

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

Official Organ of the Northwest Labor Unity Conference

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

GENERAL OFFICE: 286 E. 6TH ST.
St. Paul, Minn.
MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE: 225 S. 3RD ST.

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

VOL. 1, NO. 3

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 1935

PRICE 5 CENTS

Union-Splitter Run Off Job by Austin Workers

Sheep-Kill Gang Strikes in Protest Against Speed- up at Hormel Plant

Austin, Minn.—At the regular meeting of the representatives (members elected in each department to take care of grievances) a motion was passed that the representatives send a letter to the members of the Hog Kill commending them on their action taken to remove a disrupter from the gang.

Austin, Minn.—At about 2:30 p. m. on a busy afternoon at the Hormel packing plant in Austin, operations suddenly came to a halt in the hog-kill. The chain which carries the animals past the skillful workmen continued to run, but beyond that nothing happened. The attention of the workers had been drawn toward something of far greater importance to them. A move was afoot to smash their splendid union.

A former union official, ousted from office with the hearty approval of all but a handful of the workers, was conniving to re-establish his pie-card. First he had attempted to influence the union membership through typical employer tactics; the red scare; charges of stuffing the ballot-box, and petitions for his reinstatement, circulated through the plant by the company supervisors. The local papers gave him full support. But the scheme failed, and a new tactic had to be tried.

Attempt to Form New Union

This came in the form of an application to the Central Union of the IUAU for a new charter. for the workers who were alleged to be discontented with the policies of Local No. 1, the Austin local. The request was made by a scant half-dozen men, all of whom had probably been promised executive positions in the new local. The request was denied by the Central Union.

Soon the local papers were carrying a big story about the new union formed at the plant, the United American Workmen. A checkup disclosed that the membership of the new union was the

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Workers Stay Away From Chevrolet Show

The General Motors Corporation is attempting to hold a Chevrolet show at the Minneapolis Auditorium. The workers in the Chevrolet transmission plant at Toledo have been on strike since April 23. Union men and women in Minneapolis and the northwest are refusing to patronize a concern which cannot deal with its workers in accordance with the law of the land.

Go to it, Toledo workers, your brothers and sisters in the northwest will help all they can from this remote distance.

Emme Discharge Not Closed Case to Unions

St. Paul, Minnesota—Resolutions and letters of protest against the discharge of Julius F. Emme from his position as Secretary of the Minnesota State Industrial Commission have poured into that department so fast that the commissioners have been forced to resort to the use of a standard mimeographed letter in replying to these communications.

Reports come to us from organizations in all parts of the state informing us that this subject still comes up for discussion at each meeting and that the workers are still awaiting an answer as to whether or not Mr. Emme is to receive a fair and impartial trial.

Emme was discharged by the Commission for a statement he made condemning a southern Minnesota judge for his questionable conduct in sentencing to jail workers who had been induced to plead guilty to a false charge.

Threat to Appeal Hits Fargo Judge

By Special Correspondent

Fargo, N. D. — The American Civil Liberties Union has wired \$42 to complete the fund required for the transcript necessary to appeal to the North Dakota Supreme Court the cases of the workers sentenced to jail as a sequence to the "Gas Sunday" raid by the police. After tear-gassing the members of Drivers Local 173, with their wives, children and friends, out of the union hall in which they were peacefully assembled, the law charged the leading members with riot and resisting an officer. Unable to obtain justice in the lower courts, the workers are carrying their case to the Supreme Court where, if the law is properly interpreted, their release is a foregone conclusion.

Last fall a group of truck drivers went to the aid of the Lathers Union on strike at the Grand Theater in Fargo. Some of them were arrested. After a long delay, they have finally been convicted and sentenced to jail. Defense Attorney Burdick notified Judge Holt,

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Bosses' Plan Smashed

Toledo, Ohio, May 8—Toledo Automobile Workers Federal union won a two to one vote against company unionism here today. Victory for the union is recorded overwhelmingly in rejecting the terms of the General Motors Co. More than thirty thousand workers are idle in a dozen automobile centers as the strike for unionism spreads. All of the tricks used by the federal mediators to knife the strike have failed. Toledo strikers, out in mass picket lines against the Chevrolet plant, have unquestioned leadership. General Motors Co. products are coming under the ban of organized labor everywhere. Picket lines are appearing before plants and sales offices of the GMC in many cities.

Central Labor Union Votes Unanimously to Back Recommendation of Special Committee to Restore 574's Charter

Local 574 Demands That It Remain Integral Part of Movement

Report to CLU Committee Is Proof of Injustice Done by Tobin

On Wednesday, May 1, Local 574 handed a full and comprehensive report to the special Central Labor Union committee designated to obtain the facts involved in the revocation of the Local's charter by Tobin, president of the Drivers' International. Accompanying the report was a complete file of all correspondence and factual matter pertinent to the subject.

Charges of attempts to infringe upon the jurisdiction of sister unions were completely refuted by a clear recitation of well established fact. Ample evidence was produced to show that in spite of the terrific strike cost, none of which was paid by the International, the local union has paid during and since the strikes almost ten times as much money to the International as was paid in any previous year in the history of the Local. Record was shown of a substantial per capita tax payment having been made as late as January, 1935. It was further shown at what a tremendous sacrifice to the Local this payment was made.

