

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 fol-
low you.

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

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Reinstatement of Local 574 Demanded by Conference of Delegates from 15 Unions

CLU Asked to Take Lead in Organizing Relief Workers

Latimer Employer-Employee Board Branded as Union-Buster

A conference of 60 delegates representing 15 local unions on Monday night voted to send a resolution to Daniel Tobin, William Green, the State Federation of Labor and the Minneapolis Central Labor Union demanding the reinstatement of Local 574 in the Drivers International and the A. F. of L.

The participating unions were the Machinists, City and Sanitary Drivers, Public Building Service Employees, Ornamental Metal Workers, Stationary Engineers, Building Laborers No. 563, Carpenters, Upholsterers, Painters, Bakers, Miscellaneous Restaurant Employees, Lathers, Laundry Workers, Gas Station Attendants and the General Drivers.

The conference criticized sharply the policy of the conservative bureaucracy in discriminating against individuals in the movement because of their political views.

Calling attention to the splendid support which the unemployed have given to striking unions, a resolution sent to the Central Labor Union demanded that it take the lead in helping the relief workers to organize and fight for the relief increase promised to them by the Farmer-Labor organization.

The tactics of Mayor Latimer in using his police for the wholesale gassing, shooting and clubbing of workers were called to the attention of the Farmer-Labor party with a request that they expel Latimer from their ranks. Latimer's Employer-Employee Board was thoroughly analyzed and shown to be an artificial agency created for the purpose of usurping the rights of the unions and thereby stripping the movement of its growing progressiveness.

Delegates pointed to the growing need for the industrial form of union organization and told of the successes of several unions in working out a program of closer co-operation between trades. The conference adopted a proposal that this be made the policy of all local unions, and it was decided to hold the next conference on Wednesday, October 30, at 1310 Marquette. An invitation was issued to all locals to participate in future conferences.

Cab Drivers Section Aids Metal Workers

Once again the cab drivers have demonstrated their sincerity toward the movement by making a round robin collection to give financial aid to the metal workers. You find these boys right on the line in more ways than one.

Local 500 Tries to Bust Laundry Union

An entirely new union-busting attempt has appeared on the horizon. On Thursday night, September 26, a Laundry Drivers meeting was called at the Central Labor Union headquarters; now ordinarily an attempt to organize the Laundry Drivers would not even be news, but in the particular situation as it exists, it is rather more than news.

It is another attempt of Local 500 "so-called" to establish themselves in Minneapolis. No one could quarrel with the people who called this meeting, if they were attempting to organize a group of workers who were unorganized and who were not covered by a contract in another organization.

It is well at this time to give a brief history of the organization of the Laundry and Dry Cleaning Drivers. During the Drivers' strike of last summer, Local 574, took into its ranks, hundreds of these drivers. Our union had the vast majority of these drivers organized at one time; after the drivers' strike when the organized inside workers of the laundries, who were organized into Local 18002 were engaged in a controversy with the Laundry and Dry Cleaning bosses attempting to gain a settlement for their union, Local 574 decided that the laundry and dry cleaning drivers properly belonged in their organization and so turned these drivers over to the Laundry Workers union.

Many of these drivers have since left the Laundry Workers union but there are still a good number who are members of that

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Ray Dunne Verdict Will Be Appealed

The case of Ray Dunne, convicted of failing to obey the command of an officer during the Strutwear strike, will be carried to the Supreme Court of Minnesota by the Non-Partisan Labor Defense. The decision was made after a conference with Mose Winthrop of Minneapolis and Gilbert E. Carlson of St. Paul, the lawyers who defended Dunne in the trial court.

Pursuant to this decision a stay was obtained until the latter part of October so that a transcript of the testimony could be made and the appeal perfected.

Independent Owners Will Hear John Wing

On Thursday, October 3, the Independent Truck Owners section of Local No. 574 will hold the most important meeting that has taken place since the formation of their section. At this meeting the principal speaker will be a prominent state WPA official who will explain the new setup in regard to hiring trucks on WPA projects. It is vitally important that every independent truck owner, whether or not he is a member of the union, attend this meeting. If you expect to place your truck on the new WPA work, it is extremely important that you have the information that will be given out at this meeting.

