCHEDULE**  
**Furniture Workers No. 1859**  
 Wednesday, April 1—Membership meeting.  
 Wednesday April 15—Membership meeting.  
 The Executive Board of Local No. 1859 meets on call of the chairman.  
 All special meetings and all department meetings will be called either by special mail notices or will be published in the Northwest Organizer.

**ATTENTION RAILROAD WORKERS:**  
 On account of inability to get the hall for the regular meeting of the Minneapolis Railroad Council on Sunday, May 3rd, the May meeting of the Council has been set for Sunday, May 10th, 9:30 a. m., at 731 Third Ave. South. Members and other railroad workers take notice and arrange to attend the meeting on Sunday, May 10th.

### The Railroad Unions

Fellow Railroad Workers:

The Minneapolis Railroad Council is organized for the purpose of helping to overcome the present divided condition of the workers in the railroad industry, which is a natural result of being split up in 21 separate unions.

We urge progressive railroad workers in all parts of the country who see the necessity of a different program, policy and leadership for railway labor, to communicate with the Minneapolis Railroad Council, 631 3rd Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn.

To my fellow Railroad Workers: "Despotism" in some of our Railroad Brotherhoods is not a theory, it is a condition, one that should alarm all but its direct beneficiaries. No union man can, with equanimity survey the trend of union affairs in our so-called "standard brotherhoods," unless he has no interest in personal liberty. He has forgotten the high ideals of our union forefathers. The more speciously masked self-interest is, the more dangerous it becomes. The Chief Executives Association is perhaps the best illustration of the effect of the organized furor. It has become to all intents and purposes a huge dictatorship. The spirit of democracy is as foreign to it, as it was in the realm of the Czar of all Russia.

It is the natural result of the modern trend of concentration, subordinating private judgment to the leaders dictum.

Under the present leadership, the railroad unions are traveling the road to destruction, either through being wiped out altogether by the rapidly increasing horde of non-members or by the workers betrayal in their dealings with the railroad companies. The present railroad unions do not represent our interests in any sense.

Railroad labor "Dictators" cannot permit publication of anything except praise of themselves. Tolerance of dissenting opinion is something so foreign to the general intelligence of our present railroad labor MISLEADERS that even the poor dumb rank-and-file feel compelled to turn away in disgust.

It is the writer's opinion that our labor leaders cannot safely deprive themselves of the benefits of even prejudiced critics.

Among the rank-and-file organizations is the outstanding Amalgamated Transportation Employees, Inc., an independent railroad labor union.

William E. Jones, Secretary  
 South Cle Elum,  
 Washington

From a report of the National Retail Drygoods Association: "American consumers are now paying out at the rate of more than \$300,000,000 annually in state and local sales taxes. . . In California, the cost of the sales tax per family is \$40.75."

### Yellow Notes

It would be interesting to know of the Yellow driver who inquired for the Castor Oil in St. Paul (meaning the Castle Royal) ever found it.

The last "pick" of shifts and cars has been one good "bump" after another.

We all wonder how Shiertz is going to fare on a "single shift" car without someone to clean the car and windows for him.

Crandall has developed such a bad case of poor eye-sight from reading under poor light he has decided to go on days.

"Nigger Dan" has been reported as considering re-opening the Apex Nite Club.

A great improvement has been noticed in the personal appearance of a majority of the Yellow drivers since the advent of new cabs. Lets hope that those who have not contributed to this improvement will do so when the balance of the new cabs arrive. A clean personal appearance really pays big dividends in the form of "tips." Try it.

If you see a streak of silver going down the street, don't be alarmed. It isn't silver but just the twins in their newly painted car.

The Yellow Cab ball team is getting in some good practice under the present leadership of Pat Hurley and it shouldn't be long before they will be in shape to take on a rival team.

The article of last week's issue regarding the wearing of union buttons has failed to make a satisfactory impression on those "certain few." Get wise to yourselves, you "certain few" before a more "forceful" suggestion is necessary.

Our committee-man, Harlan, is looking for a hair dye specialist as his graying locks betray the surplus energy he has stored up this spring.