Outlaw Charge Is False

The report recalls the fact that in all cases during the struggles of 1934 the local labor movement was consulted before action was taken by 574. This is brought forward as evidence that, in spite of the arbitrary action by Tobin, Local 574 will fight to remain an integral part of the labor movement and to work with the other unions for the mutual benefit of all Minneapolis workers.

Tobin's program of a union with a small office to be used primarily for the purpose of collecting per capita tax is contrasted with the program of Local 574 which provides for a well knit organizational structure which will provide the means to care for its wounded and their families, protect its members from discrimination by the bosses, and lay the basis for the liquidation of its indebtedness both locally and to the International. A program which will guarantee the maintenance of the existing union membership and provide for further growth.

The full text of the report appears elsewhere in this issue.

Card of Thanks

The committee wishes to thank all the members of Local 574 and others who co-operated in putting on the smoker last night.

574 Endorses Bill Brown

With a rousing vote of unanimous approval, Local 574 has endorsed its fiery president, William S. Brown, as the choice of the workers for alderman of the third ward in Minneapolis. The workers go to the polls for the primaries in the city election on Monday, May 13, to vote out the murder band now in office, and to replace them with men and women who have given their pledge to recognize the workers of Minneapolis as citizens. All out to the polls to nominate the Farmer-Labor candidates.

Union Action Key To Relief Battle

Minneapolis, Minn.—In a poverty stricken dwelling in this city lives a couple whose case is typical of the lives of those who must depend upon government relief for their existence. The wife is an invalid and the husband a worker who can find no market for his labor.

The allowance allotted to them for the month of May by the relief department is a clear mathematical picture of misery and hardship. The husband is permitted to work seven days of six hours each in a mattress factory during the month. For this he will be paid 55 cents per hour, a total of \$23.10.

The landlord demands \$13 per month for rent; the budget allows five. The wife requires a special diet to recover her health; the budget allows \$11.30 for groceries. The weather continues chilly and much of the time actually cold; the budget says no fuel is required. For lights they use candles and a battered kerosene lamp. The wife must go twice weekly to the hospital for treatment; the budget

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Support the Organizer

The ORGANIZER is a free workers' press which obtains its financial support solely from the subscriptions of individuals and organizations, together with the bundle orders obtained from workers throughout the northwest. Bundles of the first issues have been sent without charge so that you might become acquainted with the editorial policy and stimulate a demand among the workers in your organization and locality. Funds are needed to continue publication. Subscription rates and bundle order prices have been set at a figure which will barely meet the cost of publication. Use the subscription blank provided in each issue to send in individual subscriptions and bundle orders. Support the ORGANIZER so that you may get the labor news in an undiluted form.

Ruling by Paul Smith Bars Union from Seat in Central Body

Committee of Three to Carry Protest to Tobin and Green

Minneapolis, Minn., May 8.—Assembled in regular session tonight at the local Labor Temple, the Minneapolis Central Labor Union voted unanimously to send a committee of three to see President Tobin of the Drivers International and President Green of the A. F. of L. to demand the restoration of the charter of Drivers Local 574 of this city. The charter was revoked by Tobin on April 15.

Sander Genis of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, reporting as chairman of the special committee selected by the body to meet with the officers of Local 574 to obtain the facts in the case, recommended that the local movement do all in its power to support the drivers. Genis submitted facts in answer to the charge of non-payment of per capita tax which show that, while it is true that the Local is delinquent in payments to the International, the tremendous cost of the 1934 strikes, together with the obligation to care for the families of the pickets shot by the police, have made it impossible for the Local to meet the tax payments regularly.

Bond Charge Proven False

He showed that Local 574 has almost 500 employers to deal with, almost all of whom have never before dealt with a union; this he compared with the usual setup wherein a union has only a few employers at the most with which to deal and made it clear to the delegates how such a task added heavily to the burdens of the union. The financial statement of the Local was cited by Genis to show that as late as January 1935 a tax payment of almost \$500 was made to the International at a real sacrifice to the Local.

Tobin's charge that the Secretary-Treasurer of 574 was not bonded was completely refuted by the committee. Documents were submitted to show that a bond was obtained by the Secretary-Treasurer immediately after he took office, and that the procedure necessary to obtain it was outlined to him by the General Secretary-Treasurer of the International. The bond, dated November 16, 1934, was shown to the committee by the officers of 574. A copy of the bond is on file in Tobin's office.

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ALL WORKERS INTO THE UNIONS ALL UNIONS INTO THE STRUGGLE

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

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

We Criticize to Improve

There are many things concerning the labor movement that most labor papers, because of their ownership, dare not print. The **Organizer** is not so restricted. Therefore, we shall discuss in its columns many questions that are in the workers' minds but have previously found no medium of expression. One of these is a frank discussion of the causes for the scant results obtained from the time and effort put into the labor movement heretofore.

To serve labor in this manner we must be understood, and we wish to make our position clear. We stand for organizational control by the membership, first, last, and all the time. We will support all true labor organizations, but we will not support a company union in any form. The more militant your union is the better we are pleased. Provided, however, that such militancy is real and is not just following some loud-mouthed individual who has neither program nor policy.

