

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

Official Organ of the Northwest Labor Unity Conference

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

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

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

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MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, WEDNESDAY, MAY 29, 1935

PRICE 5 CENTS

CONVENTION OF IUAW ENDORSES LOCAL 1 STAND

Approves Executive Board
Action Removing
Fosso

Reports of Real Progress
Will Be the Basis of
Expansion

Because of the press of impending business confronting the various locals of the Independent Union of All Workers, a special convention was held Sunday, May 26, at Austin. The call was issued to locals at Mitchell and Madison, S. D., Fargo, N. D., Thief River Falls, Bemidji, Faribault, Albert Lea, Austin and South St. Paul, Minn., and Mason City and Waterloo, Iowa. A gathering of some 50 delegates and alternates (one for every hundred members) met to consider the problems of the Independent Union.

First came consideration of the action of the executive board on O. J. Fosso. After a detailed report of the action, full concurrence with the executive board in ousting Fosso and with the local at Austin in expelling him from the local, was voted.

Reports from the various locals showed that in spite of the vicious concerted attack of the "interests" opposing them, a bright future was in prospect. The immediate needs being a stock of facts, profiting by past experience and a program to meet the needs of the workers. As a forerunner Mason City reported a working agreement being negotiated there.

Committees were appointed to prepare for the regular convention to be held the last Sunday in July. They were the Constitution revision, the organizational program and the arrangements committees. It was voted to hold a preliminary meeting on the Saturday before the regular session.

Resolutions were adopted restating the demand that J. F. Emme be reinstated and an investigation of the Industrial Commission be conducted, that the organization push the program for the adoption of the 30 hour week with 40 hour pay in the packinghouse industry, a criticism of the policy of the Austin American, and an answer to a communication of O. J. Fosso to the convention. Advance remarks were made about the re-organization of the locals and the program to be presented for adoption at the regular convention. The vacancies on the executive board were allowed to remain.

"If I wanted to keep me money so that me gran' childer might get it fr' their ol' age, I'd appeal it to the Supreme Court."—Mr. Doolley.

Defeat the Citizens Alliance Candidates

With the announcement in the Minneapolis Journal that the conservatives are perfecting a "citywide organization to back conservative candidates," it becomes clear to all that the coming election in Minneapolis will be a fight to the finish between the reactionary candidates of the Citizens Alliance and the candidates of the Farmer-Labor Party.

The immediate future of the local trade union movement is at stake! We must have a city administration which will allow workers full freedom to organize in their Unions!

We call upon every worker—man and woman—to take this campaign with dead-

ly seriousness, and go to the polls June 10th to vote the straight Farmer-Labor ticket. Independent "labor" candidates who represent only themselves are uncontrollable in office. **BLAST THE CITIZENS ALLIANCE OUT OF THE COURTHOUSE!**

Starting with Thomas Latimer, go straight down the line for the Farmer-Labor candidates. We call particular attention to the candidacy of Bill Brown for alderman in the Third Ward. Here is a man who has been tested in the fire of great workingclass battles—tested and found good. Support Bill Brown! Support the entire Farmer-Labor ticket. **SMASH THE CITIZENS ALLIANCE!**

Real Action Program for Rail Men

1. A Railroad Council at Every Terminal:

Organize a railroad council in your terminal and connect it up with the Minneapolis Council which will act as a central body until a national conference of council delegates can be called to set up a national organization of railroad councils.

2. We Want One Union, Not Twenty-one:

To reach this goal we propose that one or more of the craft administrations, or all of them if they can be induced to do so, join in a movement to amalgamate the 21 crafts into one industrial union of all railroad workers. And that all craft officials who join in this movement conduct union meetings at all principal terminals throughout the country to discuss the most practical plan of getting together with the least possible delay.

3. A Joint Organization Drive on a National Scale:

We propose that our Brotherhood leadership join in a nationwide movement to organize and amalgamate the railroad workers. And that a series of leaflets and handbills be issued and circulated in all terminals pointing out to the workers the many and important reasons why we should be well organized. This should be followed up with big union meetings, sponsored by our grand officers and general chairmen, all over the country. However, before we can expect workers to join our unions, we must have something to offer them besides that of paying dues, carrying insurance and reading officially censored magazines. We must have a definite program of benefits to offer them.

