

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

Official Organ of the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council

MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE:
257 PLYMOUTH AVENUE NORTH

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

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

VOL. 2, NO. 34

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, THURSDAY, DEC. 10, 1936

PRICE 5 CENTS

DEPARTMENT STORES SIGN WITH DRIVERS, LOCAL 544

LOCAL 131 IS AT AGREEMENT WITH OWNERS

Laundry, Cleaning Drivers Win Wage Boosts and Get Seniority

Contract Provides a New Setup Among All Drivers

The agreement recently signed between Local 131, Laundry and Dry Cleaning Drivers Union and laundry and dry cleaning employers contains wages and working provisions never enjoyed by workers in this industry before.

Attention is called to provisions in the contract covering minimum rates of pay for all drivers in the laundry and cleaning industry. The victory secured by Local 131 by the signing of this agreement brings about such a sweeping change in wages and working conditions in this industry that the laundry and cleaning contract is here printed in full.

THE AGREEMENT

This agreement made and entered into by and between Laundry and Dry Cleaning Drivers' Union, Local 131, second party, sometimes hereinafter referred to as the "union," and Employers Compliance Committee, first party, on behalf of such employers engaged in the dry cleaning, laundry and linen supply business in the city of Minneapolis, Minnesota, as are represented by them, evidenced by a list thereof marked exhibit "A" and attached hereto.

(Continued on page 2)

IMPORTANT NOTICE

At the last regular meeting of the Independent Truck Owners held Thursday, December 3, an assessment of \$1 per head was voted on all members of the Independent Truck Owners section.

Union stewards are instructed to collect the assessment along with the December dues. Every member of this section is obligated to pay the \$1 assessment.

Funds so raised will be used to defray the cost of sending a committee to Washington, D. C., to confer with public officials in regard to continuing WPA and PWA projects.

Daytons, Powers, Leader Young-Quinlan, Thomas, Donaldsons in Contract

Wednesday, Dec. 9, Minneapolis department store employers signed an agreement with General Drivers Union No. 544 covering wages and working conditions of all drivers, helpers, and platform men employed in these establishments. The agreement comes after almost a month of negotiating with department store owners and their representatives. Contracts signed Wednesday provide almost the identical wages and working conditions demanded by the union in the original agreement submitted to department store bosses.

The new contract will cover approximately 250 workers employed in the various downtown stores. It provided a minimum wage at 50 cents per hour with the scale ranging as high as 65 cents per hour for some classifications. The contract establishes seniority in all stores and provides a 48 hour week with time and one-half for overtime.

The signing of this agreement marks the first time that workers in this industry have ever been unionized and covered by an agreement. The conclusion of the negotiations between union officials and department store representatives means another splendid victory to General Drivers Union.

It was evident from the beginning of the negotiations that the Citizens Alliance and other labor hating employer's organizations were prepared to have their say in the final settlement of the controversy.

The signing of this contract, however, definitely indicates that the power of the Citizens Alliance is broken in Minneapolis.

Stores that are a party to the agreement are: Donaldson's, Powers, Dayton's, The Leader, Young-Quinlan Co. and John W. Thomas Co.

Relief Department Issues New Schedule of Relief Allowance

Single Men to Get More for Meals and Lodging

Department of Public Welfare
Division of Relief
607 Third Ave. S.
Minneapolis, Minn.

BULLETIN NO. 127
December 1, 1936

To the Staff:

The following schedule of allowances will be effective December 2, 1936:

Groceries — Food Schedule

	2 Wks.	4 Wks.
1—1 Adult	\$5.30	\$10.60
2—2 Adults	8.50	17.00
3—3 Adults and 1 Child	11.20	22.40
4—2 Adults and 2 Children	14.25	28.50
5—2 Adults and 3 Children	20.35	40.70
7—2 Adults and 5 Children	22.90	45.80
8—2 Adults and 6 Children	26.55	53.10
9—2 Adults and 7 Children	30.85	61.70
10—2 Adults and 8 Children	34.30	68.60
11—2 Adults and 9 Children	35.90	71.80
12—2 Adults and 10 Childr.	39.95	79.90
13—2 Adults and 11 Childr.	43.45	86.90

MILK

Milk allowances will automatically increase, being figured on the basis of 10 per cent of the above allowances.

LODGING ALLOWANCES—SINGLE MEN

Lodging allowances for single men have been increased from \$1.05 per week to \$1.40 per week, or 20c a day.

MEAL TICKETS—SINGLE MEN

Meal ticket allowances for single men have been increased as follows:

Breakfast increased from 10c to 15c.

Dinner increased from 15c to 20c.

These increases in allowances are all in accordance with action of the Board of Public Welfare, in special session on December 1, 1936.

Respectfully,
O. A. PEARSON, Supt.

Seniority Settled At the Werner Co.

Seniority grievances at the Werner Transportation Co., which have been accumulating for some time, were adjusted Monday in a meeting between union representatives and officials of the Werner Co.

Bakery Drivers Charter Arrives

As we go to press news arrives that the long awaited charter for bakery drivers is here and in the hands of officials of the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council. This splendid news means that the organization of Minneapolis bakery drivers will no longer be delayed. During the past few months hundreds of bread, pie and cake drivers have inquired about a union for their craft. The official name for the new local will be Bakery, Cracker, Pie and Yeast Drivers Union, Local 289.