Our criticism will point to our recognized weaknesses so that they may be overcome. When we criticize the A. F. of L. we do so with full respect for that venerable body for the lessons it has taught us and may still teach us, but we do not overlook the evil and cancerous growth that has fastened itself upon it. The A. F. of L. is a human institution and as such it has faults. We have no desire to destroy it, but we do want to help make it into a modern movement. We know many of its faults and want to help remove them.

The Student Strike

On April 12, about 110,000 university and high school students all over the United States walked out of their class-rooms in a one-hour strike against war. It is possible to exaggerate the importance of this movement, either as an effective move against war or as indicating a growing spirit of militancy among the student population. Nevertheless, the incidents which attended the maneuvering for the strike as well as the strike itself are of far-reaching significance.

It revealed the extreme opposition of the authorities, educational and administrative as well as military, to the display of initiative and independence by the students in any really important matter. In some places where the movement for a strike was too strong to be openly suppressed, the authorities tried to "deodorize" the strike by substituting for it officially sponsored "convocations" or "demonstrations" against war. In exactly the same manner, the employers try to destroy the militancy of the labor movement by substituting for real unions their own company unions.

A False Rumor

Tobin in his efforts to drive the truck drivers' union, Local 574, out of the Minneapolis labor movement brings out some interesting sidelights. One of these is a rumor being circulated by some persons, who apparently have an axe to grind, that the leaders of this union want to withdraw from the Central Labor Union and start an independent movement. Nothing can be further from the truth. The actions of Local 574 speak most eloquently of their desire to remain as a part of the central body and the A. F. of L. This tale can be but for one purpose; that is to hurt the entire labor movement of Minneapolis.

What the Records Show

The strike records of the country in recent years show the correctness of the policy of the progressive leaders in the movement. Most of the strikes won were led by the new militant forces in the unions. In sharp contrast, most of the strikes lost were led, or rather misled, by the old reactionary forces. Nor does this take into account the many splendid new unions which have gone down without a struggle under the bankrupt policy of a class-collaborationist leadership.

Biographies

T. E. Cunningham

Tee-hee Cunningham, as his friends chose to nickname him, is a steamfitter by profession and a vice president by aspiration. As First Vice President of the State Federation of Labor, he has served lately as acting President. We find after diligent study and a checkup with many of the old-timers in the movement that Tee-hee makes a very difficult subject for a biographer.

If we attributed to him that commonplace virtue of integrity, we would immediately be challenged by the old-timers who would demand proof. Courage or intelligence, if credited to Tee-hee in these columns, would make it appear that we aimed at humor which is certainly not the case. To say that the subject of this sketch has ability would make us appear ridiculous in the eyes of all who know Tee-hee.

Seeking material for this portrait of an illustrious vice president, we found many ready to tell us about the Northwestern National Bank job and the ratty goings on at the Woolworth Five and Dime building. But what we wanted was something big, something that would make our hero stand out as a man among men. This we were unable to find, for it seems that Tee-hee has always lived the simple life of a very simple man.

Tee-hee is ambitious; there is no gainsaying that. In fact he has long ago taken the measure of George Hall's footwear and has been trying out their stride for some time. One of his many duties is to call the Federation office at regular intervals to inquire if the auspicious hour has arrived for him to officially don George's footwear. Such ambition cannot be rebuffed even by old Father Time himself.

Among the outstanding things of his life we list that he is the husband of his wife, and that he has many friends among the Citizens Alliance employers. He is an officer of the Minneapolis Committee of One Hundred which is attempting to eliminate the need for a labor movement, and at the meetings of this august body he makes speeches for the benefit of the labor-hating bosses who sup with him.

In political circles Tee-hee is a commanding figure; a fence rider claiming affiliation with no particular group. Several heads of departments number among his close friends. We old-timers recall ex-Alderman Jimmie Williams, now on the Industrial Commission; he is one of the long-time friends of Tee-hee and rests heavily upon our hero for advice and council. Tee-hee, it is said, gives Jimmie profound advice on matters both departmental and personal.

Acquaintances of Tee-hee who happen to be unemployed will do well to contact him.

LETTERS to the EDITOR

To the Editor: May 2, 1935

If I were you I'd raise hell with the proofreader, even though he did establish a record for a new publication, viz.: that of making a mistake in the first line of the first article in the first column of the first page of the first number of the first volume. —H. S.

Dear Sirs: May 5, 1935

I am enclosing a one dollar bill for which please send me the **Northwest Organizer** for one year, beginning at once. Congratulations! —H. C. H.

Reading Between the Lines

Reading from between the lines of the daily press, the things that are not printed, or at least not meant to be understood by the workers, is an interesting and most of the time an instructive occupation.

Typical War Germ

Out of the columns of the **American Mercury** comes an interesting tale of the peculiar antics of William Randolph Hearst.

Hearst owns about three million acres of land in Mexico. He knows that land does not sell as well there as it does in this country so he set about the task of getting his acreage over into the United States. It is hard to push so much real estate over the border line so Hearst decided to push the border line over the real estate. To do it, he wanted a little war between this country and Mexico so that a "border line correction" might be made.

He sent one of his men, the writer of the **American Mercury** article, down to the border with the order to "send back war pictures and stories about Mexican

A Glance at the Early Days in the A. F. of L.

