

# THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

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

Official Organ of the Northwest Labor Unity Conference

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

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

VOLUME 1, NO. 37

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1, 1936

PRICE 5 CENTS

## BUSINESS MEN HEAR LATIMER LAUNCH ATTACK ON DRIVERS

### Guards Patrol Knitting Plant

Last week as the daily press carried continual announcements and threats that the Strutwear plant was getting set to open its doors, the situation in the knitting strike grew very tense.

The Hosiery Workers Union, acting as courageously and as militantly as they have at all times during their long struggle at the Strutwear plant, set about the task of rallying the forces of labor to prevent the plant's reopening.

Hand bills by the thousands were distributed by the Hosiery Workers, calling upon all workers to give them assistance on the picket line.

A call went out to all unions for help.

On Thursday morning, despite the fact that over three hundred pickets were on hand, over thirty strikebreakers were whisked into knitting plant.

When closing time came the scabs were greeted by a crowd of over six hundred, rocks flew through the air, windows were broken and only after the police repeatedly charged the picket line, were the scabs safely hurried away.

Friday morning the situation was still more tense and it was evident that at closing time a real battle would take place. However, between Friday morning and Friday evening, several developments took place.

First, Mayor Latimer called upon Governor Olson to furnish troops at the Strutwear plant. Late in the afternoon Olson complied by sending a detachment of sixty guardsmen under the command of the captain to the Strutwear plant.

A military zone was established about the plant and under the protection of the guardsmen the scabs were removed.

As we go to press a statement issued by Olson says that the Strutwear plant will remain closed until a settlement of the labor difficulties that exist there are assured.

### Motor Products Strike Claims First Victim

The Motor Products strike, in Detroit, now in its second month, claimed its first victim with the death of Carl Swanson, 26 year old trade unionist.

Swanson was shot early in the strike when he and several other strikers visited a foreman's house to ask his support. Doctors said that the victim, standing on the sidewalk outside the foreman's house, was shot in the back.

The foreman has just been arrested.

### TEAMSTERS' OFFICIALS, AIDED BY LATIMER, PROPOSE THAT 574 CONTRACTS BE BROKEN

#### Committee of 50 Business Men Invited by Mayor to Hear Union-Busting Program

#### Coal, Transfer Employers Reject Vicious Proposal of Corcoran, Lewis, Latimer

Tuesday morning headlines in the Capitalist Press in Minneapolis screamed that a committee of fifty business men had bearded Mayor Thomas Latimer in his office to demand protection from the "racketeering and industrial peace destroying" tactics of General Drivers Union, Local 574.

The papers went on to say that this committee of business men protested vigorously to the Mayor about the activities of Local 574 and demanded of his honor that he give them protection.

These headlines, no doubt, made fine reading for those who desire the destruction of Local 574. They also, perhaps, created doubts in the minds of some of our staunchest supporters that everything was not as it should be. No doubt, the enemies of Local 574 were comforted by these bold headlines, thinking that at least our union was going to be dragged in the mud and the start of the breaking up process was in sight.

Those not familiar with the situation, however, overlooked one salient, incontestable fact. The whole story was a tissue of lies and falsehoods, fabricated out of whole cloth by the champion union busters of the United States, Meyer Lewis, John Geary, Pat Corcoran and Cliff Hall, sided and abetted, aided by that champion jelly-fish of politicians, Thomas E. Latimer. The only truth in the whole report is that there was a meeting that morning in the Mayor's office, the above mentioned trade union leaders were present and his honor, Tom Latimer, was there to meet the committee.

Now, let us stop for a moment, and reason things out. How did a committee of fifty business men gather themselves together, decide on a common program, and descend on the Mayor's office at a certain stated time?

Well, first of all, committees do not gather themselves, they are always gathered by someone. In this case the gatherer was none other than the present Mayor; he did not only gather the committee together but he sent them a special invitation to attend.

The most peculiar part about the whole affair is this, that the so-called "committee" did not know what they were there for until Tom told them what it was all about.

When they were assembled in the Mayor's office at ten o'clock they sat around half an hour waiting for Latimer to arrive, discussing among themselves as to what the meeting was all about.

When his honor appeared half an hour late, he wasted no time with an apology over his late appearance but immediately launched into a bitter tirade against Local 574, its leaders and its poli-

cies. He advised, more than that, he demanded, that these employers, who comprised representatives from the coal and transfer industry, that they break all existing contracts that they might have with Local 574 and compel their employes to organize into the new A. F. of L. union that has been set up here.

He said that all the law enforcement agencies of the city, county and state would stand behind the employers in the event they decided to take this step. He told the employers they had nothing to fear from 574, that the police were prepared to deal roughly with its members or leaders who would object to this contract-breaking program. He asked the employers' transfer committee what they thought of this program.

Their spokesman replied briefly that they had a signed agreement with Local 574, that they had found this union honorable and honest in all its dealings. The spokesman said that there was now industrial peace in Minneapolis insofar as the driving crafts were concerned, that it seemed strange to him that Latimer who had pleaded for industrial peace, was now proposing a program that spelled industrial warfare.

The transfer employers stated that as far as their group was concerned they had entered into contractual relations with 574 honestly and intended to abide by the terms of that contract.

At this point, the transfer employers were excused.

Then, Latimer with the help of Lewis and Hall, made the same proposal to the coal employers' committee. They also rejected this dishonest and vicious proposal on

the same grounds as did the transfer group.

