

# THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

University of Wisconsin  
Madison, Wis.

Official Organ of the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint

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!

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MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, THURSDAY, FEB. 11, 1937

PRICE 5 CENTS

## JENSEN WORKERS WIN OUT

### Details of Local 292-160 Merger Are Worked Out

As was reported in last week's **Organizer**, the strengthening of the union movement of local electrical workers through amalgamation of the existing locals is by now practically completed. On Thursday evening, February 4, the executive boards of Local Unions 160 and 292 met with M. J. Boyle, international vice president, and worked out the details of the merger.

The executive board of the new union (whose number will be 292) is composed of seven members, four chosen by Local 292 from its executive board, and three chosen by former Local 160 from its executive board. The former executive board members of the two locals will act as advisory committees for the two sections of Local 292 respectively.

Local 292's present charter will be extended from its present mixed-local jurisdiction to mixed-local plus Class B. charter jurisdiction, indicating that the new local union will now have jurisdiction over every branch of the electrical industry in Minneapolis.

For the present it is planned to hold three membership meetings each month: one for the wiremen, one for the utility men, and one general membership meeting, giving each section two monthly meetings.

#### Dues to Be Raised

A decision was reached that the present initiation fee of \$25 for wiremen will remain at that figure for the time being. The initiation fee for the utility men, however, will remain at its present figure of \$7 only until March 6, after which it will be raised to \$25 for journeymen, and \$12.50 for apprentices and helpers. On April 6, the initiation fee for journeymen will be raised to \$50, and the fee for apprentices and helpers will be raised to \$25. It was decided further that all utility employees who earn in excess of \$120 monthly will be required to become full beneficial members. Those employees who work in the miscellaneous branches of the electrical utility industry and who earn less than \$120 a month will be eligible for membership in the Class B. charter section of the union, whose section is non-beneficial. For this section, the initiation fee will be \$3 until March 6, and \$10 thereafter. The dues for this section will be \$1.50 a month less than those paid by the full beneficial members.

#### Only Details Wait Approval

The amalgamation idea has already been approved by the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. The details that were worked out last week have been sent to the Brotherhood office in Washington, D. C., and as soon as

(Continued on page 2)

### Local 1859 Ties Up Grain King Company

On Tuesday morning the Grain King Company, located at Raymond and University Ave., manufacturers of wagons, boxes and farm implement machinery, had the stopper pulled on it by Local 1859. About forty workers are involved in the strike. Despite the bitter weather a large and spirited picket line encircled the plant.

Organization work at Grain King has been going in since last November. During the past month negotiations between the management and Local 1859 have been held. After failure to come to an agreement, a strike was voted.

The workers are demanding a 60 cents an hour minimum wage, up to \$1 for skilled workers; seniority rights; recognition of the union, and a week's vacation with pay each year. John Janasco is in charge of the strike.

Local 1859 announces it has signed a union contract with the Keller Mfg Co., assemblers of ironing boards, calling for union recognition, seniority rights, 45 cents an hour minimum with time and one-third for overtime.

Effective March 1, the initiation fee for Local 1859 will be raised from \$2.10 to \$3 and the dues from \$1.10 to \$1.50 a month. This was the decision reached at the last general membership meeting of the Local. The increase of organizational expenses due to the growth of the union plus the expenses of the new office in the Drivers' Hall demand that this step be taken. All wood workers take note.

### Creamette Co. Is Organized by Candy Workers

The campaign which has been under way for the past two months to organize the Creamette Company, manufacturers of Mother's Macaroni and Spaghetti, has brought splendid results, until today this plant is almost 100 per cent organized. A contract has been drawn up calling for a 60 cents an hour minimum, 70 cents for machine operators, seniority rights and union recognition. Workers at the Creamette Co. are organized in the Food and Candy Workers Union. It is anticipated that the management will sign up shortly with the Union.

**NOTICE!**  
Local 544 Transfer Group  
meets February 25, the fourth  
Thursday.

### The Big Boy



### 40,000 West Coast Strikers Win Victory

After ninety-nine days, the great West Coast Maritime strike, has ended with an impressive victory for the unions involved. The major objectives of the unions—hiring hall, wage increases and strengthened recognition of the unions—have been attained.

The longshoremen retain their hiring control and safeguard working conditions with wage increases. The Cooks and Stewards compromised on a nine hour day in a spread of 12 hours and gained the eight hour day on freighters—both a vast improvement on the intolerable ten hour day in a spread of 15. The Marine, Firemen, Oilers, Water-tenders and Wipers, according to reports, have rejected the off-shore agreement proffered, and will return to work pending arbitration of the disputed issues. The militant Sailors' Union of the Pacific, which bore the brunt of shipowners' attacks, came out of the struggle with all its major demands achieved—union control of hiring, increased wages and cash payment for overtime.

Thus this great industrial battle, which began October 28, has smashed back the union-busting campaign of the West Coast employers; today the position and the morale of the workers is strengthened all along the line. The maritime unions have already picked out Enemy No. 2, the government's Copeland Fink Book, and are determined to relegate this device to the scrapheap.