Quale, who is working the "dog watch" now, says when he gets back on a good shift he won't know how to sleep nights.

### Northern States to Hold Dance May 23

Local 160, Northern States Power Employees Union, will hold a dance in 574 hall Saturday, May 23. The ticket sale is progressing rapidly and a good turnout is expected. Local 574 band will furnish the music for the occasion.

### Local "100," Independent Union, Merges Forces With Local 574

Local 100 short lived northeast and Robbinsdale labor union came to an end last Friday when its members voted to join 574. There was but little excuse for the existence of this organization. From the outset it was doomed to occupy a very small sphere of influence in labor circles. The life of independent labor unions is very difficult unless they have their stronghold in a basic industry.

Local 100 was simply an aggregation of people who banded together because they believed in the principles of trade unionism. But that in itself is not sufficient to make a labor organization a useful weapon for the workers. It must have a program with definite clear-cut views as to how the program is to be put into effect.

### Northern Oats Company Workers Strike Against Slave Conditions

At the Northern Oats Company, northwest milling company, producers of rolled breakfast foods and feeds, the workers have gone on strike. The employees, numbering about 70, have struck against the intolerable working conditions prevailing at this company. The workers who went on strike Thursday, April 30, found themselves locked out by their employer on Friday.

The wages and working conditions in the plant of the Northern Oats Company are almost indescribable. Hours as high as seventy per week are common and overtime is a thing that is unknown. Wages range from 32½c an hour to 45c an hour. Many of the workers employed there are skilled mill workers whose rate of pay in organized mills ranges as high as \$1 an hour.

The workers at the Northern Oats Company first organized themselves into an independent union which was known as "Local 100." Without adequate leadership and lacking a definite plan of action mapped out in advance, they walked out of the mill without any idea of what was necessary for them to do afterwards.

Soon they had a delegation calling upon Local 574 who asked for the assistance of our union. Local 574 officials held several meetings with a committee of the striking mill workers and assisted them in drawing up a union agreement covering their wage and hour demands. The employer was con-

tacted and the agreement has been placed in his hands.

The Northern Oats Company workers have signified a desire to join Local 574 and to have our organization deal for them. This matter is in the hands of the Executive Board.

It should be of interest to members of Local 574 to read a letter received by the Northwest Organizer this week from Tracy, California.

### Tracy Worker

Tracy, Calif., April 30, 1936  
 NORTHWEST ORGANIZER  
 257 Plymouth Ave. North

Dear Sir and Brother:  
 This being the first time I have ever attempted to write to you I want to say a few words of what I think of the NORTHWEST ORGANIZER and Local 574. It does my heart good to see that the ORGANIZER is such a wonderful weekly edition of labor news and also the support that Local 574 gives to all labor concerned. I hope some day to see such rank-and-file organizations all over the good old U. S. A.

Well, before I close I want to say I met a man of Local 574 here in Tracy. He was thumbing rides and was heading for Fresno and he had his breakfast with me and we had quite a chat. He still says there ain't none like good old 574.

Adios.  
 EMANUEL B. HAAS  
 Tracy, Calif.

### "Alas, Poor Yorik, I Knew Him Well"

One of the strangest bits of news that has come to the local labor movement, in many moons, is the information that the grave diggers and cemetery employees are organizing themselves into a union. There is no doubt that many wisecracks will be made about the union activity of these newcomers to the labor movement.

Speculation about how they would act in a strike is probably in order and no doubt they will be referred to as a "dead" organization. But the fact remains that they are in real need of the protection of a union and they are terribly in earnest.

### State Not to Hire For Construction

Persons interested in obtaining work on state highway construction projects this spring should apply to the National Reemployment Service, according to a bulletin from the highway department.

"The state highway department has nothing to do with hiring men for construction jobs handled by contract," the bulletin explains. "Each contractor will hire his own men from the list of the National Re-employment Service, which has offices in the various counties. Applicants for road work should apply directly to their county re-employment office and not to the highway department."