Coal Workers Are Set to Get Back Pay from Bosses

Committee Notified to Make Adjustments at Once

The Monday meeting of the Coal Workers section was not well attended owing to the fact that extreme cold weather extended through Monday which necessitated many drivers working long after meeting time.

Discussion during the session developed the fact that the principal grievance of coal workers, who recently came under a new agreement, was owing to the fact that back pay, due under the contract, has not been received by the men.

The Coal Employers Compliance Committee was contacted Tuesday morning by union officials, who insisted that prompt settlement of all back pay claims be made by the various companies. It is expected that this particular grievance will be adjusted before the holidays.

Casket Workers to Continue the Fight

Minneapolis casket companies continue to be shut down by the strike called by Local 1859, Wood Workers Union, over three weeks ago.

Workers in local casket plants who are all members of Wood Workers Union have been working under slave conditions and for very low wages for the past few years are determined to improve their condition before returning to work.

Several meetings have been held between union officials and casket employers. No agreement has been reached as yet.

WOOD WORKERS UNION SIGN WITH EXCELSIOR FIRM

Agreement Calls for New Wage Scale, Working Conditions

All Workers Make Gains as Local 1859 Gets Contract

Local 1859, Wood Workers Union, scored a very real and important victory last week when they compelled the American Excelsior company to sign a union agreement covering wages and working conditions of all workers employed by that firm. Seniority was established and a 44 hour week was put into effect.

Rates of pay range from 50 cents for unskilled workers to 60 cents for the skilled. The overtime rate is set at time and one half for all time worker in excess of eight hours in one day or 44 hours in one week. Double time will be paid for Sundays and holidays.

This agreement marks the first time that the American Excelsior company has entered into a union contract with any workers organization. The agreement, which is printed below, is almost a model for union contracts.

WORKING AGREEMENT

The American Excelsior Co., and the Furniture Workers' Local Union No. 1859 agrees to be bound by the following terms and provisions covering wages and conditions in the above named plant.

ARTICLE I

The employer agrees not to enter into any contract or agreement with his employees individually or collectively which in any way conflicts with the terms and provisions of this agreement.

ARTICLE II

There shall be one seniority list for all of the employees in the above named plant. The oldest employee from the standpoint of service shall have first preference on the job. In reducing the personnel because of lack of work or other legitimate cause, the last man employed shall be the first man laid off. In returning men to work when the personnel is increased, the last man laid off shall be the first man returned to the job. The seniority list drawn and accepted by the union shall be the only official seniority list. This provides the oldest man from the standpoint of service shall be allowed to work forty-four hours

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Make Minneapolis a Union Town

WOOD WORKERS UNION SIGN WITH EXCELSIOR FIRM

(Continued from page 1)

each week before other workers are employed. Where this agreement shall affect the operation of the above plant, the management of the above plant and the Union Committee shall meet at an appointed date to straighten out the difficulties.

ARTICLE III

The regular work week shall be from Monday morning through Saturday noon. Each week to consist of 5 1/2 days of eight (8) hours each day from 8 a. m. to 12 a. m. and from 1 p. m. to 5 p. m. each day excepting Saturday which shall be from 8 a. m. to 12 noon. Time and one-half shall be paid on work done in excess of eight (8) hours in any one day or four (4) hours on Saturday and or forty-four (44) hours in any one week. If time is lost during the week, it can be made up by operating full eight (8) hours on Saturday if the men desire it. It is agreed and understood by the employers and the Furniture Workers' Local Union No. 1859 that eight (8) hours constitutes a day's work and the maximum week will be forty-four (44) hours and in case of overtime, time and one-half will be paid. If this overtime occurs on Sundays or holidays, double time will be paid.

ARTICLE IV

It is agreed and understood that the minimum rate of pay shall be fifty cents (50) per hour for all unskilled and unclassified workers.

The following rates of pay shall prevail for the following classifications:

- Machine Feeders, \$.55 per hour.
- Oil Man, \$.60 per hour.
- Grinder, \$.60 per hour.

The above are the rates of pay for the various classifications of work and any employee who is receiving more than the above scales shall not have his pay reduced.

ARTICLE V

In the matter of arbitration, an arbitration committee, consisting of five (5), will be set up. Two (2) to be selected by the employers and two (2) to be selected by the union. The fifth person to be selected by the first four. The fifth person to be selected by the first four. The fifth person will act as a neutral chairman. The decision of this committee will be final and binding on both sides. All matters pertaining to wages, interpretation of the agreement and other matters that cannot be determined by the management and Shop Committee are subject to arbitration if either party asks for arbitration within twenty-four (24) hours after the failure to agree. During that time neither the management will lock out the workers, nor will the workers leave their work.

This agreement shall be in full force and effect for a period of one year from

to and including FURNITURE WORKERS' LOCAL UNION NO. 1859

By Business Agent

THE AMERICAN EXCELSIOR CORPORATION

LOCAL 160 MEETING SCHEDULE

- Dec. 1—Stewards Board.
- Dec. 2—Membership Meeting.
- Dec. 8—Executive Board.
- Dec. 15—Stewards.
- Dec. 15—Executive Board.
- Dec. 16—Membership Meeting.
- Dec. 22—Executive Board.
- Dec. 29—Executive Board.