4. A New Strike Policy Needed:

Our present strike policy like the craft union is out of date. The idea of striking one or a few crafts and permitting the rest to remain at work merely shows lack of understanding or a direct betrayal on the part of those who lead the workers into such traps.

5. A Political Party Instead of The Legislative Board and Lobby Racket:

As long as our leaders are permitted to fool around with these useless and expensive legislative boards and lobbies the railroad workers will have some costly experience which will teach them that a labor lobby is no substitute for a labor union. Workers can only gain political influence and control by being organized. For this purpose the workers need a political party instead of a legislative lobby.

6. Officers' Salaries: Reduced to the Union Scale:

We favor the election of all salaried officials by a referendum vote of the membership affected.

8. Against Independent Action of Leadership:

We are opposed to the idea of

labor officials acting independently of the membership on important questions. We want the union leaders to consult the members on important matters before they take action on them with the railroad officials.

9. Lower Dues and No Admission Fee:

10. Rid the Unions of Gag Rules, Obligations and Secret Work:

Wherever we find gag-laws we generally find a poor leadership who needs this special protection. A good and capable leadership would spurn such laws.

We also recommend that all lodge rituals and other secret work be relegated to the basement furnace where it is long since overdue. To indulge in ritualistic mummery might be a fitting pastime for savages, but it is certainly out of date in workers' meetings.

11. General Demands:

(a) For the six hour day without reduction in pay.

(b) For two men on every locomotive for convenience and safety.

(c) Against consolidation of terminals unless it benefits the workers.

(d) For an adequate retirement pension.

(e) A joint National agreement between all legitimate railroad unions and all railroad companies.

(f) That all union demands be made jointly and backed by all the crafts.

(g) That all demands be taken to the railroad companies direct and not taken to legislative bodies or the Interstate Commerce Commission.

(h) That our present useless and expensive legislative boards and lobbies be abolished and that our Brotherhood leadership be requested to join with the rest of the labor movement for the building of a workers' political party.

Note—All railroad men interested in this program should communicate with the Minneapolis Railroad Council, 631 3rd Ave. S.

Lumber Strike Solid; 30,000 Out

To read the Minneapolis press, you'd never think that 30,000 lumber workers on the west coast have tied up the industry in a bitter fight for higher wages and union recognition. For the capitalist newspapers all over the country have, many months ago, decided to boycott as much as possible all strike news. It might be "catching," you know.

Governor Martin of Oregon, a retired major-general, has threatened to call out the national guard against the strikers. A few days ago strikers from all over the state raced by auto to the Stimpson mill near Forest Grove, surrounded the mill for 18 hours and closed it down.

Meeting Schedule Local 574

Wednesday, June 5: Ice Drivers.
Thursday, June 6: Independent Truck Owners and Construction Haulers.
Friday, June 7: Stewards.
Monday, June 10: Full membership.
Wednesday, June 12: Market Workers; Ice Drivers.
Friday, June 14: Unemployed Section.

TRUCK DRIVERS HELP BUILDING TRADES BATTLE

Carpenters, Building Laborers Win Fight for 100% Union Job

Local 574 Prepares Program to Improve Conditions in the Ice Industry

Minneapolis, Minn.—At the regular meeting of Local 574 on Monday, May 27, the membership received the report of the Executive Board with real enthusiasm. The report showed ample evidence of activity and gave every member the firm belief that Local 574 is striding rapidly toward greater gains for the members and a bigger membership in the union.

The members were instructed to notify the union headquarters immediately if they fail to receive the wage increase on their first pay check after June 1. It was pointed out that those workers who are not members of Local 574 have no guarantee of getting the raise, and the members were urged to put real enthusiasm into the organization campaign to help correct this condition.

It was reported that the Building Laborers and Carpenters had succeeded in making the New England job at 8th and Marquette 100 per cent union. In the course of this fight it was clearly demonstrated that a well organized, fighting union of drivers is the best ally that the labor movement can obtain. This job was tied up completely in less than forty minutes by the truck drivers who refused to haul material to a scab job.