Conniving and double dealing are nothing new on the part of Lewis, Hall and Geary. It is to be expected from the characterless kind of people as we know them to be, but why Thomas E. Latimer, Farmer-Labor Mayor of Minneapolis, has injected himself into this disgraceful situation, is something that every worker has a right to know.

Why has Tom Latimer, who has never been a member of the A. F. of L., suddenly decided to become the Messiah and Moses of the Teamsters International?

The only union Latimer ever belonged to was the Western Federation of Miners an I. W. W. organization, condemned and cursed by the A. F. of L. bureaucracy for years.

The action of Latimer merely means that he is following the same line of conduct that has characterized his whole administration. He lends his willing ear to the conniver that happens to be nearest to him and goes in the direction that he is shoved the hardest.

Do Latimer, Lewis and Corcoran believe that contracts are made to be broken? For years we have listened to the A. F. of L. bureaucrats whine about the sacredness of contracts between unions and employers. Does this mean that they are no longer sacred?

The astounding part about the whole affair is, that this disgraceful and crooked swindle on the part of these A. F. of L. representatives, happens at a time when a "truce" has been officially declared by the Central Labor Union between Local 574 and the

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### Grand Jury Looks At Ice Industry

The Hennepin County Grand Jury, that seems so interested in the condition of the ice industry in Minneapolis, should, before continuing their investigations, learn something of the condition of that industry before the workers employed in it were unionized about two years ago.

Conditions in the ice industry had gotten to a point where it was impossible for anyone, workers or employers, to make a living in the industry. There are cases on record where the same route was covered by as many as 21 companies or individuals. Not one single one of them were able to make a living. Competition for what little business existed was so bitterly fought for that ice was being sold below the cost of production and as a result, wages had dropped to the vanishing point.

Even the old established companies, who had produced and distributed ice in Minneapolis for several generations, found that it was impossible to meet competition and at the same time maintain living wages for their employes, and they too had reduced wages and lengthened hours of labor.

With the unionization of the industry and with the setting of a standard wage scale for the workers, the old haphazard, cut-throat method of insane competition necessarily had to be abandoned. Wages and hours, provided in the union contract could not be maintained on the old basis.

The Drivers Union, Local 574, insisted that all those firms or individuals, coming under the terms of the agreement, pay the wages and maintain the hours provided in the union contract.

This action of the union immediately had a healthy effect on the industry. Those firms that had hitherto existed in the ice business on the basis of paying their workers starvation wages, collapsed when they were faced by decent, level competition.

The Drivers Union has made no demands on the ice industry except to continue to insist that union wages be paid and union hours be maintained. No legitimate ice company in Minneapolis has suffered since the unionization of the industry. On the contrary, those firms that have plants, and equipment here and who are taxpayers in this city have profited by the stabilization that has taken place in the ice industry.

As for the workers engaged as employes in the ice business, they have taken a great step forward. They now work at a decent wage and have regular hours. No long-

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# Make Minneapolis a Union Town

## Growing Nationwide Reaction Using Courts Against Workers

Looking back over the year just passed, two tendencies forcibly impress themselves on one's mind. First, that in the United States, as throughout the world, workers in increasing numbers are organizing and fighting to better their conditions. Secondly, that reactionary forces in America are resorting more and more to the courts and to systematic infringement of democratic rights in order to crush this rising tide of labor struggle.

Apparent to all is the use by the United States Chamber of Commerce, National Manufacturers Association and other anti-labor groups of the courts to "kill" all measures such as the NIRA and the Wagner Bill, which might conceivably benefit the workers.

Not so highly publicized, but much more vicious, is the manner in which the organized reaction in this country has of late ingeniously and systematically persecuted all those who fight in the name of labor—not only revolutionists, but union organizers, strikers, unemployed, teachers and students. Every week brings its monstrous stories of more illegal arrests, frameup trials, denial of appeal on "technical" grounds, abduction, beating, murder—from Sacramento, from Tampa, from Terre Haute, Kentucky, Fargo, etc. Here in Minneapolis we have had more than our share of false arrests, persecution of labor leaders, the use of federal marshals to break a strike on fraudulent writs, the setting of high bail, the handing down of sentences that shriek of injustice.

Unfortunately for American workers, the existing labor defense organizations have proven narrow in scope or policy. Either in theory or in practice, most are the defense arm of a single labor group or party. This has meant that many victims of persecution lacked proper defense, or went undefended—this at a time of growing oppression, when an attack on one worker is an attack on all.

To fill the crucial need for a genuinely non-partisan labor defense organization which can provide experienced legal aid and organize broad mass support in behalf of all victims of legal persecution, the Non-Partisan Labor Defense has been set up. In the short time since it came into existence, the N-P.L.D. has made an impressive record. In New York, Kentucky, Minnesota, North Dakota and California, the N-P.L.D. has ably conducted labor cases. Branches exist locally in Fargo, St. Paul and Minneapolis. The N-P.L.D. seeks at all times to cooperate with other labor defense groups in the creation of a joint defense, with the eventual goal of centralizing the work of these various bodies.

The local branch of the N-P.L.D. is issuing a call for membership and for funds with which to carry on this work. Anyone subscribing to its program, regardless of sex, color, race, nationality, creed, vocation, or political views, is eligible for membership. Workers' organizations can affiliate collectively. Copies of the program and constitution of the N-P.L.D. and any information may be obtained from Henry Schultz, 257 Plymouth Avenue, Minneapolis, secretary, or Dorothy Holmes, 490 Rice Street, St. Paul, secretary. Donations may be sent to either address.