### Warehousemen Forging Ahead

#### Local 20316 Growing Rapidly

The Warehouse and Inside Workers Union, Local 20316, is increasing its membership even more rapidly than was anticipated a short while back. From a union with a mere handful of members, since the start of a campaign to organize all workers that come under the jurisdiction of its charter, the union has grown into a body of several hundreds. There is every reason to believe that Local 20316 will continue its rapid growth and bring into its ranks all those thousands that are eligible to become members. All of the large companies in the city and several of the smaller ones employing Warehouse and Inside Workers are now represented in the Union.

#### Butler Bros. Employees Joining Union

A considerable number of Butler Bros. employees have joined Local 20316, and the coming few weeks will bring a still greater percentage of them into its ranks. Formerly, an independent union existed in this company, and ever since James Bartlett, president, and Ray Lind, Secretary of Local 20316, spoke before one of their meetings, a number of contacts were established which served to bring a large portion of its members into the ranks of the A. F. of L. through the Warehouse and Inside Workers Union.

### Printers Get Closed Shop, Wage Gains

#### Drivers Win 75c-Hour

After a sharp four day tussle last week, the Jensen Printing Company signed on the line last Thursday, February 4, and the men were all back to work Friday morning. A feature of the strike was the healthy co-operation of all unions involved, plus the picketing assistance given by the general labor movement and the organized unemployed.

About 150 workers participated in the strike action. The Allied Printing Trades Council negotiated for members of the Pressmen's Union, the Typographical Union, the Bookbinders, the Stereotypers and the Electrotypers. A closed shop agreement now prevails in all departments of the printing trades. Wage increases and other gains were registered.

Local 544 negotiated for the wrappers, packers and drivers and an excellent contract was arrived at. Jensen drivers will be paid 75 cents an hour from now on.

A vigorous campaign is now underway to negotiate similar contracts with the remainder of the commercial printing industry in Minneapolis. It is expected that all printshops will be completely unionized in the near future.

### American Fighters For Spain Given Rousing Send-off

The Minneapolis chapter of the Friends of the Debs Column reports that already fifty experienced fighting Americans, all militant fascists, have left for Spain to join the International Brigade, the bulwark of the working class forces in Spain. On January 29 a huge mass meeting was held at the Hippodrome in New York in honor of the first contingent of the Eugene V. Debs Brigade. A huge banner was presented to the brave volunteers which will be taken by the brigade to Spain. It reads: "The Socialist Party, U. S. A., Greets the Heroic Workers of Spain."

Seven hundred other experienced aviators, technicians, engineers, etc., have volunteered so far for the Debs Brigade, and will be sent as soon as sufficient funds are raised. The Minneapolis Chapter last week sent in a large check representing funds so far collected. A tag day will be held March 7 to raise further funds. Any worker or organization wishing to give material support to the Debs Brigade can send in a donation to C. Hudson, Minneapolis secretary, 631 Third Ave. S.

# Make Minneapolis a Union Town



## Independent Truck Chatter

After checking the nominations made at the last meeting the election board has found many irregularities that must be adjusted according to whatever methods they choose.

### Take Heed

The insurance of WPA trucks has proven to be a precarious affair for underwriters in the past year. Some have cancelled outstanding policies and others have increased premiums by over thirty per cent. The one or two companies that still carry policies at old premiums have come to the crossroads and are uncertain what future course to take. This condition can be attributed to a small group of truckers, who by unthinking carelessness and reckless driving cause unnecessary accidents. Altho many of these claims are small, they have a real effect in calculating future premium rates. Most accidents are caused by following another vehicle too close or a dreamy state of mind that expects the other fellow to watch out. For safety, trucks should be spaced at least one hundred feet apart. Also remember, never to allow a project worker to hang on the side of your truck, or stand in the box, as this is sufficient reason for dismissal.

After a year of serving as chairman of ITO section Curt Zander decided he would have to decline nominations for the chair, or be faced with a possible nervous breakdown before another year is over. Th wear and tear on these chairmen is terrific. The tremendous amount of time and effort Curt has freely expended to make this a more efficient and effective section cannot be fully realized by the membership. It's a thankless job with much abuse, little praise, and no compensation other than the knowledge that a tough job has been well done. He could just as well run for election again because he will be doing as much work and getting as much heat as ever, anyway.

### Humor (rising)

Superintendent Seeker on the belt line remarked that he liked to see everyone on their feet and hustling. Ed Ryan arranged to have a bench brought into the office that really raises the weary ones skyward when the lever is pulled. Curious ones will be given a demonstration without appointment (or mercy).

At the last meeting a motion was passed that in the future no further applications for membership would be accepted by the ITO section from those that owned more than one truck. This action was necessary because of the growing number of men owning two or more trucks, and their natural conflict of interests with those single equipment owners for whom this section was primarily organized.

The first Thursday of every month is the meeting time of this section.

### Epidemic Note

There have been definite indications that tap-room fever is on the decline among truckers. This might be the result of a greater resistance built up by an abundance of rest in this period of unemployment.

Though there are a few Italians and Moors in the army of the insurgents, on the whole General Franco's campaign against Madrid may yet be a great national victory—for the Germans.

## Bill Brown Says—

Mr. Sloan of General Motors justifies his refusal to deal with the auto workers in the name of "law and order, justice, reason and civilization." It seems to me that these are mighty fancy names to cover up a low and indefensible anti-union policy. If the road to a strong union movement in America challenges Mr. Sloan's idea of "law and order, justice, reason and civilization," then I am all for challenging.



