

# THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

Official Organ of the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council

As from this hour  
You use your power,  
The world must follow you.

MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE:  
257 PLYMOUTH AVENUE NORTH

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

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## WHOLE STATE MOURNS AS FLOYD B. OLSON PASSES

### GROCERY CO.'S CLOSED DOWN BY STRIKERS

Drivers Union Fails in Effort  
to Avert Walk-out

All Firms Are Closed as  
Workers Leave  
Plants

General Drivers Union Local 544 Thursday, August 20, called a strike against the employers in the wholesale grocery industry. Over 300 drivers, helpers and platform men were affected by the walkout which proved to be 100% effective an hour after the deadline was reached.

Workers in wholesale grocery companies, who come under the jurisdiction of General Drivers and Helpers Union, are organized 100% into the Drivers organization. During the past six months Union organization in this industry has proceeded rapidly. Workers in firms who had previously never been affiliated with the Union eagerly joined General Drivers during the past period.

Wages paid in the wholesale grocery industry in Minneapolis have been uniformly low. Hours and conditions of employment were such as are usually found in an unorganized industry. When Local 544 announced several months ago that they were prepared to put on an organizational campaign  
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### Corcoran, Brown At St. Cloud Meet

Last week Pat Corcoran and Wm. Brown journeyed to St. Cloud to assist in the setting up of a Drivers Union in that city. The meeting was a very successful one and a large number of applications were received from prospective members.

St. Cloud Drivers Union is a necessary addition to the northwest labor movement and will greatly assist in bringing about union organization in the driving crafts elsewhere. Many large transfer firms who send their fleet of trucks to every part of the state have their headquarters in that city.

It is estimated that there are between four and five hundred truck drivers in St. Cloud who are eligible to be members of General Drivers Union. Organizational work in the driving crafts will be pushed as speedily as possible in that city.

### Labor Picnic Is Postponed by Death

The Minneapolis Central Labor Union picnic, which was to have been held Sunday, August 30, has been deferred until Sunday, September 13. In spite of the fact that plans for this huge annual labor affair had been completed and a huge turnout was anticipated, the death of Governor Olson made any thought of going forward with the affair out of the question. All tickets and drawings which were to have been held Sunday will take place September 13. The picnic committee announced that more time for preparation would insure an even more successful picnic.

### Pole Workers in Strike Tuesday

Employees in pole and tie treating plants of Minneapolis and vicinity Tuesday, August 25 declared a strike on all pole yards and tie plants. Pole yard workers are organized into a local union, the United Pole, Post and Tie Workers of America, affiliated with the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America.

The workers in these plants have been actively organizing themselves during the past two months. Regular meetings have been held at the Central Labor Union halls and a charter was granted to the group about a month ago. Firms affected by the strike are the following:

Schaefer, Hitchok  
Bell Lumber Co.  
McGillis Gibbs  
Page & Hill  
Valentine-Clark  
B. J. Carney Co.  
Scott Pole & Treating Co.  
L. D. McFarland  
Naugle Pole & Tie Co.  
The National Pole Co.

The strike grew out of a refusal of the pole firms to recognize the organization and agree to an adjustment in wages. About 600 men are affected. The strike is in charge of Roy Wier, Central Labor Union Organizer.

### Union Transfer Co. Unionizes Drivers

The Union Transfer Co., whose headquarters are in Omaha, Neb., and who maintain regular freight routes between that point and Minneapolis, have decided that they will have to be Union in every sense of the word in order to continue to operate in the Twin Cities.

Ten of their drivers have already joined Local 544 and negotiations are being carried with the company in Omaha to unionize the rest of their force.

Floyd B. Olson



### OLSON DEATH LEAVES A GAP IN F-L PARTY

Passing of Olson Will Be  
Mourned by Thousands

100,000 Pass by Body as It  
Lies in State in Capitol  
Building

Saturday night, August 22, Floyd Bjornstjerne Olson, three times Farmer-Labor Governor of Minnesota, passed away at St. Mary's hospital at Rochester.

Olson's death came after a desperate and courageous nine months' fight against the ravages of cancer of the stomach. The death of Olson brings to an end the career of a man who no doubt was destined for further political advancement.

The story of Olson's life is the record of a man who, fighting against overwhelming handicaps, raised himself, by his own power, into a brilliant political career.

Olson was born Friday the 13th in November, 1891, in a small frame house located in one of the poor working class districts in Minneapolis. Olson's mother and father, both immigrants from the Scandinavian countries, were simple, hardworking people. His father was born in Trondhjem, Norway, and the birthplace of his mother was in Varmland, Sweden.

From the time the late Governor was old enough to work he contributed to the slender income of the family. His jobs included newsboy, freight trucker, farm hand, longshoreman and such other work as is done by millions of toiling American workers.

His struggle to attain an education was the story of a struggle that is all too common of youths born of working class families. Constantly handicapped by lack of funds, forced to leave school at intervals to help contribute to the family income and always harried by financial difficulties he was able to graduate from high school and attend one year at the University of Minnesota.