Farm Holiday Aids Strutwear Strikers

John Bosch, president of the Minnesota Farm Holiday association, spoke to a meeting of farmers in Albert Lea on Friday giving them a true picture of the circumstances surrounding the strike of the hosiery workers at the Strutwear Knitting Co. in Minneapolis.

After his talk, the members voted to send committees throughout the county to raise food for the strikers.

Resolution Passed by the Federal Workers of Local 574 Calls for Sweeping Reforms in Handling Relief Rentals

Friday night the Federal Relief section of Local 574 held their regular weekly meeting; about 400 were present; this is a considerable drop in attendance from the last two or three meetings; the lack of attendance at this meeting can perhaps be laid to the fact that there is now taking place one of the periodic changes in the relief setup. As rapidly as possible relief clients are being taken off the direct relief rolls and are being put to work under the new WPA setup. Many members of the federal section are already working on the new WPA projects; several of them reported that already discrimination is being shown in the matter of the so-called "Security Wage."

During the course of the discussion it was brought out that in the transition between the last direct relief check and the first wage that will be received under the new work setup there will be a gap that will be difficult for the relief client to bridge.

Attention was called to the necessity of getting organizers out on the new federal relief proj-

ects; thousands of workers are employed there now who are not new members of this organization. A campaign is being planned to see that these jobs are organized. Another matter that came up for discussion was the question of moving relief clients; a committee was selected to draw up a resolution on this subject which will be presented to the welfare board. The following resolution was submitted by the committee and adopted unanimously by the meeting.

"WHEREAS, We consider that the greatest fear and worry and

Rural Relief Meeting

On Saturday, October 12, in St. Louis Park, there will be an important mass meeting of all rural Hennepin County relief clients and Federal project workers. At the regular meeting of the joint committee from city and county relief organizations, which was held in Drivers' hall Saturday plans were made for this meeting. Prominent and well known speakers will be there to explain in detail the relief situation and the new WPA projects.

undermining of morale for relief clients is now dispossession from their homes for non-payment of rent, and

"WHEREAS, Relief children are penalized by being compelled to change schools and social contacts and to lose up to an equivalent of two years of education during the grade school period, and

"WHEREAS, Minneapolis has taken singular and particular pride in showing other cities how to evade housing obligations and education of its economic victims, but which practice does not exist elsewhere, and

"WHEREAS, LANDLORDS, BY THIS PROCESS, have been cheated of their just rentals and denied any recourse except eviction of relief tenants, and

"Whereas such evasions of rentals by the Relief Department, unfounded as they are in either law or human justice, have their most serious repercussions in burdens and worries upon relief clients,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Federal Workers Section of Local 574,

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Special Section Meeting of Local 574 Transfer Workers Votes to Sign New Contract

Market Committee Maps Out Program

On Wednesday, September 24, there was a meeting of the market section of Local No. 574. The meeting was called for the purpose of discussing general conditions on the market that prevail at this time; it was one of the largest and most enthusiastic meetings that has been known by the market section in recent months. During the course of the discussion during the meeting, it was established that the market workers are at least 90 per cent organized; it was felt, however, that better results could be achieved on the market if a committee from their own members were selected to look after affairs there; it was decided to elect a committee of 11 to complete the organization of the market workers to take care of minor grievances and in general to coordinate the work of the union on the market. The following committee was elected:

Harry Peterson, Palmer, V. Bennyhoff, Ed Carlson, Joe Ellis, W. Favorite, John Lund, Harry Goodman, Charles Hanson, Lester Walker, Alex Shedlov and Clarence Molstad.

This committee will meet within a few days to map out a full program. The action taken by the market workers in selecting this committee of their own members was one of the most forward and progressive steps that have been taken by any section of the union in the past period; it is to be hoped that other sections of the union will follow the example that has been set by the market workers.