BILL BROWN  
President of 544

## Sit-Down Strikers at Fisher Plant Tell Day-by-Day Story of Fight

### Auto Workers Live Orderly Lives in the Struck Plants

By Frank Winn

"In the office they got snooty, So we started picket duty Now the Fisher Body Shop is on a strike."

Every evening these words to the mournful tune of "The Martins and the Coys" can be heard issuing from lighted windows at the north end of Fisher Body No. 1 in Flint, Mich. Sit-down strikers are having their regular evening concert. Sitting in the window is the orchestra, composed of an accordion, a guitar, several mouth organs. Behind and around the orchestra a group of strikers make up the chorus.

Friends, relatives and fellow strikers in front of the window are an appreciative audience that applauds every number. Cars line the street in front of the plant and occupants toot horns to swell the applause.

The lines quoted above are the last few of the refrain to a song composed by one of the strikers. Four stanzas give the history of the strike's origin. Then there are other songs composed about various events of the strikes—about the fight at Hellhole (Fisher No. 2), about the strike at the Standard Cotton Co., and "Sit-Down," official strike song. . . "When they tie the can on a union man, sit down! sit down! . . ." Interspersed with these are hymns and spirituals—"How Beautiful Heaven Must Be" and "Golden Slippers." Then they close with "Solidarity."

### Good-Night Kisses

When the songs are over, wives, sisters, sweethearts, and kiddies come to the windows to kiss good night or pass in clean clothes or a little extra food to the men inside. The children are lifted through the windows and can visit a few minutes with Dad. Women can't go inside the plant. That's part of strike discipline.

Fisher Body No. 1 is a long—a block long—low, brick building on the left-hand side of the highway as you enter Flint from Detroit. The sit-downers visible from the outside are congregated at one end where they keep two or three of the large glass windows propped open. Here they receive visitors and food that is prepared in a cafe, turned over to the strike committee by the proprietress, across the street. From an upstairs window, a dummy, labelled "G. M.

### MEETING SCHEDULE

Local 544

Friday, Feb. 5—Job Stewards

Monday, Feb. 8—General Membership

Wednesday, Feb. 10—Market

Thursday, Feb. 18—Tent and Awning

Friday, Feb. 10—Job Stewards

Tuesday, Feb. 23—Taxi Drivers: night drivers, 1 p. m.; day drivers, 7 p. m.

Grievance Committee—Meets each Tuesday at 7 p. m.

Executive Board—Meets each Wednesday at 9 a. m.

Stool Pigeons," is suspended with a rope around its neck.

Sometimes visitors are admitted to the plant—newspapermen, photographers and ministers, investigating the merits of the strike. They have to be escorted by a runner with credentials from strike headquarters. After credentials are checked, visitors mount a box, get hoisted through a window.

### A Dead Plant

Inside they find a registration desk where their visit is recorded. The interior of the plant is weird. Automobile bodies in various stages of production are on the still, silent conveyor lines—just where they were on the night of December 30 when all work stopped because the company was moving dies (and men's jobs) to other plants. Machinery and production are dead. The daily routine of strikers is the only sign of life; and their sociable arrangements for living are a strange contrast to the place where they usually work.

Automobile seats are arranged between conveyor lines to make divans and beds. Several radios provide entertainment. Small groups of men are playing cards, while individually or together the orchestra may be rehearsing for this evening's concert. Near the registration desk are the microphones for the strikers' loudspeaker system.

### Strikers' Police Force

Every day at noon the plant strike committee meets, and at 4 p. m. there is a general meeting in the plant. There are committees to take care of all routine—sanitation, serving, washing dishes, etc. And there's the police force—42 strikers who enforce discipline and watch for stool pigeons. Smoking is permitted only in the cafeteria, and drinking not at all.

Hot meals are served in the plant cafeteria. The food is prepared across the street and put through the window. A professional chef, Max Gazan, from the Cooks' Union, has charge of the kitchen under the supervision of Dorothy Kraus, tiny veteran of for previous auto workers' strikes. Meal-times are taken up with a lively discussion of what's happening on the outside.

This is the life of sit-down strikers. They've held their plant since December 30, but their morale has no weakened a whit. In their plant are the all-important dies without which General Motors cannot produce Buicks, Chevrolets, Olds or Pontiacs. "They won't get the dies," say the strikers, "and we won't leave the plant until they settle."

Andy Mellon, who is having tax-trouble, has offered to give \$19,000,000 worth of paintings to the federal government. Looks to us like an attempt to pour oils on troubled water.

Only a few weeks more, and then we can all learn again that George Washington was opposed to revolutions.

## Doctor H. P. McKrimmon Proposes Union Sick Fund

To the Editor  
Northwest Organizer

Dear Mr. Miles Dunne:  
I wish to take this means of thinking the union and the boys from the Greenhouse section for the beautiful plants and flowers they sent me while I was in hospital. I want to thank Dr. McKrimmon, too, for the emergency blood transfusion which he personally gave me.