By the Old Timer

Briefly, the picture of the American Federation of Labor is that of a foreign structure borrowed from Europe and never completely acclimated due to the entirely different industrial climate into which it was transported. Every old-timer can remember the day when each union had to have its flags, banners, and regalia, with secret passwords and private signals to enter the union lodge room. All this was an heirloom handed down from the old guilds to the early trade unions and later transplanted into this country. Early pictures of labor leaders in America show how proudly they displayed their insignia of rank.

The Knights of Labor, true to their name, adopted the rituals of the old knighthood days and in their setup became a strange conglomeration of politics, fraternalism, and unionism. In many ways they preceded several of the fantastic policies of later labor and political movements. Their political activities were more or less the balance of power theory; their fraternalism carried through into modern times; and their labor unionism was the same as the present idea of industrial unions.

In distinct contradiction to this was the theory of Samuel Gompers and his crowd who were for strict craft organization. This, coupled to another important factor within the Knights of Labor, made it imperative that Gompers destroy them for his own self-preservation.

Prohibition and Cigars

J. V. Powderly, the recognized leader and spokesman for the old K. of L., was an avowed prohibitionist, as were a number of others in the K. of L. leadership. Gompers, on the other hand, as president of the cigar makers, realized that the saloon was the great distributing center for his union's product. He had little grounds for a quarrel with the K. of L. on its political stand, but when its leaders went out to do away with his sales agents for cigars, war was inevitable. He was too clever to use this as an issue, but craft unionism gave him ample excuse, and the powerful saloon, whose political activities were little different than those of later years,

atrocities against Americans." Of course such pictures and stories spread over the Hearst chain of papers may help to create sentiment for a war with Mexico. As he tells the story, the reporter went to Mexico where he, looking high and low, was unable to find anything resembling atrocities or war-like acts against the Americans. So he informed Hearst that "there are no war-like pictures to be taken." Mr. Hearst promptly answered, "Never mind the war. You supply the pictures and I'll supply the war."

That is Hearst, the man who writes the news for ten million daily readers in seventeen cities of this country.

Enlightening Facts

"The National Survey of Potential Production Capacity" publishes some interesting figures concerning the production capacity of American manufacturing plants. In the year of 1929 when the actual production amounted to 93 billion dollars, the plants, as they then existed, could have turned out goods to the value of 135 billion dollars. Having 120 million people in this country, the production, if permitted to run to full capacity, could have provided each man, woman and child with goods to the value of one thousand dollars per year. The average family income could have been over four thousand dollars per year, but was actually only about one thousand dollars per year.

Such figures are enlightening to the workers, but they are not printed in the daily press. One may guess why.

"They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety."—Benjamin Franklin.

gave him the force required to discredit Powderly and his followers. This also accounts for Powderly's going more to the prohibition question and less to labor as time went on.

The early success of Gompers and his disciples of craft unionism in the destruction of the K. of L. was an important factor in the future of the A. F. of L. It laid the foundation, not for a broad, all-embracing, American-made labor movement, but for a strong, closed-shop leadership of the A. F. of L. which to this day has successfully resisted almost every attempt to change its personnel. The records will show that its executive board and other influential committees consisted of almost the same names throughout its history, only death creating a vacancy.

Craft Union Parasites

This is the cause of the present impotency of the A. F. of L.—its ingrained and inbred ideology of leadership, with no new blood and no new ideas brought into it in over fifty years. All around it social and industrial revolution is going on. Within it, thanks to a constant flow of per capita tax, there sits a board of directors who have no contact with the changing class struggle outside, and upon whom the increased cost of living and unemployment, with the attendant miseries, have no direct bearing; only an abstract problem at best.

This is the setup which spoke for the workers when the World War broke upon us, and Woodrow Wilson made his plea for mass organization; which is another interesting phase in the history of the A. F. of L.

Union Action Key To Relief Battle

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makes no allowance for carfare. As human beings they require nourishing food, comfortable clothing and shelter, proper medical attention, and a reasonable degree of mental comfort; the budget provides enough food to prevent actual starvation, part of the rent, a grumbling landlord, a cold house, a nineteenth century lighting system, an opportunity for a sick woman to get plenty of exercise through walking, and ample physical discomfort and mental anxiety.

The workers in the unions cannot afford to forget this picture. The plight of this couple today may be their lot tomorrow. The solution to this problem lies in the unions and in the unions alone. The unemployed must be organized into a special section in the union and the union must fight for them.

Fight for union wages and working conditions and a better standard of living for the unemployed.

In Minneapolis Local 574 has taken up the cudgel to fight for the relief workers by organizing an unemployed section which is backed by the entire fighting power of that veteran organization.

Threat to Appeal Hits Fargo Judge

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Residing in the case, that the verdict would probably be appealed to the Supreme Court.

Judge Holt, very flurried and red of face, called the workers back for a review of the sentence, raised the bonds and sent them back to jail. He realized that the threat to appeal was not an empty one; money would be raised just as it was in the "Gas Sunday" case. Finally the men were released from jail "for seeding time." Now the judge faces a dilemma. He can either grant a new trial or sentence them and face the appeal.

Nothing seems to be more educational to a judge than the word appeal. It is one thing to make a farce of justice in the privacy of his own court room, but these tactics cannot stand the light of day to which they are exposed by a good labor lawyer in an appeal before a higher court.

