

# BUILD A LABOR TEMPLE - A UNION RADIO STATION

# THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

Official Organ of the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council  
MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE: 257 PLYMOUTH AVENUE NORTH

VOL. 3, NO. 7

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, THURSDAY, JUNE 3, 1937

PRICE 5 CENTS

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!

and... ON THE Other Hand

... By the Cynic

"The college diploma—that document once consigned to the dresser drawer and promptly forgotten in frantic rush for a truck driver's job—has again regained its prestige as an article of recommendation," says Dean Stevenson, U. of M., in the—Minneapolis Journal

The influx of college "grads" into the driving crafts in Minneapolis would scarcely have been discernible had it not been for the 1934 "class rush" and the marked evidences of voice culture training around 247 Plymouth Ave.

Wright Patman, speaking before the American Iron and Steel Institute in session at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel, said among other things, "This administration cannot succeed unless the private profit system succeeds. We learned a long time ago down in Texas that you can't fatten the herd by just feeding the bull. You have to feed all of the herd.

"Bull feeding," "ear marking" and "pork barrel" legislation all render considerable rich gravy—but not for the workers. At Republic Steel in South Chicago police are feeding them bullets instead of gravy. Bosses know that the success of the private profits system depends entirely on exploitation.

"It is pleasant to note that the Russian fliers at the North Pole enjoy the conveniences of central heating. Professor Schmidt said the other day that it was 11 degrees below zero (centigrade) and they were cold but they "were warmed by the friendly words and touching care of the Great Stalin."

The quota cut of "Divine attributes" to be heaped on the "Great Stalin" must have slipped Professor Schmidt's attention. It is just barely possible, however, that the professor is merely engaging in a little high and fancy Stalinist boot licking, hoping, like many others, to escape the attention of that Moscow central heating plant which of late has produced so many perfect "confessions."

In a letter having to do with the Cemetery Strike, Archbishop John Gregory Murray said there was no dissatisfaction among Catholic cemetery employees and that "they were forced to quit work through intimidation."

Now, Father, you wouldn't use your position to intimidate these workers and their wives to help break the strike, would you?

## Smith, Postal Meet Transfer Employers

Negotiating committee of General Drivers Union, which is composed of Brothers Smith and Postal in holding meetings with the transfer employers committee.

A new agreement covering the seasons of 1937-38 has been submitted to transfer employers and discussions over the various proposals embodied in the contract are now taking place. Despite the fact that there is a rather wide difference on the wage question between the two parties, there is no reason to think that an agreement will not be reached.

The contract with such changes as have been made will be submitted to the union for ratification prior to its signing.

# Public Utility Signs With Union

## Strike of Cemetery Workers Is Stripping the Masks from Faces Of the "Burial Ring" Employers

Records Show That at Least One of the Cemeteries Has Been Accused of Creating a Monopoly

As the strike of the Cemetery Workers goes into its third week it becomes more and more apparent that owners of the local burying grounds intend to stage a finish fight with their striking employes. The strike up until now has been characterized by the flouting and lawless disregard of the Wagner Labor Act which provides that employers must recognize the rights of their workers to organize into bona fide unions and bargain collectively.

Depending upon public opinion and along with it all the hokus pokus that has been built up around the burial of the dead to drive their workers back into submission at starvation wages and under fantastic and impossible working conditions, the Cemetery Owners have apparently formed a united front to resist all legitimate demands of their organized employes.

The public must be made to understand that the striking Cemetery Workers are making no outrageous or outlandish demands on the owners of the local cemeteries. Rather, they are merely conducting a fight to assure themselves and their families that they will be able to exist decently under prevailing conditions.

In refusing the demands of their workers for collective bargaining the Cemetery Owners are not going into the court or to the public with clean hands. Indeed, in many instances, the financial manipulations of various cemetery managements have approached the very border line of out and out racketeering and exploitation of those who can least afford to carry the burden of the profiteering rings "death racket."

Not so long ago the owners of Lakewood Cemetery were hauled into court and charged with manufacturing grave vaults and conducting a business for profit on the premises of their burial property which is TAX EXEMPT.

Sometime later the same cemetery was charged in the same manner with conducting a florist business in direct competition with private green house owners. So brazen had been their attempt to control the florist business in their cemetery that it was freely said at that time among floral shop owners that "if you didn't buy your flowers from Lakewood, you could not even get on the ground."

Who are these people to deny their workers the right to organize and ask for a living wage and decent working conditions? Unknown, too, to the general public, is the fact that the ownership of Lakewood Cemetery has become a closed corporation and that a list of its Board of Directors reads like the Roster of the Citizens Alliance.

We grant these people their right to exploit the dead who cannot speak for themselves but we do refuse them the privilege and profit of making more miserable the life of those workers who have piled up more than a two million dollar profit for the Lakewood management.

We say, despite their attempts to rally public opinion behind a curtain of crocodile tears, their workers will have justice before this episode is finished.

## Wage Increases in New Coal Agreement

The coal agreement of Local 544 which expired in May, 1937, is expected to be renewed shortly. The new coal agreement calls for substantial increases in wages and working condition reforms which did not prevail under the last contract.

Meetings have been taking place between the union and coal employers during the past month.

## BOSS NOW ASKS FOR ELECTIONS IN SKI PLANTS

Anti-Union Lund Now Runs Labor Board and Asks Elections

The strike against the Lund Manufacturing Company at Hastings, has taken a slightly new turn and the would-be Minnesota Hitler, who has posed himself as being unalterably opposed to all forms of what he terms "labor paternalism" has now appealed to this same paternalistic body to hold a Labor Board election in his plants.

In his attempts to evade, not only the provisions of the Wagner Labor Act, but every principle of decency and honor in dealing with his employes, Lund has sounded the depths of evasion, dishonesty and intimidation to prevent his workers from dealing with him on a collective basis.

He now insists that the workers at the Hastings plant which goes under the name of Lund Manufacturing Company, hold a Labor Board election to determine whether they want to be represented by a phoney company union which he himself instigated, set up and financed, or by a bona fide union of the workers themselves.

And, strangely enough, the workers at the Hastings slave mill, are eager to test their strength with Lund at the polls in a Board election.

The workers at the Hastings plant are confident that a vast majority of all those there employed are for a real union as opposed to an out and out company setup.

## 1934 DRAWINGS ARE REPRINTED

Strike Cartoons Published in May Paper Shown Again

Printed elsewhere in this issue are a number of cartoons which appeared in the ORGANIZER when this now far-reaching publication was only a handbill. Recalling those bitter days of the May strikes three years ago, they will bring back vividly to many those early days when the Minneapolis labor movement was in its infancy. To all they will emphasize the great advances made by the workers who have struggled and freed themselves from the tyranny of the Citizens' Alliance and other boss cliques in Minneapolis, whatever they are called. And they will show how a little dodger has become a powerful organ of the working class—one that has grown with the labor movement because the NORTHWEST ORGANIZER has helped to build the northwest labor movement and the labor movement gave birth to the ORGANIZER.

That little leaflet is now a weekly newspaper that is subscribed to by thousands of workers in the northwest.

## The Pied Piker



## Le Sueur Thanks Drivers' Support

May 17, 1937  
General Drivers Union 544  
257 Plymouth Ave. N.  
Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Sir and Brothers:

I wish to assure you of my sincere appreciation of the very generous support which you and your organization gave to the candidates of the Labor Movement in the Primary Election including myself especially, and I congratulate your organization on its awakening to the election of Judge of Municipal Court.

Union Labor is coming to understand the necessity of taking an interest in the election of the judges if it expects to have a fair interpretation of the laws which especially affect Labor.

Will you kindly read this letter to your local as I wish to convey to them my appreciation of the splendid work done and solicit their continued interest and support for the June 14th election.

Yours very truly,

ARTHUR LE SUEUR

## NEW GAS UNION SIGNS CONTRACT WITH GAS LIGHT

Miles Dunne Aids Negotiations; Pact Provides Seniority, Closed Shop

On Thursday, May 27, 1937, Gas Workers Union, Local 20490, signed a closed shop agreement with the management of the Minneapolis Gas Light Company, which will run a year from May 1, 1937.

The signing of the pact marked the end of a two years struggle by the employes of this concern to organize themselves into a genuine union. The experience of the workers at the Gas Light Company was typical of all of those who are in the employ of public utility corporations.