Yours sincerely,  
—Mildred Rainbolt

It has been many hundreds of years since the father of a little boy gave him a bundle of sticks bound together and asked him to try and break them. But in vain did the little boy try. Then in wide-eyed wonder the little boy saw his father break the sticks, one at a time, with his little finger. Whereupon the father said, "Son, never forget what I have taught you with the sticks for as long as the waves wash the shores it will be true, only in union is there strength."

In modern life the cost of sickness in your family can break you financially as easily as the father broke the sticks with his little finger. But if all members of 544 would bind themselves together by paying one cent for each hour they worked into a Sickness and Hospital Fund, this fund would do the following things:

1. Provide for you and your family complete hospital care in a private hospital during the 1st year for 21 days each year 2nd year for 24 days each year 3rd year for 27 days each year 4th year and thereafter, 30 days each year.

2. Provide doctor's care for you and your family.

Think it over. Only in union is there strength.

## Workers Flock Into Warehouse Union

### Workers Enthusiastic Over Union

The effect of the successful mass meeting held last January 13 has brought repeated requests to Local 20316 for another one. Employees at Sears Roebuck Company particularly are continually calling up the union office requesting information as to how they can join the union. Stewards on the job report an enthusiastic response when they approach any worker to join the union. Already the membership of Local 20316 in Sears Roebuck Co. alone has grown into the hundreds.

In an effort to frustrate the union in its efforts to organize this plant 100 per cent, the company has been giving its employees small wage increases in the hopes that this will dampen their enthusiasm towards the union. Needless to say, the contrary is the case. The very actions of the bosses serve to impress upon the workers the need for continuing and strengthening their organization for their mutual protection and improvement in their wages and working conditions.

### Mass Meetings Planned by 20316

Several mass meetings are being planned for the coming month by the Warehouse and Inside Workers Union of the different companies where this local union has members. The purpose of the mass meetings will be to increase the membership of the union in these companies and to lay the basis for the negotiation of contracts that will improve the wage and working conditions of all its members.

## Ice, Coal Drivers Meeting Schedule

Local 221, Ice and Coal Drivers Union, will hereafter hold all of its regular meetings at the new headquarters of the Teamsters Joint Council, 257 Plymouth Ave. N. Regular Union meetings will be held on the second and fourth Tuesdays. Executive Board meetings are subject to call. The Union office is now located at the above address.

## Ross Given 90 Days; Appeal Considered

Frank Ross, former steward of the Federal Workers Section, was sentenced to 90 days imprisonment by Judge Bardwell in District Court on Monday. This sentence was imposed after the jury had returned a verdict of guilty.

Ross, who has been on relief since 1933, was charged with non-support by Mrs. Florence Davis of the Hennepin County Child Welfare Board. The authorities alleged that Ross had failed to work out direct relief orders and had not kept his employment on Federal Work Projects.

Thomas Kelly, superintendent on one of the relief projects, testified that Ross had been discharged because he had been an agitator and when pressed by defense counsel stated that the agitation consisted in Ross' activity in unionizing the men on the project.

Shursen, former recorder for St. Louis Park, testified that he had asked Ross to work out direct relief orders which Ross refused to do. Later Shursen admitted that Ross was the only man in St. Louis Park who was asked to do this. He further stated that Ross had said at that time that if the Relief Dept. would pay him in cash he would work.

Mrs. Whipple, one of the prosecuting witnesses, testified that other relief clients in St. Louis Park were asked to work, but were paid in cash and script.

Ross testified that prior to 1930 he had worked for ten years for the Republic Creosoting Company of Minneapolis on a job beginning daily at four A. M.

The defense further showed that Ross had a reputation in St. Louis Park as a good and conscientious worker and Ed Dahlquist, one time street commissioner for St. Louis Park, stated that he hired Ross whenever able and Ross, when not employed, made numerous applications to him for employment.

Gilbert E. Carlson of the Workers Defense League is scheduled to confer with the executive board of the Federal Workers to consider an appeal for the purpose of testing this latest attack by the welfare authorities upon relief clients.

Milwaukee news item: The 72 year old wealthy head of a drug firm was passing the cigars today. A seven pound son was born to his 24 year old wife.

Bet he's got loving neighbors.

George Leach, mayoralty candidate in Minneapolis, lists his qualifications: In Washington, as chief of the National Guard Bureau for the last five years, I sat at the feet of the administrative and legislative talent of both major parties.

That's just what the Minneapolis workers are worried about. Altogether too much feet.



### 6-Hour Day for WPA Demanded by FWS

Last Friday's membership meeting, by an overwhelming vote of every member and WPA worker who could crowd into the hall, demanded the six hour day for all WPA workers, and that when lost time is being made up, the maximum hours be seven hours in a day and 65 hours in any two weeks period.

Seven and eight hour days are common on WPA projects on the pretext of making up time lost in bad weather. As much as 70 hours is being put in within a two weeks period, which includes the making up of extra time even before it is lost, although the maximum allowed is 110 hours per month. The results are: The workers get a long check and a short one; there is no guarantee that discharged workers will be paid for extra time worked; enforced exposure to bitter cold for eight hours without adequate warming shacks, plus constant fighting with foremen about warming fires, plus two to four hours enroute to and from jobs (often without work or pay being available.) The above make a real torture of most WPA jobs at this season.