Toledo Strikers Get Pay on Neutral Soil

We have received the first issue of Strike Truth, the daily strike bulletin of the Chevrolet workers on the picket line at Toledo. It is about the strikers forcing the company to give them the pay they had coming on neutral ground. The bosses wanted the workers to come into the plant to get their pay; so that they could intimidate the weak sisters. The strike committee made them move the cage to the shipping entrance, laid down the law as to what office men could be paymasters, and the pickets received their pay without having to walk on company ground. "It certainly pays to get on the picket line," comments Strike Truth. We agree.

Here are typical items from the strike bulletin which remind us of July 1934 in Minneapolis:

"That was good judgment on the part of our strike committee when they refused to permit the railroad companies to move any Chevrolet stock. These bosses have their little tricks, but we have our picket line."

"Picketing is not grounds for divorce. If you want to see the boys, help serve coffee on the picket line."

Meeting Schedule Local 574

Friday, May 10: Stewards, Unemployed Section
Monday, May 13: Full membership
Tuesday, May 14: Taxi Drivers; night drivers, 1 p. m.; day drivers, 7 p. m.
Wednesday, May 15: Market Workers, Ice Drivers
Friday, May 17: Dance, 225 So. 3rd St., sponsored by Unemployed Section, Local 574. Admission 15c.

St. Mary's Hospital Defies All Unions

Minneapolis, Minn.—All efforts at mediation in the controversy growing out of the lockout of the laundry workers at the St. Mary's hospital in this city have been sharply rebuffed by the hospital authorities. The workers were discharged for union activity. Special arbitration boards and grievance committees from the central labor organizations have failed to get even the courtesy of an interview from the hospital management.

As in all labor struggles, the only course to be pursued here is one of solid union action. Laundry Workers Union, Local 183, calls on all union men and women and their friends and sympathizers to protest this outrageous action to the St. Mary's hospital by telephone, telegraph, letters and resolutions.

Central Labor Union Votes to Support 574

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The committee reported to the delegates that it had held a meeting with the Teamsters Joint Council regarding the charges that Local 574 was infringing upon the jurisdiction of sister Locals and had found this charge to be false.

At this meeting it was brought out that, while trouble of this nature might have easily existed, close co-operation between all unions involved had prevented serious trouble. It was shown that 574 had agreed to carry out the Joint Council's decision regarding the ice drivers; this decision settled the only serious dispute which had arisen.

Summarizing the report, which was submitted in writing, and signed by the full committee, Genis reiterated the fact that the committee had found every evidence of a sincere effort by Local 574 to fulfill its obligations. The committee recommended that the Central Labor Union do everything in its power to restore the charter to 574, and called upon the local labor movement to give them full co-operation. The committee report was adopted unanimously.

Effort to Seat Drivers Fails

Elmer Crowl, delegate from the Iron Workers, and a member of the committee, moved that the

Brother Unionists!

The Central Labor Union has voted unanimously to support the demand of Local 574 that our charter be restored. The General Drivers calls upon all unions affiliated with the A. F. of L. to take special action in full solidarity with this demand. Local 574 is determined to fight to the last for a united movement. Our Local needs now, just as in the battles of last summer, the same unified and unselfish backing of all Local unions.

574 delegates be seated pending the outcome of the case. His motion was ruled out of order by Chairman T. E. Cunningham. Delegate Boerbach of the Painters, also a committee member, appealed from the decision of the chair, stating that it was not asking too much of the A. F. of L. to allow the drivers to be seated as delegates pending the outcome of the protest to the unjust action taken against them. Cunningham, speaking in defense of his ruling, said that such an action would lead to the lifting of the charter of the central body by Green. The ruling of the chair was sustained.

A motion was then passed to send a committee of three to see Tobin in Indianapolis and Green in Washington to fight the case on its merits and demand the restoration of the charter. The committee, to be selected by the chair, was not named at the meeting.

Local 574 Answers Tobin

The General Drivers Local Union No. 574 was chartered shortly after the World War. Prior to that for a number of years it was organized as an independent union which had been through a strike in 1916. During the course of the succeeding years it was made up, generally speaking, of the drivers and helpers employed in two or three small transfer firms who together with the drivers in one or two other concerns constituted the membership.

This membership fluctuated from time to time as efforts were made towards organization work, but never at any time did it represent more than the very small fraction of the street transportation workers.

During the years preceding the 1933-1934 organization campaign the membership ranged between 50 and 150. In the fall of 1933 a group of workers came to Local 574 from the coal yards and proposed to the Union that a drive be made in the coal industry to organize it.

This proposal was welcomed by a majority of the membership and accepted by at least a minority of the Executive Board. The organization campaign unfolded rapidly. With a new volunteer organization committee in action, who had previously spent months in preparation, several hundred coal yard drivers and helpers came into the union.

Employers Refuse to Deal
Organized for the first time, working for low wages under bad conditions, these workers now in 574 faced a hostile group of employers who refused point-blank to deal with the organization. During December and January numerous but fruitless efforts were made through the Regional Labor Board and otherwise to get the bosses to negotiate. Their attitude clearly indicated to the organization committee and to the union that a strike would be unavoidable. Several attempts were made by the union to get approval from the International for such a strike without avail.

