

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!

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BOX WORKERS MAKE HISTORY WITH VICTORY

Furniture Workers Union Wins Sit-Down Strike in Factory

Get All Demands When Owner Says Agreement Is Binding

The members of Furniture Workers Union Local 1859 have written a new chapter in Minneapolis labor history as a result of their victorious three day sit-down strike. On March 12 the J. R. Clark Co. discharged a union member, Walter Lehman, for alleged insubordination. The union contended that Lehman had been deliberately provoked by the foreman and demanded that the case be submitted to arbitration in accordance with the provisions of the agreement. The company flatly refused saying: "The case is closed."

The union thought otherwise. Every other channel of action exhausted, a strike was called on March 23. The company issued statements to the press charging that the union was violating the agreement and howled for the "Prosser Board" (Latimer Employer-Employee Board.) But the union hung tight, and on the third day of the strike, the company agreed to reinstate Lehman to the payroll and to submit to arbitration of his case in accordance with the agreement. The company further agreed, in writing, that in all future cases no worker will be removed from the payroll until the union committee has been consulted and, if necessary, the case taken to arbitration.

Aware that a strike was to be called, the company officials were surprised to see the workers file into the plant on the morning of the 23rd. But they were even more surprised when the starting whistle failed to start production. The strike committee was in full charge. The doors between the offices and the plant were barred; the outside doors were guarded. Only the friends of the strikers were permitted to enter the plant. No bosses were allowed.

Out of the 300 men involved, only one proved to be a weakling. He howled for "liberty." A committee promptly ushered him to the door and invited him to help himself to all the "liberty" he wanted. The remaining 299 stood solid and proceeded to find ways and means of enjoying a three day and two night stay in the plant (sit-down strikers just sit and sit, day and night.) An impromptu band was organized, speaking programs were held; cards, ping-pong and the manufacture of impro-

The Rising Flood of Organization



Milwaukee Newswoman Tells of Police Terror in Guild Strike

Milwaukee — Smarting under the strikebreaking tactics used by police against Guildsmen and their sympathizers Saturday, workers here today prepared to demonstrate that "they can't shove labor around and get away with it."

Union men of the city, roused to white heat by the mauling and manhandling of several women in the crowd (one woman was set upon by five husky policemen) pledged themselves to "turn out the town" for next Saturday's mass demonstrations against the Hearst-owned Wisconsin News.

Here, briefly, is the week-end picture.

Scene I—Saturday

Peaceful mass picketing begins before the newspaper building. Police, lined up solidly before the entrance, use a familiar tactic to provoke violence and interfere with the picket line. They forbid the marchers to walk two abreast,

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vised hammocks for sleeping helped to pass away the time.

The management attempted to furnish meals and games the first day, obtained from the unfair Witts Market. The strikers flatly rejected the offer. Food was transported to them by Local 574.

This unique and very efficient strike has created much interest in local labor movement. It heralds the inauguration of a new method of struggle. There was no violence in any form throughout the entire strike. The absence of police explains this phenomena.

Everyone is now watching for the announcement of a victory celebration and dance by Local 1859.

Unemployed Members
Members of Local No. 574 who are now on either direct relief or working on WPA will find it to their advantage to register themselves at the union office without delay. Calls are being received for drivers and helpers who must be either on relief or on WPA. We urge all members of the union and all former members to register at once for this work.

CLU Report Shuns J. R. Clark Strike

The report of the Central Labor Union organizer at the last assembly meeting failed to make any mention of the spectacular and highly effective sit-down strike at the J. R. Clark Co. This neglect may have been motivated by a resentment against Local 1859 because it came to Local 574 for assistance when it was in desperate trouble. Perhaps it is because this union with a well organized, fighting membership and a good working agreement with the company is tainted with 574ism. Be that as it may, the fact still remains that the Central Labor Union might well have afforded to spend some time in discussing this unusual labor action to draw valuable lessons from it.

Railroad Council
There will be a meeting of the Minneapolis Railroad Council Sunday, April 5, at 9 a. m. This meeting will be held at 631 3rd Ave. South. All members of the Railroad Council and all interested railroad workers are invited to attend.

State F. L. P. Convention Neglects Need of Local Unemployed and WPA's

FLASH
As we go to press comes the news that William Cruden and Austin Swalde, leaders of Local 173, Drivers Union of Fargo, N. D., were convicted in Judge Paulson's court on the charge of "resisting an officer in the performance of his duty." The charge grew out of last year's strike in Fargo. They have not yet been sentenced. Details will be printed next week.

Sash Workers To Meet Friday

Friday, April 3 there will be an organizational mass meeting for all workers in the Sash, Door and Mill Industry. The meeting will be held in General Drivers hall, 257 Plymouth Ave. North. This gathering of workers in the sash and door plants is being held under the auspices of the Sash, Door and Mill Workers Union. This organization, which has been in existence for about two years, has decided to seek the help of Local No. 574 in spreading its activities so as to be able to take into its ranks the majority of workers in this industry.