Labor has fought long and ardently for a shorter day. The government has recognized that fight and the justice thereof. This should not now be all undone. Above all, the eight hour day on WPA and its resultant concentration of free time into five to seven days at the end of each month is an open invitation for WPA workers to chisel by taking odd jobs at sub-union wages and conditions.

WPA officials falsely claim that this is the only way WPA workers can be assured their full monthly pay of \$60.50. However, their own bulletin clearly states that WPA workers can draw full pay for time lost due to causes beyond the worker's control, and make up the lost time in the next pay period. It seems, therefore, quite simple for WPA to comply with the demands of the FWS for a six hour day. We are confident that the labor movement will support this demand.

If Hennepin County workers escape the 40 per cent slash in WPA jobs rumored to take place most any time now, it will only be because the workers are on organized guard. The scheme is to cut off rural workers because they offer less organized resistance, and replace them with city workers. WPA officials, however, are warned that rural Hennepin Sections of the FWS will receive plenty of backing if and when such attempts are made.

The Direct Relief feature which is most depressing and demoralizing to the client is the needlessly long wait at the relief stations, not only for the little dole but even for the smallest inquiry and for each of many complaints. There has never been a good reason why relief checks should not be mailed to clients at their homes. In fact an early FERA rule which was never respected nor enforced stated that clients should not be required, once their need was established, to re-apply each time relief is needed. Although we have almost despaired that "social workers" will cease demoralizing the clients, yet the clients are now demanding that Ole Pearson's new order-writing machine be applied in some measure to relieve their torture. MAIL THE ORDERS.

Electrical Workers 160 have sent thanks to the FWS for assistance given their members both on the

## Details of Local 292-160 Merger Are Worked Out

(Continued from page 1) these are approved, the physical amalgamation of Local 160 and Local 292 will take place, and all electrical workers in Minneapolis will be united in the "new" Local 292. Needless to say, this is a progressive move which has the whole-hearted endorsement of all those who have the interests of the union movement at heart.

Ed Conway, now president of Local 292, will also preside over the new union. George Phillips, president of Local 160, is to be vice president. Conway will preside at the wiremen's meetings, and Phillips will preside at the utility men's meetings.

#### New Officers Named

The new executive board will consist of Ed Ackerman, Ed Conway, Sam Eyrse and Oscar Coover (all from Local 292), and George Phillips, K. G. Gerdin and William J. Heigel (of Local 160). Trustees will be John Williams, 160, and Carl Velin and Lennie Larson, 292. Members of the examining board are V. O. Sauby, Earl Nelson and Tor Enebo (from 292), and E. A. Burkhardt and Ed Rudolph, 160.

Central Labor Union delegates will be William Nessler, Al Urtubees, Walt Hackett, alternate, 292; and H. A. Schultz, H. M. Thomas, Robert McGowan and E. A. Burkhardt, alternate, 160.

Delegates to the Building Trades Council will consist of Walt Hackett, Al Urtubees and Dan Shore, 292, and H. A. Schultz. Farmer-Labor delegates will be Guy Alexander, Al Urtubees, Walt Hackett, 292; John Kitowski, 160.

Walter Hackett will continue as business manager under the amalgamation. H. A. Schultz will be assistant business manager. Guy Alexander will continue as financial secretary, with M. O. Qualle of 160 as assistant. William Nessler will also continue as recording secretary, being assisted by Paul Weisser of 160.

With this organizational set-up the first long step toward complete unionization of the entire electrical industry has now been made. The local electrical workers are doing their share to "Make Minneapolis a Union Town."

**Found:** A pair of silver-rimmed eye glasses. Loser may get them by asking at the Drivers' office, second floor, 257 Plymouth.

picket lines and in obtaining needed relief. FWS in turn thanks Sign Painters 880 and the Sheet Metal Workers for their support of the FWS Hard Time Dance to be held this Saturday night, January 13, at the Drivers Hall. All unions and their members are welcomed to any assistance which FWS can give them in relief matters.

If the Legislature really wants to improve the deplorable relief conditions in rural areas of Minnesota, it will do three things now: 1. Make one single authority in each rural county responsible for relief administration in that county; 2. Require that authority to file with the State Relief Agency in advance for each month its schedule of minimum relief and supplemental allowances; 3. Authorize payment of relief in cash.

**Federal Workers Section  
HARD TIMES DANCE  
Saturday Evening, February 13  
At General Drivers Hall  
Single 15c Couples 25c**

### Watt Notes

By J. J. Kitowski  
Bro. Weisser pulled a Steve Brodie off the platform Friday but failed to get hurt. (He fell on his head.)

The action taken by 160 and 292 in bringing about the amalgamation of these two unions means but one thing. Bigger and better unions for Minneapolis.

Martin Day (Daddy Warbucks) of the underground dept. when asked by the writer if he would ever amount to much made this answer, "Not until I join the International."

The writer would appreciate any help given him in gathering notes from the old section of 292.

Bro. Coates of the meter-readers had an addition in the family last week, a bouncing baby girl.

The boys in the Wiring Dept. will help make Minneapolis a brighter town; work will start on the new street lighting next month.

Look for better things in the Farmer-Labor party from now on. Williams and Kitowski are the new delegates from 292.