Ted Strick, who injured his foot a few weeks ago, is again back on the job.

### Note to Editor

Miles Dunne  
 Editor, Northwest Organizer  
 My Dear Brother Dunne:  
 I attach copy for my contribution to your paper.

Thank you for your letter of April 27. When you get ready to launch another subscription drive, please send me the particulars. I shall try to help you along.

Best wishes for your continued success and congratulations on the appearance of the last issue.

Sincerely and fraternally,  
 WM. E. JONES

### Craft Unions

To the Editor,  
 Northwest Organizer:

Craft vs. industrial unionism is not new. It first came before the American Federation of Labor in 1901 and was disposed of by fence straddling acquiescence. After 16 defeats the situation became tense in the last convention. The advocates of industrial unionism have a good argument and seem to be gaining strength. Some interesting developments are sure to follow.

Many years under craft union domination has left railroad workers with many theories, some of them probably false. Memories of the shop crafts impotence at the time of the 1922 strike has caused many of our clear thinking fellow workers to favor industrial unions of railroad workers.

We must face the facts. When we find that the facts do not agree with our theories, we should conclude that our theories—and not the facts—must be wrong.

We should try to adjust to these facts and go ahead.

William E. Jones

It must have competent leadership. That leadership must be able to see farther ahead than the day by day struggle of the workers. It must be able to visualize the long time prospectus of the labor movement. Local 100 has done the right thing.

### Western Grocery Co. Is Now 100% Union

The Western Grocery Co., long a sore spot from the union standpoint, has, in the last week, become 100% organized. The completion of the organizing of this wholesale grocery house is a splendid piece of work. Great credit must be given to a few energetic union members there who have remained steadfastly loyal to the union through some trying times.



# THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

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

OFFICE OF PUBLICATION  
257 PLYMOUTH AVE. N.

### Subscription Rates

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

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

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

## The New Line

The Minneapolis Citizens' Alliance has adopted a new line of strategy in its attempt to destroy the power and influence of General Drivers Union. While for the last two years the Citizens' Alliance has been almost powerless to stop the sweep of Local 574, they have never despaired of finding some way that the Drivers Union could be checked and destroyed.

Their latest war plans involve the use of an ally. Their new co-campaigner is none other than the local Teamsters Joint Council. Realizing the fact that there is an attempt being made locally to build a new drivers union, and sensing that here would be a fertile field for their union busting efforts, they have proceeded to form an alliance with the most reactionary and vicious elements in the local movement.

This does not mean that the local Teamsters unions are conscious that they have been selected to become the Citizens' Alliance allies. But Schroeder and MacAloon have indicated that they intend to make use of Local 500. They are openly advising employers, who are members of the Alliance, to take advantage of the situation in the driving industry, pointing out to the bosses that the ultimate objective is to free themselves from any and all unions. Consciously or unconsciously representatives of the Teamsters International are playing a role that gives aid and comfort to the open and avowed foe of union labor, the Citizens' Alliance.

## Labor Injunction

One of the most vicious applications of law to the activities of organized labor has been and continues to be the labor injunction. The forces of organized labor have fought an unceasing battle against the injunction writ which has been continuously issued by judges at the behest of employers and employers' associations.

The history of organized labor in America bristles with instances in which strikes have been broken by injunctions. The prohibitions of the injunction writ have, on various occasions, covered every possible form of collective bargaining activity. Labor has sought to fight against the injunction menace by means of influencing the enactment of state and federal laws restricting the use of injunctions in labor disputes. From the experience of the past 30 years, it is beginning to be realized that the ingenuity of anti-union judges and lawyers has been more than sufficient to nullify the express prohibitions of these anti-injunction statutes.

It may be that labor will realize that legal reforms at best, are only temporary stop-gaps, and that under our existing system they can only be effective when they are considered as temporary advancements in the industrial struggle for a more complete ultimate change whereby labor has a wider measure of security than can be possibly guaranteed to them at the present time.