Leaving school because of lack of funds he roved to the west coast, living the life and learning the problems of itinerant laborers of that period. Working on the Seattle docks he joined the I. W. W. and there made his first contact with radical political movements. After two years of wandering he returned home and completed his law studies in the Northwest College of Law, from which  
(Continued on page 3)

### Grocery Bosses Conspire With Republican Reaction

The Wholesale Grocery bosses are playing the game of the Citizens Alliance, the Republican party and the Bankers.

Shrill cries of "food shortage" in full page newspaper advertisements is a well known Republican party trick, calculated to frighten women and children.

Seeking to capitalize on the great loss just suffered by the Farmer-Labor party, they open warfare on the Trade Union movement, its chief support.

Local Union 544, representing the overwhelming majority of the drivers, helpers and platform men of the wholesale grocery houses, has consistently proposed negotiation.

The Grocery Employers have refused to even meet the Union committee.

These same employers, through their connections with the banks, intimidate and threaten those grocery firms who are fair to Local 544.

Closely allied with the Citizens Alliance, the employers of this group endeavor to deny the right of Union and collective bargaining to their employees.

The issue is Union recognition. All the shouting in the daily press (which practically suppresses the Union statements) cannot cover up this fact.

The Citizens Alliance, the bankers and their Republican henchmen are conspiring again to stop the progress of Organized Labor.

Local 544 calls upon all Union men and women to stand ready to resist this attack.

When the Wholesale Grocery employers cry "food shortage" they really mean profit shortage. They believe that all groceries are consumed by the public in order that they have unrestricted liberty to profit by high prices, low wages and long hours.

A mass meeting has been called for Friday, August 28, at 257 Plymouth Ave., in support of the Grocery strike.

## Make Minneapolis a Union Town

## John Bosch Answers the Vicious Attack of 'Farmers'

Answering the vicious statements of the Hennepin County Farmers' Protective Association, pseudo farmers' organization, which appeared in the Minneapolis Morning Tribune, Tuesday, August 25, John Bosch, National President of the Farm Holiday Association, had the following to say:

"Various statements appearing in recent newspapers authorized by an organization known as the Hennepin County Farmers' Protective Association, an alleged farmers' organization, attempt to make it appear that the farmers of Hennepin County and of the state are opposed to the present strike of General Drivers No. 544.

They also try to make the public believe that farmers are unable to market their products because of labor's efforts to improve working conditions.

So that the public may know the true situation the Farmers Holiday Association issues this statement.

We are completely aware of the fact that the farmer's problems and labor's problems are identical and that any struggle labor may make to better living conditions is also a struggle to better farming conditions.

We therefore endorse the present strike of General Drivers No. 544.

Farmers through their organization, the Market Gardeners Association, have ample opportunity to dispose of their products. The so-called Hennepin County Farmers' Protective Association is thoroughly understood by real farmers to be detrimental to their interests. It bears the same relationship to them that the Citizens Alliance does to labor unions.

If the present strike continues beyond a time which gives unfair employers ample opportunity to correct existing unfair conditions the Farmers Holiday Association will assist in winning this struggle by supplying food and other assistance.

In the past the Holiday Association has helped labor in our mutual struggles for better conditions. The policy of the Holiday Association will always be in that direction.

**JOHN H. BOSCH**  
State President  
National President

### Yellow Notes

The membership of the Yellow Taxi drivers unit wishes to extend its condolences in the death of our great friend and benefactor, Governor Floyd B. Olson. We feel his loss deeply and sincerely hope and pray the Almighty will endow a successor with the great powers of understanding and reasoning he possessed.

Business really has been tough on the North Side. In fact, it has been so tough "Broadway Jack" sold his shirt to a passenger the other night.

Making hamburger is an expensive luxury in Wisconsin. Ask Clyde Keddy how expensive he found it.

The committee has been receiving so much "heat" of late, they are beginning to think they are in a tropical climate.

Al Canfield enjoyed a ride with Blad the other day attired in a suit of very attractive red pajamas. He is just about as "fat" as he ever was.

Jack Daly is suffering from his usual yearly attack of hay fever. He would be just crazy about anyone who presented him with a bouquet of golden rod.

The seasonal slump in business has brought forth the yearly "epidemic" of "belly-aches" and what-have-you. Year after year this "epidemic" seems to attack practically the same drivers and the howl they put up would make the howl of the "lone wolf" sound like a whisper. Come on, fellows, let's snap out of it and take it with a smile. A "thank you" with a smile now for a two hit run is a better busi-

ness getter than a disgruntled grunt.

It is with deep regret that the editor learned the other day our true friend Crowell has experienced no improvement in his physical condition. We are all wishing you the best of luck, Crowell, and hope to see you back with us before long.

The Yellow Cab ball team won a 9 to 0 victory Sunday p. m. over the North Ends. (Their opponents didn't show up.)

### Curt Zander, Ethel Walley Are Married

Confirming persistent reports that have circulated through Union driving circles for the past two months, news became public Monday that Curt Zander, chairman of the Independent Truck Owners, had become a married man. In a surprise move Curt Zander and his bride, Ethel Walley, drove to Mason City, Iowa, and were married there at 3 p. m. Saturday. They were accompanied by several friends from the Independent Truck Owners Section who unfortunately missed witnessing the ceremony. Curt and his bride returned to Minneapolis Sunday. They will make their home in northeast Minneapolis. The Union joins in wishing the couple success and happiness.