The union points out that wages in the sash and door mills are fully 40 per cent lower than in the 1929 wage levels. With the cost of living steadily increasing, it is imperative that upward adjustments of wages take place for these workers. They point out very logically, that only a strong industrial union taking into its ranks all of the workers in the industry, can accomplish the reforms that are so desperately needed by the workers.

The committee in charge of the arrangements of the mass meeting have promised an interesting and instructive speaking program. Issues that affect every worker in the industry will be discussed. Every sash, door and mill worker in the city is invited to attend. The meeting is free. There will be no collection.

Mrs. Guy Gale Is Hospital Patient

Mrs. Guy Gale, wife of Mr. Gale, a long-time member of Local No. 574, is seriously ill in the General Hospital. Stricken on March 23, she was removed to the hospital on the same day. So serious was her condition that members of the family were summoned home from Chicago, Wisconsin and other points. Mr. Gale wishes to thank the union and its members for the many kindnesses shown him during his wife's illness.

Endorsed Slate Includes But One Member of Labor

Local 574 Delegates Are Seated Without Much Opposition

The State Farmer-Labor Convention ended shortly before daylight Sunday, March 29. Instead of being the stormy controversial gathering that had been anticipated, it proved to be a fairly tame affair. The machine was in complete control and for the most part functioned smoothly.

In only one instance did it seem to falter a bit but when the pressure was turned on it succeeded in rolling over the opposition. Hjalmer Peterson of Askov, Minnesota, present Lieutenant Governor, who has openly announced himself as being a candidate for governorship, was forced to give up his claim to the endorsement.

The Peterson forces opened their campaign for the Peterson endorsement by introducing a resolution calling upon the convention to go on record as favoring the endorsement of both Benson and Peterson and allowing them to fight it out in the primary.

On a roll call vote the resolution was defeated 555 to 59. After the vote the Peterson supporters plainly lost heart and Hjalmer was prevailed upon to make a not too graceful speech of withdrawal. He plainly indicated that he was smarting under the thwarting of his ambitions.

Outside of this one flurry the only other real controversy arose over the seating of the Local 574 delegation. The expected fight here, however, did not materialize to the degree that was expected. The only real opposition that was manifest came from the delegates from the St. Paul Trade and Labor Assembly who, plainly under the influence of A. F. of L. state leaders, had threatened to withdraw if Local 574 were seated.

The credentials committee, taking their cue from Governor Olson's speech, and fearful of a fight on the convention floor, brushed aside the objections of the St. Paul delegation and voted, 13 to 2, to seat General Drivers delegates. The announcement of the seating of the 574 delegation, by the credentials committee, was greeted on the convention floor with a roar of applause.

Little change was made in the Farmer-Labor platform except that some of the left wing phrases were deleted by the platform committee. The proponents of a national Farmer-Labor party received a setback when the con-

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Make Minneapolis a Union Town

State F. L. P. Convention Neglects Need of Local Unemployed and WPA's

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vention passed only a weak resolution setting up a committee to "explore the possibilities of a third party movement."

The unemployed also fared badly at the hands of the convention. The party platform contained not one single word or provision that took recognition of the plight of the unemployed thousands of Minnesota. A minority report of the platform committee recommended the taking over of idle factories for the use of the unemployed was defeated by a large majority after a brisk fight by Local 574 delegates and others.

The candidates endorsed by the convention are as follows: For U. S. senator, Floyd Olson; for Governor, Elmer A. Benson; for Lieutenant Governor, G. T. Lindsten; for Secretary of State, Dr. Paul Hartig; for Treasurer, Carl

Halverson; for Attorney General, Harry H. Peterson; for Railroad and Warehouse Commissioner, John Bernard; for Associate Justice of the State Supreme Court, Joseph Poirier.

It is understood that Hjalmer Peterson will finally be the candidate for Railroad and Warehouse Commissioner instead of the endorsee, Bernard.

Yellow Notes

Did you know, Shorty Rollins is getting back on his feet again since he quit playing pinball machines.

"Mayor" Cipperly is still in quarantine with scarlet fever.

Bill Brown Says—

Contrary to the ballyhoo that appeared in the daily press, Local 574 was seated at the Farmer-Labor Convention without a dissenting vote. The cheer that went up when the Credentials Committee made the report that our union was seated clearly indicated that 95 per cent of the delegates were with 574.

We agree with Governor Olson when he says all for one and one for all, and we mean it. The opponents of labor have plenty of money and speakers of their own, so instead of some so-called union leaders carrying the torch of labor haters, such as Hearst, they should be busy organizing workers into the unions that they are working for.