Despite the fact that effort after effort was made by the workers themselves and by representatives of the American Federation of Labor to bring about union organization, only defeat was the lot of the workers until the winter of 1936-37.

In spite of the fact that a strong and powerful company union had been installed by the management, a company union which bore all the earmarks of the bona fide union, except that it was unable to secure wages or working conditions for its members, the real union of the workers beat its way to the top and succeeded, during the winter months, in enlisting the interest and support of almost one hundred per cent of the utility company's employes.

Assistance of the infant union was sought of Local 544 and Miles Dunne, editor of the Northwest Organizer was assigned by the Teamsters Joint Council to guide the destinies of the youthful union organization until it had secured a written agreement with the company.

Events moved swiftly after a contract had been drawn and ten days' negotiations with the company brought about what is perhaps one of the finest union agreements ever signed between a union and a public utility in the United States.

Members of Local 20490, who acted for the union on the negotiating committee, were Raymond Garrison, William O'Donnell, Fred Sullivan, Alfred Nygaard, and James Ryan. The agreement follows:

### WORKING AGREEMENT

The Minneapolis Gas Light Company, hereinafter referred to as the Employer and the Gas Workers Union, Local 20490, A. F. of L., hereinafter referred to as the Union, (Continued on page 8)

## Twin City Drivers Unite Forces for Common Wages

One of the most encouraging manifestations that lead to the belief that the level wage scale for the driving crafts is to be reached in the Twin Cities, comes from the news that in St. Paul the transfer, package delivery and coal sections, both unions are holding joint meetings with Twin City employers in these industries, endeavoring to reach a common wage scale for both Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Long advocated by General Drivers Union in Minneapolis, the idea of a common wage scale in the Twin Cities, has apparently found favor with Local 120 of St. Paul and as a result joint negotiations are now taking place.

Vice President Smith of Local 544, who is a member of the negotiating committee, states that it is apparent that an agreement satisfactory to both parties will soon be reached.

## Warehouse Union Signs With All Wholesale Plumbing Firms

200 Members Will Be Covered by the Agreement

In an agreement covering some 200 men, the Warehouse and Inside Workers Union, Local 20316, added to its list of union conquests six wholesale plumbing companies in Minneapolis. The contract, signed on May 29, is retroactive to April 1 and provides for payment of back wages by June 1. Other features of the agreement include seniority, an eight-hour day, a minimum wage of 57 1/2 cents per hour and double time for all work done on Sundays

and holidays. The companies signing the agreement are Crane Co., Central Supply, Grinnell Co., Inc., A. Y. McDonald Manufacturing Co., Roberts-Hamilton Co., and D. M. Gilmore Co.

### AGREEMENT

This Agreement dated May 29, 1937, between Minneapolis, Minnesota, hereinafter referred to as the Company and Local Union No. 20316, an affiliate of the American Federation of Labor hereinafter referred to as the Union, agrees

### Section 1

It is the intent and purpose of the parties subscribing hereto that this (Continued on page 2)

## Truck Owners Defeat Own Aims in Preference Struggle

Attempts of Independent Owners to Fight for State and County Jobs Hurts Their Own Organizations

Once again the Independent Truck Owners must be called to account for what we consider to be serious breaches of union organizational discipline and actions that are contrary to the best interests of the organization to which they belong.

People join a union for the reason that they are convinced that their best interests lie in dealing with their problems collectively instead of on an individual basis. Joining a trade union organization means that members completely abandon their attempt to deal for themselves and instead turn their problems over for settlement to the organization to which they belong.

Nothing implied in this formula indicates that the individual member inside the organization should discontinue his attempt to compel the union to orient itself in the direction to which he, as an individual member, believes best suited to the interest of the majority.

But after full, free and frank discussion, when a decision is arrived at collectively by the union as a whole, then it becomes the duty of each member to conduct himself in such a manner as will facilitate and aid in carrying out the collective decision. Information coming to the office during the past few days indicate that members of the Independent Truck Owners section have repeatedly and grossly violated this principle.

Members have gone individually to various state and county agencies and attempted to make separate deals for themselves. Not only is this out and out treason to the organization to which they belong but it tends to lead state and county officials to the belief that the union organization has no prestige or support even in its own membership.

Such individual, un-union conduct is deserving of the strongest condemnation. Whenever an action of an individual member causes an employer, whether the county, state or individual employer, to lower its estimation or respect for the union, then such action cannot be too strongly condemned. Let us have no more of it.

# Make Minneapolis a Union Town

### LOCAL 471 HITS MILK PRODUCERS, SIGNS CONTRACT

Twin City Association Signed After Ten Hours; 23 Workers Involved

Complete Shutdown Through Cooperation of Driving Crafts

Continuing its policy of aggressiveness in its campaign to raise wages and better conditions wherever it holds jurisdictional rights, Milk Drivers and Dairy Employees Union, Local 471, struck a blow Saturday, May 29th, at the Twin City Milk Producers Association, and compelled that firm to enter into an agreement with the union which brought about increased wages and working condition reforms for all of its employees.

The Twin City Milk Producers Association is an organization which absorbs surplus milk and dairy products of the local creameries. The refusal of this concern to enter into an agreement with Dairy Employees Union finally brought about an ultimatum from the union, Friday, that their plant would be struck Saturday unless the signature on the union contract was forthcoming from the management.

The manager of the local plant protested that it was impossible for him to call his board together in such a short notice and pleaded for at least a week's time in which to properly lay the matter before the Board of Directors. Seeking to put an end to all delay and evasion they had submitted to in the past, the union ordered the strike for Saturday morning.

The shut down was complete and due to the fact that one hundred per cent co-operation was received from the rest of the driving crafts, the producers plant was paralyzed by the action of the union. A member of Local 471 negotiating committee when interviewed by a representative of the Northwest Organizer said:

"You can say for me that the strike was not won by Milk Drivers and Dairy Employees Union, but rather, its success can be attributed to the fact that the Teamster's Joint Council and its affiliated locals were one hundred per cent behind our demands and gave us co-operation such as I never believed possible in the Minneapolis labor movement."

Twenty-three workers who were involved in the action walked off the job in a body at seven o'clock in the morning, picketed the plant until the agreement was signed 10 hours later.

### On WPA Projects

Brother Enesvedt of Renville, in a letter to the office asking for buttons and supplies reports that the locals at Renville and Sacred Heart are growing and send greetings to the Minneapolis local.

Organizers Viens and Osborn attended the local meeting at Waconia Friday evening last. Officers have been elected at Waconia local and organizational work is in full swing.

The FWS of Local 544 was the first to enter the field in Carver county and the seeds of unionism have found fertile ground there. Workers throughout the county are now asking for organization.

Private employment wage scales should be "pegged" at the regular WPA wage rate per hour.

In the counties relief clients are required to accept private employment regardless of pay in order to

**George Wachsmuth**  
Union Meat Market  
For Quality Meats and Service  
Phone Us - We Deliver  
2521 CENTRAL AVE. GR. 1572

**Christman Sausage Co.**  
GOOD SAUSAGE  
Minneapolis

**FREE!**  
Car Wash or Grease Job  
With Each Oil Change  
GOOD ON WEEK DAYS ONLY  
9 MINUTE CAR WASH  
COMPANY  
1023 MARQUETTE

**Anderson-Nelson Body Mfg. Co.**  
Commercial Automobile Bodies  
Repairing - Painting - Lettering  
2604-6 Lyndale Ave. S. NE. 6554

### 500 GATHER AT ORGANIZATION MEET IN FARGO

Local Labor Situation Analyzed, Closer Bond Between Workers of Fargo

Grand Forks Drivers Receive International Charter; Become Local 581

Fargo, N. D.—Five hundred workers attended the citywide organizational meeting held May 26 in Fargo, N. D., under the auspices of the Fargo Trades and Labor Assembly. Among the speakers of the evening were Mayor Olsen, States Attorney Bergeson, Dan Hahn, William Murray, Swanson, chairman of the Grand Forks Trades and Labor Assembly, Sec.-Treas. Mero of the State Federation of Labor, Hample, Martinson, Governor Langer, and John Boscoe and Farrell Dobbs of Minneapolis.

The present labor situation in Fargo and North Dakota was analyzed in the light of the Fargo drivers strike of 1935 and the events that have transpired since then. The full discussion resulted in clearing the atmosphere considerably, and the meeting succeeded in establishing a closer bond between the workers of Fargo.