### Newspaper Guild Hits at Hearst

Seattle—Answering the dismissal of two members of the Seattle Newspaper Guild, editorial workers on the Hearst-owned Post-Intelligencer went out on strike and, with the aid of printing trades workers who refused to pass through picket lines, forced the paper to suspend publication. Hearst officials have refused offers to meet with the strikers. The strike is receiving wide support from labor and liberal groups through the northwest.

### Bill Brown Says—

The outside influence that seems to prevent employers from dealing with the Union for their own companies is again becoming prominent as it did in the strikes of 1934. If the employers are sincere when they say they want industrial peace then they would sit down and talk over the problems of the workers, we are asking that the wholesale grocers pay the same scale as other firms in Minneapolis are already paying and have been paying since June 1st. If this is another move on the part of the organized enemies of the labor movement in Minneapolis to break the Unions and tear down conditions in Minneapolis, then all labor in this city accepts the challenge.



**BILL BROWN**  
President of 544

## Steel Committee Tells of Success On All Fronts as Drive Continues

Chicago—Bursting merely national limits, the Steel Workers Organizing Committee has successfully invaded Canada, Associate Regional Director Leo Krzycki made known at the Chicago office. He held the application of an independent steel union at Hamilton, Ont., for a charter in the Amalgamated Assn. of Steel & Tin Workers.

Two more independent unions in Hamilton, where there are 8,000 steel workers, are ready to vote on joining the A. A., Krzycki, who has been organizing there asserted. Other Canadian steel centers are in touch with the S. W. O. C.

The drive in Canada has reached the point where an office of the S. W. O. C. with a Canadian steel unionist in charge is being opened in Hamilton. Unionization will get underway from Nova Scotia all the way to Vancouver on the Pacific coast. Company unions have not been an important factor in Canada and the A. A. has hitherto been negligible there also.

Similar conditions in the Detroit area received attention from Regional Director Van A. Bittner who spent some days there setting up a field organization under Tom Jones, a United Mine Worker from W. Frankfort, Ill. This area, which takes in most of the lower peninsula, has 22,000 steel workers, in mills and fabricating and shaping plants. Among enterprises that will receive special attention from the S. W. O. C. are the Ford steel plant, the National Steel Corp. and the Great Lakes Steel Co. "There as everywhere else," Bittner said, "we preached the doctrine of organization. We don't want strikes. What we want is strong unions to meet the tremendous power of the steel trust and the so-called independent steel companies."

In Sterling, Ill., where the Northwestern Barb Wire Co. was violating a strike settlement, conditions are improving again. The drive is proceeding in the Granite City area in southern Illinois and takes in St. Louis. There Union sentiment is very strong.

In the Chicago-Gary area Mrs. Mineola Ingersoll, wife of a union man in the South Works of Carnegie-Illinois, has been made director of women's activities with headquarters in Indiana Harbor.

At Akron, Ohio, an agreement has been signed through the S. W. O. C. between the newly-formed A. A. local and the Atlantic Foundry Co., which employs 450 men. Union recognition, collective bargaining, union checkoff, negotia-

### Meeting Postponed

The regularly scheduled Wednesday meeting of the Minneapolis Central Union has been postponed until September 9. The postponement was made out of respect for the memory of Governor Floyd B. Olson whose funeral occurred on that day. All Central Labor Union officials attended the funeral in a body.

tions of differences and provision for a new agreement are included. The present agreement runs to Feb. 1, 1937. Wages, hours and working conditions are to be agreed on before Sept. 1. Clause 3 of the agreement forbids strikes or walkouts pending adjustment of disputes. "The union agrees to discipline anyone violating this provision," the contract reads.

Where the steel bosses stand in the presidential campaign was shown at the South Works plant in Chicago where the straw bosses handed out Landon buttons to the men as they left their shift.

### On WPA Projects

THE BERNHAGEN FAMILY was forcibly moved. A Hopkins flatfoot roused the family at 6 a. m. Under threat of handcuffing he prevented them from communicating with legal counsel, the Union or friends. This starts another fight against high-handed relief methods and reactionary courts. In this case it was District Judge Selover. The flatfoot told the Bernhagens that "if those hoodlums (meaning Federal Workers) come around there'll be blood spilled." WHOSE BLOOD, Copper? We'll be seein' ya.

PICNIC POSTPONED until further notice. All FWS members, families and friends are urged to attend the C. L. U. picnic at Powderhorn Park Sunday, August 30. In return there'll be greatly increased Trade Union support and attendance for the Federal Workers picnic and a bigger Frank Ross Defense Fund. Time and place to be announced this week.

Stewards report greatly improved conditions on the many WPA projects which have nearly reached 10 per cent membership in Federal Workers Section. The Ogd. Committee is swamped with requests for project meetings.

Workers on Project 249 thank the Independent Truckers for aid in getting organized. Other projects report similar co-operation. That's a fine spirit, isn't it?

Four active members picked at random reported 147 new members signed up by them in the past week.