If the strikers will look into the November 16th issue of The Labor World they will see a Baer cartoon where the craft unionists joined hands. It is an A. F. of L. symbol.

### Labor Committee Meets in CLU Office

The first meeting of the new Labor Committee that proposes to investigate the Minneapolis Relief situation met Sunday morning at ten o'clock at 18 N. 8th St.

A. H. Urtubees, of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 292, was chosen as chairman.

An Executive Board was elected consisting of the following: Urtubees, Corcoran and Genis from the Minneapolis Central Labor Union; Mrs. LeSueur from the Farmer-Labor Women's Clubs; Bean and Dunne from unemployed organizations; Bob Greenberg and Oscar Erickson from Hennepin County Central Committee.

It was decided by motion that all labor members should resign from the Committee of Fifty and denounce the committee and its action.

The next meeting of the Executive Committee will be Tuesday, December 31st, at the City Clerk's office. The entire Labor Committee will meet Thursday night to hear the report of the Executive Committee.

### Packing House Workers Receive Good Salaries

It should be interesting to unorganized packing house workers to learn the wage scale that has been put into effect in the Hormel Packing plant at Austin, Minnesota, by the Independent Union of All Workers, who have this plant completely organized. Following are some of their pay rates:

From the hog cut, where a moving table does away with any "shoving" of the meat, only the actual operation called for has to be performed:

In a period of some 37 weeks, the average number of hours per week is between 24 and 25.

Loin pullers get.....	\$29.16
Tally trimmers .....	28.08
Loin trimmers .....	29.16
Ham trimmers, \$29.16 and 28.08	
Belly trimmers .....	28.08
Neck bone raisers	
\$29.16, \$28.08, and.....	25.00
Shoulder sawers.....	29.16 and 28.08
Butt pullers .....	27.00
Ribbers .....	28.08
Common labor (minimum)	19.71

The usual run is 720 to 760 an hour; the gang regulates the speed. Out of 89 men on the gang, 13 get top wages, \$29.16.

From the hog kill, where the chain is kept at 580 an hour, there are 179 men on the gang, and the agreement is not to average more than 36 hours a week.

In a period of some 37 weeks, the average number of hours per week is 26.1.

Stickers get .....	\$28.08
Shacklers .....	27.00
Tubmen .....	22.40
Scalder .....	29.16
Cord cutters .....	22.40
Gambolers .....	22.40
Common labor .....	19.71
Shavers .....	25.80
Foot shavers .....	22.40
Head shavers .....	22.40
Eyelash cutters .....	22.40
Headers .....	28.08
Gungut droppers .....	25.80
Bunggut snatchers .....	28.08
Splitters .....	28.08
Lard pullers .....	22.40

All men get one week's paid vacation, as well as six holidays with pay.

Women get 40½ cents an hour, or \$17 a week minimum. Some working packing bacon get \$36 to \$40 a week.

### Bill Brown Says—

It is a familiar sight to again see helmeted National Guardsmen patrolling Minneapolis streets. The General Drivers' old "friends" are back. The Strutwear plant is closed. Let's hope it stays that way until the strikers get their demands. But the Strutwear strikers want to remember one thing. The National Guard was never organized to act as pickets. If they were we wouldn't need labor unions. It is O. K. as long as the plant is closed. But don't go to sleep. You've still got to have a union, and you may need pickets yet.



BILL BROWN  
President of 574

### Willmar Meeting Protests Abuses

Friday, December 27th, the Kandiyohi County Unit of the Minnesota Labor Association, held a large meeting in the courthouse at Willmar, Minnesota. This meeting was called in an attempt to correct many abuses that exist in the county WPA setup.

Speakers from Local 574 had been advertised to appear at this meeting and speak. Unfortunately developments at the Strutwear Knitting Plant on Friday made it impossible for 574 representatives to appear at the Willmar meeting.

This unit of the Minnesota Labor Association has already agreed to send delegates to the Ortonville conference which will take place on January 10th, 11th and 12th.

It is a significant fact that the County Commissioners have already felt the weight of this progressive organization in Willmar and have taken steps to attempt to bar meetings of this unit in the local courthouse.

Leading members of the organization say that this violates the precedent that has been established for decades.

As a result of their attempt to bar the Labor Unit from a free meeting place in the courthouse, it has been found necessary by the commissioners to stop all meetings that were formerly held there.

According to James M. Hawland, another meeting of the unit will be called sometime in the near future. Meanwhile plans for attending the January conference are going forward.

### Detroit Trailer Co. Defies Labor Board

The National Labor Relations Board, object of many attacks by industrial forces in America, seems to be headed for another test of strength with one of the subsidiaries of the General Motors, the Fruehauf Trailer Company.

The Labor Board has issued a "cease and desist" order directed at the Fruehauf Company to compel them to drop their elaborate spy system used to ferret out union members in their plant.

The company has applied for an injunction to prevent the enforcement of the order, which also calls for the reinstatement of seven workers fired for union activity.

### Grand Jury Looks At Ice Industry

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er are relief clients working part time on ice trucks, as was formerly the common practice.

Plenty of ice dealers can be found who complain that they have been unfairly treated. Investigation, however, discloses that they are the same people who had been paying their workers as little as \$6 per week.

It is the contention of the union that the ice industry, as a whole, is in a healthier, more normal condition than has existed in that industry for two decades.