New Agreement Provides for Overtime to Be Paid After Eight Hours

All Hourly Rates Are to Be Increased Five Cents on June 1, 1936

Thursday night of last week saw one of the largest attended meetings of transfer section that has been held in a long time. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the new transfer agreement. Prior to the meeting of the transfer section, there was a conference of transfer stewards; after a thorough discussion of the new agreement, during which several minor changes were suggested, the contract was presented to the entire membership of the transfer section; the proposed contract was read to the membership; over two and one half hours were taken up in discussion of various points of the agreement.

At the end of the session, the new contract was given unanimous endorsement of all those present; all that now remains to put the contract into effect is the formality of signing by the union, as the employers have already affixed their signatures to the contract. For the information of those members of the transfer industry who were not at the meeting and consequently have had no opportunity to study the agreement.

The principal provisions in the new agreement that will bring about changed conditions in the driving industry are:

First, the overtime provision. This provides that all overtime shall be computed at the rate of time and one third based on each eight hour day. Under the old agreement overtime was generally traded for time off on another day. Under the new agreement overtime must be paid for any time worked in excess of eight hours in any one day.

Second, the new agreement provides a blanket increase of 5 cents per hour for all types of workers in the transfer industry to be effective June 1, 1936.

574 Football Team Joins Park League

The 574 football team is now enrolled in the intermediate division, number two, of the Park Board league. They will begin their regular schedule next Sunday. They have already played two practice games and have given a fine account of themselves; the boys that comprise the team are, almost without exception, members of our union. They are a fine bunch of boys and have worked hard. There is no question but that they will give a good account of themselves in the league they are enrolled in.

It should be the duty of every union member to go out to these games and see the boys play. This is an excellent method of advertising our union, besides giving some splendid opportunities for our members to engage in a wholesome sport.

THE BOSSES ARE ON THE RUN!

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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."

The Progress of 574

In the past four months, Local No. 574, the General Drivers union, has made the greatest progress in the history of the organization. More real work has been done in this period between members and officers of the union than in any other given period. Not only have hundreds of new workers been brought into the union but the union has secured new contracts and renewed old ones that mean better wages and improved working conditions for almost every worker in the driving industry.

The coal contract which was signed in July was a real step forward. Contractual relations were established with companies with whom we had not had friendly relations before.

In the transfer side of the union an agreement is at this moment being signed that provides for pay increases and stabilized working conditions for transfer drivers, helpers and warehouse men.

On the market despite a slump in business, which has resulted in some unemployment, the union has made progress also. A committee of market workers has been set up whose avowed purpose is the complete unionization of the central market.

When all these things are taken into consideration, there is no one but must admit that this union, in spite of the pressure that has been put upon it by some fake A. F. of L. leaders, has gone forward and has proven that it is a real instrument in the economic betterment of its members.

* * *

A. F. of L. Discrimination

Anyone who doubts the sterility of certain sections of the A. F. of L. should have attended the last Central Labor Union meeting held Wednesday, September 25th. Here the fearful, timid local bureaucrats were at their best. After a desperate fight, they succeeded in preventing the seating of a member of the trade union movement who has demonstrated many times his courage and devotion to the trade union movement. Because some of the so-called leaders disagreed with him politically, thumbs were turned down on the acceptance of his credentials.

Just so long as the A. F. of L. and its representatives continue to discriminate against those with whom they may have political differences just so long will the A. F. of L. be an impotent instrument in the hands of the workers.

* * *

A Healthy Step

The conference of 15 unions last Monday, called primarily to fight for the restoration of the charter of Local 574, developed into a healthy organism which will enjoy continued life in the local labor movement.

Many of the delegates present were honest, progressive union members who had little knowledge of the intricate machinations which are being perpetrated against the growing spirit of militancy in the unions. As the discussion went forward more and more of the delegates became deeply interested and came forward with questions which tended to throw more light upon the truth behind recent developments.

The delegates present were representatives of the healthiest and most progressive unions in the city, and the reports which they will take back to their organizations will give them even greater impetus on the road to union action.