BILL BROWN
President of 574

"Pinch Penny" Olstad "took" the machine at 50th and Bryant the other night.

"Crying" Willie is on the sick list. He is having a new set of "ivories" made.

"One Round Nelson" has a new room-mate.

"Lead Foot" Swanson is considering a minor operation to remove the lead from his "gas foot" before the new cars come in and

the streets "blossom" out with a squad of motorcycle cops. Not a bad idea, Swanie.

At the last regular meeting, committeeman Hagstrom gave a report on the present condition of Bill Sanders. We all appreciate the suffering he has gone through and it certainly is miraculous the way his spirit has kept up. We all know a person's spirit is half the battle in recovering from an illness. Stick to it, Bill. We are all with you in every respect and are hoping for your speedy recovery.

Petroleum Workers Want Co-operation

Petroleum Workers Union Local 19802 have made a very reasonable request upon members of our union. It is addressed particularly to the Independent Truck Owners. Their letter asks that we cease doing business or making contracts or price agreements with the large non-union oil companies. They point out that by entering into contracts calling for the delivery of gasoline or oil is laying the base for a price war directed against the union companies.

They state that the amount of actual money saved in this manner is insignificant but the effects of such agreements are to place ammunition in the hands of the large, labor-hating oil companies who use these weapons against the organized workers.

We feel that it is only correct that independent truck owners and others, before making contracts for oil or gasoline, should consult with the representatives of the Petroleum Workers Union. They are located at 501 East Hennepin.

THE NATIONAL LABOR FRONT

A Journey Through the East and What We Saw

By Farrell Dobbs

The most pleasant surprise experienced by the Local 574 committee which was sent east to visit the national leaders of the industrial union movement was to learn of the popular national support which 574 enjoys. Wherever we called—and we talked with many important labor figures—we found that the General Drivers' Union was known and admired. All inquired not about what we have done—this they knew—but what the union intended to do next. They expressed satisfaction with our account of the present healthy condition of 574 and its excellent prospects.

In every big industrial center we found the workers and the progressive union leaders in very good spirits. All are highly enthused over the new possibilities of effective union organization now opening up for them through the strong movement for industrial unionism. Every sincere, intelligent leader and the overwhelming majority of the workers in the heavy industries are completely convinced of the ridiculousness of craft unionism. They tell you convincing stories to show that their beliefs are not based on pure theory.

A union is created in a steel plant, an automobile factory, a rubber plant—it matters not where, for the story is the same. All the workers band together in one embracing unit. They prepare to do battle with the employers, to fight for higher wages, shorter hours, a decent living. Then, on the eve of action, the craft union officials sweep down with their

paper claims of jurisdiction, their program of division. It matters not that they have been unable to organize in these plants. They poise, motionless, like birds of prey, until they see a good opportunity, and then they swoop down for the kill. It is a sorry sight that they leave in their wake. They gain a few members for the various crafts, but most of the workers are driven back into the ranks of the unorganized, embittered by the experience.

The bosses seize the chance and intensify their anti-union campaign. Active unionists are fired. No organization remains to defend them. The cloak of a special "labor board," which the government has obligingly provided for the craft union officials, quickly proves its impotence. The union is gone and with it the rights of the workers. We were shown the spot where a year ago the Akron rubber workers made a huge bonfire of union cards after such an experience.

But now the whole picture is changing. Hope has taken the place of despair. "Get these craft union leeches off our backs," say the workers in the basic industries, "give us a free hand to organize industrially, and we will show the world a union movement the likes of which has never before been seen."

And these are not mere words. Beginning with a series of sit-down strikes, the workers in the Goodyear plant at Akron have shattered the fetters which restrained them, and, swarming to the picket lines by the thousands, they have demonstrated the value of industrial organization combined with militant struggle. Nobody scabbed on a craft union card in this strike. One union for all and all on the picket line. The craft union leaders would have liked very much to pluck this union, but they did not dare. All eyes were on this strike. The lessons to be drawn from such action would have been too obvious.

The strike of the building service workers in New York is a second example. Here again the sweep of the movement was tremendous. The strike spread like wildfire. Elevator operators, caretakers, janitors, over one hundred thousand workers fighting as one, and fighting very effectively, against the real estate czars.

The craft unionists do not like these manifestations; they do not

like the zest with which the workers take to the ideas of industrial unionism; they do not like the manner in which the workers apply the power which is theirs when they are organized industrially. But the workers do like it; they have enjoyed the thrill of the first taste; they hunger for more. The craft unionists are finally beginning to understand that they are sitting on a powder keg. The discovery has shocked them deeply.