Independent Truck Chatter

Millennium or its Equivalent

Wonder of wonders the last ITO meeting was adjourned at exactly 27 1/2 minutes past 9 p. m. This might be open to doubt but the new electric clock in the office can't be wrong. So swing up to the next meeting you sinners, long drawn out meetings are a thing of the past. Remember the next meeting is on Thursday, December 17.

Plagiarism

A Twin City radio station has a program called "Out of the Mouths of Babes." They have evidently taken part of the theme song that the Citizens Alliance used before Local 574 came along. This was "Out of the Mouths of Babes of the Workers, and into the Pockets of the Coupon Clippers."

The work at the Fort Snelling project is divided on a basis of Hennepin County 65 2-3 and Ramsey County 33 1-3 per cent, but it has been noticed that the proper ratio is not being kept. Union men from Hennepin County have been laid off and some boys from St. Paul that have never read the Organizer are employed in their place. Steps must and will be taken to maintain a correct ratio of men and trucks from the two districts. This project is in District 5 and is supposed to be under the supervision of this district.

There has been some misunderstanding about the assessment that was voted several meetings ago. Every member of the ITO section can pay the \$1 assessment to an authorized ITO steward. Always ask for identification before paying any steward you are not acquainted with. This money will be used to send representation from the ITO section to Washington, D. C., for the purpose of getting direct contact with Federal officials on matters that are vitally important to every Independent Owner. Every trucker that expects to make a living with his truck will pay this money at once, as immediate action is necessary. The deadline for the collection is December 23, as the committee must be in Washington by the first of the year.

Hearts and Flowers

We all know that there is a building shortage in the city but it is getting downright serious when a feller has to postpone his wedding because he can't find a house to bring the bride to. Ask Malmberg he knows all about the "sitchyashun."

Sixth Avenue north will get a much needed face lifting in the spring if the Highway Department goes through with the plan of making it a broad trunk highway from Glenwood Park to Seventh street. It would be from 50 to 80 feet wider than it is now. That's plenty of feet in any street, and ought to mean a lot of work.

Worry Department

If the truck quota on WPA is going to be cut, as rumor has it, Barney Johnson had better be sure his books are in good shape. He should know who is and who is not on the eligible list, but if he does not, the ITO Section keeps a very close record of those things, as he knows by past experience. They say that a path is beaten to the door of the man who makes bad mistakes, so watch it, Barney.

Call any officer of the ITO Section to learn where to get discounts on frost shields for your truck.

Bill Brown Says—

Local 131, Laundry Drivers Union, has recently demonstrated to all unorganized truck drivers the value of a union in their industry, headed by an aggressive leadership and with a real program. Laundry Drivers Union recently signed a union contract with practically every laundry and dry cleaning plant in Minneapolis. This agreement brought wages and working conditions, to the drivers, never known before in this industry. As proof that a union that goes out and fights in the interests of its members can grow and expand, Local 131 will soon have every Minneapolis laundry and cleaning driver a union man.



BILL BROWN President of 544

J. R. Clark Workers Still Are Striking Against This Company

Efforts of Employer to Break Union Are Defeated

Workers at the J. R. Clark Co., North Minneapolis wood specialty firm, who went on strike last week in protest of violations of their seniority agreement with the company, still have the plant closed.

It is evident that J. R. Clark Co. is determined to strike a real blow at the union at this time. Members of No. 1859 have set up a commissary at General Drivers headquarters, 257 Plymouth Ave. N., and are holding daily strike meetings at 4 p. m.

Union officials insist that the violation of seniority by the Clark Co. is only the beginning of a campaign to prevent the union from securing a renewal of their agreement with the company which expires January 1.

Union representatives emphatically state that there will be no settlement of the existing strike until the Clark Co. agrees to be bound by the terms of the present agreement.

New High Scores For the Bowlers

BOWLING SCORES AND NEWS					
Con. No. 1	783	812	770	2,365	
Meats	868	940	1,023	2,831	
F. W. S.	784	858	923	2,565	
544	914	929	869	2,712	
Con. No. 2	897	957	881	2,735	
Nat.	743	857	956	2,556	
Ind.	803	1,015	715	2,533	
T. J. C.	752	845	804	2,401	

Comments

The Meats beat Con. No. 1 three games as they set a new high score 1,023. Mike Max rolled 530 as 544 Office took two games from F. W. S.

Con. No. 2 beat National Tea two games for the first losses suffered by the Tea team. The Independents won the odd game from the T. J. C. led by L. Harvey's 212.

Highlights

Skogland cheered the T. J. C. team but in vain. J. Stoner did not foul for a change. Vincent bowls much better with the ball and chain watching. A nice gallery Friday night. That beer quenches the thirst, but doesn't make the scores any better. Mickey, bandages and all, finally showed up. Jim Johnson handles the bowling news in nice shape.

Tr. Dr. and Dogs Keep Out

Incidentally the snapshots of those injudicious signs that were placed near the office on Lilac lane turned out very well.

Trouble Men at N. S. P. to Meet

There will be a special meeting for all trouble men employed at the Northern States Power Saturday, December 12, starting at 10 p. m. The meeting will be at the home of George Phillips, 2745 Lincoln St. N. E.