* * *

Keep Strutwear Closed

Referring vaguely to the constitution and the law, the Minneapolis Journal demands that the Strutwear plant be reopened. They are deeply grieved that a sweat-shop employer is being denied his "right" to use his workers in whatever manner he sees fit.

The Journal lightly and bluntly waves aside the merits of the controversy. "Open the plant," they say, "and then talk about differences between management and workers." The old sell-out cry.

Keep the plant closed until the company grants its employes their legal right to organize and bargain collectively to improve their standard of living.

Change in Relief Rentals Is Asked

(Continued from page 1)

that we demand of the Relief Department

1. That the Relief Department henceforth make direct leases with landlords for housing of relief clients, and

2. That no evictions of relief clients be permitted for non-payment of rent, and

"3. That all removals requested by clients be facilitated in every way by the Relief Department, and that no removals be made into quarters unless approved by and satisfactory to the client."

Next week there will be a special meeting called for the purpose of organizing those who are now working on federal relief projects. The exact date of the meeting has not yet been determined but workers affected will be notified of the time and place with a hand bill which will be distributed on all relief projects next week.

Local 500 Tries to Bust Laundry Union

(Continued from page 1)

organization. According to the rules of their international union they can properly and legally claim these drivers. Not only that, but they are at this moment engaged in signing a contract in most of the major laundry and dry cleaning plants in Minneapolis. Their contract covers, not only the inside workers, but provides a schedule of wages and working conditions for the drivers as well. In spite of the fact that this information was well known to Pat Corcoran and others responsible for calling the meeting, they are endeavoring to set up a local union for the laundry drivers when the wages and working conditions of these people are covered in a contract that is held by another organization.

Local 574 does not propose to stand idly by to see those drivers that they first organized and unionized be led into a blind alley.

Coal Men Must Turn In Withdrawal Cards

With the signing of the new coal agreement, conditions in the coal industry are on a fair way to being stabilized. With very few exceptions all of the major coal companies have become a party to this agreement and are bound by its labor and wage conditions. There are at this time many drivers and yard workers employed in the coal industry who have as yet not taken up their withdrawal cards and as a consequence are not in good standing in the union.

At the last meeting of the executive board of Local 574 it was decided that an intensive campaign be put on the coal yards to make them 100 per cent organized. It will be of interest to every coal hauler and yard worker to know that the contracts for relief coal have not yet been let. It is the intention of this union to see to it that there is a more just distribution of the relief coal business in Minneapolis.

We are also insisting that the city purchasing agent insert in the new proposals for the relief coal bids that are consistent with the wage scale that is maintained by our union. This will insure that no matter what company or companies secure the business they will be compelled to pay the union scale of wages to the workers that they employ for this purpose. The coal season is coming on; soon the coal companies will be working to full capacity; it should be the duty of every worker engaged in this industry to attend all meetings of the Coal Workers section. A complete schedule of meetings, including that of the Coal Section, will be found in another place in this issue.

Meeting Schedule Local 574

Thursday, Oct. 3—Independent Truck Owners.
Friday, Oct. 4—Federal Workers.
Monday, Oct. 7—Coal Workers.
Wednesday, Oct. 9—Market Workers; Ice Drivers.
Friday, Oct. 11: Stewards; Workers.
Monday, Oct. 14: Full Membership.
Thursday, Oct. 17: Independent Truck Owners.
Friday, Oct. 18: Federal Workers.
Monday, Oct. 21: Coal Workers.

Duluth Linen Strike Hampered by Perault

Forty-five men and women at the Duluth Linen Supply Co. in Duluth, Minn., have been on strike several weeks for union recognition and improved working conditions. Trucks are being escorted through the streets by armed special deputies.

The organized employers of Duluth are hurling a challenge at all the unions by giving the struck company their open support. Alfred L. Foster, secretary of the local Citizens Alliance, bellowed at the union committee, "I'll die with a shotgun in my hand rather than recognize the union."