The Drivers Union takes the credit for the improved condition. Praise, not blame, is due us.

### Federal Workers 574 To Hold Gala Dance

Saturday night, January 18, will be a real gala occasion for the Federal Workers of 574. That is the time when their first big social event of the season will get under way.

The committee in charge of this dance has put in some hard work on the affair and is determined to make it a success.

The hall, which was decorated for the Fun Frolic, is in excellent shape. Cermack's dance band has been secured so that good dance music is assured. The admission has been set at 25c. Singles 15c.

There will be several door prizes. Checking is free.

All are welcome.

### Strutwear Strikers Have Xmas Party

Monday, December 23rd, saw the Minneapolis Trade Union Movement rallied to the support of the Hosiery Workers Union in a manner that must have brought joy and encouragement to the striking Strutwear workers.

Beginning early Monday afternoon with a Christmas tree, a party for the children with Santa Claus, gifts and everything, and winding up in the evening with a dinner and a dance, the Christmas party of the Strutwear Knitters was a complete success.

Lending their support and assistance to the party were most of the unions affiliated with the Minneapolis Central Labor Union.

The East Side Eagles Hall had been secured for the occasion, a beautiful Christmas tree had been provided and gifts for the children of the strikers were there in abundance.

Later in the evening, after a dinner had been served that was ably managed by Leslie Sinton of the Cooks and Waiters, a union band provided the music for the evening's dancing.

Providing this party for the striking Strutwear workers was a splendid gesture on the part of the Minneapolis Trade Union Movement.

It is something that they can well be proud of.

### Organizer Subs From Out-of-Town

As the Organizer Subscription Drive goes into its last week, we are glad to report that the results are beyond our expectations. A stream of subscription cards continues to pour into the office daily. The various units of the Austin Union gathered in a conference last Sunday with delegates present from Omaha, Sioux City, Cedar Rapids, and other points in Iowa and Minnesota, sent in a request to the editor for four hundred and fifty subscription cards. They say they will get more shortly. In last Thursday's mail came twenty subscriptions from Chicago. They were sent in by Francis Heisler, Attorney for the Non-Partisan Labor Defense. Members and friends are urged not to let up in their efforts but to continue to work and speed up the drive to build the Organizer list.

### Sample Ballot

Minneapolis General Drivers, Helpers and Inside Workers  
Local No. 574

Polls to be open for balloting at 257 Plymouth Ave. N., on Friday, January 10, 1936, and Saturday, January 11, 1936 from 7 a. m. to 9 p. m. Members who will be unable to come to the polls on the above dates may vote by absentee ballot to be secured at the union headquarters. The following officers are to be elected for a term of one year from January 13, 1936.

President—	Vote for One
WM. S. BROWN	
Vice President—	Vote for One
GEO. FROSIG	
Recording Secretary—	Vote for One
G. J. DUNNE	
Secretary-Treasurer—	Vote for One
FARRELL DOBBS	
Trustees—	Vote for 3 only
MOE HORK	
HARRY DeBOER	
RAY DUNNE	
L. GARDNER	
CURT ZANDER	
AXEL SODERBERG	
L. ABROE	
R. F. DEPEW	

### Christmas Thanks

Minneapolis, Minn.,  
December 26, 1935.

General Drivers Union 574  
257 Plymouth Ave.

Dear Brothers:

I wish to express our thanks for the wonderful Christmas basket sent to us.

It certainly made a very merry Christmas for our family. It was complete in every manner and a very well planned basket.

Thanks again to the union who made this possible for myself and other unfortunate ones at this holiday season.

Fraternally yours,  
Ralph C. Shandorf and Family  
1535 4th St. N. E.

### Allied Picket Gets Christmas Basket

Picketing is sometimes a very disagreeable, and at times, a dangerous job. It has its drawbacks but it also has its compensations.

Shortly before Christmas the shipping clerk at the Allied Grocery, where 574 is carrying a banner, called in one of the pickets and gave him a very nice Christmas basket.

The picket took the basket home, ate its contents very gratefully—and was back next day in front of the Allied with a banner on his shoulder.

### Business Men Hear Latimer

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rest of the Minneapolis Trade Union Movement.

Is this the sort of a truce that gangsters declare?

While we are binding up the wounds of our enemy, do they think that we are going to allow ourselves to be stabbed in the back? Perhaps the contracts that are held by the Milk Wagon Drivers Union are not sacred either.

We shall see.  
If this is a declaration of war on the part of the Teamsters International, we are prepared.

But we will conduct our fight in the open without the aid of politicians and law enforcement agencies.

# ON THE DULUTH LABOR FRONT

## DULUTH LABOR HEARS M. LEWIS HIT LOCAL 574

### Lewis, Cunningham Unite In Praising Dead Timber in Movement

Meyer Lewis and T. E. Cunningham appeared at the last Federated Trades Assembly meeting in Duluth when the question of the reinstatement of Anne McEwen, former editor of The Labor World, was demanded in a resolution submitted to the Trades Assembly by the Coke and Gas Workers' Union, one of the three federal unions formed since the NRA.

This meeting was scheduled one week earlier but was undoubtedly postponed in order for the reactionary forces to gain more momentum but in spite of the presence of William Green's ambassador, Meyer Lewis and Lawson's Cunningham, the progressives won in demanding a hearing for Anne McEwen.