It was decided to continue the present initiation and reinstatement fee of \$3 during the organization campaign. The hall committee reported that a new headquarters which will be a real improvement over the present hall will have been secured and will be ready for occupancy before the next meeting.

After a lengthy discussion of the necessity of raising funds to pay the debt still outstanding for doctor and hospital bills incurred during the 1934 strikes, the members voted to pay one month's dues in advance to help meet this obligation. This will mean that all members who can possibly do so will pay their June and July dues during the month of June and their August dues during July. It was explained that on this basis additional funds can be raised at once and in the June-July period special plans for raising funds will have matured to an extent sufficient to meet the August requirements. All members are urged to co-operate in this plan so that a special assessment may be avoided.

ALL WORKERS INTO THE UNIONS ALL UNIONS INTO THE STRUGGLE

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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."

How to Stop Charter Revocations

A spontaneous agitation has been growing in the ranks of the Minneapolis unions to return all local union charters to the A. F. of L. in a protest against the revocation of the charter of Local 574. It is gratifying to find that workers generally are aware of the great injustice which has been done to the General Drivers, but we do not agree that this is the proper program. It would be a mistake for the unions to cut themselves adrift from the unification made possible through the A. F. of L. The fight must be carried on in a different manner.

First, and most essential, the bureaucracy, which sucks the life blood from the movement from the top, must be removed. To accomplish this the minor officials who hold office through subservience to the higher-ups, and who serve as their tools must be replaced by real leaders who will serve the workers honestly. This can be accomplished in the elections held in the local unions. This new leadership, as it gains in numbers, will replace the petty bureaucrats in the central bodies and the state executive councils. From this point a real housecleaning can be accomplished which will completely rebuild the movement into a healthy and growing thing.

In general, the national and state officialdom is defective and should be removed. In the local unions and in the central bodies, however, there are many worthwhile, progressive elements. There are also many undesirable elements; self-styled leaders who duck their responsibilities to the membership by toying with class-collaboration schemes and by kowtowing to the higher-ups in the A. F. of L. The latter, unfortunately, are in the majority.

The membership of the local unions must pick and choose carefully in electing their local officers. If they do this, such actions as those directed against the truck drivers in Fargo and Minneapolis, the auto workers at Toledo, the rubber workers at Akron, and countless other unions can be effectively stopped.

* * *

Mussolini — Hitler — Dillon

EDITORIAL—THE UNION LEADER

(Official Paper of the Toledo Central Labor Union)

When the time came for the agreement to be presented to the Chevrolet strikers for their acceptance or rejection, the strikers voted not to allow Dillon the privilege of addressing them until after the vote was taken. When Mr. Dillon came into the meeting hall, the animosity felt against him by the workers manifested itself in loud boos from all sides. . . .

He flew into a violent rage and told the officers of the union that the charter of the union was revoked. . . .

Never in the history of the labor movement have I witnessed such a case of domination, such an arrogant disregard of the rights of the workers or such a positive dictatorship over free American citizens as was shown by this representative of the A. F. of L. who is hired out of the money paid into the federation treasury by per capita from the rank and file. . . .

If that is now the policy of those elected as officers in the A. F. of L., the quicker we workers know it the sooner we will be able to start a fight for American freedom by purging the labor movement of dictators who live off the per capita of we workers.

The Nation's Leaders

"I fear, however, that in our social and economic life the objectives must always come from that mysterious realm which all engineers and scientists should treat with the greatest respect, but with which engineering and scientific methods are totally unable to grapple."—Secretary Wallace, Department of Agriculture.

He also dabbles in astrology and numerology, corresponds regularly with an Indian medicine man, and is in addition a vegetarian. Maybe that's why the poor farm-

ers love his AAA. Most of them would like to boot his AAA.

Take Your Pick

"The Hearst papers are in favor of American independence, American rights and liberties, free speech, free assembly, freedom of thought and action, and freedom of the press."—Hearst ad in April, 1935.

"Congress should answer the American Civil Liberties Union by investigating the political beliefs of its members."—Hearst editorial in March, 1935.