## May Day

After viewing the parade and the celebration held here this May Day it would perhaps not be impertinent to inquire into the reason for the absence of many unions which have hitherto taken part in the May holiday. Despite the fact that the Central Labor Union and a number of affiliated trade unions had officially gone on record for taking part in the May first demonstration it is worthy of note that they were conspicuous by their absence in the parade. Such progressive trade unions as the Painters, the Building Laborers and other union organizations, who ordinarily support progressive moves in the Minneapolis trade union movement, failed to take their place in the line of march and were not represented on the speaking program.

Looking for a reason one has not far to seek. The craft union bureaucracy, as represented here by Meyer Lewis, is engaged in a campaign pointed towards putting down and stifling every indication of progressiveness on the part of unions and central bodies where they have control. Intimidation and threats are used against local unions and central bodies who do not hue to the craft union line. Associating with non-A. F. of L. unions is one of the things that is forbidden.

However, it does not speak well for the courage of the leadership of these formerly progressive unions, when they allow themselves to be brow-beaten and cowed by the leaders of a factional fight. The absence of these unions from the May Day celebration is all the more shameful when one considers the fact that the present leadership of some of these organizations were once considered the leftest of the left.

# Keeping Step With 574

By Mickey Dunne

Eighty-five withdrawal cards went out during the month of April but during that same period 186 new members joined the union. A net gain of 101 members.

Chris Moe, Fuel Distributor steward, helped Chief Rainbolt move Friday.

Rudy Novey was a welcome called at the union office Monday morning. He just returned from a short "fishing trip."

As we go to press the workers are sitting down in the Northern Oats Company plant.

Herman Hussman, Machinist Union tycoon, was a visitor at 574 Monday.

The workers at the Western Grocery Co. proudly announce that they are 100 per cent.

Art Thompson's five-year-old orphan daughter may become a ward of General Drivers Union.

Dick Das brought G. J. Dunne back from the Fairbault hospital Sunday.

Besides the May Day meeting in 574 hall Friday evening the Waverly and Mankato sections held their own May celebration.

A new subscription campaign for the NORTHWEST ORGANIZER will be underway by the middle of May. The objective will be to double the present circulation.

The Murphy Beaver contest is coming along nicely.

Authority John Dickerson, club room host, has moved within a block of the union hall.

The Petroleum Workers say that they are going to Pull the Pin Wednesday night.

The Laundry Workers are bannered the Artistic Cleaners, Eighth Street and Eighth Avenue.

Walter Lehman, member of the Furniture Workers Union, whose discharge from the J. R. Clark Co. led to the sit-down strike, has been drawing his weekly salary from the Clark Co. since that time. The strange part about the tale is that Walter hasn't worked at the wood-ware factory since his discharge. The decision that ended the strike decreed that he should continue to draw his wages until his case was settled by the arbitration board. The hearings are being held at this time.

E. P. Stacy, old time market concern, closed their doors Friday. Bennyhoff, steward at the Stacy Co., reports that 14 union men were affected by the closing. Some of them will go to work at Gamble Robinson.

The Colonial gang met in the

## All Working

The Independent Truck Owners announce that every member of that section, previously registered as being unemployed, is now at work. The Independent Truckers chairman, Kurt Zander, calls attention to the necessity for registering as unemployed as soon as employment ceases.

Calls are coming in for trucks every day as the dirt moving season gets underway. If unemployed, register at the union office.

union hall Monday night.

A new book on the political and trade union movement in the northwest is being written here by a well-known eastern newspaper writer. It will be distinctly pro-labor.

The furniture store drivers and helpers held a rousing meeting in the union hall Sunday at 11 a. m. The meeting ratified the new agreement with a few minor changes.

The Independent Truck Owners Section presented a very good appearance in the May Day parade. The Dago led the procession.

G. Dunne will be out of circulation for some time. Auto accident.

574 baseball team played a practice game at the Parade Grounds Sunday morning. The final score was 5 all.

The Romance Dept. scores a complete blank this week. No biological developments.

### FOR SALE

Henry Quan announces that he has a jiffy dump box for sale. This box is in good condition and can be purchased cheaply. It can be seen at 1915 16th Ave. S.

