

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

Official Organ of the Northwest Labor Unity Conference

MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE: 257 PLYMOUTH AVE. N.
GENERAL OFFICE: 286 E. 6TH ST.
St. Paul, Minn.

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

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

VOL. 1, NO. 8

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 1935

PRICE 5 CENTS

Tobin Invokes New Union-Buster Move Against 574

Driver Returned To Job by Union

On Monday, June 10, Ralph Blaisdell was dismissed by the Ferrin Transfer Co. The dismissal notice, phrased in typical Levy language, alleged that Ralph had been guilty of creating discord between employees.

The company was unable to show proof of the charges when interviewed by Carl Skoglund and Jack Severson, and the union notified them that they would be tied up Thursday morning if the matter was not straightened up, and customers of Ferrin's were notified of the impending strike.

With complete arrangements made for the tie-up on Thursday as promised, the manager of the company called the union at 7 p. m. on Wednesday and told them that Blaisdell could come back to work in the morning.

Local 574 Forms Motorcycle Club

Plans are now under way for the organization of a motorcycle club under the sponsorship of General Drivers Local 574. The first organization meeting will be held at the new headquarters, 257 Plymouth avenue north, on Monday, June 17, at 8 p. m.

All breeds of cycles are welcome. A Gypsy tour is planned for the near future.

Golden Valleyites Hold Outdoor Meet

The Commonwealth Workers association of Golden Valley will hold its annual outdoor festival at 513 Meadow Lane on June 12. Together with similar groups in other rural communities, this organization is making splendid headway among the workers employed under the new relief plan.

Newspaper Guild To Join A. F. of L.

Delegates to the American Newspaper Guild convention voted 76½ to 47½ to accept a committee report favoring affiliation to the A. F. of L.

The Guild, an organization of newspaper editorial workers, has carried on a number of fine struggles for recognition by the employers and for improved conditions. They will be a welcome addition to the movement.

DEMANDS THAT UNION BE SPLIT UP AND ALL MILITANT WORKERS BE EXPELLED!

Central Labor Union Delegates Ridicule Proposal But Are Tricked by Frightened Bureaucrats

Veterans of Many Battles, 574 Prepares to Meet Tobin Onslaught With Full Fighting Front

The Central Labor Union committee has returned from Indianapolis bearing a set of written demands from D. J. Tobin which outline the basis on which General Drivers Local 574 can be reinstated in the Drivers International. These demands bear witness to the ruthless tactics to which Tobin will stoop in his burning desire to get revenge for an imaginary grievance.

Here are his demands:

1. That all inside workers be denied membership in the union.
2. That no worker who does not devote at least 51 per cent of his time to driving or other actual work on a truck be permitted to be a member.
3. That the ice drivers be in a separate union. That the coal drivers be in a separate union.
4. That the taxi drivers be in a separate union.
5. That all independent truck owners be denied membership in any union.
6. That a new charter be issued on the following basis:
 - a. All present officers and all active members in Local 574 be denied membership under the new charter.
 - b. All applications for membership be subject to the approval of Tobin. (This would mean that any worker who is even suspected of having taken an active part in the union would be unable to remain a member.)
 - c. That the Teamsters Joint Council reorganize the local under the direct supervision of a special representative of Tobin.
 - d. That all actions of the union be subject to the approval of Tobin.
7. That Tobin receive the delinquent per capita tax of Local 574, the amount to be determined by the General Executive Board and to be not less than 50 per cent of what Tobin estimates the local owes. (Tobin's estimate, by the way, is almost double the actual amount involved.)

This program was planned deliberately to cut the union up into small helpless units and to strip

it of its fighting ability. Tobin does not want a union in his International which has the power of 574. A few unions like 574 and it would be impossible for him to maintain his bureaucratic control which constantly strangles unionization of the truck drivers of the nation.