Accepting the challenge, the Duluth and Superior unions rallied to the support of the strikers. The Duluth Trades and Labor Assembly hired Henry Perault, vice president of the State Federation of Labor, at \$50 per week, to lead the strike. Perault did not make himself very prominent about the strike headquarters, and when a committee called on him at his cigar factory, he told them that he would see the "big boys" in the evening and get everything ironed out. He has since advised the strikers to quit picketing and look for another job.

Perault's tactics have injured the strike by discouraging the pickets, and many donations to the strike have been lost because of his policy.

It remains for the progressive elements in the Duluth movement to take hold of the situation and put the fight on the proper basis before there will be any glimmering of the hope of victory.

Labor Looks at the Press

From St. Louis: "The American Legion convention here passed resolutions for compulsory fingerprinting, for severance of diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union, and for restricting academic freedom."

* * *
But no one bothered to pass a resolution on the hundreds of veterans who were recently sent to their death by the Florida hurricane.

* * *
Headline: "Britain to Scrap Naval Treaty, Build New Navy—Says Empire Responsibilities and Foreign Commitments Are Reasons."

* * *
But don't you try to scrap your bill at the corner grocery, and say it's due to family responsibilities. You see, Britain can get away with breaking a pledge—because she's got the guns.

* * *
A great advantage of radicals is the fact that they excellently understand their enemies, that they completely see through them. On the other hand, the liberals, Democrats and Republicans invent radicalism to suit themselves and the demands of the moment.

* * *
General Johnson speaking: "Imagine what would happen if relief were cut off after Novem-

Poultry Workers Win New Wage Increases

The "chicken pickers," those words that were used last summer by the Minneapolis employers, to ridicule and throw discredit on Local 574, have at last come into their own. While the employers were attempting to swing public sentiment by showing that this union had gone to ridiculous lengths in organizing such people as chicken pickers and egg candlers, the union had none of these people enrolled on its books as members, that, however, was not this particular category of workers did not have need for a union.

It was not until about two weeks ago when the Minneapolis Produce Employers began a campaign to further reduce the already low standard of these workers, that they began to wake up. The first rumblings of discontent was felt at the DeSoto Creamery Company where 65 girl chicken pickers, walked off the job, rather than submit to a half cent reduction in their low, piece work scale. The cut at DeSoto was a signal for other produce employers to reduce the piece work rate for chicken pickers. The DeSoto girls sought the advice of Local 574 where they were told that it would be difficult, if not impossible, to solve their problem in the DeSoto plant alone; as a result of this advice, a committee of the striking DeSoto girls visited the Werner and Fairfax plants and succeeded in persuading the girls there to also demand a restoration of the half cent cut.

After a strike that lasted three days, the girls succeeded in having the pay cut restored and in gaining other improved working conditions for themselves. A new piece work schedule has been set up in all the produce plants as follows: Eight hour day, five hours on Saturday, with the following piece work picking schedule: Turkeys, eight cents; geese, eight cents; ducks, five cents; chickens, three cents.

The girls who pick chickens in the produce houses have now learned the value of organized effort. It now remains for them to organize a union in order that they may be able to hold the gains that they have made. Unless they take this action their gains will only be temporary.

ber 1. We don't like to look at this spectral vision because anybody with the brains that God gave a beast knows that it would mean riot, rebellion or revolution in two weeks."

* * *
But the general will not admit that the WPA strikes are a result of poverty-level relief allowances.

Milwaukee news item: "Police have been blocking off the streets for blocks around the Lindemann Hoverson stove plant here one hour before quitting time in an effort to escort the workers (read strikebreakers) to their homes in safety."

* * *
It would seem that Mayor Hoan's socialism is just about as real as Mayor Latimer's Farmer-Laborism.

* * *
Congressman Ryan, at the Young Democrats banquet: "The present national administration has shown itself to stand for continuation of the profit motive in society."

* * *
If there were not a bureaucracy of the trade unions in America, then the police, the army, the courts, the government officials and the Wall Street lords would appear before the workers as nothing but pitiful and ridiculous playthings.