In early February, with the coal season rapidly drawing to a close, with the workers getting more and more discouraged by delay after delay, the strike was called. After a three day tie-up the employers came to terms and the union committee was in the process of discussion with representatives of 68 coal employers on minor details of the settlement, when word finally came from President Tobin ordering the union not to strike but to

continue negotiations. As a result of the strike wages were raised about 25 per cent, and conditions were materially improved. Hundreds of new workers were union men and a formerly open shop industry was virtually 100 per cent organized.

Union Grows Rapidly

The success of the coal yard workers in Local 574 reacted swiftly on other sections of the transportation workers. Requests for organization came with a rush. Scores of new recruits came into the union. The same organization committee, with many new adherents, proceeded with the task of organizing the balance of the unorganized workers in the industry. Hundreds of men in the market houses, who were bitterly exploited, came to the union, and the union accepted its responsibility here as in other unorganized sections.

During April and in early May of 1934 additional hundreds of workers had joined Local 574, other hundreds awaited agreements with the employers before actually joining. In this period the union tried through all channels, as it had before the coal strike, to get an agreement with the employers who, following the coal employers, refused to agree or even meet with representatives of Local 574 whom they maintained in public statements did not represent their employees.

The strike was called on May 15. The market area became the battle ground. After heavy clashes with the police and special deputies, with the city completely tied up, a meeting was held at the request of the strike leadership, with the leaders and business agents of the rest of the trade unions where the situation was analyzed, the conduct of the strike examined and the policy of the union endorsed.

A truce was agreed upon and with state troops quartered in the city, negotiations were concluded with the employers, who together with Local 574 signed a Labor Board stipulation which provided for wage arbitration and contained a clause which proposed to define the "inside workers," which although ambiguous, was accepted by the Union in the interests of peace, upon the advice of Governor Olson. This clause, which covered the right of the Union to represent a large section of the market workers, later proved a stumbling block and played a great part in precipitating the July strike.

The May strike was settled on

the 25th of May. During June and July, the whole efforts of the leadership of the union were directed toward an actual settlement with the employers. The main question of wages had been left by the terms of the stipulation, to arbitration.

Not only did the employers refuse to arbitrate but called into question and refused to recognize the right of Local 574 to deal for the so-called inside workers. Countless calls were made by the union leadership upon the representatives of the employers, hundreds of individual employers were visited. The Regional Labor Board was pressed time after time to act. These efforts were, without exception, barren of progressive results. Local 574 appealed to the National Labor Board, Commissioner Dunnigan of the National Labor Department, was then sent to Minneapolis in the latter part of June and for weeks attempted, with the authority of the Federal Government and assistance from the State Government, to bring the employers into line. This also without avail.

Mass Meeting Held

Local 574 now convinced that the Citizens Alliance was preparing to deal a heavy blow at the Union and aware of the danger to the whole trade union movement, that had come so generously to the assistance of the General Drivers in the May strike, proposed, as a last effort towards forcing the employers to abide by the agreement which they had signed, to call a delegated conference of all unions.

At this conference a full report of the situation from 574's point of view was made. Proposals for a parade and mass demonstration

in the auditorium were endorsed. At the July 6th mass meeting the leaders of the trade unions spoke in full support of Local 574 and renewed pledges to back the drivers in any action necessary to force compliance with the May agreement.

Again Forced to Strike

Although all negotiations with the employers had broken down, 574 continued its efforts for agreement through the Federal Mediator for several days. A strike was finally voted by the membership for July 11th. Again upon appeals from the Labor Board and Commissioner Dunnigan a five day delay was granted to allow further negotiations. The strike went into effect only on the 16th of July.

We believe it is unnecessary to speak here about the long July-August strike, except to observe that another effort at settlement was made by the Union on July 26 when, in response to the advice of Father Haas, Commissioner Dunnigan and Governor Olson, the Haas-Dunnigan proposal for agreement was signed by Local 574 which was the next day rejected by the employers.

Other Unions Aid Strike

President Tobin has said that Local 574 has refused to live up to the laws of the trade union movement and the Internationals and that the strikes were uncalled for and unjustified. We offer the above brief history of the Union, the strikes and their conduct to show that such a statement from President Tobin is entirely without foundation and at variance with the record of the present leadership of Local 574.

Not only does the record prove that the General Drivers came to the local trade unions for advice and aid, it also shows that the unions and various central bodies endorsed the strikes and other important actions of the General Drivers. The records show that the local unions without any known exception made real sacrifices with financial aid. They gave full measure of moral support and the men and women from their ranks served, in commissary duty, first aid work and in raising funds and in a thousand other ways, including fighting on the picket lines.

The whole Minneapolis trade union movement recognized, together with Local 574, the significance of the fight that was being carried on by the General Drivers and for these reasons felt and still feel that it had and still has a stake in the fortunes or misfortunes of that union.

Council Decision on Ice Drivers

President Tobin states that Local 574 refused to stay within their own jurisdiction. Unquestionably there is some confusion on this question. However, the facts speak best here also.

The Ice Wagon Drivers—It must be understood that in this field there has long existed a state of disorganization or perhaps better described as a lack of organization. When the coal industry was organized by Local 574, hundreds of coal drivers came into the Union as above described. These men in large part have been for a number of years independent ice men in the hot months of the summer. They had never been organized by the Ice Wagon Drivers Union. Following the coal strike the ice industry in the summer of 1934 automatically came into the field of almost complete union organization, 574 having the vast majority of the independent drivers.