TOBIN PROGRAM WORSE THAN BOSSES

In this desperate attempt to protect his pie-card, Tobin is putting forward the same program which the Citizens Alliance put forward last summer. Once again he plays into the hands of the employers as he did through his editorial writing during the 1934 strikes. In fact he attempts to go even further than the bosses did. Not only does he deny that the inside workers have a right to belong to the union, but he attempts to confine the membership of the General Drivers to workers who spend at least 51 per cent of their time on trucks, and then they can be members only if the truck is used to haul certain Tobin-approved commodities.

After reading the Tobin manifesto to the assembly, Jean Speilman, spokesman for the CLU committee, moved that the report be

Housewarming Party

On Saturday evening, June 15, Local 574 will initiate its new home at 257 Plymouth avenue north (formerly the Casino ballroom), with a housewarming party. From all reports it will be a gala affair. Two thousand tickets giving a reduction of admission from 25 to 15 cents have been distributed. There will be a six-piece orchestra, several entertainment features, and a special treat for the kiddies. Refreshments will be served in the second floor clubrooms where temporary fixtures have been installed.

referred to the Teamsters Joint Council for action.

TOBIN SLANDER USED IN ELECTION CAMPAIGN

At this point several delegates took the floor demanding to know why and how intimate details regarding the Local 574 charter fight had come into the hands of the candidate opposing William S. Brown in the aldermanic race in the third ward. Brown, the president of 574, played a militant role in the 1934 strikes and, in keeping with his fighting ability and instincts, waged a splendid and clean fight in the election campaign. But despite this fine record he was not invited to speak to the assembly on this issue which is of such vital importance to his union.

Moe Hork, a member of the 574 executive board, was denied the floor when he attempted to speak on the tactics employed against Brown in the campaign.

Many delegates took the floor to speak of the great gains which the General Drivers have brought to the entire labor movement. Specific instances were cited, such as the New England construction job where the truck drivers threw their strength into a fight which had begun to appear quite hopeless to the building trades unions.

TRAVESTY ON UNION DEMOCRACY

At this point in the debate, which had by now become very heated, a substitution motion was made to throw the Tobin demands in the waste basket. This motion was later ruled out of order on the grounds that it was a negative motion and could not be voted on.

Delegate Wachter pointed out clearly and completely what a travesty of trade union democracy Tobin's policies represent. He pictured how the overwhelming ma-

(Continued on page 2)

Building Trades Assist Drivers

A fine example of co-operation between union organizations has been carried out in recent weeks in the building trades industry in Minneapolis. Operating under the slogan of "All for one and one for all," the iron workers, building laborers, carpenters and truck drivers have succeeded in bringing real benefits to the members of these organizations.

Aided by the truck drivers in establishing union conditions at the beginning of construction jobs, the above organizations have fully repaid the drivers by helping to maintain union conditions for the drivers after the job has been started.

The spirit created by these successes is rapidly permeating the ranks of other unions, and organized labor in Minneapolis is beginning to really understand the value of solid union action.

Ford Fires 800 Twin City Men

Minneapolis, Minn. — A few weeks ago newspapers all over the country were singing praises to Henry Ford because he had voluntarily raised the wages of his workers to \$6 per day. The Minneapolis papers considered this front page news. There was no mention made of the fact that Mr. Ford's philanthropy was a direct result of the Chevrolet strike in Toledo, Ohio.

Now Ford has laid off 800 workers in the twin cities, but there is no mention of this in the papers. A committee of the discharged workers called on the local papers asking that this mass lay-off be reported to the public, but they were given a very polite run-around.

YOUTH—Watch This Guy!

"I propose that \$24,000,000 per month be released throughout the nation to engage at least 2,000,000 thwarted youths. . . This is what I call federal initiation and local administration."—John W. Studebaker, U. S. Com. of Education.

And what we call setting the youth to work at scab wages (a maximum of \$3 weekly to each youth).

"No matter whether th' constitution follows th' flag or not, th' Supreme Court follows th' illiction returns."—Mr. Dooley.