Meyer Lewis at this time used different tactics than he used in Minneapolis when he announced that he would purge the city of the "Reds." He also announced there, as did William Green, to the press, that his presence was only in the interest of local affairs, yet in Duluth he announced that this was his third visit to Duluth and that he expected to open offices in Minneapolis where he would compile statistics, make surveys, and in fact, keep his pulse upon the labor movement of the whole state. (Sounds like Fascism to 574.)

He urged all delegates present at the Duluth Trades Assembly to call upon him whenever they needed any assistance and that he would be ready to help them.

Poor Meyer Lewis! He felt so sorry for himself because he was separated from his family, because he was kept traveling all the time (he failed to tell the Duluth assembly how he used the airplanes to travel—this time it was just one meeting after another, day in and day out, driving day and night.)

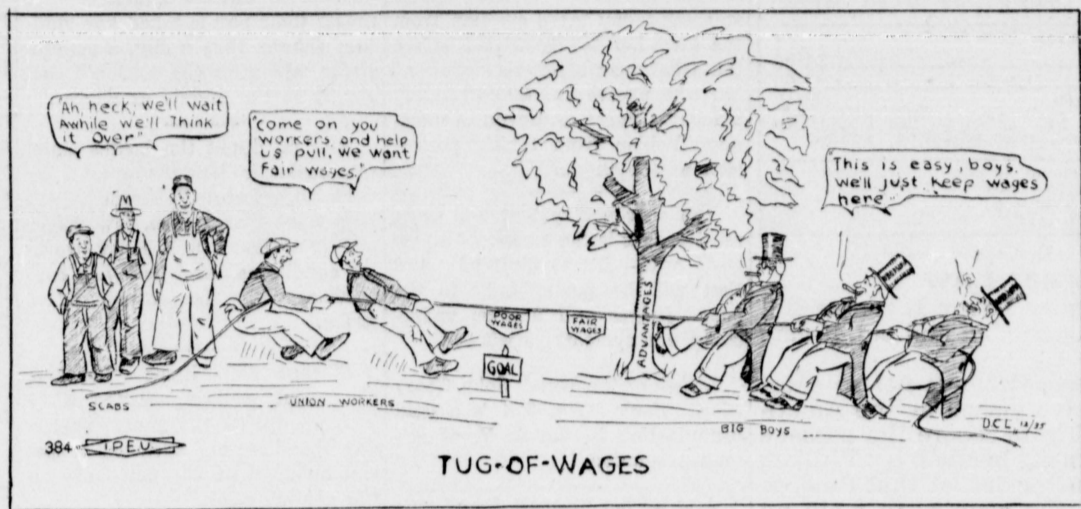
But he did say that his purpose in coming to Minneapolis was only to audit the books of the Laundry Workers' Union at the request of William Green. He was only following orders. He admitted that he did only what William Green asked him to do. In other words, he left the idea with the workers that he did not think for himself. He only carried out orders.

"Maybe that was why Anne was dismissed. She did think for herself," said one of the workers after the meeting.

"What did I do to deserve this great title in this state of Minnesota?" asked Meyer Lewis. "Do I look like such a dangerous character?" he inquired. "Why, I haven't any horns or any tail."

Ambassador Lewis congratulated the men who had built the "pure" labor movement of Minnesota, "but," he added, "I have met new men, young men who want to change it and run it themselves. They are trying to tear the 'guts' out of the Minnesota labor movement.

Why should he have said that he was not interested in Minnesota's political party? He emphasized this fact. It was obvious that he was at-



### Federal Workers Meet Friday, Jan. 3

Friday, January 3rd, will be a special meeting of the Federal Workers of Local 574. This meeting has been called for the purpose of attempting to settle the question of laying off during cold weather.

At the present time there apparently is no set rule on the subject of when it is too cold to work out of doors on WPA projects. It is necessary that this question be settled.

Much confusion has been created in the last few weeks by workers on these projects not knowing whether or not they were supposed to work.

The Friday meeting will attempt to settle this question once and for all.

### tempting to make an issue of it.

Green's Ambassador Lewis, or should we say Lawson's Ambassador, after he announced that he expected to open his office, asked for only thirty days. 'Give me thirty days. Just wait another thirty days, another sixty days and see what I will do for the state of Minnesota. I am going this long way because I want peace and harmony. I am conservative but I am telling you that I can be just as militant as anyone in this room,' he bombasted.

When asked by a member of the Duluth Truck Drivers' Union what he held against 574, his story was not to audit books but a different one. He admitted, "I came to protect small organizations (this tinges with NRA flavor), small unions that 574 is breaking up. We don't need 574 to help us and we do not want 574 or any of its tactics," he bellowed.

Then again, "Feel free to call upon me any time and if it is humanly possible I will come to you. I am at your beck and call. I have a duty to perform, given to me by the great leader of the A. F. of L. and I am here to help you," he added.

Later President Cunningham in his address that lasted one hour said that he and Meyer Lewis would be traveling all over Minnesota making speeches and that Duluth would see them frequently and he wanted the boys to know that they would see them often.

All this filibustering took until midnight. It was then too late to discuss the McEwen issue so Anne was "tabled" right there in front of the whole trades assembly. It is possible that at the stockholders' meeting that she will be brought out and dissected. And the mass picket line for the Duluth Linen Supply was put off again. The ice is now forming on Lake Superior and the laundry girls are beginning the think that hell will freeze over before the Old Guard will give them that mass picket line.

### Mankato Drivers Meet January 9

Thursday, January 9, another meeting of the driving crafts has been called in Mankato.