WARNING TO FWS MEMBERS ON WPA: It is a strict rule that you must not take grievances up directly with WPA officials. You have an organization for that.

### Ernest Lundeen Lauds Olson

August 24, 1936  
Dear Editor:  
The following statement was released to the press by Congressman Ernest Lundeen today:  
"Governor Floyd B. Olson was an able, brilliant leader who understood the American people. He served them with great distinction. Minnesota will search a long time to find his equal."

## Pauper's Oath Is Given Defeat in First Skirmish

The first skirmish in the campaign against the Pauper's Oath was won by the Federal Workers Section when the Welfare Board, on motion of Mrs. Selma Seestrom, voted last Friday 'to give temporary relief to clients refusing to sign the affidavit' until Tuesday, when legality of the affidavit was to be passed upon by the City Attorney. By the time you read this the Board will either have completely abandoned its criminal order or else the FWS will be far advanced into a vital and far-reaching fight to protect clients' rights of citizenship, including their absolute right, under Minnesota law, to the necessities of life.

Upon advice of eminently competent legal counsel, the Federal Workers Section notified the Board that the Pauper's Oath requirement is illegal and cause for prosecution. The entire Labor Movement should now recognize that our fight is that of locked-out workers struggling against greedy former employers who work through Ole Pearson to force clients onto the open labor market, thereby forcing down general wage rates.

In it is seen also a scheme to disenfranchise "paupers" after the next election. Hundreds of clients who have already been forced to sign so their children might eat, are wondering when they'll be arrested for something they may have said in the affidavit, and wondering whether they signed away their rights of citizenship.

Therefore the FWS added its demand upon the Welfare Board that all affidavits already signed be at once returned to their signers. The original resolution, which will be vigorously pressed, declares 1, that all FWS members refuse to sign the new affidavit, and 2, that the Board perform fully and immediately its only duty of providing for all the needy of the city in relation to sharply rising living costs OR BE REMOVED FROM ALL AUTHORITY IN THE CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS.

Picketing of relief stations will continue until final settlement is reached. Clients are still being high-pressured to sign the affidavits. The daily papers delayed and suppressed notice of the Board's decision to give relief to those who don't sign. In such a situation, instantaneous action may become necessary any minute.

Nothing short of complete abandonment by the Board of its untenable position on the Pauper's Oath will be acceptable. Therefore all members and supporters of the FWS are requested to immediately report to Union headquarters for fighting instructions if final settlement, agreeable to the FWS, has not been made by the Welfare Board by Tuesday, Aug. 29.

Yes, Oliver, people are just naturally wicked, I guess. Or maybe it ain't the science that's wrong. Maybe it's the capitalists who abuse the science—use it to drag mankind back instead of guiding it forward.

**Nelson Welding Co.**  
E. C. NELSON, Prop.  
A Specialty of Truck Body Building  
Present Location, 2520 Nicollet  
Moving Soon—Watch for New Address

"We Are Proud of Our Coffee"  
**S & S CAFE**  
633 THIRD AVE. S.  
We feature Home Cooking  
Try Our Sunday Chicken Dinners, They Are Delicious  
35c up

# Hennepin Co. Farmers Protective Association Again Attacks Union

### Boss Farmer Organization Shows Teeth to Union Workers

The Hennepin County Farmers Protective Association has again shown its true colors in the strike of wholesale grocery workers. This organization which is sponsored and backed by the Minneapolis Citizens Alliance, came to bat Tuesday morning in the daily newspapers. There was very little difference in the Monday morning statement than in their previous attempts to further the interests of Minneapolis labor-hating employers.

In their press statement they complain that they cannot make deliveries to struck grocery stores and that food is "rotting in the fields." We were under the impression that the northwest was faced with a real and drastic shortage of farm products. We are glad to hear, however, that farm food-stuffs are so abundant that they are actually going to waste. Their statement indicating an abundance of farm products is scarcely compatible with the prices that city workers are being charged for the same products.

Farmers are not suffering because of the existing strike. Local 544 is fighting the chain stores who the farmers have always claimed as their greatest enemies. The Hennepin County Protective Association, as we have repeatedly stated before in these columns, is not a bona fide organization of farmers. If such a thing is possible it is a farmers "Citizens Alliance."

## With the Laundry Workers Union

The mass meeting of Local 183 was a well attended affair. Miles Dunn, editor of the Northwest Organizer, gave a clear cut, highly informative address. You can always count on Mickey to deliver the goods.

Walter Frank, who, in the building trade is known as an organizer and speaker of unusual ability, gave a talk that will be long remembered.

Bob Cramer, editor of the Minneapolis Labor Review, always a good speaker, was in extra form that night. Many hit the sawdust trail during his talk and signed up with the Union.

That this meeting was a huge success is evidenced by the fact that some new members were so enthused that they returned to their plant the next day and called a meeting at the home of a worker, and signed up 44 new members.

Organization work is becoming a sort of religion with our people which demonstrates that with the correct policy and a determined, militant effort, this spirit can be cultivated in the hearts of the workers and result in undreamed of rewards for the workers and their families.