The meeting resulted in the setting up of a special committee of the Fargo Assembly, headed by Clarence Peterson, which will work closely with General Drivers Local No. 116 of that city. Several organizational meetings are now being scheduled in Fargo to continue the work started at the meeting.

Grand Forks, N. D.—The General Drivers union in this city has now received its charter from the International Teamsters, naming it Local No. 581. The unit now has over 50 members. At the meeting held May 25 which was addressed by Farrell Dobbs of Minneapolis, 80 local drivers attended and participated in a discussion lasting over four hours.

be eligible for relief. In many instances the State Relief administration is playing Santa Claus to employers in the form of supplemental aid.

There is a nice brickyard in Chaska owned by King Kline. Kline doesn't like unions; workers there want to join a union. Let's go down and button it up, boys!

The next Robbinsdale meeting should be interesting.

Some of the boys will visit projects in Wright county this week.

Mr. Heffelfinger of the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners says 544 can run his board. Tut, tut! Palmquist was just offering a little friendly constructive criticism.

Pork barrel politicians seem to feel that a little "sar-marking" now and then is good for the contractor men.

And those in the know see a nice juicy Deficiency Bill coming up in the next election year.

It seems the writer was in error last week in stating that a White Bear local voted to affiliate with the FWS. We just got mixed up on names. However, we hope that perhaps later we will have the time to call on White Bear.

Watch for announcement of FWS mass meeting to be held soon.

**Loring - Florist**  
1 West 15th St. BR. 2345  
100% UNION

Remember to Stop at  
**NICK'S CAFE**  
1501 South Sixth Street  
CHOICE LIQUORS  
Where Good Friends Meet...

**Samar**  
"FLORSHEIM & RACINE"  
Union Made Shoes  
Factory Shoe Repairing  
2330 Central Est. 1924

ESTAB. 1857  
Our service is available to all regardless of financial condition.  
Donald R. McReavy  
Complete Funeral Services  
as Low as \$110.00  
**WASHBURN-MCREAVY MORTUARY**  
412 Central Ave. BR. 3421

### Bill Brown Says—

Now that the Minneapolis Gas Light Company, the Northern States Power Company and the Street Railway Company have all signed agreements with unions it seems small potatoes for small Minneapolis employers to say that they will not recognize a union. A few of these small guys ought to take a tip from owners of big utilities which employ thousands of men. Unions are in and we don't mean mayby.



BILL BROWN  
President of 544

### Warehouse Union Signs With All Wholesale Plumbing Firms

(Continued from page 1)  
agreement shall promote and improve industrial and economic relationship between those employees who are members of the Union and employed by the Company and to set forth herein the basic agreement covering conditions of employment to be observed between the parties subscribing hereto. It is understood and agreed that this Agreement pertains only to members of the Union employed by the Company and referred to herein. The term employee as used in this Agreement shall not include (superintendent, office workers, salesmen and officials).

**Section 2**  
All employees eligible may be privileged to become members of the Union. This shall not include extra help. Such extra help after thirty (30) days of employment shall, if eligible, be privileged to join the Union.

**Section 3**  
There shall be no discrimination of any sort by the Company by reason of any activity, past or future, of any employee who is a member of the Union with respect to trade union activities or trade union membership. The Union agrees not to solicit employees for membership or conduct any Union activities on the Company's time or to intimidate or use force on any employee for any purpose.

**Section 4**  
Seniority rights will be observed with regard to lay-offs, re-employment and promotions.

**Section 5**  
The Company shall continue to have the right to discharge the employees or any of them at any time without objection.

When an employee who is a member of the Union believes he has been discharged for Union activities and further believes that he has been unjustly dealt with as a result thereof, it shall be a case arising under the method of settling grievances herein provided for in Section 10.

**Section 6**  
Young men in training are not included in this Agreement. It is understood however that only one man in training is to be used where there are 8 or less regular employees and only 2 when more than 8. Aged men or men partially disabled whom the Company cares to continue in their employ will have their wages settled by agreement with employer or if not satisfactory by arbitration.

**Section 7**  
The regular work day shall be of 8 hours duration except on Saturdays

4 hours shall constitute the regular working time. Time and one-half shall be paid for all time worked in excess of 8 1/2 hours per day or 46 1/2 hours per week. When ordered to report for work, employees shall be guaranteed a minimum of 4 hours pay for the day. Double time shall be paid for all work performed on Sundays or any of the following holidays: New Year's Day, Decoration Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day.

**Section 8**  
It is further agreed that one week's vacation be given any employee with one year's service or more, time to be allotted at Company's convenience. It is agreed that the employer shall continue all customary practices which have been of a beneficial nature to the employees.

**Section 9**  
The following minimum rates of hourly pay shall be in effect during the period of time that this Contract remains in effect. Any employee receiving more than the minimum herein specified shall not have their pay reduced.

Warehouse Men, 57 1/2 c per hour.  
Head City Desk Man, 67 1/2 c per hour.

Receiving Clerks, 60c per hour.  
Shipping Clerks, 67 1/2 c per hour.  
Manufacturing Department, 57 1/2 c per hour.

Head Pipe Machine Operator, 65c per hour.

Any regular employees hired shall not receive less than 50c per hour for the first 6 months. After this period of 6 months the rate shall be 55c per hour and after the first year the minimum rates shall apply.

**Section 10**  
There shall be no strike or lockout or other suspension of labor resulting from differences of opinion over the interpretation of or adherence to its terms and provisions. If such a controversy should arise which cannot be settled directly by the Union or the employer involved, it shall be referred to a board of arbitration, consisting of 2 Union members and 2 representatives of the employer. If these designated arbitrators cannot

**BEN MOSES**  
14 N. 5TH ST.  
Choice Liquors at Popular Prices  
LARGE BEERS

**DRINK KATO BEER**

**WOLK TRANSFER CO., Inc.**  
Commercial Hauling and Moving  
538 6TH AVE. NORTH  
Atlantic 2610 Main 4434

All grades Slate and Smooth  
**Roofing and Shingles**  
at attractive prices  
Complete Line Lumber and Building Material  
**LOG COTTAGE CO.**  
34 Lowry Ave. N. CH. 3434

**MARGO CO.**  
27 Washington Ave. N.  
UNION MADE  
Work Uniforms and Caps to Match  
Special Service to Local 544

### Ness-Belor, Labor Martyrs To Be Honored July 18th

Minneapolis labor is getting prepared to celebrate a holiday which holds the utmost significance for the local movement. May Day and Labor Day are holidays that are nationally recognized and nationally observed, but here in Minneapolis we have a local labor holiday which should call for observance by everyone who knows the history of the local labor movement and who has its interest at heart.

On July 20th of 1934, two workers, ordinary everyday men who were customarily employed for wages by whatever boss would consent to employ them, were shot down while they were engaged in advancing and defending a principle in which they believed.

Henry Ness and John Belor were men who were part of that army of millions who lived by the sweat of their brow. Husky, strong and able, their only thought was to sell their labor power to an employer who in turn would give them enough in return to enable them to feed and clothe themselves and their families. They were not Reds, not Bolsheviks and it is extremely doubtful if either one of them could have explained Marxism or the theory of capital.

These men dealt in every day actuality; their problems were ones that ordinarily confront every working man. But they did believe that workers, themselves included, had a right to organize into a union and bargain collectively. When they grasped the idea that they could better advance their interest and better promote the welfare of themselves and their dependents by union organization, they believed in it thoroughly.

When, owing to the refusal of the employers to bargain with the union to which they belonged, these men struck and became active pickets. On July 20, 1934, along with hundreds of others attempted to stop the movement of a decoy truck which was being used in order to provoke the situation which was later brought about, they were shot down and died in the defense of a principle they believed and advocated.

The ground on which they spilled

agree they shall agree upon a neutral fifth to act as chairman.

The decision of this board of 5 shall be final and binding on all parties concerned.

In the event of the employer becoming involved in a controversy with any other Union, it is agreed that the representatives of Local 203'6 will consult with the Employees Committee and use every means to reach an amicable settlement before calling a sympathetic strike.