All men employed in the trouble department, who are members of Local 160, are requested to be on hand promptly at the time set.

LOCAL 131 IS AT AGREEMENT WITH OWNERS

(Continued from page 1) EXHIBIT "A"

- Adolph Anderson
- Advance-Tower Laundry Company
- American Linen Company
- Anchor Laundry Company
- B and B Lauundry
- Best Laundry
- Calhoun Laundry and Cleaning Company
- Casey French Dry Cleaners
- Columbia Laundry
- Congdon Cleaners and Dyers, Inc.
- Crescent Laundry
- Custom Laundry Company
- Despatch Laundry, Inc.
- Dinsmore Cleaners and Dyers, Inc.
- DuBois Cleaners and Dyers
- Eagle Cleaners and Dyers, Inc.
- Falconers Laundry
- Family Laundry Service Company
- Garbers, Inc.
- Garber Laundry, Inc.
- Globe Laundry Company
- G. and K. Corporation (Gross Brothers—Kronicks)
- Hennepin Cleaning and Dying Company
- Ideal Laundry, Inc.
- J. and H. Laundry
- Lawrence's Launderers and Cleaners
- Liberty Cleaning and Dying Co.
- Meyers Cleaners and Dyers, Inc.
- Minnesota Cleaning and Dying Company
- Minneapolis Laundry Company
- Model Laundry and Dry Cleaning Co.
- Modern Cleaners and Dyers, Inc.
- Modernistic Cleaners
- Morey Laundry
- Nevens Company
- Nicollet Cleaners and Dyers
- Pilgrim Dry Cleaners
- Royal Launderers and Cleaners
- Troy Launderers and Cleaners, Inc.
- Universal Cleaning and Dying Company
- Vogue Cleaners and Dyers, Inc.
- Waldron, Inc.
- Weitzels North Star Dye House
- Zephyr Cleaners

WHEREAS, it is mutually desired between the parties hereto to bring about and effectuate a spirit of fair dealing and co-operation between employers and employees, it is covenanted and agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I

That whenever the word "UNION" is used herein it shall mean the Laundry and Dry Cleaning Drivers' UNION LOCAL 131 and all of its members individually and collectively bound hereunder, as are now or may be hereafter in the employ of said employers.

ARTICLE II

That upon the execution of this agreement by the parties hereto, this contract shall be binding upon the respective parties during the

term of this agreement, and no working agreement with any other organization or individual previously or subsequently entered into shall be recognized by either party hereto.

ARTICLE III

Employers agree that there shall be no discrimination against any employee because of membership or affiliation with the Union, and further agrees that the Union shall represent and be the bargaining agency for its members.

ARTICLE IV

All differences having to do with the interpretation of and/or adherence to the terms of this agreement which cannot be settled directly by the parties concerned or by the Compliance Committee and two (2) representatives of the Union within five (5) days after submitting same, shall be referred at once to a permanent Board of Arbitration; said Arbitration Board shall consist of seven (7) members, three (3) members and/or alternates to be selected by the Union, three (3) members and/or alternates to be selected by the employers and these six (6) members shall select a seventh permanent impartial chairman. The decision of the majority of the Board of Arbitration shall be final and binding upon all parties concerned.

The Board of Arbitration shall take up and give final decision on all grievances submitted to it within ten (10) days from the time such grievance is submitted. It is mutually agreed that no cessation of work shall occur during the process of adjustment of grievances.

ARTICLE V

Any claim of alleged violation of wage and hours of labor provisions of this agreement to receive consideration, must be filed in writing specifying the details of the alleged violation with the chairman or a member of the Compliance Committee within thirty (30) days after the regular payday for the period in which the alleged violation occurred.

ARTICLE VI

The parties agree that routemen shall not be required to report for work before 7:30 a. m. or permitted to report before 7 a. m. and shall not be required to remain after 5 p. m. except on Monday, they may be required to report at 7 a. m. and permitted to report at 6 a. m. Also they may be permitted to remain as long as necessary in the routeman's own estimation, provided that no driver shall be required to work in excess of fifty-four (54) hours in the week or permitted in excess of sixty (60) hours, i. e., if twelve (12) or more hours are necessary on Monday, the driver may level off or balance the weekly maximum of hours during the remainder of the week. Any driver putting in less hours now shall not be Cont. next week.

MEETINGS FEDERAL WORKERS SECTION
 FWS Stewards, each Wednesday, 8 p. m.
 FWS membership meetings, first and third Friday of each month, 8 p. m.
 FWS Leadership class No. 1, each Tuesday, 7:30 p. m.
 Direct relief grievance hours, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 to 12 a. m.
 Federal Workers Stewards Meetings—Each Wednesday at 8 p. m.

Local 1859 Meeting Schedule
 Nov. 14—Executive Board Committee Men
 Nov. 17—Box Industry
 Nov. 18—J. R. Clark
 Nov. 20—Puffer-Hubbard
 Nov. 21—Executive Board
 Nov. 28—Executive Board and Committee Men
 Dec. 2—General Membership Meeting

3.2 Beer Places Being Unionized, Wages Adjusted

The following is a list of 3.2 beer places where the union house card of the Hotel Restaurant Employees Union Local 346 has been placed.