ALL WORKERS INTO THE UNIONS ALL UNIONS INTO THE STRUGGLE

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

Published every Wednesday under the auspices of the Northwest Labor Unity Conference

OFFICE OF PUBLICATION
257 PLYMOUTH AVE. N.

GENERAL OFFICE: 286 EAST 6TH STREET, ST. PAUL, MINN.

Subscription Rates

One year in advance.....\$1.00
Six months in advance......65
Bundle copies (10 copy minimum), each.....02 1/2

Application for second class matter is pending

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

The Majesty of the Law

In Toledo, Ohio, with the power workers out on strike, the newspapers openly called for action by the police force demanding that the plants be operated under any conditions. What this means is clearly demonstrated by recent attack on striking bakery workers in New York where a group of pickets were brutally attacked with blackjacks by a gang of company thugs and one worker's face smashed beyond recognition.

It is again demonstrated in the packing strike at Columbus, Ohio, where over 200 heavily armed police and deputies were massed to oppose 150 pickets. In Minneapolis we clearly understand what this means after the demonstration by Bloody Mike Johannes last summer.

With a city administration just elected which has pledged itself to support labor, the workers of Minneapolis has a right to expect that they will not be confronted by this police terror.

Speaking the Languages

The other day we ran across an amusing list of hobo lingo compiled by Nicholas Klein. The selection we have jotted down contains some really painting phrases, phrases that have spiced the speech of Western America in the last decade.

Angel food—Mission preaching.
California blankets—Newspapers.
Exhibition meal—To be fed on a door step.
Fisheries—Religious missions in workingclass neighborhood.
Gump—Chicken.

Home guards—Town workers who do not migrate.
John Family—The Law. The employing class.
Knowledge box—School house.
Library birds—Unemployed men who frequent libraries, pretending to read, in order to keep warm.
Man catcher—Employment agency.
Minister's face—Pig's head served in cheap restaurants.
Pittsburgh feathers—Hard coal.
Scissor bills—Those without knowledge of the class struggle.
Wind pudding—Living on air.

The West Speaks Out

A Resolution by the Minnesota Labor Association

"WHEREAS: The wage scale proposed for workers under the new four billion dollar works program is not a wage but a starvation 'dole,' is unjust, unsound and inhuman and tends to and will undermine and destroy the entire wage structure of this nation and cannot possibly contribute to recovery, and

"WHEREAS: Industry under NRA did hold wages down to the minimum, industry will again take unfair advantage of this opportunity to refuse to pay very little if any wage above that paid by the government under the proposed plan, and

"WHEREAS: We are convinced that only strikes, confusion, suffering and further economic chaos can be the outcome of such a contemptible, inequitable, depraved attempt of our public servants to crack the whip of economic slavery over a liberty loving and peaceful people, and

"WHEREAS: It is impossible for any thinking person to brand this plan as anything but a diabolical and deliberate proposal designed to fasten the shackles of poverty upon the workers of this nation and anchor them to the rock of misery:

"Be it therefore resolved by the executive council of the Minnesota Labor Association, Home Office Montevideo, Minnesota, in session assembled on the 28th day of May, 1935, in the City of Montevideo, Minnesota, that our association will never reconcile itself to any such unpatriotic attempt to destroy this nation and the liberties and the happiness of its people. That we will fight to the last ditch any such damnable, unethical tactics which could only be hatched either in the brains of legislative morons or in the blackest hearts of hell's angels, to tie the men and women who do this world's work down to such degrading slavery as proposed in this wage scale.

"Be it further resolved that if the public servants of this great and powerful nation cannot think of a better plan than the one proposed they shall be willing to accept the same deal for themselves and if they will do this and thereby show their sincerity by so doing and they too live or attempt to live on forty dollars per month then we will gladly starve with them; otherwise no sane person can be convinced that they have sufficient intelligence to represent an intelligent people but only a nation of morons, and that they should be removed from office and allowed to recover their sanity before they damage our country further, and

"Be it also further resolved that this United States of ours belongs to all the people and not to the International Bankers and their tools who oppress us and the common people, and that we will never give up, nor rest, until we have done our part in having wrested this nation from the clutches of those individuals who would destroy it and that we will not leave one stone unturned until we have seen this nation back in the hands of honest statesmen for Americans, in order that government by the people may again reign and not perish and that a peace-loving and free people may again rejoice secure in their knowledge that their children shall have food, clothing and shelter."