The question of jurisdiction of the ice men was raised with the International in March, 1935, by Local Union 221. It was referred by President Tobin to the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council for

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Straws in the Wind

Things are constantly happening which seem to be mere details without any apparent connection. Yet to the experienced eye and mind these small details have significance. They are straws in the wind, they are often related to important trends and tendencies. In this column, each week, we shall try to report and interpret these scattered events which might otherwise escape notice.

INFLATION MEANS LESS WAGES

There is much talk by bankers, business men and governmental authorities about the "coming inflation," but very few persons have pointed out its significance for labor. When inflation comes prices begin to rise, but not all at once or at an equal rate. As a rule, wages lag behind other prices, while the cost of the things which labor needs: food, clothing, and housing, rise more rapidly. Thus inflation is a fancy and less obvious method of increasing the exploitation of the workers. It is true that there will be more work, and more workers will get more hours of employment. But for each hour of employment the worker will get relatively less in wages. You may be sure that a new wave of strikes is ahead of us.

MUSSOLINI WAS A LABOR LEADER

Mussolini, traitor to labor par excellence, last Sunday offered Italian labor a bouquet. He told them that they faced a "hard period" ahead, in the attainment of objectives "already precisely determined." Italian labor had nothing to do with the determination of these objectives; but it will pay for them dearly with its very life blood. Plainly what Mussolini was referring to was imperial war. Mussolini was able to come to power because of the weakness and division of the Italian working class. These forces in the American labor movement which seek to disrupt and destroy the unity and strength of that movement are clearly preparing the soil for American Fascism. These forces must be vigorously repulsed before it is too late. Don't forget, Mussolini was at one time a labor leader, too!

"HOW TO BE A GOOD AMERICAN"

The boss-controlled Minneapolis Council of Social Agencies recently conducted an "essay contest" in which a trip to Washington to meet President Roosevelt was offered as a prize to the school boy or girl who would write the "best" essay on the subject "How to be a Good American." On the committee of five "judges" was Perry Williams, head of the Civic and Commerce association, which has been trying to "improve" employer-employee relations through its

Union-Splitter Is Run Off Job by Austinites

(Continued from page 1) same half-dozen who had applied for a new charter from the IUAU. One of these men worked in the hog-kill.

Come Back "Dressed Up"

Notice had been served on the company officials by the grievance committee that he was not wanted in that department. Three days went by and nothing was done about it. On the third day the workers took care of the matter in their own effective way. Work stopped, and the men gathered round the unwanted person. He had only one way to walk to escape from the semi-circle of determined union men; that was toward the door. He went immediately in that direction. There was no desire to do him violence; it was merely a question of not wanting his presence. In fact, when he fell on the slippery floor of the killing bed, one of the union men helped him to his feet so that he might hasten on his way. He was walked right out to the gates of the plant and told not to return until he was "dressed up" in an IUAU button and could act as a union man should. The workers then returned to their tools.

A week later the sheep-kill shut down one hour after work for the day had started. Interested in the argument, the beef-kill, operating next to it, also shut down. The bosses were speeding up the chain. The maximum output of 300 sheep per hour had been hiked up to as much as 315 per hour. Under the highly scientific mass production system used by the company, this increase severely strained the limits of human endurance.

Hormel Objects

After two and one-half hours of discussion, during which no work was done, the company agreed to abide by their previous promise not to run the chain faster than 300 per hour. This maximum had been set by a "gentlemen's agreement." The workers now demanded that the agreement be made in writing. They did not return to work until this was obtained.

Calling the executive board of the union into the luxurious office of Dr. Prosser. You guessed it! The winners didn't say that the way to be a "good" American was to stand up for your rights. They did say that one ought to obey the constituted authorities.

In this way the employing class is trying to educate the growing generation that it must cheerfully accept the slavery of capitalism as its lot in life. Once upon a time when aristocrats ruled by hereditary right they referred to the masses as the swinish multitude. Today it would be a fatal mistake for the aristocrats of place and property to display such open contempt for the masses. They can retain their dominance only by deception and deceit. That is why they sponsor such contests and try to build up "citizens" committees.

of the plant's board of directors, Jay Hormel told them that these shut-downs had to be stopped. The union officials pointed out to him that in all cases the company had been given notice of the workers' demands several days in advance of the action by the union. It was shown that in each case the demands had been totally disregarded by the company until work was stopped in protest. He was assured that the union was willing to settle grievances through negotiations, but it was pointed out that this can be accomplished only through like cooperation by the company.

Smash Union-Smashers

In a statement to the Organizer, Frank Ellis and Joe Voorhees, officials of the Independent Union of All Workers, said, "There has been a concerted effort on the part of the employers, the local newspapers, and a small clique of self-seeking individuals to wreck the IUAU. The workers of Austin remember too well the conditions under which they worked before they organized into a union to permit anyone to injure their splendid organization. We shall do everything in our power to maintain and improve the living standard of the workers, and we will fight to the last ditch every attempt to smash the IUAU."

"I'll never go down again to see sojers off to th' war. But ye'll see me at th' depot with a brass band whin th' men that causes wars starts f'r the scene iv carnage."—Mr. Dooley.