We have members wearing our buttons in many other places but owing to the failure of the proprietor to adjust wages covered by our house card we have denied them, so far, the use of our card. We ask all members and friends to demand the Union house card whenever patronizing such places.

George Guider's, 3110 Lyndale Ave. N.

Blue Ribbon Cafe, 826 Hennepin Ave.

Mabel's Cafe, 416 6th Ave. S. Hefter's Recreation, 2951 Lyndale Ave. S.

Spud's Nite Club, 613 Hennepin Ave.

Ace Cafe, 334 E. Lake St. Phil's Tavern, 208 E. Lake St.

Rice's Tavern, 411 6th Ave. S. Eagles Club, 8th St. at 4th Ave. South.

Round-Up, 513 E. Lake St. Lyle's Cafe, 37 W. Lake St.

Pouliot's Cafe, 401 Plymouth Ave.

Motor Grill, 1215 E. Lake St. Port Cafe, 2923 Nicollet Ave.

Marigold Blue Mirror Lounge, Nicollet Ave. at Grant St.

Silver Front, 404 W. Broadway. Red Feather Cafe, 2209 West Broadway.

Cozy Cafe, 837 Glenwood Ave. Powderhorn Cafe, 2510 Chicago Ave.

Howie's Cafe, 2119 W. Broadway.

House card removed from the J & M Cafe, formerly Reo's Cafe, 348 E. Lake St.

Geltman Speaks On Security Act

Max Geltman, well known figure in local labor and unemployed circles, will speak on the Social Security Act Friday December 11 at 8 p. m. This meeting is sponsored by the local branch of the Socialist party. It is important that all workers understand the full import of this bit of New Deal legislation. Geltman has made a study of the act and will be able to analyze it fully. Admission is 10 cents.

All the boys are glad to have him back again.

Things have been going along fine on the belt line since Ed Ryan returned to the timekeeper job.

Thanks

Your kind expressions of sympathy are gratefully acknowledged and deeply appreciated.

MRS. GEO. J. GATES AND FAMILY

Meeting Schedule Local 544

Thursday, Dec. 3—Independent Truck Owners.

Friday, Dec. 4—Coal Stewards. Monday, Dec. 7—Coal Workers; Package Delivery.

Wednesday, Dec. 9—Market Friday, Dec. 11—All stewards.

Monday, Dec. 14—General membership.

Thursday, Dec. 17—Independent Truck Owners.

Friday, Dec. 18—Coal Stewards.

Monday, Dec. 21—Coal Workers.

Tuesday, Dec. 22—Taxi Drivers; night drivers 1 p. m., day drivers 7 p. m.

Monday, Dec. 28—General Membership.

GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE—Meets each Tuesday at 8 p. m.

EXECUTIVE BOARD—Meets each Wednesday at 9 a. m.

Local 160, Northern States Union Report Meetings Held on Contract

Open Mass Meeting Will Be Held by Union Very Soon

Local 160, Northern States Power employees union, is continuing negotiations with employers of the power company for the purpose of establishing a union agreement between the company and the local union. Union officials report that meetings, which have been held during the past few weeks, indicate that the company is prepared to grant many concessions to the Northern States Power workers.

Besides negotiating with the company over an agreement, union representatives say that many grievances have been settled during the past few weeks in several departments. A good settlement of seniority trouble in the meter department was secured by the union last week.

Local 160 announced that early in January a mass meeting will be held for all employees at the Northern States Power Co., both union and non-union. This meeting will be held for the purpose of explaining, particularly to non-union workers, the value of belonging to the Northern States Power union. More detailed announcement of this meeting will appear in *The Northwest Organizer* soon.

With the Laundry Workers Union

Election of officers of Local 183 will take place in the near future, notices will be sent out in advance to all members. From all indications election time this year will be plenty hot.

Somebody started something in St. Paul judging from those handbills that are floating around the St. Paul laundries. These dodgers are advertising a meeting to be held under the auspices of the "Progressive Members of Local 150 to build a strong and powerful union."

Any action that will help build a strong and powerful union is a laudable movement. May we compliment you and wish you a complete success.

At a recent action of the union it was decided to give every 100 per cent union plant a union shop card. Considering the favorable sentiment toward unionism in Minneapolis, these cards should be business getters for our union shops.

Perhaps the following notice is a bit premature but in order that the affair may have all the publicity possible we wish to announce that on January 16 Local 183 will sponsor a benefit Gala Dance and Raffle to be held at the East Side Eagles hall, 117 Fourth St. S. E. Tickets will be sold by the members and will be available at the next meeting.

At the last meeting Elizabeth Lash, shop steward at the Custom laundry, was given a token of appreciation by the union. Both Elizabeth and her husband have done valuable work for the union.

The Plymouth laundry which closed its doors after the union presented its demands has reopened under new management. The union will call on this concern soon with a closed shop agreement TO BE SIGNED.

Drivers Local 131 is negotiating with the Wholesale Cleaners Association for an agreement.