Bro. J. V. Sylvester of the Trouble Dept. passed away suddenly last week and was buried at Stroughton, Wis., Tuesday, February 2. Our deepest sympathy is extended to Bro. Sylvester's family.

### Spick and Span Notes

#### Local 131

The drivers from the Family Laundry, the Nicollet Cleaners and the Progressive Laundry are the most recent additions. 100 per cent, too.

It's fine the way the back dues have been rolling in the last two weeks—from one plant in particular. It sets a real example for the rest of our members who are delinquent.

The committee appointed to draw up a constitution and by-laws will meet at our office Tuesday, February 16, at 7:30 p. m. The following committee members take note: L. Clair Johnson, Burt Hegdahl, Walter Eberhart, R. A. Hutchins, William DeVries, Clarence Emerson, William Kuraski, Marty Withrow and Norman Carle.

We hope to be able to use our regular meeting hall on the first floor for our next meeting, and anticipate having enough chairs to go around. The alterations are not yet complete. But it's comin' along.

On our next meeting night, the Secretary Treasury will be in the office at 7 p. m. All stewards as well as members who wish to pay dues that night will please come in before 8:30 or after the meeting adjourns.

We've taken in 65 new members in the last 65 days. This is since our initiation fee became effective. Those on the outside are few and far between.

It seems hard for some of the employers to interpret our contract, especially the wage clause,

### On the Route With the Milk Man



That's right, boys, Annie doesn't live at the Daily News Building any more. We're the first office to the left on the main floor as you come in the Drivers' Chalet at 257.

It's open season on Brother Paul Roebor for TWO cigars. His new twins, born Monday night, make him a papapapa. The father is doing nicely.

The dance was a horrible success.

After ten weeks in the hospital where he has been suffering from a broken hip, Brother Ralph Peterson is home again and looking swell. Drop in and see him.

Dave Dirkson, who got in one of those avenue arguments, is coming along fine, resting up from a pair of cracked ribs and a smashed foot. His truck was badly mangled.

Which reminds us to remind you to take it easy on these icy streets this month. Too many accidents.

### Bowling Notes

The Meat Drivers took sole possession of first place as they dumped Con. No. 1 three straight. Williams hit 223. Ind. rolled 2,712 to take three from Joint Councils. Nat. Teas finally came back to life, winning three from Con. No. 2. It must have been a mistake, but 544 also took three from FWS, thereby climbing into fourth place.

Meats	896 987 944—2827
Con. No. 1	736 772 759—2267
Ind.	849 999 864—2712
J. C.	796 835 851—2482
Nat.	855 920 904—2679
Con. No. 2	849 895 765—2509

F. W. S.	754 757 808—2319
544	870 905 893—2668

Another Johnson in the league, as Carl joined the Councils. J. Batlett would like to get a team from the Warehouse Workers in our league, but will have to wait until next year. A. B. C. cards were given to the captains. 544 has won eight of their last nine games. Who was the gendarme looking for Friday night?

but Robert H., Clifford W., and Elroy B. are getting theirs now.

Did you catch that article in the Trib the other day, headlined: "Store Teeth Take a Bite at Oowner." It's one of our newest members. Are the teeth still atop the dresser, Isadore?

### With the Laundry Workers Union

Beginning with our next meeting which will be held Wednesday, February 17, valuable door prizes will be given away absolutely free to the lucky ones attending the meetings and registering his or her name with the Sergeant at Arms. Everybody come to the next meeting and win a prize.

The symposium held last Wednesday by Rabbi Albert I. Gordon and Vincent Dunn was a moral success; it is regretted that only about 150 people were present. Both speakers were well versed and answered all questions to the best of their ability. The subject was "The Role of Arbitration in Labor Disputes" and is of very great importance to the entire laboring classes. So it may be advisable in the near future to broach this question again.

Complaints of six workers of the West Hotel laundry for overtime pay was satisfactorily settled with the union by Mr. Faine.

Please report all grievances and complaints promptly at the office if you want real action.

The workers educational classes of Local 183, are held every Friday at 8 p. m., 708 3rd Ave. S., hall 213.

The sick committee is very grateful to Hymie Milstein, our Shop Steward at the Mill City for returning to work, thus saving the union the expense of buying flowers.

Report just came into our office that Betty Frey of the Columbia is up and around again after a two months' illness. Glad to hear the good news, Betty.

RUBIN LATZ  
HARRY BROWN  
ALVINA BALDWIN

Lille, France, news item: Jean Destour, who was honored last year as "the best workman in France" in the yearly competition, lost his job this week when the metal shop in which he was employed here closed.

That shows where ability can get a worker—under capitalism. And incidentally, the way the French spell capitalism is F-o-p-u-l-a-r F-r-o-n-t.

**REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE**  
Warehouse and Inside Workers Union, Local 20316  
Regular membership meetings first and third Tuesday of each month at 8 p. m.  
Executive Board meets every Thursday at 8 p. m.  
All meetings will be held at the new headquarters of the Teamsters Joint Council, 257 Plymouth Ave. N.

**NOTICE TO LOCAL 131 MEMBERS**  
Any member of Laundry Drivers Union who has not paid his dues for the month of January will not receive a button for the current month. This means that your book must be stamped for the month of January in order to get the latest union button.