The Battle of The Soup Bone

By the Old Timer

Labor's biennial "battle of the soup bone" is on. Confident that George Hall will be unable to run for re-election because of his poor health, Secretary Lawson and Vice Presidents Cunningham and Starkey are rushing about the state, at the expense of the Federation, attempting to repair their badly demolished political fences. Cunningham is the principal aspirant for Hall's job, and the trio are grooming a dark horse candidate for Cunningham's present position.

They have selected a St. Paul reactionary who recently ran a non-union orchestra and who is known to be under heavy obligation to certain Ramsey County politicians. Such a candidate fits well into their requirements—little brains and less principle.

True to form, as evidenced in the last report of the Executive Council, this coterie of "labor politicians" is reorganizing the central bodies in the smaller communities, not for bettering the conditions of the workers, but in an attempt to gain re-election for themselves. And another old trick is being used, as it has been year after year; at Red Wing, where the convention is to be held, feverish attempts are being made to organize new unions—to make votes for the bureaucrats now in control.

This has long been a custom: to hold the convention in an out of the way place, away from the industrial centers, so that it will be difficult for the majority of the unions to send delegates; then, by taking special pains to see that their own chosen sheep arrive safely, the bureaucrats steam roller through their re-election.

That is a clever plan, but it is becoming somewhat threadbare. The workers are beginning to ask, "How much pay do the officials of the State Federation get? How much of our money do they spend in addition to this? What have they accomplished? How many workers have they organized? What gains have the workers made through the efforts of the Executive Council?" These have become pertinent questions in the trying times of today.

Throughout the state the unions are preparing to send capable delegates to Red Wing in August to ask these questions and demand an answer. Many have declared that they are going to get there even if they have to imitate the old I. W. W. "overall brigade." It is going to take more than smooth talk and political conniving to win this year's election.

State Employees Renew Affiliation Effort

May 23, 1934

Mr. Geo. W. Lawson,
Minn. State Federation of Labor,
Labor Temple, St. Paul, Minn.

Dear Mr. Lawson:
During the period from July through October, 1933, an effort was made by a group of state employees to obtain a charter and organize a general State Employees Union. You will no doubt recall meeting with committees and carrying on correspondence about this matter. However, at that time, there seemed to be no satisfactory arrangement that could be arrived at.

These state employees, being very desirous of starting organizational work among state employees, continued their organizational efforts and were of the general agreement that affiliation to the American Federation of Labor could be held in abeyance. Out of this effort came the Minnesota State Employees Association, officially setting themselves up as an organization on March 25, 1934, and to date representing several thousand state employees. It has steadfastly been the belief and desire of both the originators and the present membership of the Minnesota State Employees Association to be a part of the labor movement as represented by the American Federation of Labor.

Since American Federation of Labor convention last October, there is a growing sentiment among the membership and leaders of our association that because of the action taken by the American Federation of Labor convention as regards organizational structure, the

Biographies Frank T. Starkey

We first see Frank T. Starkey, who must have been born with a four leaf clover in each hand, as an ambitious boy studying geography on the rounded rear of a horse hitched to a McCue Transfer rig. His pointer is a broken whip with which he prods the live half-globe confronting him. He dreams of worlds to conquer; his vocal challenges bringing answers only in a strange tongue, but practice improves his vocabulary as he addresses the moving world before him.

The clover leaves make good. Into his life comes Chris Jergusen, a tireless and determined labor organizer, who makes Frank his helper in organizing the milk drivers of St. Paul. Capitalizing on the milk strike in Minneapolis, he succeeded in getting a job as business agent of his union at a decent salary.

Frank took that pay and as a side line practiced penmanship. Knowing but one name, his own, he stretched the rubber generously where the conscience of the taker was none too clean. Who made good on these expeditions into Ponzi finance is one of the mysteries of the clover leaves, but the legend goes that the good fairy that visited the office nightly to cover the books was roundly abused and left out in the cold to starve.

Time and practice make all things perfect, and Frank was soon a pupil who made his masters proud. He was useful to his union's employers and they were glad to reciprocate. Anyone in the union that did not agree simply was no longer employed. How well he served his masters is shown by the fact that a co-operative was never started in St. Paul.

His ventures into the political field have been a disappointment to his friends and a disillusionment to the workers. Due to the shortcomings of personal habits he failed miserably as Chief Clerk of the House in the Legislature, and he has made a sorry mess of his responsibilities to the workers as a member of the State Industrial Commission.