On WPA Projects

The State Unemployed Convention in St. Paul this Saturday and Sunday will be attended by a large delegation from the FWS. It is hoped that this convention will unite the forces of the unemployed for their increasing needs. However, the convention of a year ago now calls for a word of warning. The FWS has always stood for unity but it must be real unity on a real program that will benefit the workers. Any attempt to repeat last year's tomfoolery and unprincipled manipulations will find the FWS ready as ever to protect the workers' interests. We hope for the best but are ready for emergencies.

The October 1936 Relief Case Load in Minnesota reached a new all-time high of cases on Direct Relief, WPA relief and Old Age Assistance. You guessed it, prosperity isn't coming, except for the coupon snippers who are demanding that relief be stopped. The full force of the Government would be used instantly if there were any real threat to stop their profits. Yet the unemployed are threatened but the cutting-off process is well under way.

Project Headlines

Foremen kick out warming fires when workers aren't looking. Hot coffee at all hours, for foremen, but none for the workers. Still some finks hoping to eat pie in the sky without joining the Union.

Members who think they can do a better job than the stewards and officers should attend meetings and offer their services.

FWS members must handle their WPA complaints only through the organization. Individual action brings no results except to weaken the Union.

Robbinsdale Sewing Project is to be on a four day week because the workers there want it regardless of any contrary petition they may have signed under threats and lies of the supervisor.

FWS officials aided a large Columbia Heights delegation at Anoka last Saturday in putting the Anoka County Commissioners on the spot with a series of 15 demands, among which were the following: Discharge of Relief Superintendent Green and Relief Investigator De Voy; supplemental relief as per FWS demands; and 48 hour action on all applications for relief. Despite the Board's efforts at evasion, the delegation succeeded in getting the promise of complete answers to be given at a special Relief Meeting of the Board to be held this Saturday at 10 a. m. in Anoka. Heights workers are planning a finish fight for their demands.

Minneapolis WPA workers at Fort Snelling are back under John Wing—and thereby hangs a tale. You must come up some time to hear it.

FWS requested Christgau to deliver December 25 pay checks before Christmas, and January 1 pay checks before New Years Day.

Grievances come and grievances go but they keep Ed and Roy going forever.

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL JOB STEWARDS

A change in the manner of compiling steward reports has been recommended by the Executive Board of Local 544 and the matter will be discussed and explained at the next stewards' meeting which will be held Friday, December 11.

It is highly important that all General Drivers job stewards be at this meeting in order that they may get full information on the subject. Meeting will start promptly at 8 p. m.

Stenos' Union Signs Contract With Lee Overall for Office

Last week the Stenographers, Bookkeepers, Typists and Assistants Union, Local No. 17661, secured a written union agreement with the Lee Overall Co. The contract came about after a month of negotiations with officials of the company.

The agreement provides a minimum wage scale for office workers of \$20 per week. Higher rates of pay are provided for different classifications. The Lee Overall Co. can now be truly called a 100 per cent union concern.

Representatives of Local 17661 report that they are carrying on negotiations with all union milk companies looking toward establishing union agreements, covering office workers, in these firms.

Defense League to Hold Party Dec. 13

The Twin Cities chapter of the Workers Defense league will hold a party at the home of Dr. and Mrs. A. R. Colvin, 1175 Davern Ave., St. Paul, on Sunday night, December 13, at 8 p. m. Aside from the entertainment and the supper, the following people will speak at the affair: Elmer Benson, governor-elect of Minnesota; Florence Burton, chief of the Women's and Children's Division of the State Industrial Commission; Joseph Voorhees and Sandy McCourt of Austin. The affair is being held to raise funds for the defense of Joseph Voorhees, business agent of the Independent Union of All Workers at Austin, Minn., who faces a jail sentence for the alleged violation of an injunction against picketing. The Workers Defense league is co-operating with the defense committee of the I. U. A. W. in the defense of Voorhees.

For Union Made Christmas Cards CALL DALE MACHEN 478 Sexton Bldg., BR. 1034 The only source of supply in the city

Anoka Council Make Demands On Commission

Outlined below is a set of demands agreed upon by the members of the Anoka County Council of Labor to be submitted to the County Commissioners of Anoka County for immediate consideration.

1. Release of Mr. Green and Miss DeVoy.
2. Supplementary Relief.
3. Forty-eight hour relief investigation.
4. Relief investigation not to become public property.
4. A standard relief budget.
6. One ton of fuel a month for relief clients.
7. Twenty-five per cent increase in work quota.
8. All relief clients to use their own doctors.
9. All Welfare Board meetings to be open to union representatives.
10. A public statement on surplus commodities.
11. Continuance of WPA work including demand No. 7.
12. Free inoculations and vaccinations for WPA workers, relief clients and their families.
13. Specified day and hour for Welfare Board to meet union grievance committee.
14. Continuance of Drought Relief.
15. An immediate answer to above demands.

AL JENNINGS

Chairman

Eunice Chesney Recording Secretary 4033 6th St. N. E. Columbia Heights, Minn.

Clarence Mathews, president of Local 183, who is at present unemployed, has been donating the union a considerable portion of his time. This has been a great help to the union especially at this time when his advice and ability make his presence in the office invaluable.

FOR SALE

H. E. Lindahl reports that he has a 1928 International truck for sale. It is equipped with a two-ton coal box. This truck can be bought for \$75 and can be seen at 1013 E. 17th St.