The committee from Mankato, that met with the Executive Board of Local 574, in General Drivers Hall Saturday, is now busy preparing plans for the Thursday meeting.

On January 9th a plan will be presented to the gathering of Mankato drivers, for an organizational setup similar to that of Local 574.

Direct affiliation with the Minneapolis General Drivers Union was part of the plan threshed out by the Saturday meeting.

A large turnout is expected in Mankato on the 9th. Officials of Local 574 will be present.

### Tiff Miner Fined \$50 For Criticizing Judge

Potosi, Mo.—FP.—Joe Morris was fined \$50 for contempt of court because at a tiff miners' strike meeting last summer he criticized an injunction and the judge who issued it.

The fine was levied by Circuit Judge Frank Kelly, acting in place of Judge E. M. Dearing, the offended magistrate, who had disqualified himself. Kelly was chosen to hear the case (without jury) by a local probate judge and by H. O. Smith, attorney for the National Pigment & Chemical Co., against which the strike was directed.

Attorneys for Morris, anxious to prevent a precedent from being set, will appeal the case, and Morris is free on \$300 bond. Replying to the charge that Morris had told strikers Judge Dearing should be impeached, Victor Harris, St. Louis Civil Liberties Union attorney, told the court:

"A man can criticize congressmen, mayors or governors. Why can't he say that a judge should be impeached? That is a constitutional right. How else could we remove an incompetent judge?"

### California Transients Given Cold Welcome

In sunny California, short is the shrift of the unemployed and homeless. Unless the transient has been registered between May and September, he is not eligible for state relief. From October until the middle of November, over 6,000 transients arrived in California.

Most of these are migratory fruit workers. Social workers describe their condition as deplorable. Although these workers will be needed in a few wmonths to harvest and pack the state's fruit crop, the California officials resent their presence here before they are needed.

### Cunningham Resigns From Latimer Board

T. E. Cunningham, president of the Minnesota State Federation of Labor, is to be congratulated for the correct stand he has taken on the question of serving on the Mayor's Committee of Fifty.

In resigning from the committee, Cunningham stated that the Trade Union Movement and the unemployed were so sparsely represented on the committee, that they would constitute a hopeless minority.

He called upon labor representatives to resign from the committee and proposed that the trade unions and the unemployed set up their own committee to investigate and make recommendations on the relief situation.

Such a committee is being formed.

They held their first meeting at ten o'clock Sunday in the Central Labor Union Halls.

### Austin Local Contacts A. F. L. Meat Cutters

To: Dennis Lane, Sec. Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir and Brother: At the last meeting of our Executive Board it was decided that we should communicate with you to ask your co-operation in establishing one powerful industrial union in the packing industry.

Our union, composed mostly of packinghouse workers, feels the need of a serious drive to organize these workers into such a union in order to be able to deal with the packing trust. We both know the situation in the industry, and therefore should know the necessity for working together. Knowing your stand for industrial unionism is the same as ours, we should have a common understanding.

We propose that a committee from each of our organizations meet to consider problems of mutual interest. Any suggestions you may have along these lines will be sincerely appreciated.

Fraternally yours,  
Jos. V. Voorhees, Pres. Independent Union of All Workers General Offices, Austin, Minn.

Little do the taxpayers realize the St. Louis County jail is the meeting place of union "big shots." Since becoming jailer the same office has practically become the headquarters for the Executive Council meetings. Jailor Elling puts in his regular time, taxpayers cannot complain about that, but if an Executive Council wishes to call a special or urgent meeting during the week days it usually convenes at jail headquarters.

### Local Union 160 Reports Progress

The Executive Board of Local No. 160 report that the ranks of the union have grown with great speed during the past month. Chartered so that the employees of the Northern States Power might organize themselves, the union has weathered several severe storms but is now well on the road to victory.

In every instance the negotiating committee has solidly withstood the efforts of the company to circumvent the long-established methods of collectively bargaining. The union has fixed as its goal union recognition and a signed working agreement. Every member of the union stands squarely behind the leaders of the union in the battle for these fair demands.

Knowing their rights as American citizens and workingmen, the members of Local 160 are determined to jealously guard these rights. They have faced the management of the company several times in the past few weeks and in each case the union has stood its ground. They are determined to have a signed agreement and will accept nothing less.

The company, at first, arrogantly challenged the union's right to select its own spokesmen. The union replied that the company has no authority in the matter, and as a result of the union's determined stand, it is now definitely understood that the union shall have its own spokesman.

The question of a spokesman settled, with a victory for the union, the important matter of a signed agreement is now under discussion. The company has attempted to sidetrack this fundamental demand by seeking to draw the committee into a discussion of "individual grievances."

The union is fully aware of the fact that this is a subterfuge through which the company is trying to avoid dealing with the union. The union will take the same determined stand on this question as it did on the question of a spokesman.

It will demand that the company sign an agreement.

### Letter from Booster

217 Dayton St.  
St. Paul, Minn.  
Northwest Organizer  
257 Plymouth Ave.  
Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Sirs: I understand that you have a special offer on now for 25c subscriptions to the paper. If this is correct, please enter the following (for which I enclose 50c):

G. R. Metzger, 554 Arundel St. Audry May, 217 Dayton Ave.

The above mentioned person, G. R. Metzger, desires to help the cause of Local 574 along and wishes to know if there are any special buttons or emblems he could wear to show his sympathy for 574, although he is not a member. He is a union machinist on the Milwaukee Road. We would appreciate information on this subject sent to him at the Arundel Street address.