Local 183 knows where it is going, knows what it wants, and possesses the courage and power to obtain its demands. The day of low wages, long hours, and abominable piece work system is doomed in the Laundry and Dry Cleaning business in Minneapolis, make no mistake about that.

We are depending on the progressive members of the Teamsters' Joint Council for co-operation between the Laundry Drivers' Union and Local 183. That this matter will eventually be ironed out is a predestined fact.

The whole labor movement of Minneapolis is working in perfect harmony and co-ordination, and in spite of influences to the contrary, workers in our industry.

# GROCERY CO.'S CLOSED DOWN BY STRIKERS

(Continued from page 1) in the wholesale grocery firms, that they desired some form of Union organization to fight their battles for them.

It is a significant fact that much of the organizational work was done by workers in the industry themselves. After a series of meetings had been held where the employees in wholesale grocery firms participated in drawing up a Union agreement covering their wages and working conditions, contracts were presented to the following wholesale grocery firms:

- National Tea Co.
- C. Thomas
- Winton & Newell Co.
- Slocum, Bergren & Wash. Co.
- Allied Grocers
- K. Aslesen
- Western Grocery Co.
- Jordan Stevens Co.
- Brecht & Richter Co.
- Wholesale Supply Co.
- Killdall Co.
- Hancock-Nelson Co.

Despite an earnest and sincere desire on the part of Local 544 to adjust the matter amiably with the wholesale grocery employers six weeks of attempted negotiations resulted fruitlessly.

No strange or outrageous demands were made upon the employers in the wholesale grocery industry. Rather, all that was asked was that these firms pay the same wages and work their employees under the same conditions of employment as prevailed in similar industries. As a guarantee of their good faith they were asked to enter into a written agreement with General Drivers Union.

Despite the fact that some of the larger employers in the wholesale grocery industry had formerly maintained contractual relations with General Drivers Union the expiration of these agreements found the employers in the industry presenting a united front in their determination to enter into no further contracts with Local 544.

When the workers in the industry, who were members of the Union, were informed of the attitude of their employers they voted unanimously to refrain from work until such time as the employers in the industry seen fit to recognize their Union and to enter into an agreement covering their wages and working conditions. As a result the wholesale grocery industry in Minneapolis is at a complete standstill.

The attitude of the employers

let there be no exceptions. It is absolutely essential to the welfare of the driving craft within the Laundry and Dry Cleaning industry that 131 and 183 get together in a common cause. The quicker this is done, the sooner the drivers engaged in this industry will be able to reap the benefits that will follow a solid front.

No out-moded influences can for long withstand the prevailing policy of the solid front in the labor movement in Minneapolis today.

Let everybody get behind this thing, whether he be an inside worker or a driver, whether it be one union or ten unions. But let's have a united front and one policy to further the interests of the

## Notes to You by Kenn Harlan

### STRICTLY MUSICAL—

You may thrill to the mystic wild strains of "An Invocation to the Night," or listen with half-closed lids to "Spring Song," and say to yourself, "Ah, yes, the classics for me." You may listen languidly to "Carmen" and decide—no jazz, no swing for you, but let any old band swing into "Bugle Call Rag" and your ears come up like an old round dog who hears the hunters horn. Your feet start flapping and your pulse quickens. Why? Because that's YOUR music, fella. That old savage in you starts to answer to the boomalay rhythm of jazz, the music of the people. . . .

### SWING—

It's a ten to one shot that the greater majority of you who read this don't know what swing music is. Don't feel badly about it if you don't know what swing is. Darn few people do—and that includes musicians. Swing isn't new. It's old as poetry. Its application to music seems a bit new and confusing. The original Dixie Land Band had swing 40 years ago but they didn't call it swing. In fact, they didn't call it anything. They just played it.

Here's the answer then. Swing is a fast-moving thing with a thick feely tempo. . . . Yeah, I know, but what's swing? . . .

### ONE BORN EVERY MINUTE—

Singers, even good singers, are growing thicker than hair on a dog's bac. When we started over ten years ago as boy sopranos on old WHDI, singers were rare things—except of course around speakeasies. Now we find a new crop each week and on the big networks, no less. Best of the new and yet obscure singers who we think will go far is one Buddy Clark on at 4 Pee Em Fridays on WCCO.—Bet his name isn't Buddy Clark at all—it's probably Izzy Cafofsky or some such. But he is good. Kind of a Bing-Powell voice. . . .

Well, sir, I made a whole column without diverting from musical topics. Someone should buy me a cigar. How's about it, Mickey? . . .

## Thomas Stores Are Bannered by Union

Monday morning 23 retail grocery stores of the C. Thomas Co. were being bannered by General Drivers Union Local 544. This move was taken in connection with the existing strike against the wholesale grocery firms.

WPA grievances are still coming in so thick and fast that Ed Palmquist might as well move into Wing's office. What do you say, John?

indicates that the Citizens Alliance has stepped into the picture and are now dictating the labor policies of the grocery employers. Every indication bears out the conviction that the old die-hard attitude of the organized employers is manifesting itself in this situation.

The strike was called by General Drivers Union as a last resort. Union workers in the industry will remain on strike until such time as the employers agree in writing that the Union wages and conditions will prevail in the industry.