(Signed)

KARL M. AMUNDSON, State Secretary
Minnesota Labor Association,
Montevideo, Minn.

Important Meeting

On Monday, June 24, Local 574 will hold its next regular full membership meeting. This will be one of the most important meetings in the history of the union. All members are urged to be present, both those who are now working and those who are out on withdrawal cards. Our enemies are conniving against us. Rally to the banner of fighting 574.

New Union Busting Attempt by Tobin

(Continued from page 1)

Majority of the delegates were in complete sympathy with Local 574 and showed that the differences of opinion in the matter lay principally in the relative courage of the delegates in determining a course of action. Questioning sharply Tobin's right to the dictatorial powers which he assumes, Wachter proposed that the Central Labor Union appeal Tobin's decision to the convention of the Drivers International and that in the meantime the whole matter be left pending with complete recognition of 574. Wachter was unable to obtain a vote on his proposal.

DICTATORS THREATEN CHARTER REVOCATIONS

Speaking for his motion to refer Tobin's demands to the Teamsters Joint Council for action, Speilman told the assembly that, while he was in Tobin's office, Tobin had held a telephone conversation with Green in Washington and that Green had promised full co-operation to Tobin. Speilman then carefully explained that this would mean that if the CLU or any union attempted to defend 574 that their charter would be immediately revoked. He then predicted that if his motion was not passed the CLU charter would be revoked at once. He stated further that the present officers of Local 574 should be willing to step aside as Tobin demands.

Attempting to get the floor to answer Speilman's statements, Farrell Dobbs, secretary-treasurer of Local 574, was denied that privilege, and the Speilman motion was railroaded through.

An analysis of Tobin's demands shows that the voluntary withdrawal of the present leaders of 574 will not satisfy the lust of D. J. Tobin. He clearly states that he will be satisfied with nothing short of the complete disorganization of the local, the sacrifice of all the gains for which Henry Ness and Jack Belor died, and the expulsion of scores of militant members from the union. Tobin demands more than the heads of the leaders—he demands the complete strangulation of the union.

REACTIONARIES MEET DEFEAT

With the matter now in their hands, the Teamsters Joint Council will attempt to carry out the Tobin program. But despite the action railroaded through the assembly, the reactionary bureaucracy was badly defeated.

The issues in the fight are clearly defined, and the progressive thinking delegates are well informed as to the real meaning of this program to the movement. Their sympathies are completely with 574, and they will carry their opinions back to their unions with a recommendation that they continue to support the drivers. The standing of Local 574 will continue to be very high among union men.

UNIONS WILL SUPPORT 574

Delegate Crowl, business agent of the ironworkers, told the assembly that on the armory job, and every other union construction job where the ironworkers

are employed, if any union refuses to demand that 574 men deliver their materials, the ironworkers will tie up the job.

Local 574 will not give up the gains it has made through the bitter struggles of 1934. The sacrifices made were too great to permit Tobin to so lightly cast aside everything that Local 574 stands for. The membership of the General Drivers is up in arms over this outrage. They recognize the Tobin demands as a twin sister to the vicious propaganda of the bosses.

MEMBERS CALLED TO MEETING

Local 574 will fight Tobin on every front and defeat his Citizens Alliance program.

All members are called to the meeting of the union on Monday, June 24, at its magnificent new headquarters at 257 Plymouth avenue north. All phases of this question will be discussed at this meeting, and the local will prepare to fight in whatever manner is necessary.

Every union, every liberal and radical organization must take a clear cut position in this fight. The workers of Minneapolis must respond in the same splendid manner that they did last summer in the struggle with the Citizens Alliance.