All ORGANIZER changes of address hereafter must be

## LABOR... Looks at the Press

Local News Item: James J. Taylor, operating manager of the B. F. Goodrich Company in Minneapolis, has completed 20 years of service with his company. He has been presented with a service pin.

I was a Socialist until I read that—but if the bosses are going to take care of their workers like that, why I guess maybe the old system is O. K.

Local news item: "A proclamation by Gov. Floyd B. Olson set May 1 as Child Health Day. The program, in which many organizations will participate, is part of a national movement."

It's funny what the bosses will do to try and make us forget that May Day BELONGS TO THE WORKERS. That's the day we take from them, and no Child Health Day or On to Nicollet parade or anything else should let us forget that May First belongs to the international working class.

Belchertown, Pa. news item: "Three children are serving sentences in the reform school here for refusing to salute the American flag."

A glimpse of why our government is interested in the Orient, as revealed in a business item: "The United States has \$365,000,000 invested in the city of Shanghai."

"A stockholder of the American Tobacco Company emphasized that 95 percent of social unrest throughout the country is directly traceable to publication of income statistics of individuals."—New York Herald Tribune.

"Testimony given before the La Follette subcommittee last week showed that three detective agencies, Pinkerton, Burns and Theil, have recently employed 135,000 industrial spies, and that their income has amounted to 60 million dollars a year. Other disclosures were... the purchase by the industrialists of guns, tear gas,

### NOTICE

Members of Local 160, Local 18005-183, and Local 1859. Your union has subscribed for the NORTHWEST ORGANIZER for the entire membership. You should receive the paper regularly once a week. If you do not receive the publication, please turn your name and address in to your local secretary. The same holds true when moving or changing addresses. Turn in both your old and new address to your union office. It is imperative that this procedure be followed promptly in order that you receive all issues of the paper.

in the union office by Friday of each week in order to have the correction made for the next week's edition.

Tony the Wop has left the Belt Line.

W. Hagstrom and the editor of this column were the lucky winners of the shirts on the punchboard.

The organizational staff of the union furnished the pallbearers for Art Thompson's funeral.

The Vocational High project has gone union.

An A. F. of L. hot shot named Meyer,

Who was full of ambition and fire,

When engaged in a purge He would frequently urge That wages be raised slightly higher.

and munitions of all sorts in preparation for industrial warfare; the pouring of money into every means to break up trade-union organizations, terrify the workers, and poison even their confidence in one another."—The Nation.

This gives us an idea of what unionization is worth to America's working men and women—it's worth hundreds of millions every year to the bosses to keep us from having unions.

Advice to the Unemployed, from Arthur Payne, head of the personnel bureau of the College of the City of New York: "Realize there is a job for you and a good one. In fact, there are several jobs for you. There are several employers who will be glad to hire you. Find them—then sell yourself to them."

After that bit of advice, the 15 million unemployed oughta rest easy.

Akron, Ohio: "An increase of more than 400 per cent in union membership and numerous other gains are reported by the United Rubber Workers of America, following the quarterly executive board meeting."

At the League of Nations Council Table sat the pathetic figure of an elderly Ethiopian. After the latest resolution he asked plaintively, 'Is this all you can do? Is this your effective assistance?' —Christian Science Monitor.

Yes, that is all the capitalist League of Nations, dominated by Imperialist England, can ever do to prevent war—talk, talk, talk.

### Fair Cleaners

Organized labor patronize the following 100 per cent union plants:

- Crystal Co-operative Cleaners, 3110 Penn Ave. N.
- Sunshine Laundry, 2905 Washington Ave. N.
- National Cleaners & Dyers, 2823 Hennepin Ave.
- Mayme Hoye Cleaners & Dyers, 2817 Hennepin Ave.
- LaSalle Cleaners & Dyers, 2611 Nicollet.

All these concerns employ only union help and deserve the support of all organized labor. JOINT LOCAL CLEANERS, DRIVERS AND LAUNDRY WORKERS UNION, 18005-183