Active picketing is being carried on and cruising cars of striking workers constantly circulate the wholesale district. A Commissary has been set up in Union headquarters which daily feeds the 300 workers involved.

# OLSON DEATH LEAVES A GAP IN F-L PARTY

(Continued from page 1)

he graduated in 1915. That year he met and married Ida Krejci.

In 1919 he was appointed special assistant Hennepin County Attorney and a year later was made County Attorney. In 1922 he ran for the office of County Attorney and was elected by the highest vote ever received by an aspirant to that office.

During this time the Non-Partisan League had been spreading from North Dakota to Minnesota and in 1922 merged into the Farmer-Labor Party. Olson had actively concerned himself with the merger of the two political groups and in 1924 was the candidate of the Farmer-Labor party for Governor. He was defeated by Theodore Christianson, a Republican. In 1926 he was again a successful candidate for the office of County Attorney. He again aspired to the office of Governor and in 1930 was elected first Farmer-Labor Governor of Minnesota. He was re-elected in 1932 and again in 1934.

During his three terms as Governor, Olson was busily engaged in welding the Farmer-Labor party into a powerful political group. It was Olson's hand that guided the party through many trying days. It was he who wrote its platforms and formulated its policies. He was a master strategist and had a sense of political balance that has perhaps never before been seen in the Northwest. Internal quarrels and dissensions in the party were sometimes quelled with an iron hand and sometimes smoothed over by the exercise of Olson's magnetic personality. Olson had many political enemies.

It was impossible that a man of his courage and determination should not step on someone's toes in his climb to the highest honors the state could bestow. No one, however, could ever question his courage. In spite of all political maneuverings made necessary by political expediency Olson was an unwavering champion of the under-privileged and exploited. He had known poverty and want in his youth and the memory of his family's struggle for bread never could be erased from his mind and there is no question but that want and poverty colored his whole political career.

Olson's political creed can best be estimated from the statement he made at the opening of his 1934 campaign for Governor.

"We declare capitalism has failed and immediate steps must be taken by the people to abolish capitalism in a peaceful and lawful manner and that a new and sane and just society must be established; a system where all the natural resources and machinery of production, transportation and communication shall be owned by the government and operated democratically for the benefit of all the people and not for the benefit of the few."

The death of Floyd B. Olson leaves the Minnesota Farmer-Labor party with a problem that will be difficult of solution. His passing away exposes a gap in the party structure that will be hard to fill. In the formation and the building of the Farmer-Labor party the main burden was borne by the late Governor. Finding an individual who has the courage, strength and determination to carry on and fill the shoes of Floyd Olson is a work that will tax the ability of those high in the party councils.

Olson's place will never be

## Independent Truck Chatter

Those independents transferred from WPA to the State Highway Department will only get 110 hours per month. This naturally should call for a demand on their part for 130 hours per month. It is no more than fair.

They are receiving \$1.65 an hour and are under mechanically loaded equipment.

If the independents would give their chairman some better support he might be able to accomplish a great deal for us.

Why not live up to the slogan "Help him, don't knock him," as certain ones are doing at the present time.

Layoffs are beginning to take place on the WPA.

Gene Lundholm and a lamp post met last Thursday night. And he was sober, too.

Art Carlson was made steward for those independents working for the State Highway Dept. in St. Louis Park.

The Independent Truck Owners Section has gone on record officially as paying the drivers of their trucks 75c an hour.

A better spirit of co-operation is being shown on the different projects between the independents and the federal workers. That is as it should be.

B. G. Ambrose is a "poet." For proof ask Gene Lundholm, Johnny Hough or Jim Bartlett.

Bill Haffey was himself again last Thursday night.

## Jewelry Workers In Strike Monday

Union members employed in wholesale jewelry manufacturing firms declared a strike against the employers Monday morning, August 24. About a dozen jewelry manufacturing firms are affected by the strike. These plants employ about 200 workers who are members of the Union. At the time of going to press there were no indications that a settlement had been reached. The controversy is over Union recognition, wages and working conditions.

Men of his ability and understanding are few. His loss can best be compensated for, by the party, by the enunciation of a clear-cut and easily understandable program of working class reforms.

The Farmer-Labor party must now demonstrate to its friends and supporters that it is an instrument which can give them protection against the bitter exploitation of capitalism.

The real tasks of the party lie ahead.

Floyd Olson's death should spur it on to greater achievements.

**Local 544 Meeting Schedule**

- Thursday, Aug. 6—Independent Truck Owners.
- Friday, Aug. 7—544 Job Stewards; Federal Workers.
- Monday, Aug. 10—General Membership.
- Wednesday, Aug. 12—Market Workers.
- Thursday, Aug. 20—Independent Truck Owners.
- Friday, Aug. 21—544 Job Stewards; Federal Workers.
- Monday, Aug. 24—General Membership.
- Tuesday, Aug. 25—Taxi Drivers, 1 p. m.; day drivers, 7 p. m.

**NOTE: Federal Workers Job Stewards meet each Wednesday.**

**THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER**

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"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."