**Section 11**  
This Contract shall remain in effect from April 1, 1937, to March 31, 1938, inclusive.

**YELLOW TAXI CO.**  
Main 7171

**MINNEHAHA GREENHOUSE**  
4258 40th Ave. S.  
Flowers, Plants, Floral Designs  
Members of Tile Setters and Truck Drivers Union  
DRexel 4402 DRexel 0974

**GEDNEY'S**  
Pickles, Vinegar and Condiments  
Manufactured in Minneapolis Since 1881

**L. E. STREATER LUMBER CO.**  
1111 GLENWOOD AVE.  
Minneapolis, Minn.

**GILL BROTHERS**  
Funeral Chapel

### Ness-Belor Letter Sent to All Unions

June 1, 1937

**GREETINGS:**  
On July 20 there occurs a holiday for the labor movement which is of the utmost significance to every organized worker and every sympathizer of the working class in Minneapolis. As has been the case in the past, a memorial service will be held on that day for John Belor and Henry Ness, who were shot down by the Minneapolis police during the 1934 Truck Drivers strike.

We request that your organization take part in helping make arrangements for the celebration and that your organization as a body actively participate in the memorial services which will take place at 2 p. m., Sunday, July 18.

There will be a speaking program on the Knoll at the Parade Grounds, followed by a parade to 3rd St. and 5th Ave. N. where these two working class heroes fell.



RALPH D. FARNHAM  
951 42nd Ave. N. E.  
MEMBER LOCAL 544

**"Electric Cooking is O.K."**

**"It's got it all over every other method of cooking" says Farnham.**

\$5 down installs an Electric Range  
24 months to pay  
Free Wiring - Free Installation

**Northern States Power Company**

**RYDELL CLOTHING HOUSE**

Corner Hennepin and Washington Aves.  
Thirty-five Years in the Same Location  
SERVING QUALITY UNION MADE MERCHANDISE  
WHAT A RECORD!

**Western Badge & Novelty Company**

Bro. John A. Iethert, Prop.  
ST. PAUL, MINN.  
90% of all the Union Buttons used in Minnesota are made by us. Telephone Cedar 7035.

**BOYD MOTORS**

UNION SHOP  
EXCLUSIVE LAKE ST. PONTIAC DEALERS  
Our Used Cars will suit the most particular Truck Driver  
CO. 3166 Owned by Boyd Transfer & Storage Co. 420 E. LAKE ST.

**WHEN YOU THINK OF PRINTING**

**ARGUS PUBLISHING COMPANY**  
Twin City Printers - Publishers - Stationers  
"ONE OF THE OLDEST UNION PRINTING PLANTS IN THE NORTHWEST"  
ERMETT L. DUEMKE, Prop.  
2335 Central Ave. MINNEAPOLIS GR. 3531-3532

Over 44 Years of Satisfactory Service  
We Cooperate With Union Members  
**CENTRAL FURNITURE & CARPET CO.**  
COMPLETE FURNISHINGS FOR THE HOME  
312-314 West Broadway Cherry 3631

**HOLSUM BREAD**  
"IN THE GAY RED WRAPPER"  
Fresh AT YOUR GROCERS today!  
Holsum Rye  
Holsum Honey Wheat  
Makes finer flavored SANDWICHES and TOAST

**IT'S HEALTHFUL**  
**GRAIN BELT BEER**  
THE FRIENDLY BEER

# NEW GAS UNION SIGNS CONTRACT WITH GAS LIGHT

(Continued from page 1)  
agree to be bound by the following terms and provisions covering wages and working conditions of all employees in the Utilization, Street, Works, Meter Repair, Meter Reading, and Collection Departments, except supervisors, non-working foremen, working foremen, having power to hire and discharge clerks and other office employees.

**ARTICLE I**  
The Union shall be the sole representative of those classifications of employees covered by this agreement in collective bargaining with the Employer. There shall be no discrimination against any employee because of Union affiliation.

**ARTICLE II**  
The Employer recognizes the right of the Union to designate a Job Steward or Job Committee to handle such Union business as may from time to time be delegated to the Job Steward or Job Committee by the Union Executive Board.

**ARTICLE III**  
The Employer agrees to grant the necessary time off without discrimination to any employee designated by the Union to attend a Labor Convention or serve in any capacity on other official Union business but, in each case, permission must be obtained from the Employer.

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

**ARTICLE V**  
The Employer agrees that all conditions of employment relating to wages, hours of work, overtime differentials, vacations, sick leaves and seniority shall be maintained at not less than the highest minimum standards in effect at the time of the signing of this agreement and the conditions of employment shall be improved wherever specific provisions for improvement are made elsewhere in this agreement.

**ARTICLE VI**  
Any controversy arising over the interpretation of or adherence to the terms and provisions of this agreement shall be settled by negotiation between the Union and the Employer; except that any such controversy which cannot be settled by negotiation shall be referred to a Board of Arbitration composed of two representatives of the Union, two representatives of the Employer, and a fifth neutral member selected by a majority vote of the first four. The majority decision of this Board shall be final and binding on both the Union and the Employer in any controversy so settled.

**ARTICLE VII**  
The Union and the Employer agree that there shall be no strike or lock-out without first using all possible means of peaceful settlement of any controversy which might arise.

**ARTICLE VIII**  
The Employer shall not request or

instruct any employee to go through a picket line of a striking Union, except that this Article shall not apply to strikes arising out of jurisdictional disputes between Unions or where work to be done is of an emergency nature.

**ARTICLE IX**  
Should the Employer require any employee to give bonds, the premium on same shall be paid by the Employer.

**ARTICLE X**  
Necessary sick leave without pay not exceeding one year shall be granted by the Employer to any employee requiring it and leave of absence without pay not exceeding six months may be granted to employees requesting it for legitimate cause on agreement between Employer and Union. Employees receiving such leaves must be qualified physically before returning to work. Such leave shall not forfeit seniority rights of employees but any lay-off, sick leave, or leave of absence of over thirty days in any calendar year shall not be included in employees' seniority time and amount of experience.

**ARTICLE XI**  
When uniforms are required by the company, such uniforms shall be furnished or maintained by the Employer. The choice shall be determined in each department by the majority decision of the employees required to have uniforms therein.

**ARTICLE XII**  
All employees with service of one year or longer shall receive a vacation with pay of one week for the 1937 vacation season and two weeks for the 1938 vacation season. Seniority rights shall be observed in arranging the vacation schedule.

**ARTICLE XIII**  
All regular employees will be given not to exceed five days' sick leave with pay each year. No pay will be given for the first day of any sick absence nor shall such day count as a part of the five day maximum and sick leave with pay shall start with the second consecutive day of each sick absence.

**ARTICLE XIV**  
Within each department of the Employer, seniority shall prevail, in all matters of promotion, reduction of force or re-employment. For the purpose of such seniority, employment hereunder is divided into the following departments:

- 1. Utilization Department
- 2. Street Department
- 3. Works Department
- 4. Meter Repair Department
- 5. Meter Reading Department
- 6. Collection Department

An employee who is transferred from one of such departments to another shall retain his accrued seniority in all other departments in which he has served but such seniority shall not apply to the department to which he is transferred. If, however, an employee so transferred is laid off in the new department, he shall have the right to re-employment in any department in which he has previously served, in any position to which his accrued seniority in that department would then entitle him.

No permanent transfer shall be

made from one department to another without the consent of the employee but temporary transfers not exceeding sixty days at any one time may be made at the option of the Employer. An employee on temporary transfer shall continue to accrue seniority in his regular department and not in the department in which he is temporarily working.

In the event any department is discontinued or so cut down (not including regular seasonal lay-offs or temporary lay-offs of less than six months) as to lay off any employee of five or more years' total seniority in that and other departments, such employee shall be re-employed in some other department if there is in any other department an employee with less total seniority than that held by such laid off employee. His seniority in that department shall be determined by his actual service therein but if he is thereafter laid off in that department, he shall be similarly re-employed in some other department.

No employee shall continue on, be promoted to, or be re-employed at work for which he is not competent, but any dispute arising over the competency of an employee or any controversy arising over the ability of an employee to perform work assigned him by the Employer shall be settled by the Union and the Employer as provided for in Article VI of this agreement.

Any employee discharged for cause, or voluntarily leaving the service of the Employer without leave of absence, or failing to report for duty physically qualified at the end of such leave of absence or when ordered back after a lay-off, or absent more than one year on sick leave, or who has been laid off for more than one year for lack of work shall forfeit all seniority rights.