SMASH ALL UNION-SMASHERS!

MAKE MINNEAPOLIS A UNION TOWN!

Not Shot in the Back?
"New York police tore pell-mell into a picket line of crippled unemployed men and women in front of the Emergency Relief Bureau June 6th, tore the crutches from several of them, beat two women unconscious and arrested fourteen on charges of disorderly conduct."
—New York news item.

LETTERS to the EDITOR

Mankato, Minn., June 6, 1935
To the Editor:
Please find \$7 for seven yearly subscriptions to the Northwest Organizer.

ROBERT K. CATE
Chairman Subscription Committee

Editor's Note: Full credit is due the brothers in Mankato for this splendid performance in building the circulation of the Organizer so that progressives in the northwest may better serve the interests of the labor movement. We recommend that the committee method be followed by groups of workers in other communities.

June 5, 1935

To the Editor!
In my recent letter regarding the activities of the Non-Partisan Labor Defense at Fargo, N. D., I stated that the expenses for Francis Heisler, defense attorney, had been paid by the NPLD.

To prevent any misunderstanding, I wish to make it clear that Mr. Heisler gave his services absolutely free, and that only his railroad and other expenses were covered by funds raised by the NPLD in New York, Chicago and elsewhere.

Herbert Solow

Meeting Schedule Local 574

Wednesday, June 19: Ice Drivers.
Thursday, June 20: Independent Truck Owners and Construction Haulers.
Friday, June 21: Stewards.
Monday, June 24: Full Membership.
Tuesday, June 25: Taxi Drivers; night drivers, 1 p. m.; day drivers, 7 p. m.

A Call to Action

With Tobin and his clique proposing a fight against 574 on the basis of demands which would amount to almost the complete dissolution of the union, it is up to every member to pitch into the fight to defeat this attack. One of the things which will be needed the most is finances. To provide funds Local 574 is staging jointly with Local 18005 a carnival to be held at 29th and Nicollet from July 27 to August 4. All members and sympathizers who can spare an hour or a day report to Coover at the 574 headquarters for assignment to help make the carnival a success.

TRUCK UNIONS IN EAST PLAN A CONFERENCE

Long Distance Hauling Tied Up in New England States

All Trucking Unions to Cooperate in Wide Drive for Members

As the result of a recent successful strike which tied up motor transportation in Connecticut, western Massachusetts and the surrounding territory, a regional council of truck drivers unions throughout the New England states is being planned.

The success of this unified action by trucking unions in the key transportation centers has clearly demonstrated that the one effective way to organize the long distance haulers is by close co-operation between all locals.

The Committee Of One Hundred

By Hilliard H. Smith
(Reprinted from the Machinists' Monthly Journal)

There is a new scheme projected in Minneapolis for the arbitration of labor disputes by a committee of business men, ministers, rabbis, priests, and labor leaders, who are supposed to get together and pass on any question that comes up in regard to labor. It is to be known as the "Committee of One Hundred."

... (This committee) came up for discussion in the Central Labor Union of Minneapolis. The body was about equally divided for and against it, but the fight was bitter. Various labor leaders found themselves in the position of defending this committee, and the motives of certain men on the committee, known to be members of the Citizens Alliance — the greatest enemy of labor in the whole northwest ...

... After all, is this committee really necessary? ... Are ministers, priests and rabbis, college professors, etc., who have lived cloistered and academic lives, apt to understand our problems? ...

... We have unions and elect officers whose duty it is to solve our problems to the best of their ability. We trust them and go down the line with them; if necessary, we will go into a fight with them to see our problems through. We have these leaders and we know them; but we cannot know the men of this committee and we cannot trust them fully. Therefore, let us have no "Committee of One Hundred." If it has divided us already, let us ban it. ...

"Government, me boy, is a case iv me makin' ye do what I want, an' if I can't do it with a song, I'll do it with a shovel."—Mr. Dooley.