Yours sincerely,  
Audry May

### Christmas Thanks

Minneapolis, Minn.,  
December 27, 1935.

Local 574:

We wish to thank you for the Christmas basket we received while Mr. Bruneau was sick.

Mr. and Mrs. Bruneau and Family

# 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  
 Entered as second class matter May 1st, 1935, at the Postoffice at Minneapolis, Minnesota, under act of March 3, 1879.

"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."

## Court Hits Wagner Law

The upsetting of the Wagner Labor Disputes Bill strikes another real blow at the outmoded and out-of-date leadership of the A. F. of L.

The memory of the labor movement is not so short that it does not remember the drive put on by the American Federation of Labor leadership to secure the passage of this act. The Executive Council, headed by William Green, pleaded with the labor movement, at that time, to stage mass meetings throughout the country to whip up sentiment for the passage of the Wagner Bill. They practically ordered State Federations, Central Bodies, and Joint Councils to get behind, what they were pleased to call, the "Magna Carta" of American Labor.

They hailed the Wagner Bill as something that would prove to be the economic salvation of the American working class. By inference they said that strikes, struggles, and fights were no longer needed, that social legislation, sponsored and backed by labor, was the way that working class reforms must be secured in the future.

The decision of a Missouri Federal Judge has brought their dream castle tumbling down about their ears. The question that they must be asking themselves now is: where do we go from here? Their dependence upon social legislation to solve the contradictions in the capitalist system has done at least one thing, it has weakened and emasculated the American trade union movement.

The leadership has taught the ranks to rely upon a mythical Messiah when militancy and struggle should have been their watchword.

As a wise man once said, "Those leaders who rely upon the working class for support and in the meantime serve the capitalists, can sense the smells that are wafted to them from a waiting grave."

## Troops at Strutwear

The appearance of National Guard troops at the Strutwear plant, Friday, puts an entirely new light upon the strike situation at the knitting plant.

Governor Olson, in a public statement says that the plant will remain closed until the labor difficulties there are settled. This is good, if true.

Even conceding that Governor Olson, for reasons of his own, wishes very much to see the strikers triumph, we can never forget that National Guard troops are officered by men from the employing class. As a rule they are distinctly anti-labor.

Workers can never forget the Drivers strike of 1934. National Guard officers, in charge of the troops, with or without the Governor's consent, allowed trucks to run wild under the so-called "Permit" system.

During the year of 1935 in 26 states of the union State troops were called out in labor troubles. In every case they were used as strikebreakers.

In Minnesota, with its politically liberal administration, which needs the support of the trade union movement, it is possible to conceive that the troops will keep the plant closed and so aid the strikers. But teaching workers to depend upon Guardsmen to win strikes, not only is folly, but is dangerous.

A liberal administration may help them, but how about the reactionary Governor that may follow?

Every worker should know and understand that nothing can take the place of a militant picket line of workers. And in the final showdown no strike can be won by any other means.

## Russell Case Goes To Higher Court

The cases of the three Strutwear strikers who were haled into Judge Molyneaux's court to answer charges of criminal contempt have been disposed of by that court.

David Ellis and Lawrence Swanson, both members of the Hosiery Workers Union who were defended in court by Irving Green, were each sentenced to serve six months in the Minneapolis city workhouse.

Alfred Russell, who is not a member of their union but who was arrested at the scene of the Strutwear strike, was defended by Francis Heisler and Gilbert Carlson of the Non-Partisan Labor Defense, was sentenced to four months in the same institution.

Russell began serving his sen-

tence in the workhouse immediately.

In his case, however, notice of appeal has been filed and the case will be heard by a higher court.

## Bus Line Rebuked for Anti-Union Activities

Washington, D. C.—The Pennsylvania Greyhound Lines, Inc., got cracked on the nose when the National Labor Relations Board ruled that it must reinstate five drivers fired for union activity, dissolve its company union and cease interfering with the workers' rights to bargain collectively.

As is usual, the company is reported to have scoffed at the decision, and have stated that they will follow the Board's decision only when forced to by court's decree.

# Labor Looks at the Press

Peoria, Ill.: "A gray-haired spinster today faced eviction from the farm her family settled before the Civil war after recitation of her own poetry had failed to sway a federal judge to prevent a mortgage holder from taking possession of the property."

The only poetry that will sway most judges is the poetry of a new Civil war—the revolution. And that will be poetry only to the poor—judges will neither understand nor sympathize with it.

Laugh of the Week: John Geary of St. Paul: "No. 574 is a dual organization to the A. F. of L.'s teamster union."

And we bet "Honest John" puts his right shoe on his left foot.

Washington, D. C.: "The price of a place at the capital's Jackson day dinner, annual rally of the Democratic faithful, was fixed Thursday at \$50 a plate."

At that, the banquet hall will probably accommodate all the people who have profited from the New Deal.

London news item: "Miners of Great Britain delivered an ulti-

## John L. Lewis Speaks For Newspaper Guild

Backed by words of praise and encouragement from President John L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers of America, the young and lusty American Newspaper Guild is preparing for battle with the powerful forces of the Associated Press when National Labor Relations Board hearings open in New York Jan. 8.

Lewis, addressing the largest membership meeting yet held by the New York Guild, assailed the Associated Press for its attack on the Wagner labor disputes act and denounced a statement by John W. Davis, American Liberty Leaguer and AP counsel, that the Wagner act is "not in fact a law."