New employees shall have no seniority rights during the first ninety days after their original employment but, if retained more than ninety days, their seniority shall be retroactive to the date of employment. Other than as here specified, they shall be subject to all of the terms and conditions of this agreement.

**ARTICLE XV**  
Whenever the Employer shall lease out or contract work now being done by the employer, all work so leased or contracted shall be done by Union labor.

**ARTICLE XVI**  
The regular work day will be eight hours and the regular work week will be forty hours. Overtime at the rate of time and a half will be paid for all time worked in excess of the regular work day and work week, except unavoidable overtime caused by emergencies, over which the Employer has no control, which will be paid at straight time. Double time will be paid for all time worked on Sundays, New Year's Day, Memorial Day, July Fourth, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day, except that employees whose regular shift assignment requires them to work on Sunday will receive straight time pay for their regular Sunday hours and another day will be assigned as their regular day off

and they will receive double time for all time worked on that day and except that employees whose regular shift assignment requires them to work on holidays will receive straight time pay for their regular hours on such days.

To determine an employee's hourly rate for the computation of overtime his monthly rate shall be divided by 173.

Employees working straight time less than the number of full days possible in any half month pay period shall receive compensation for their straight time in the proportion which the straight time worked bears the full straight time for that pay period.

**ARTICLE XVII**  
So far as possible, considering the demands of the business and the work to be done, work shall be first assigned to senior employees in each department until they have worked the full regular weekly hours.

**ARTICLE XVIII**  
The Employer shall not require any employee to take special schooling or training otherwise than on the Employer's time except in cases where such training is now a requirement.

**ARTICLE XIX**  
In the event that the maximum work week is reduced by legislative act to a point below the regular work week provided herein, the ratios of pay in the various classifications shall be increased according to the proportion necessary to guarantee that there will be no reduction in the total monthly pay for any employee.

All employees covered by this agreement shall be members in good standing in the Union. Any new employee hired shall receive a permit card from the Union before going to work and shall become a member in good standing in the Union within ninety (90) days after the first date of employment.

Present employees not now members of the Union shall be admitted to the Union at the present initiation fee of \$10.

**ARTICLE XXII**  
The present wage scale of all employees in the Utilization, Street, Works, Meter Repair, Meter Reading, and Collection Departments with six months or more of service with the Employer (except supervisors, non-working foremen, working foremen having power to hire and discharge, clerks and other office employees) shall be increased as follows:

Present Scale	Increase
Up to and including \$115 per month	20%
Over \$115 and up to and including \$130 per month	16%
Over \$130 and up to and including \$145 per month	13%
Over \$145 and up to and including \$160 per month	10%
Over \$160 per month	7%

The above bracket percentages

shall apply directly to the monthly rates (not counting overtime) of those employees now paid on a monthly rate. As to those employees now paid on an hourly rate, the bracket percentages shall apply to the monthly rate determined by multiplying the hourly rate by 173.

All pay increases provided for in this agreement shall be retroactive to May 1, 1937.

The Union agrees that its members will individually and collectively perform loyal and efficient work and service and will use their influence and best efforts to protect the property of the Employer and the Employer's interest and will assist in promoting the sale of the Employer's products, and that they will co-operate with the Employer and the employees of all departments in promoting and advancing the welfare of the Employer and its service at all times.

**ARTICLE XXIV**  
The right to employ or promote in accordance with the provisions of this agreement, to enforce discipline, to discipline employees for cause, to discharge new employees with or without cause within ninety days after day of original employment, and to manage the property and business are reserved by and shall be vested in the Employer.

Without excluding other causes for discharge, the following shall constitute absolute causes from which there shall be no appeal to negotiation or arbitration between the Employer and Union; namely:

- Drunkenness or use of drugs
- Dishonesty
- Insubordination
- Neglect of duty

**ARTICLE XXV**  
This agreement shall be in full force and effect from May 1, 1937, to and including May 1, 1938, and the Employer, for itself, and the Union, for itself and its members, each agrees that it will in good faith abide by all of the terms and conditions of this agreement for that period.

MINNEAPOLIS GAS LIGHT COMPANY  
GAS WORKERS UNION,  
Local 20490, A. F. of L.

Tell them that you saw their ad in the NORTHWEST ORGANIZER.  
Don't forget—an ad in the ORGANIZER means that the advertiser is for us.

**Fidelity State Bank**  
Place your Federal Housing Loans and Auto Finance with us. The only bank controlled by Labor and business men.  
INDEPENDENT

**Underwood Agency, Inc.**  
All Kinds of INSURANCE  
Attractive Rates to Union Truck Drivers  
1138 Plymouth Bldg.  
OFFICE, AT. 4770 RES. WA. 2388

**Mill City Launderers and Cleaners**  
918-22 PLYMOUTH AVE. N.  
Famous for Quality and Economy  
Free Pickup and Delivery  
100% UNION HY. 9591

**South Side Lumber Company**  
Lumber - Shingles - Insulation  
1100-1110 SOUTH 3RD STREET  
Telephone Main 8657

**Burr Funeral Service**  
"ECONOMY FUNERAL"  
\$95 Complete  
2310 CENTRAL AVE.  
GRANDVILLE 4412  
3040 SOUTH LYNDAL AVE.  
REgent 7421

Pay Less at  
**Snyder's**  
FAMILY LIQUOR STORE  
36 SOUTH 15TH  
36 SOUTH 15TH


**"Red" Golden's Cafe AND BAR**  
1301 WASHINGTON AVE. N.  
Main 9343  
100% UNION

**Acme Box Lunch**  
20 EAST HENNEPIN AVE.  
Eat Union Phone GE. 6522  
The only 100% Union Box Lunch

**T. L. BLOOD & COMPANY**  
Paint and Varnish Makers  
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

**"THE UNION"**  
DRIVERS CLUB ROOM  
257 Plymouth Ave.  
MUSIC - REFRESHMENTS - DANCING  
Endorsed by Teamsters Joint Council

**SAM W. STOCK**  
Liquor and Grocery Store  
244 PLYMOUTH AVE. NORTH BRIDGEPORT 4674  
Opp. No. 544 Drivers Union Building  
Special Discount to Union Men Free Delivery

**GOTTLIEB GLUEK**  
1828 1880  
In 1857, Gottlieb Gluek brewed the first barrel of Gluek's Beer. It is still brewed, in the good old way, by the sons and grandsons of the founder. For eighty years, it has been good beer.  


**Consolidated Delivery Service, Inc.**  
Established 1914  
Package Delivery - Special Delivery - Messenger Service  
81 S. 13th St. Main 8331

General Repairing and Painting Body and Fender Repairing  
PHONE REGENT 7253  
**FLOUR CITY BODY CORPORATION**  
BUILDERS OF COMMERCIAL TRUCK BODIES  
Exclusive Distributors of Galion All Steel Dump Bodies and Hicks Arch-Bilt Armored All Steel Deluxe Safety Bus Bodies  
2947 BLAISDELL AVENUE MINNEAPOLIS

**Buy Strutwear Hosiery and Peacock Underwear**  
100% Union — Home Owned Home Operated  
Money spent for Strutwear products will be spent back with you, building more local industry, bigger and better unions, and giving valuable aid in making Minneapolis a Union Town. We thank you all—every member of organized labor—for your cooperation in the past.  
**AMERICAN FEDERATION OF HOSIERY WORKERS BRANCH 38**

**Independent Truck Chatter**  
Where's Private Industry?  
What a beating the WPA trucks on the Belt Line and County are taking. They are beginning to ask questions that are embarrassing to the authorities.  
Masqueraders  
It would be a good idea for members to completely destroy the month old union button before discarding it. Too many finks are running around with month old buttons retrieved from the ash heap.  
Independent Personalities  
When the debate gets hot on some controversial issue in an ITO meeting you can expect something like this:  
Chairman: "Let's have some order in the meeting."  
Ambrose: "I'll tell you how it happened."  
Gene: "Wait a minute and I'll set you right about that."  
McCue: "Well, maybe I'm just wasting my time here."  
Hornig: "Now listen, I've got something to say."  
Hodson: "I may be wrong but I think you are all wet."  
Quick: "Let me tell you something, you are all acting like a bunch of school kids."  
Hafte: "If you don't like it you know what you can do!"  
Raze: "Look here, I've checked on this and here are the figures."  
Karlen: "It seems to me..."  
Bovey: "Whether I'm out of order or not, I'm going to talk now."  
Curt: "This mess doesn't improve my headache."  
Hough: "I make a motion to..."  
Soderberg: "Have I got the floor, or haven't I?"  
Anonymous: "I second the motion."  
Chairman: "Bang! Bang! Let's have order and get something done."  
Is That All?  
There are supposed to be 4,020,000 motor trucks in the U. S. But we thought there were about that many dump trucks in Minneapolis alone.  
My! My!  
A Chaska paper stated that any truck drivers that wear a union button on county work will be automatically discharged. And it's such hard work to gravel roads with only wheelbarrows.  
Very Swank  
Tony Castro almost needs top hat and tails with that new automobile of his.