**NEW MEETING SCHEDULE FOR LOCAL 1859**  
Executive Board, February 13.  
J. R. Clark and Box Industry, February 17.  
Puffer Hubbard, February 19.  
Executive Board, February 20.  
Executive Board, February 27.  
General Membership Meeting, March 3.



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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."

**An American Tragedy**

A few days ago this news item appeared in the local press:

"Tragedy stalked into the unheated home of Mrs. Margaret —, 19-year-old St. Paul mother of two infants, and brought death to her six-weeks-old baby boy. The family, on relief, ran out of coal. In an effort to keep her youngest one warm in the heatless home, she wrapped him tightly and went to sleep with the child in her own bed. In the morning the baby was dead, smothered, beside her when she awoke. Too late, the board of public welfare put through a rush order for coal for the family."

Theodore Dreiser, with all his massive literary genius, has yet to conceive of a starker episode than is told in this unspeakably grim news item.

In comparison with the bitter grief that must be this young mother's, it would be trivial to seek to reconstruct in cold print the agony which must have been hers when first she woke and learned that Death had kissed her child that night.

That such a thing could take place at all, anywhere, is monstrous. But that it could occur in the United States of America in the year 1937? In the Land of Plenty? In the Richest Country in the World? During the New Era of Prosperity?

Do such things happen often? Probably not. Indeed, it is events such as this, repeated a few times and become widely known, that can rock a nation to its foundations. The simple story of this young St. Paul mother and her dead child is a symbol of the immense hardships which the poor in America have suffered during the eight long years since first the depression struck our country. Poverty trails after it so many burdens that the well-to-do never have to bear.

What a rebuke is this death to our Civilization and Justice—the same Civilization and Justice to which a Mr. Sloan of General Motors appeals to justify his denial to his workers of the right to organize and bargain collectively?

Such an episode as this baby's death is a challenge to the working men and women of America—both employed and unemployed—to organize and struggle to the end that the economic and social conditions that make such a thing possible—and all the defenders of those conditions—are swept off the fact of the earth and right down to Hell where they belong. The time has come to stand erect and quicken our march toward the goal—a land without masters and slaves, a land regenerated and resplendent, a land where mothers do not awake in the homes of the unemployed and find beside them the corpse of baby boys.

**Union Leadership**

Recent developments in the Minneapolis labor movement have brought to light a strange and obnoxious type of leadership or shall we say, "misleadership"?

To judge from the similarity of symptoms being displayed by certain labor leaders in other cities and countries too, it would appear that all of these particular so-called "leaders" had been inoculated with the same germ and consequently were the victims of the same disease.

In recent months there has occurred in our city several "labor disputes." At first sight, these disputes appeared to be genuine strikes, but upon closer investigation they proved to be something quite different than the usual wage and hour disputes. The uninitiated might feel amused, but those in the labor movement that have been the victims of these plots it is a very serious thing. It seems that the principal objective in the minds of these "supermen" is to involve other unions in their strikes. The way these things work out, clearly demonstrate how the minds of these tricksters operate. First a worker is planted in some downtown establishment and after a few days this worker is discharged. Immediately they go into action, banners appear as if by magic. A committee appears at 544, to warn against deliveries being made, the picket line is also supposed to come from 544, evidently to keep them reminded that there is a strike in progress. While this is going on the "striker" appears at different union meetings soliciting funds to "carry on."

This type of tripe is fast becoming more than a mere nuisance. It is becoming a real downright danger to the labor movement! What with their popular front programs in which they manage to inveigle credulous and politically ambitious leaders into their web and participate in all sorts of schemes, some downright crooked.

Do not fool yourselves that they are just laboring under hallucinations of self-importance or that they need the attention of a psychoanalyst. Instead they are what you might call "crazy like a fox."

Their slogan is always UNITY but it is like the unity of life and death. This sort of unity means the death of the labor movement and the sooner these false prophets are spotted and catalogued for what they are the sooner the real progressives will be able to combat them.

**Keeping Step With 544**

By Mickey Dunne

The strike at the Jensen Printing Company ended with a smashing victory for the printing trades unions. Local 544 settled for the drivers and inside workers.

The Grain King Company will have trouble with Local 1859.

Attend the Steno's dance Saturday.

South Dakota Driving Unions are joining the North Central District Drivers Council.

More driving unions are moving into the new headquarters.

Local 160 has merged its fortunes with Local 292.

Bakery Drivers are waiting for the Zero Hour.

The Maritime strike ended last week. . . . With real gains for the workers involved.

There is going to be a demand that the chartered Petroleum Workers Union delegates be seated in the C. L. U.

Scott's Herald took a real slap at the State Liquor Dispensary Bill last week. . . . And the Editor the Hennepin County Campaign manager in the last election.

The editor was down with the flu over the weekend.

The column devoted to the Milk Drivers, hereafter will appear under the cut of last week.

Some of the Eighth Street Generals are trying the old Hidden Ball Trick.

How about the guys that drink wet and vote dry?

**WELL, WELL, WELL!**  
We saw delegates to the Central Labor Union at the election meeting who had not attended a meeting during the preceding year. Wonder how they happened to be there that night.