"They are strange words to come from one who has preached the sanctity of the law and the right of Congress to enact statutes for the government of the people. I do not know of anything that could be said or done to teach disrespect for law and the authority of the government more than words of that character from the lips of John W. Davis and men placed as he is," Lewis declared.

The AP case, characterized by Morris Ernst, guild counsel, as the most important to have arisen since the passage of the Wagner bill, involves the dismissal of Morris Watson, crack newspaperman and vice-president of the A. N. G., from AP's New York bureau, ostensibly because he wasn't "happy there." The guild charges his firing climaxed a long series of attempts to smash the guild in the AP bureaus throughout the country and ban collective bargaining.

A complaint order against the press association, issued by the National Labor Relations Board in Washington, was met with charges that AP does not engage in interstate commerce, and that the freedom of the press would be endangered by collective bargaining with the guild.

"Let's swing both fists," retorted President Heywood Brown of the guild at the New York meeting. "If we can prove that Associated Press is unfair to organized labor in its own shop, it's not fair to labor in its news pipe-lines which run throughout the country."

matium to owners Thursday that unless their pay is hiked two shillings (about 45c) a day, a general strike will stop the nation's coal supply in the middle of winter."

And no doubt the bosses claim the strike is being prepared by "outside agitators." According to bosses the world over, low wages and long hours and lousy working conditions never have any connection with the calling of a strike.

Chicago news item: "Swift & Co., meat packers, earned \$14,767,302 during the year. Yesterday the directors declared a special dividend of 25c per share on the capital stock."

Who did they say the A. A. A. was benefitting?

All trade union guys who Aren't crooked or foolish Smile when J. Geary says 574's dual-ish.

And a recent resolution of the Twin City Baptist Ministers: "We deeply grieve that the state and local authorities have failed either to suppress street rioting or to instill fear into the hearts of killers and murderers. . . Be it further resolved that the brutal murder of Editor Liggett invite not only the righteous indignation of the public but should result in

stirring the same to an imperious demand that the murderers be uncovered. . ."

Statement of the local Protestant Ministers' Federation: "With the return of the Christmas season the hearts of all people everywhere are more than usually open to the influence of spiritual values, peace, goodwill and brotherhood become more prevalent, and concern for our fellows motivates varied deeds of generosity and sharing. . ."

You pays your money and takes your choice. One set of sky pilots pleads for "peace, goodwill and brotherhood," the other batch holders for blood.

B. C. Forbes, in the Star: "To fertilize, advertise!"

That's what the advertisers must be trying to do all right, with all the crap they throw around.

Illinois State Health Director: "The best Christmas gift for babies is an inoculation against diphtheria."

I bet he's a cheerful guy to have around a house—he'd probably give you embalming fluid for a wedding present.

Hoover's secretary: "Mr. Hoover is the swiftest dresser in the nation. He can jump into a dress suit in seven minutes."

We'd like to know how fast the old meat-head is at jumping into the Atlantic Ocean.

# Keeping Step With 574

By Mickey Dunne

Star headlines: "City Set for Rat Cleanup." We hope that Pied Pipers don't overlook the Strutwear plant.

What does that third finger, left hand ring, mean in the life of our office force?

"Honest John," the club-room host, joined the ranks of home owners by having a shanty built on a piece of vacant property last week.

Watch for the announcement of the Fathers and Sons banquet in the middle of January.

By their ties ye shall know that Christmas has come and gone.

### THE SCAB'S PRAYER

Oh Lord, wipe out that stain of shame,

Quench Thou, that singing, searing flame

That's burning deep within my soul.

I know my brother's bread I stole

Though I've repented oft and well,

Wide yawning are the gates of hell.

Oh Lord, I pray thee if Thou can Make me once more a decent man.

Oscar (Krs Krinkel) Gardner was at his best the Saturday before Christmas.

F. Dobbs went visiting Christmas Eve.

### BOSSSES DICTIONARY

Union Member—Misguided employe

Labor Organizer—Red, Radical, Communist

Scab—Loyal Worker

Wage Cut—Necessary Retrenchment

Company Spy—Efficiency Expert

Lockout—Shutdown for inventory

Company Guard—Watchman

Strike—Revolution

The membership meeting of December 23 was the poorest attended on record. Less than 20 members were in the hall at 8 p. m. It adjourned without transacting any business.

It took Gardner of Pratt's to dope this one out. Take the name Henry Bernard Ness, count the number of letters in each word, write number under each word, and see what you get.

The Independent Truck Owner Section were very nice to the steno's. Fanny Farmer candy. The editor got his vitamins in a more compact form.

Don't miss the Federal Workers' dance, Saturday night, January 18.

The union elections will be held on January 10 and 11. Polls will be open from 7 a. m. to 9 p. m.

### CURIOUS FACT DEPARTMENT

I. S. Josephs has not entered the popularity contest sponsored by relief clients.

Bosses' banquets and bosses' booze Will never buy the baby's shoes.

KNOW AMERICA FIRST St. Joseph, Mo.—A city of 80,944 population located in central Mo. Chiefly noted for being the place where Strutwear did not move.

Local 221 is attempting to play with the coal employers. What a laugh!

Two things that go together, "Cease and desist" orders from the Labor Board directed at corporations, and injunctions and restraining orders from the corporation to the Labor Board.

Sayings that will go down in history: "But none of my employes belong to your union, Mr. Business Agent."