**ANNOUNCEMENT!**  
  
For efficient service and repair of tires we are now located in larger quarters  
**28 South Tenth St.**  
(Facing Harmon Place)  
It will pay you to put on Gillettes when you need tires. They are A BEAR FOR WEAR  
**Gillette Tire Sales Company**  
Richard Stempf Oscar Benson Orville Larson  
Phone Atlantic 4904

**AT YOUR FAVORITE CAFE OR DEALER**  
  
**Wills DINTY MOORE**

150 CARS \$60,000  
**Forced to Sell Regardless of Loss**  
We stated that our prices would be slashed to day as never before. Here are a few samples. Every car in this fine stock reduced from \$75 to \$200 under the Minneapolis market.  
'36 Chev. Master 2 Door Touring. Very low mileage. Finish same as the day it was new. \$475  
'36 Ford 2 Dr. Tr. DeLuxe. Heater, safety glass, excellent motor. Selling for \$435  
'35 Ford 4 Dr. Tr. DeLuxe. Heater, trunk, safety glass. Excellent condition, and what a buy for \$395  
'32 Buick 91 Club Sedan 6 wheels, heater, trunk. Finished brown duco. Tires, motor and upholstery are excellent and cost new \$2,250. Price today \$1,195  
'35 Olds 6 2 Dr. Tr. We challenge you to even come close to a buy in a '35 Olds like this. A beautiful car in excellent condition. \$1125  
'33 Buick 67 Sed., 6 w. whls. Heater, trunk rack. This fine Buick is selling for \$100 under the market price. \$375  
'35 Dodge 2 Dr. Touring Heater, trunk, 5 extra good tires. Finish perfect. A fine family car for only \$435  
'36 DeSoto 4 Dr. Touring Very low mileage. In as near perfect as a used car can be. We receive much at this sale price. \$565  
REMEMBER! EVERY CAR IN THIS FINE STOCK IS GOING TO BE SOLD AT PRICES YOU WILL NOT EVEN COME CLOSE TO DUPLICATING OPEN UNTIL 10 P. M.—TWO BIG STORES  
**LIBERAL GENERAL MOTORS FINANCE**  
SALE TO CONTINUE UNTIL 150 CARS ARE SOLD. FINEST USED CARS IN THE N. W.  
**STEPHENS BUICK-PONTIAC**  
LAKE AND DUPONT 1016 HENNEPIN AVE.

# Northwest Organizer

Published every Thursday under the auspices of the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council

OFFICE OF PUBLICATION, 257 PLYMOUTH AVE.

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One year in advance	\$1.50
Six months in advance	.85
Bundle copies (10 copy minimum)	.02 1/2

Entered as second class matter May 1st, 1935, at the Post-office at Minneapolis, Minn., under Act of March 8, 1879

### EDITORIAL BOARD

PATRICK CORCORAN FARRELL DOBES JACK SMITH

Business Manager DANIEL BURKE Editor MILES B. DUNNE

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.

## Is It Because We're Dumb?

One of the most carefully fostered illusions in American life has been the idea that workers are workers because they are naturally stupid and incapable of learning, and that the wealthy are so because they are gifted from birth with superior mental equipment.

Is this idea valid? Dean J. B. Johnston, in his address before the annual Cap and Gown Day exercises at the University of Minnesota, presents some extremely pertinent and interesting testimony.

"From 1923 to 1928," he says, "there entered the arts college of this university one boy or girl from a laborer's family to every 1,600 adult laborers in the state. During the same period we received one son or daughter to every 21 men engaged in banking or other financial enterprise, one to every 24 men engaged in general business, and one to every 315 men engaged in farming."

We pause here to note how the cards are stacked at the tremendous odds against working class families from the very start.

"Of the children of the laborers 42.4 per cent become successful students," continued the dean, "... of the children of business men 38.3 per cent were successful."

"In 1931 to 1935, of the children of the well-to-do 42 per cent became successful students and 6.5 per cent secured honor standing. Of the children of the poor including those who received federal aid 58 per cent became successful students and 15 per cent secured honor standing."

There's the answer. Despite the fact that the children of the poor worked under the handicap (for the most part) of having to work their way through school, they were yet able not only to successfully compete with, BUT TO OUT-STRIP the children of the well-to-do. To be sure, it is the latter group whose path will be smoothed, and who will be given a hand up, to "success."

But let us never believe again that it is our inherent stupidity that condemns us to toil, and their superior brains that puts them on top. Insofar as educational ranking is a test of mental ability, workers' children can demonstrate they have the edge.

Because the whole question of education is becoming a critical one for the labor movement, the Northwest Organizer is publishing a series of articles treating with this problem which merits a careful reading by trade unionists. Reactionary forces in America are preparing a crisis in education which will tend to bar millions of poor children from the chance to go to school. The history of free public education and the reasons behind the current attempt to weaken and destroy the school system will be presented in these articles. We recommend them to our readers.

## Ford and the Unions

The desperate struggle being staged by Henry Ford to prevent the unionization of his far flung auto empire has a significance in this epoch which should be thoroughly understood by workers everywhere. The ease with which the rest of the auto industry was unionized was startling to even those observers of capitalist trends who passed their opinions upon the difficulties of the past without taking into recognition the pre-war period into which this country is entering.

Not more than 12 months ago trained trade-union observers predicted that the unionization of the country's basic industries would come about only after a bitter and bloody battle had been fought by labor with the tycoons of heavy industry. But with the rapid gathering of war clouds over Europe which will soon engulf the world in a titanic conflict, the masters of auto, steel and rubber have decided, after conferring with government agencies, that their industries were safer for war purposes when organized under a "safe and sane leadership."

The ease with which these industries have succumbed to the drive of union organizers is testimony to the fact that such unionization was accomplished with the tacit consent of the owners of future war industries. But you may also be sure that Henry Ford never gave assent or consent to such a plan.

Ford is perhaps the last of the rugged individual American capitalists. His gigantic holdings are an empire over which he and his family are the absolute and unquestioned rulers. Always a foe of organized labor, its aims and aspirations, we can be certain that Ford views with repugnance and horror the unionization of General Motors, Chrysler and others.

The weak sham battles staged by owners of these companies will find no echo in the manner with which Ford will meet the drive of the United Auto Workers Union. Because he has no board of directors or stockholders to whom he must answer, and for the reason that he is a bitter foe of the national administration and all it represents, particularly as regards its labor policies, it is certain that Ford will fight to the last ditch to prevent union organization from making inroads in his various plants.

Can he succeed in preventing the Auto Workers Union from unionizing Ford employees? No, that cannot be done, but the Auto Workers Union will find a very different battle on their hands when they tackle the last of the exponents of rugged individual capitalism. In the end the union will win but it will pay a price in blood.

## Program for the Office Workers Union

The statement is commonly made that the white collared worker, the office slave, is impossible to organize. Nothing could be further from the truth. In this particular epoch when workers everywhere are turning to unions and union organizations, there is nothing that leads one to believe that the office worker, perhaps the most exploited member of the American working class, is less susceptible to unionization than his brother in blue overalls.

On the contrary, office workers are talking and thinking unionization as never before in the history of the country. They have sat in their high office windows watching the battle of workers in industry being fought out and settled, in almost every case, to the benefit of the workers concerned.

In Minneapolis the office workers of the Street Railway Company, the Northern States Power Company, the Minneapolis Gas Light Company and other places, which customarily employ a large number of office workers, have seen the wage-earners in these concerns win union recognition, wage raises and working condition reforms during the past two years.