Meetings on the Regulated Carrier agreement are being held regularly.

Agreements with Local Wholesale fish houses brought improved wages and working conditions for all fish workers.

V. R. Dunne was in South Bend over the weekend. Should know something about the Auto Strike.

Furniture Workers Union will open an office at 257 Plymouth Ave.

A meeting of retail clerks was held in Drivers Hall last Tuesday night.

Milk Drivers Union will have a new office worker. Their former stenographer goes to the office of the Teamsters Joint Council.

A large sign is contemplated for the front of the new headquarters.

The Washington delegation is well on its way.

There will be a general rearrangement of all driving union meeting schedules soon.

Look for a blow-off in the Power Company situation.

The sitdowners are still Holding the Fort in Flint.

Say what you want to about it, the real power of the Minneapolis labor movement is now concentrated on Plymouth Ave.

Down with hours! Up with wages!

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

By Carl O'Shea

**OUR FEATHERED FRIENDS**

Oh, liberals are funny birds, They have the song but not the words, They preach the brotherhood of man, But halt just where they should begin.

—ARTHUR HOPKINS

Shoemaker, the Farmer-Labor evangelist, says that the St. Paul ice palace is the only self-liquidating WPA project he's seen yet.

B. C. Forbes again: It is true that it has been found feasible to reduce work hours decade after decade in our land, thanks to the ceaseless invention of automatic machinery, labor-saving appliances, mass production, managerial science, speedier and more economical transportation.

Didn't the trade union movement have just a teensy-weensy bit to do with it, B. C.?

Common Sense magazine sez: Real trees are being used as decorations at debutante parties this winter. That will give the young men something interesting to look at.

How about the old dogs?

Katherine Cornell points out the Road to Peace: All the money we Americans spend in Europe only helps them to increase their armaments, and I don't think we ought to do it.

The workers are with you all the way, Kay. We won't take another trip across.

Detroit news item: The Detroit Institute of Art is having a special display this week of the work of old masters.

And all the display isn't going on INSIDE the institute, either.

David Lawrence tells how it hapened: Fascism in Italy came about originally through the "sit-down" strike.

Famous last lines: The sentence of the Military Collegium of the Supreme Court of the USSR has been carried out.

Fruit-o'-the-Loom: The complete plan for the conciliation and arbitration of all French labor conflicts has just been promulgated by governmental decree in France.—Paris news item.

It seems to me that the only business the French Popular Front government has taken over is the business of strike breaking. They've "socialized" that, anyway.

Lord Beaverbrook, conservative British publisher: There will be peace in Europe for years to come.

He must mean after the next war.

From the New Masses: Last fall, New Masses refined its editorial board. . . . Last December, New Masses celebrated its 25th anniversary.

My, how quickly people age in these turbulent times.

That crack about "refining the editorial board" is too true to be good.

**Max Schactman To Speak Here On Trotsky Case**

The Twin City Committee for the Defense of Leon Trotsky, which is part of the international movement under way to seek a fair and impartial investigation of the Moscow Trials and to give Trotsky a chance for his "day in court," announces it is bringing to Minneapolis as a speaker Max Schactman, who recently visited Trotsky in Mexico. Schactman will speak here at a mass meeting the latter part of this month. He is well known to Minneapolis audiences for his brilliance as a lecturer.

Many prominent men and women of Minneapolis and St. Paul, representing all shades of political opinion, are supporting this movement to give Trotsky the opportunity he has asked for to present his evidence. Tom Gaddis of Minneapolis is Twin City secretary.

Since his permanent retirement from the air, Father Coughlin's broadcasts are as edifying as usual, don't you think?

C. M. Chester, president of the National Association of Manufacturers: Labor and management must have the good sense to arrive at a better understanding, so that labor can be sure of wages sufficient to allow them to live according to American standards.

Personally, I think the masses of this nation are a great deal too good for the American standards. And as for arriving at a "better understanding," I think we already understand each other quite well.

Fun Among the Flatfeet: Patrolman Steiglitz of Pittsburgh handcuffed the wrist of a suspect to his own arm and then couldn't get loose. He had borrowed the cuffs, but had forgotten to borrow the keys.

Minneapolis news item: Dr. Prosser received the 1936 civic service honor medal for his efforts on the mayor's employer-employee board, and for his work on behalf of post-school youth and under-privileged young people.

How about his work on behalf of the employers? That should not go unrecognized.

Definitions: As liberal as the type chosen by a governor to represent the public in a labor dispute.

Colonel Batista, Wall Street's Cuban agent: Since the army engineered the coup to end despotism and the revolution and to restore order out of chaos, the people of Cuba have looked to us to see that they continue to get a square deal.

The kind of a square deal that has bars all around it and a machine-gun nest at the door.

**Coal Workers**

Due to a misunderstanding the coal meeting which is to be regularly held on the first Monday of each month was not scheduled for February. A special meeting of the Coal Section of Local 544 will therefore be held on Monday, Feb. 15, at 8 p. m.

**Federal Workers Section OPEN MEETING**

Friday, Feb. 5, 8 p. m.  
Issues:  
1. The six hour day on WPA  
2. Direct Relief orders by mail  
3. Rural Relief supplements  
4. Orville Olson's written reply to FWS questions