**Olson and the Party**

The death of Governor Floyd B. Olson presents a problem to the Minnesota Farmer-Labor party which will not find an easy solution. It is a fact, recognized by all observers of political movements, that Floyd Bjornstad Olson was an astute and able politician. It was his hand that guided the Farmer-Labor Association through many troubled moments. It is well-known that Olson, despite the fact that he was surrounded with political counselors from the party, generally had the final say in regard to policies and programs and it was he who settled many internal strifes which threatened to disrupt the workings of the Minnesota Third Party movement. His death will leave a gap in party ranks which will not be readily filled.

He was a dynamic, magnetic individual who had the faculty of compelling respect and winning support for causes which he sponsored. Time after time, during the past few years it was Floyd Olson who quickly sensed the change in mass psychology and oriented the course of the Farmer-Labor Party in such a manner that it could take advantage of the new manner of thinking of farmers and workers. No Farmer-Labor convention of late years, but submitted to the guiding hand of Minnesota's most brilliant politician. No election platform of the party was written that did not embody the ideas and the beliefs of Minnesota's lately deceased Governor.

As near as such a thing can be possible Floyd B. Olson was the Farmer-Labor Party. If the party is to go on to new achievements and new victories, strife and internal dissension within its ranks must be kept at a minimum. An unprincipled struggle for the crown of the dead leader, in the party ranks, will be a sure and certain guarantee that the reaction will triumph in Minnesota.

The loss suffered by Floyd Olson's death should be made up for by a party platform designed to offer real aid to the exploited worker and farmer.

**"Worker Owners"**

Probably the most pernicious rubbish put forth so far by any of the 1936 candidates for major political office is the effort on the part of Colonel Frank Knox to revive the employee stock purchase racket. In an address at Huntingdon, West Virginia, Knox trotted out this disused and discredited device of company unionism as a means of "sharing wealth."

Quite apart from all the other implications of the stock selling fraud Colonel Knox as a successful businessman should know that the corporation profits are almost invariably earned by insiders only while the average stockholder merely holds the bag.

Employee stock purchase was touted to the limit before 1929 as one of the many "welfare" (Hellfare in workers' language) schemes by which the big companies kidded employees into believing the capitalist millenium was just around the corner. In too many instances workers were FORCED to buy stock on the installment plan through deductions from wages. For the most part such "purchases" were simply wage cuts in disguise. And there are darn few cases on record where stocks which were wished on employees retained the nominal value for which they were purchased. Money put in shares usually went down the sewer while some of the money put into savings bank was actually saved for the many rainy days that have characterized our economic climate during the depression years.

Stock "purchases," were of course, deliberately pushed as a means of keeping workers "satisfied"—the boys were actually kidded into believing that some day they would buy out the boss. The steel companies worked that gag good and hard. In some cases in recent years financially shaky employers were forced to issue shares to employees in lieu of wages and workers had to put up with these exactions or be out of work altogether.

By and large the stock or share selling schemes were among the meanest and the most wretched of the many dirty deals worked upon the millions of suckers who constituted the army of wage earners in these United States. Every worker in the United States who bought, or had forced on him, a block of worthless stock should send these pieces of paper to the worthy Colonel with the demand that the would-be Vice-President tell him what to do to realize in 1936 dollars the face value of these corporatoin shares.

**Mooney Case Near End of Hearings**

San Francisco—New proof of the innocence of Tom Mooney was seen as habeas corpus hearings in

San Francisco drew near their close when a Frisco cop gave evidence damaging to the testimony of Estelle Smith in the 1916 trials. The Smith woman had been a kingpin in the state's case against Mooney and Warren K. Billings.

**Northern States in Fight With Union**

Local 160, Northern States Power Employees Union, who are endeavoring to set up an arbitration board to deal with existing controversies at that company, are experiencing difficulty in the selection of a fifth man on the arbitro who will act as a neutral chairman. All names submitted by the Union were rejected by the employers. The employers' list suffered a similar fate at the hands of the Union. At present the matter is deadlocked.

**Mayflower Transit Hits New Snag**

The Mayflower Transit Co., which ran into trouble with General Drivers Union a few weeks ago, experienced more trouble with Local 544 last week. They again attempted to send a loaded unit into the Boyd dock with a non-union driver.

Union organizers were on the job, however, and the Mayflower driver was prevented from making the delivery. The load was finally sent to its destination driven by a member of Local 544.

**Keeping Step With 544**

By Mickey Dunne

The Minneapolis Show Case Company recently signed a union agreement with Local 1865, Cabinet Makers Union. All of the men scored to the extent of 65c per hour.

Curt Zander was married to his boyhood sweetheart Saturday noon in Mason City, Iowa. But that is not the story. When they returned to Minneapolis Sunday evening, the bride went to her parents' home at 2534 Fillmore St., where she spent the night, while Curt did his sleeping at the old family homestead, 2515 Fillmore. Veery strange.

Turk McShane, 221 veteran, is no longer with the Cedar Lake.

Boys from the Midway district are wondering what has become of the campaign in that neck of the woods.

The rolls of General Drivers Union have been swelled by 650 additions during the first 15 days of August. Applications and many reinstatements.