Have they been untouched by this demonstration? It is

foolish to imagine that they have not. On the contrary, they have been deeply stirred and almost without exception they have longed mutely for some organizational setup that would give them what they have seen others, whom in their consideration, deserved less, win concessions for themselves.

It only needs someone with an understanding of the psychology, needs and wants of the office workers to win them over to the idea of unionization. Mostly they are ready and eager for the assistance that only unions can give them. The campaign of the Office Workers Union should be concentrated in a drive on large industries in Minneapolis which have recently become organized.

There the union organizer for the Office Workers will find a sympathetic audience and many prospective disciples for union propaganda. Five thousand office workers await union organization here. What is needed is understanding and action.

## Teamsters Council Endorse Joe A. Poirier for Judgeship

Call Attention to Fine Past Labor Record of Poirier and Ask Support

A good judge is one who learns to temper justice with mercy and understanding.

These are qualities which Joseph A. Poirier brought with him to the municipal bench. No cloistered scholar or dry-as-dust lawyer, for fifty years he has lived the strenuous life. On the bench less than six months, he already has put into practice his philosophy of tolerance, a philosophy learned in a lifetime of excitement and adventure.

Judge Poirier is a Minnesota product. He was born fifty years ago on a farm near Appleton, the third of seven children. He led a typical farm boy's life, attended country school, did chores on his father's homestead, and took part in the rural sports of the community.

The first big town he ever saw in his life was Minneapolis, when his family moved here. He was twelve years old, but it did not take him long to adjust himself. With energy and enthusiasm, characteristic of him even today, he became a leader among his playmates. One of the favorite neighborhood haunts was a railroad telegraph station. Even in play, Poirier was learning. He quickly mastered the Morse code, sent messages for the telegrapher. Then he conceived the idea of organizing a number of telegraph stations. Wires were strung from house to house and night after night messages flashed over the wires.

At fourteen, he already was an excellent telegrapher. Soon he was holding a full-fledged man's job as a railroad dispatcher. Shortly after he joined the Telegrapher's Union, and later was to serve the organization with distinction.

Although he held a man's job, he was still a school boy. He had just finished the eighth grade at Madison school. He stood high in his class, schooling seemed a tedious, humdrum existence. Too much was happening in the world to sit idly by. Poirier wanted to be where the excitement was. He wanted to see life and be part of it.

At the turn of the century, Alaska still was the land of adventure and fabulous fortunes. So, in 1902, at the age of fifteen, Poirier set out with thousands of other men for the land of gold. He was a railroad "boomer" a good enough telegrapher to get a job wherever he stopped. He arrived in Seattle with a few dollars in his pocket, but instead of waiting, signed immediately as a coal passer on a boat bound for Skagway. Here was the gateway to Dawson and the gold country.

When the boat docked at Skagway, Poirier was paid off and found himself stranded. At that time, boats did not sail to Alaska all year as they do now, and the ship which had brought Poirier was the last one to return southward. This he failed to realize until it was too late. There was no time to dream of getting rich. The fifteen year old boy had all he could do to keep alive. He did odd jobs, was a swabber in saloons, waited on tables, ran errands, clerked, played nurse to sick miners.

In the spring, he returned to the United States. There were not any nuggets in his pockets. But stored away in his mind were experiences that would be the basis of his philosophy in later life, a philosophy of tolerance and understanding. He did not realize it then, but he was learning about people. He became curious about them.

Of course, his philosophy has been a gradual process, covering nearly forty years, developing and growing almost unnoticed. But the Alaskan adventure firmly fixed in his mind the fact that there is a bit of bad in the best of people, and a bit of good in the worst of them.

Alaska did more than that for Poirier. It filled his mind with restlessness, started him out on an adventure that covered several years and took him to practically every part of the new world. He tapped out messages for railroads in Canada, the United States and Mexico. He drifted down into Texas and Oklahoma just as the oil boom was being talked about. A search for jobs and a new thing called wireless took him to St. Louis when the city was getting ready for its world's fair commemorating the Louisiana Purchase. In St. Louis, Poirier met a man named DeForest, just a tinkering telegrapher. DeForest,

est, confident of the future of wireless, had erected three sending stations near the exposition grounds. One of the three young men sitting at the keys tapping out messages for curious spectators was Poirier. When the exposition ended, Poirier became a wireless operator on boats in the Pacific and Atlantic. As a "sparks" tapping out messages, he visited practically every important port in the world.

Then tiring of the sea, he shifted to the newspaper field, and from 1909 to 1914, was a press telegraph operator for press associations in New York, San Francisco and Chicago.

Poirier felt it was now time to settle down. He returned to Minnesota in 1914. Soon, he was doing three men's work. Not only was he a telegrapher for the Northern Pacific, and at the Chamber of Commerce in his spare time, but in addition, he found time to study law, to represent his union in various negotiations.

To study law was not the original purpose Poirier had in mind. He registered in a course in telephonic and telegraphic engineering at the University of Minnesota. Not finding the course to his liking, he decided on law one afternoon. The next morning he paid his \$10 matriculation fee and was a law student. A problem of getting credit for his class work and a fraternity dispute led Poirier to make another change.

The change meant nothing to Poirier at the time, but it was one of the most important changes in his life. He registered at the Northwestern Law School in Minneapolis. There he met a gangling, red-headed student by the name of Olson, Floyd Olson everybody called him. Then he began an intensive two years of work and study. Poirier literally absorbed law in his sleep.

By the time Poirier was well along in his law studies, he had received promotion after promotion as a telegrapher until at last he was chief of the Northern Pacific Railroad's wire system, had nearly 2,000 operators working under him. The book-lined office of Charles Donnelly served as a study room for Poirier. When he became too tired to read further, the law books served as hard pillows. He passed the bar examinations in 1916 and became a full-fledged lawyer.

In addition to holding two jobs all these years, Poirier found time to give to the Union. He attended numerous regional and national meetings, and was one of the first to propose organization of the highly successful Telegraphers' National Bank of St. Louis. During the World War he represented his union on the labor adjustment board. For seven years, from 1917 to 1924, he was chairman of the telegraph labor committee. It was then that Minnesota telegraphers gave him a gold watch for his twenty-five years of active service.

Nobody seemed to be able to pile too much work on Poirier. He decided he wanted to be an attorney. One of Poirier's first acts was to bring suit against the Northern Pacific railroad for discriminatory freight rates. Faced by Donnelly and the railroad's staff of legal talent, Poirier fought the battle lone-handed all the way to the supreme court. Although the case was won by the railroads, there was a readjustment of rates shortly after.

Poirier worked closely with Olson in the great probe conducted by the county attorney's office which resulted in the indictment of six aldermen, prison sentences for four, and the breaking up of one of the city's most powerful graft rings.

Poirier served as assistant county attorney until 1931, when he was named assistant attorney general. He was immediately ordered to reorganize the Rural Credits Bureau. When this reorganization work was completed, he was placed in charge of personnel of the State Highway Department. For nearly three years, he supervised an organization of 8,000 persons, earned the reputation of being an able executive.

In January of this year, Governor Benson appointed Poirier to the municipal bench.

This rounds out fifty years in the life of Judge Poirier. Here the former seaman, telegrapher, mechanic and wanderer has the opportunity to draw on his experiences as an adventurer and a student of people, as well as his knowledge absorbed from books, to see that law is administered humanely, that each person appearing before the bench has opportunity to full justice.

## Do You Remember?



Above is reproduced the first cartoon that appeared in the Organizer strike bulletin during the July-August drivers' strike in 1934. It represents the famous "Bloody Friday" of July 20 when the police, under Chief Johannes (appointed by Mayor Bainbridge, the George E. Leach of that year), unloosed a murderous fire against unarmed pickets. Altogether, fifty men were wounded, forty of them shot in the back. Two men died, Henry Ness and John Belor.

## Keeping Step With 544

By Mickey Dunne

John L. Lewis was right when he said that a real planned murder took place in South Chicago at the Republic Steel Plant Sunday. However, as is usual in such cases, the guilty will probably go unpunished.

Tuesday the staff was thinned down by 544 sickness.

Lund wants an election in Hastings.

The local labor movement should turn out and assist in honoring those two Minneapolis working class heroes Ness and Belor on July 20.

The Gas Union went to town with the local utility company when they signed a closed shop agreement.

The Mankato union is beginning to make itself felt in Southern Minnesota.

Plenty of trouble at the Northern States Power Company.