Tobin Charges Are Refuted by Local 574

(Continued from page 3) settlement. The Joint Council made its decision without delay, which turns the ice drivers over to Local 221 in July. Local 574 accepted the decision without protest and in spite of some difficulties inherent in such problems, intends to abide by the decision of the Joint Council.

Bakery Drivers—Here also, large numbers of drivers in this calling came into Local 574 in the May and July strikes and were systematically turned over to the Bakery Drivers Union in conformity with the International law, in spite of the fact that it was not in accord with the judgment of the leaders of 574 who saw in this case a process of disintegration. It is now reported that the Bakery Drivers charter has been revoked.

Laundry Workers—Several hundred workers in this industry joined or applied for membership in 574 during the May strike. They were turned over to the Laundry Workers Union when the charter for that local was issued.

Paul Smith's Role
Gas Station Attendants—These unorganized workers were enrolled in 574 in the May strike and continued to come into the Union up to and during the July strike. Local 574 was in the process of negotiations with the representatives of the Petroleum Industry, an agreement seemed insured when Paul Smith came to the city during the July strike, engaged the aid of the Police Department, and proceeded to split away these workers from 574 without the formality of a conference with the officers or even a notification to the Union. Here the General Drivers resisted what would have amounted to a strike-breaking act. Later when the strike had been settled, 574 instructed the gas station attendants to join their own union which had then been chartered and transferred those who were members of Local 574.

Milk Drivers—It is well known that the so-called non-union peddlers came en bloc, time after time to Local 574 during the May and July strikes and even since that time, demanding that they be allowed to join, offering large initiation fees for unionization. It is also a well known fact that they were referred in all instances to the Milk Wagon Drivers.

All drivers coming within the jurisdiction of the City and Sanitary Drivers were sent, in several cases with considerable emphasis, into that union.

The records will show that

Labor Looks at the Press

The new streamlined automobile is like the NRA: so cleverly designed you can't tell whether it's supposed to go backwards or forwards.—Common Sense.

Famous Last Words: "I am sure the employees will agree to abide by the decision of a neutral, fact-finding board."

Old Songs Are the Best

"The unemployed have at least been saved from occupational hazards and from overwork. Those on part time have had more leisure and more open air and sunshine. Others have benefited by the necessity of eating and drinking more sparingly. As a nation we suffer more from the excessives of life than from restraint."—Ex-Governor Winant of New Hampshire.

A Quick Flop

Dec. 4, 1934. "Roosevelt is now willing to hand over the reins to the United States Chamber of Commerce and the international bankers who are back of them."—Father Coughlin.

March 11, 1935. "It is either Roosevelt or ruin. I support him today and will support him tomorrow."—Coughlin.

Piccolo Players

"The (Alexander Manufacturing) company was not guilty of

discrimination against union men because the failure to reinstate the strikers to the former positions was not due to their union activities, but to the fact that others had been employed in their stead . . . and no work was available for them after the strike was called off."—Recent decision of the Labor Board.

Want Ad in Fascist Germany

Needed—333,000 women between ages of 16 to 33, to migrate to farms immediately to become wives of healthy, virile hereditary farmers. All girls under 25 must serve one year on farms before they can be employed elsewhere.

For Scissorbills Only

"It is nobody's fault if he is born a slave, but a slave who is not only alien to the struggle for his freedom but also justifies and eulogizes his slavery—such a slave is a knave and a scoundrel who arouses a just feeling of indignation, contempt and loathing."—Ilyin.

Mayor A. G. Bainbridge of Minneapolis: "In 1934 the police department set up the finest record in the history of our city."

Friday, July 20, 1934: Fifty pickets shot in the back. Two killed.

574 Ball Team Raring to Go

The Local 574 ball team is all equipped and ready for action. C. Peterson, Holstein, Max, Palaia, Heath, Crute, Soderberg, "Swede" Nelson, and Strand are in the lineup, with Tom Olson, Naylor, Atvon, and Rawlins sitting at the head of the line on the bench hoping that one of the regulars will get a spavin or a charlie-horse.

Uniforms have been donated by the Brown Clothing Co., Wolk Transfer, Swiller Transfer, George Date Transfer, Cameron Transfer, Sutorious Garage, Lucas Ice and Fuel, Bud Lyons, Flour City Coal and Oil, and the Flour City Body Corporation.

than collect dues from those who came to the window and forward the per capita tax to the International and would have resulted in the quick and decisive liquidation of the Union and would have reduced it within a few short weeks to its former impotent position.

Program of 574

Second: The policy followed by the present leadership, that is, throwing every available force into the field:

- (a) To check and finally defeat the bosses' plan of wholesale discriminations. That this was absolutely necessary the record of membership lists month by month will show.
- (b) To set up a steward system and build a well knit block of active organizers in the different firms and sections.
- (c) To take care of the wounded men and their families, to pay off gradually, the most pressing obligations, hospital, doctor and food bills, to maintain a suitable hall and headquarters.
- (d) In the meantime to pay to the International every cent possible without crippling the union and scattering the membership, which is the source of all funds.
- (e) In this way to lay the basis for the liquidation of all debts to the International, as well as other local obligations.

EXECUTIVE BOARD
LOCAL 574

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