"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

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

CO-OP COAL ASSOCIATION

To the Patrons the Profits



739 Johnson Street N. E. Phone: Granville 4394

THE CO-OPERATIVE
 Nature Organized people.
 Purpose To serve its members at cost.
 Methods
 1. Each member has one vote and only one vote. Democracy—the people rule.
 2. Capital is paid a minimum rate of interest. Money is the servant of the people.
 3. Surplus savings are distributed to the members in proportion to their patronage. The people receive the benefits.
 Results Wealth is equitably distributed among the many.

THE CORPORATION
 Nature Organized capital.
 Purpose To serve the public for profit.
 Methods
 1. Each share of stock has one vote. Plutocracy—money, in control of the few, rules.
 2. Capital receives all the profits. Money is the master.
 3. Profits are distributed among the stockholders in proportion to their holdings. Money receives the benefits.
 Results Wealth is centered in the possession of the few.

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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."

Action Committee

The Twin City Joint action committee, set up by the joint board of Minneapolis and St. Paul business agents, began functioning last week. The committee addressed a letter to all local unions of both cities requesting that the committee be furnished with information relative to wage scales, working conditions, and contracts held by various unions.

The value of this committee's work cannot be over-emphasized. If this body receives the co-operation and help of the unions to whom the letter is addressed, great strides forward can be taken by the labor movement of the two cities. The purpose of the committee's work should be evident to every trade unionist. Innumerable complications that have arisen during the past few years between Minneapolis and St. Paul unions, in regard to different wage scales that exist in the two cities, will be done away with if the committee can continue with its work.

Federal projects, which have involved workers in both cities, have shown the impossibility of continuing a situation which prevents workers in the same community from receiving the same wages. The Twin City Joint action committee has received the unanimous endorsement of both Minneapolis and St. Paul Central Labor bodies. It has the approval and endorsement of all union workers in both cities. It now remains for the officials of local unions to give whole-hearted co-operation to the committee in order that this body can perform the task that has been allotted to it.

A prompt answer to the committee's letter is one manner in which help can be given. The labor movement should stand solidly behind this progressive labor action.

Unemployment

Reports issued by the American Federation of Labor indicate that unemployment is growing and along with that living costs are mounting sharply. Among building trades workers unemployment showed the greatest gain. The latest report shows that six per cent of all workers in the building trades are employed as compared with five per cent in the month of October. While some of the slackness in building trades work is due to seasonal letdown that usually comes at this time of the year, it is apparent that there is a steady growth in unemployed figures.

Out of a group of six representative trade unions, three showed a loss in employment, two marked gains and one reported that the situation was unchanged.

The most startling portion of the report deals with the price of commodities. All items showed a price gain of 2.3%. Food prices have advanced greatly since the middle of the summer. The cost of all foodstuff has risen 6.1% since July. Rent has gone up a total of 2.2% while fuel and light are 1.3% ahead of midsummer figures. The only item which has shown no advance is clothing.

Figures on unemployment cannot be given proper consideration until we realize that 13% of all the nation's unionists are working on part time jobs. In other words, 19% of all trade unionists are either totally unemployed or are working on part-time jobs.

The picture is not a pretty one for sober-thinking trade unionists to contemplate. Almost 20% of the nation's union members are not employed on steady jobs. Figures on employment include those working on Federal projects. Should these made-work jobs end, unemployment figures would, no doubt, reach a new high peak.

Seniority Lists

It is imperative that all Local 544 stewards make it their business to see that up to date and complete seniority lists are posted in conspicuous places in the various places of employment. Complaints by the score have come into the union office during the past period over the violation of seniority. Many of these violations have resulted from the fact that seniority lists have either not been posted or have not been kept up to date.

A posted seniority list is a means of informing both the employer and the employee of their rights in this vital matter. It is part of the job steward's responsibility to see to it that men in his charge are kept fully informed as to their seniority rights. This can be done most efficiently by having the latest list typed at the union office and seeing that it is displayed in the place of employment.

Seniority is one of the most vital sections of a union agreement. Neglect or disregard of its importance can easily lead to serious complications.

Keeping Step With 544

By Mickey Dunne

Greenhouse workers are still negotiating with the Greenhouse bosses.

Laundry drivers are now operating under their new agreement.

Differences at the Werner Transportation Company were settled Monday by Hawn and Frosig.

Troubles in the Department stores are almost over. An agreement is on the way.

Floyd Evans was in the union office Monday. His first public appearance after the accident. He is badly scarred.

Union stewards will soon have a new report form.

Independent truck owners will send a committee to Washington after the first of the year.

Steno's union took in 16 new members at their Monday meeting.

Voting is taking place in coal yards on the 48 hour week and the eight hour day.

J. R. Clark boys are eating good again.

Most of the coal drivers were working when the coal meeting was supposed to take place Monday night.

Union stewards will hold an important meeting Friday, December 11. All stewards are urged to be present.

Casket Workers have established a commissary at 19th and Jefferson St. N. E. They feed about 125 people daily. Women friends of the union are doing the cooking.

The Ritz Hotel signed an agreement with Bartenders Union last week.

Sears-Roebuck workers are still organizing and are holding successful meetings.

Workers Alliance is holding a convention in St. Paul Saturday and Sunday, December 12 and 13.