The real showdown is coming between the A. F. of L. and the C. I. O.

Milk Drivers Union showed the Twin City Producers that they have plenty of steam left yet.

The Twin City Sand and Gravel have bought several of the snub nose kind.

The local election is in a very muddled state.

Like the Weather  
Everyone talks about settling the cemetery strike but no one does anything about it.

A new member added to 544 staff this week. It is one of the Rainbolts.

One of our members at the Hoigard Tent and Awning Company was in a bad auto accident last week. He is in the hospital, plenty bad.

The Daily Star is still saying no to the Office Workers.

The columnist who does "Labor Looks at the Press" is in Mexico. . . . It's a wedding trip.

Well! What of it?  
Jewelry Workers are threatening a walk-out.

The Editor spent the last two months with the Gas Workers Union.

If all the fish stories we have heard the last two or three days were true . . . there would be no more fish caught in Minnesota this year.

Ray Cooper has a truck for sale. Call him, it's a good buy.

Ness-Belor services will be held on Sunday, the 18th of July. It will be better than ever this year.

G. Dunne was in Mankato Tuesday evening.

Ode to Spring  
Spring is nice,  
Summer's better  
Still we always  
Have our wedder.  
Sometimes hot  
And sometimes cold,  
Bean porridge  
In the pot  
Nine days old  
A stitch in time  
Is the bestest thing  
Still I always  
Like the spring.  
It seems to me  
That this is crazy,  
Still it shows that  
I'm not lazy.  
Spring has gone  
Right to my head  
Some place else  
I've got some lead.  
I think I'll end  
This nutty thing  
Still and all  
I like the spring

Famous Last Words  
My men are all satisfied, Mr. Business Agent.

## LABOR... Looks at the Press

By Carl O'Shea

Bezeers, France news item: Leftist inhabitants gave catcalls today at the bull-ring because the bulls had been brought from Rebel territory in Spain. The management argued in vain that bulls had no political opinions.

But the workers had political opinions about Franco.

From the C. S. Monitor: The 450,000 men and women to be dismissed from WPA rolls this summer can look forward to one of three possibilities, observers pointed out today.

They can get thinner—or wetter—or more ragged.

Detroit news item: The L. A. Young Corp. Monday announced the election of C. M. Young to the presidency of the company. The new president is only 30 years old and will be the youngest top executive in the automotive field.

Yes, Egbert, he's a nephew of the chief owner.

If we were smart, we'd all get ourselves such uncles.

But falling that, there's nothing like a strong union.

Grand Rapids headline: Pickets ignore Warning of Court.

Are the courts still doing that?

New York headline: 8-Hour Day for Wives Urged by Mrs. Roosevelt.

I suppose they'll want time and a half for overtime.

And double time for Sundays. If they get sassy, we'll cross them up—we'll hire three shifts.

Syracuse news item: The younger groups in the State Republican party are in strong disagreement with the old guard, and are taking a stand for a more liberal policy. . . . High on the list of resolutions is one branding Roosevelt's court proposal "a first step along the highway of Communism."

Simile: As liberal as a Young Republican.

Nowadays its fashionable to call oneself a liberal. Why not? It harms no one.

Hollywood news item: Striking studio unionists disregarded an order to appear in formal attire and were prevented by police reserves from picketing the premier of "Captain Courageous."

My cane and yellow gloves, James, I'm going for a saunter on the picket line.

I can't picket today — my striped trousers aren't pressed.

They'll be wearing carnations instead of union buttons.

Brazil news item: Only 11,000,000 bags of coffee will be burned this year to maintain prices.

Yes, Oscar, that is capitalism.

## MEETING SCHEDULE LOCAL 544

Thursday, June 3	— Independent Truck Owners
Friday, June 4	— Stewards
Monday, June 7	— Coal
Wednesday, June 9	— Market
Thursday, June 11	— Membership
Friday, June 12	— Tent and Awning; Printing
Friday, June 18	— Stewards
Monday, June 21	— Wholesale Grocers
Tuesday, June 22	— Taxi Drivers— 1 p. m. and 7 p. m.
Wednesday, June 23	— Wholesale Drug
Thursday, June 24	— Transfer Men

## SCHACTMAN TO SPEAK JUNE 7

Editor of Trotsky's Works to Report on Findings of Trotsky Defense

Max Schachtman, literary editor of Leon Trotsky's American-published works, and prominent member of the Socialist Party, will come to the Twin Cities June 7 to 9 for a series of meetings sponsored by the Twin Cities Chapters of the American Committee for the Defense of Leon Trotsky. Schachtman will report on the findings of the Investigating Commission, headed by John Dewey of Columbia University, America's outstanding philosopher, which recently returned from Mexico City where Trotsky was interviewed exhaustively concerning the charges of the Soviet Russian government that Trotsky was plotting its overthrow.

The only mass meeting at which Schachtman will speak will take place Tuesday, June 8, 8 p. m. at Pioneer Hall, in the Lumber Exchange Building at Fifth and Hennepin. Admission is 15 cents. All workers and liberals are urged to attend this meeting in order to secure the truth concerning one of the most vital questions facing the progressive movement.

Schachtman is well known to many Minneapolis people, having last been here in March shortly after he had returned from Mexico City where he had greeted Trotsky upon his arrival from Norway, from which Trotsky had been expelled on the demand of the Stalin government.

Schachtman will also be remembered by many people as one of those "foreign agitators" whom the reactionary police administration ran out of town in 1934 for his part in the truck drivers' strikes of that year.

Yes, Egbert, he's a nephew of the chief owner.

If we were smart, we'd all get ourselves such uncles.

But falling that, there's nothing like a strong union.

Grand Rapids headline: Pickets ignore Warning of Court.

Are the courts still doing that?

New York headline: 8-Hour Day for Wives Urged by Mrs. Roosevelt.

I suppose they'll want time and a half for overtime.

And double time for Sundays. If they get sassy, we'll cross them up—we'll hire three shifts.

Syracuse news item: The younger groups in the State Republican party are in strong disagreement with the old guard, and are taking a stand for a more liberal policy. . . . High on the list of resolutions is one branding Roosevelt's court proposal "a first step along the highway of Communism."

Simile: As liberal as a Young Republican.

Nowadays its fashionable to call oneself a liberal. Why not? It harms no one.

Hollywood news item: Striking studio unionists disregarded an order to appear in formal attire and were prevented by police reserves from picketing the premier of "Captain Courageous."

My cane and yellow gloves, James, I'm going for a saunter on the picket line.

I can't picket today — my striped trousers aren't pressed.

They'll be wearing carnations instead of union buttons.

Brazil news item: Only 11,000,000 bags of coffee will be burned this year to maintain prices.

Yes, Oscar, that is capitalism.

## MEETING SCHEDULE LOCAL 289

Thursday, June 3	— Independent Truck Owners
Friday, June 4	— Stewards
Monday, June 7	— Coal
Wednesday, June 9	— Market
Thursday, June 11	— Membership
Friday, June 12	— Tent and Awning; Printing
Friday, June 18	— Stewards
Monday, June 21	— Wholesale Grocers
Tuesday, June 22	— Taxi Drivers— 1 p. m. and 7 p. m.
Wednesday, June 23	— Wholesale Drug
Thursday, June 24	— Transfer Men

## 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.

PETROLEUM DRIVERS MEETING SCHEDULE  
The Petroleum Drivers will meet the first and third Wednesdays of each month.

FEDERAL WORKERS SECTION MEETING SCHEDULE  
Regular Membership Meetings— Second Friday in each month.  
Stewards' Meeting—Every Wednesday, 8 p. m.

WAREHOUSE AND INSIDE WORKERS LOCAL 20316  
Meeting Change  
Stewards—First and third Tuesday.  
Regular Membership Meeting— Second and fourth Tuesday.  
Executive Board—Regularly every Monday.

LOCAL 1859 MEETING SCHEDULE  
General Membership—June 2.  
Casket Section—June 8.  
Box Industry—June 15.  
J. R. Clark Co.—June 16.  
Puffer Hubbard—June 18.  
Wagon Industry—June 21.

Meeting Change  
Bakery, Cracker, Pie and Yeast Drivers Union, Local 289, which has been meeting weekly during the past few months, will hereafter hold meetings only two nights a month. The regular meeting schedule will be membership meetings on the second and fourth Thursdays.