Frank is a sentimental soul, and, imagining himself to be the reincarnation of Hero, of Greek mythology, he swims frequently across a Hellespont of cheap liquor to his heavy Leander. His monumental soul expression was his grand oration delivered in the closing hour of the State Federation convention at International Falls, the title of which, it will be recalled by the delegates, was "A Crying Jag's Defense of Private Insurance Companies."

Baseball Sunday, June 2

Minneapolis—The Local 574 ball team plays its next game against the Glenwood C-C at Parade 2 on Sunday, June 2, at 3 p. m.

Additional donations for equipment have come from Carl Boller & Sons, Boutells, Imperial Cafe, Hennepin Coal and Blau Oils.

Minnesota State Employees Association could now possibly have the type of affiliation that is needed to give the most effective organization.

At meeting last week, the State Committee of the Minnesota State Employees Association (which is the supreme body between conventions) authorized and directed the officers of the Association to communicate both with the Minnesota State Federation of Labor and with the American Federation of Labor as to the feasibility of obtaining a charter and as to what provisions would be for obtaining a charter.

We would appreciate receiving at your earliest convenience your opinion and proposals on this matter.

Sincerely yours,
H. A. SCHULTZ,
Secretary Treas. Minnesota State Employees Association.
Copy to: Frank Morrison, Secretary, American Federation of Labor, Washington, D. C.

Labor Supports Ousted Teacher

Allentown, Pa.—Professor Winslow N. Hallett of Cedar Crest College, dismissed last week by the Board of Trustees, was today joined in his fight for reinstatement in the local college, by the Allentown Central Trades and Labor Council, and by Oscar H. Levenson, local dress manufacturer and father of a scholarship pupil at the college.

Professor Hallett is treasurer of the local union of the American Federation of Teachers (A. F. of L.) and has been active in the Pennsylvania Unemployed leagues.

On May 2 President W. F. Curtis informed Mr. Hallett that he would not be reappointed. Hallett refused to resign, and alleges that Curtis later told him that his professional competence was not in question, but that his pro-labor activities were the ground of the discharge.

The Non Partisan Labor Defense of New York, asked by Dr. Hallett to bring his case to the attention of organized labor, today appealed to various labor organizations to support Hallett. The American Civil Liberties Union has sent a protest to the trustees, and has appointed Prof. Sidney Hook of New York University, and Prof. Horace Kallen of the New School for Social Research to represent it in the Hallett affair.

Another Report On Tobin 'Rubbish'

Stamford, Conn.,
May 17, 1935.

To the Editor:
Enclosed find one buck for a year's subscription to the Northwest Organizer. I have been out in California for the Non-Partisan Labor Defense, fighting the labor-haters who just sent eight union men to San Quentin for criminal syndicalism. Consequently I have not seen the first two issues; please send me copies.

By the way, I read in the third issue that the American Civil Liberties Union sent \$42 to help the Fargo boys in their fight against the frame-up campaign there. I think it only fair to add that the attorney in the Fargo cases, Francis Heisler of Chicago, was provided and paid for by the Non-Partisan Labor Defense central office in New York, and that additional funds to fight the case were raised by the Non-Partisan Labor Defense committees in Chicago, Minneapolis and Fargo. The American Civil Liberties Union was rallied to the case by the appeals of the New York Non-Partisan Labor Defense.

It is a pleasure to see what a fine paper you are getting out. As an honorary member of Local 574 I am especially glad to see the fight you are making to force Tobin to reopen the doors to the fighting drivers. Let me tell you, Dan Tobin cuts no ice in California; I didn't hear a good word for him in four months. In the A. F. of L. Convention there in the fall he took the floor and characterized the thousands of new workers in the A. F. of L. such as Local 574's members and the Toledo strikers, as "rubbish." That is just what he said about Bill Brown, Vince Dunne, and the other boys on 574's Board, so we know what he means.

Best luck to the Northwest Organizer.
Herbert Solow.

"Laws ar're made to throuble people, an' th' more throuble they make th' longer they stay on the stachoo books."—Mr. Dooley.