Seniority trouble at Fretwell Cracker Co.

After a period of anti-union complex the B. F. Nelson drivers, numbering 12, are again on the street.

Dope has it that the present mayor is going to be a Municipal Judge. Poirier of the Highway Dept. will probably land there also.

Upholsterers Union report the busiest work season in years. Few members unemployed.

The new schedule of relief allowance has been released by the Welfare Board.

Meetings are being held between Local No. 544 officials and Meat Row employers.

American Railway Express truck, manned by a "union" driver, made a delivery under police protection to the Minnesota Casket last week.

It is rumored that serious trouble may again break out in one of the steel plants.

Union stewards will soon receive positive orders to post seniority lists in all places of employment.

Local No. 1859 continued to have pay trouble at the Flour City Box.

3.2 beer joints are being organized rapidly by the Soft Drink Dispensers Union. A list of union spots is published elsewhere in this issue.

St. Louis Park job is causing the union lots of trouble, principally jurisdictional claims.

Independent Truck Owners sent out a letter to all stewards on the assessment of section members.

No non-union department store or package delivery drivers in Minneapolis now.

Hollywood Candy workers are out on the street in front of the plant. It's over a new agreement. They are members of Food and Candy Workers Union.

Coyle to Discuss Roosevelt Program

An analysis of President Roosevelt's past and present recovery measures and possibly a prediction of what may be expected in the way of national legislation during his second term will be made by David Cushman Coyle at Minneapolis Public Forum meetings next week.

Mr. Coyle will deal with "Price Fixing" at Whitney school, Nineteenth avenue and Pierce street northeast, Tuesday, December 15. "Monopoly" is to be his subject at Madison school, Fifth avenue south and Fifteenth street, Wednesday, December 16. He will point out "Causes of Business Paralysis" at Nokomis junior high school, Thirty-fifth avenue south and Fifty-first street, Thursday, December 17. These meetings are at 8 p. m. and are open to the public.

Bartlett Is Freed Of Phony Charges

James Bartlett, who was arrested for distributing leaflets at the Sears Roebuck Company two weeks ago, was found not guilty in municipal court last week.

The judge found that Bartlett was well within his legal rights in advertising a union meeting with a printed leaflet handed to employees of the Lake Street mail order firm.

Britton Drivers Meet With Union

Monday night, Drivers, Helpers and Platform men employed by the Britton Motor Transport Co. met in the union hall. All are members of Local 544.

Reports of workers employed there indicate that the union scale of wages is not being paid and weekly work hours as high as 70 are common. Union officials will investigate.

NOTICE TO STEWARDS

Care should be exercised by all stewards when issuing receipts to members that the name is written correctly. Difficulties in deciphering the names complicates the bookkeeping system and members are not given credit for their dues, which are posted to another account.

The full first name should be written on every receipt and not only the initial, as there are innumerable duplications in the union records.

LABOR... Looks at the Press

Mr. Roberts, legislative council of the A. F. of L.: If you get too many people in the unions, there'd be a lot of trouble. . . Look at Spartacus. Spartacus got too strong and they crushed him. That's what happens when labor gets too strong.

That's what you might call the "roll over and play dead" theory of the labor movement.

Capsule criticism of strike strategy, from Labor Action, new West Coast labor paper: A strike is simply a bullheaded struggle between two forces whose interests are in constant and irreconcilable conflict. The partnership of labor and capital is a lie. The immediate issue in every case is decided by the relative strength of the opposing forces at the moment. The only strike strategy worth a tinker's damn is the strategy that begins with this conception.

Helpful Hint, from a Christian Science Monitor editorial: Would it not be worth some union's considering to institute a reduced hourly wage to apply only on small jobs of house repairing, or renovating when the householder will permit these to be done at the workman's option as to time?

No, my good people, it would not. Because Bosses ALWAYS use just such devices and loopholes to cut wages.

Drop-in-the-Bucket Dept.: The Minneapolis Civic and Commerce Association today launched a drive to cut relief lines by finding jobs for 1,200 employables. . . The present relief outlook in Minneapolis is for a continued load of 30,000 cases.

American capitalism can sure deal with problems these days.

Bishop Blunt of Bradford comments on King Edward: We hope he is aware of his need for God's grace. Some of us wish he gave more positive signs of such awareness.

The good bishop is spoofing us, I fear. He knows that religion is only to keep the poor satisfied with their lot. The rich and powerful disdain it, though publicly they consider it good taste to avow it.

The new Herbert Hoover: Depression is just around the corner.

If the fat boys keeps up, the Communists may choose him for a People's Front candidate yet.

Echoes of worker-votes for Roosevelt: A possible 33 per cent reduction in federal relief costs next year was suggested today by WPA officials who plan to trim relief rolls by 425,000 cases.

Professor Herbert Heaton of the U. of Minn.: People of the world appear to be separating into two great divisions which may, for simplicity, be termed "capital and labor."

Pretty smart, these college profs let's see—it's 88 years since the "Communist Manifesto" was written.

IMPORTANT NOTICE
All Independent truck owners who still have pay coming from the Consolidated Material Company are notified to come at once to the union office in order that the matter may be adjusted.
The office wishes to close these accounts as soon as possible.