One of the wholesale grocery houses tried to haul some stuff out of their plant in a hearse last Friday. The pickets saw the cartons through the windows on the side. The "funeral" was stopped. Smith said that it was a "dead" give-away.

Skogland and Smith are the grocery generals.

Dobbs de-doored his new car last week.

Out of respect to the memory of Governor Olson, the Central Labor Union picnic has been postponed from the 30th of August until Sept. 13th.

No Central Labor Union meeting this week.

Nice new addition to the office force.

The Tent and Awning drivers are joining the Union.

**Battery Workers Form a Union**

Another industry in Minneapolis has been added to the list of factories whose workers have joined the ranks of organized labor. Workers at the Grant Battery Co. and its subsidiary, Jordan Electric, have formed a Union, elected officers and have drawn up a Union agreement which they propose to present to the company. While the Union is not now affiliated with the American Federation of Labor it will be turned over to Roy Wier, organizer for the Minneapolis Central Labor Union, sometime this week. It is expected that they will be granted a Federal charter. John Janasco, president of 1859, was instrumental in forming the Union.

The new A. F. of L. union buttons, for September, are green and white. Nice.

The grocery strikers cook some nice smelling meals in the commissary each day.

The Welfare Board made a temporary right-about-face on the "pauper's oath" at the last meeting.

The City and Sanitary Drivers are in a scuffle with the City Council over the purchase of new equipment. They say that it means layoffs.

Swede Westlund will be a father in a few weeks. The Harstad drivers are all in the union.

Dick Atherton, banjoist, was a striker last week.

Pat Corcoran reports that non-union milk drivers are as scarce as snowballs in h—l.

Pete Harris is leading the striking grocery drivers like a veteran.

CARD OF THANKS  
To acknowledge and thank you for your flowers and kind expression of sympathy.

Mrs. Otto Palmlof.  
More telephones are being installed in the union office.

A drivers local is being set up in St. Cloud. Corcoran and Brown held a meeting there last week.

The picnic committee held a final meeting Monday night before the membership session.

1,290 new names on the Organizer list this week. The Milk Drivers Union.

HARD TO BELIEVE DEPT.  
A union truck owner was found who was paying his driver \$2.50 per day.

The stenos won't even give a guy a few minutes overtime any more. Very tuff.

The Citizens Alliance is giving the wholesale grocers "moral support."

Who said the one man gang wasn't original?

**Local 160 Meeting Schedule**

Tuesday, August 18—Stewards and Executive Board Meeting  
 Wednesday, August 19—General Membership  
 Tuesday, August 25—Executive Board Meeting  
 Tuesday, September 1—Stewards and Executive Board Meeting  
 Wednesday, September 2—General Membership

\*Note the changes of Executive Board meetings and the new setup for stewards meetings.

**Chiseler!**

Reports continue to come into the Union office that at least one of the sand and gravel firms, recently a party to a Union agreement, is consistently violating that contract. Drastic action is contemplated unless violations cease.

**LABOR... Looks at the Press**

From the New York Times: Marshal Pietro Badoglio, Italian conqueror of Ethiopia, revealed himself in an interview tonight as a convinced lover of peace.

Convinced, but not convincing. They are all, all for peace—the fascists, the bankers, the industrialists, the generals.

Berlin: The hunting of all animals with hare and hounds has been forbidden as unfair by General Goring.

Animals, yes. But not radicals and Jews. That's still fair.

Seattle: Publication of Hearst's Post-Intelligencer, daily paper, has been suspended for over a week now due to a strike called by the American Newspaper Guild, supported by the Seattle Central Labor Union.

Why, that's just outrageous that that nice man can't get out his paper. My, I don't know WHAT the world's coming to these days.

George Lansbury, life-time pacifist, saw America as the one to call a new peace parley because America has relatively clean hands on the score of Imperialism.

Why don't someone tell that guy

Ad of the Household Finance Corp. of Chicago: Ever stop to think what YOU would do with a total income of \$22 a week? Those thrifty millions who do it week after week are pretty good managers. Visit their homes for a close-up. You'll see children well-fed—sent to school neatly, warmly dressed. You'll see plain but comfortable homes.

No, mister, we ain't THAT thrifty.

Premier Metaxas, fascist dictator of Greece: The whole Greek people must be disciplined, but former popular liberties may be reinstaed sometime later when there is no longer danger from subversive elements.

Ah, gwan. I bet you dictators tell that to all the people.

Sir Oliver Lodge, British scientist: The world is sick and tired of scientific achievement. Too many of our endeavors have been so grossly abused. I never dreamed that an electrical discovery of mine—the radio—would ever be used to send airplanes to bomb innocent children. Yet that has happened.

Famous lines in history: Employers said that in none of their plants have they been confronted with any requests from workers for wage adjustments or union recognition.

From France: It is the Trotskyites alone who are pushing for a proletarian revolutionary policy.

From Spain: Taking the lead in the formation of workers' council in Catalonia have been the Trotskyites and their followers.

From Norway: Norwegian Fascists tonight raided the home of Leon Trotsky, accusing him of fomenting revolution among the European working class.

And, from Moscow: Leon Trotsky was today charged by the Soviet government with conspiring with German fascists to murder Stalin.

Oh, yeah!