The craft union controlled Executive Council of the A. F. of L. has ordered the Committee for Industrial Organization to dissolve. The CIO has refused. What action will the Executive Council take at its next session? Will it expel the International Unions affiliated with the C. I. O.? This is very doubtful. As a matter of fact, the order to dissolve was issued to the C. I. O. only with great reluctance on the part of most of the members of the Executive Council. Not because of any sympathy they might have for industrial unionism, but because they were well aware that the demand would meet with refusal, that their bluff would be called, had to be called, by the C. I. O..

Daniel J. Tobin came into the Miami session of the Council with his usual self-centered, narrow-minded, hard-boiled attitude. He demanded the immediate expulsion from the A. F. of L. of the affiliates of the C. I. O. (Tobin, the charter revoker, who probably still thinks that 574 is smashed because he revoked its charter. 574 has done better without him than it ever did with him. The A. F. of L. will probably some day enjoy the same pleasant experience.) There are other Tobins in the Council who also believe in "rule of ruin," who are drunk with imaginary power—Hutchinson of the carpenters, for example. They support him. The slightly more intelligent of the craft unionists opposed this program. They understood better than Tobin the weakness of their position. The order issued was a poor compromise which will return to haunt them at the next session of the Executive Council. There will be much bluster and tall talk, but their efforts to "purge" the C. I. O. will be as ineffective as were Meyer Lewis' efforts to "purge" 574.

Another development in the fight at the top is the quiet, unadvertised and methodical manner in which the International Unions

are paying per capita tax to the A. F. of L. on additional members. It has long been a recognized custom for International Unions to pay a tax on only part of their membership. Even Tobin that great exponent of the sanctity of per capita tax, has followed this practice. Voting strength in the A. F. of L. convention is based on the paid-up membership of the International Unions. Hence the campaign to pay in for every possible member. There is a vital issue at stake; the jobs of the craft union office holders vs. the welfare of the workers of America. Every vote counts.

To properly understand the role of the Committee for Industrial Organization, we must first recognize the background of the committee members. None of these men can boast of a clear record of progressivism. Some of their past actions are downright reactionary, and to say the least, undemocratic. This is a matter of record. True, they are now supporting a progressive cause; the movement for industrial unionism. But their prime motive is one of personal ambition.

The members of the C. I. O. have one distinct advantage over their fellow officeholders, the craft unionists: they have been able to correctly estimate the mood of the working masses. They realize that the workers are determined to have industrial unionism, that they will sooner or later unseat every leader who stands in the way of this objective. Understanding this, the members of the C. I. O. have declared themselves for the industrial form of organization. They are assuming the leadership of this movement in a cautious and hesitant manner. They stand with one foot firmly planted on the old; with the other foot, they feel gingerly about for a safe place to implant themselves in the new.

Many workers look upon the C. I. O. as a messiah. There is a strong tendency to render it blind allegiance. This is a dangerous attitude which can very well detract in a large measure from the ultimate gains to be made through industrial unionism. We need something more than industrial unions. We need a democratic freedom of action to apply the power which this form of organization creates. The workers should support the C. I. O. in its stand for industrial unionism, but, at the same time,

they must constantly put forward demands for the elimination of the machine control which now exists in the A. F. of L. and the restoration of true democracy in the local unions.

Our long conversation with John Brophy, director of the C. I. O., gave us a very comprehensive picture of the present activities of this group. The principal work of the committee is confined to the educational field. Books, pamphlets, news releases and editorials sent to labor editors, speeches, and other mediums of expression are being used to clarify the issues throughout the national labor movement. The C. I. O. has not, however, taken the initiative in solidifying the industrial union groups in the various industrial centers and co-ordinating the movement on a national basis. As yet the strong feeling of the workers is only a seething ferment, evidencing itself in sporadic heat lightnings, which give warning of the impending storm. Organized action to rid the movement of the evils of craft unionism is yet to come.

Through the medium of its participating International Unions, the C. I. O. has lent aid and direction to the local unions in important strikes; a notable example is the Akron rubber strike. The proposals to organize the steel industry put forward by the C. I. O. proved a great embarrassment to the craft unionists.

On the other hand, the craft unionist Executive Council has set about a deliberate campaign to eliminate the Federal Unions. This type of local was created in an attempt to forestall industrial unionism. It has since become a staunch supporter of and a potential springboard for the industrial union movement. Federal Union charters are no longer issued. The Federal Unions are being dissolved into the craft Internationals wherever this can be done. These charters are being revoked on a wholesale basis on the slightest pretext.

The very air is charged with a feeling of impending change. Events are moving at a rapid pace. The next period will see many significant happenings. Labor is preparing, in its gigantic, lumbering way, for a tremendous stride forward. Local 574 can look ahead with complete confidence. We are on the side of progress.

MEETING SCHEDULE Local No. 160, N. S. P. Co. Employees

Thursday, March 26—Executive Board.
Wednesday, April 1—Membership meeting.
Thursday, April 2—Executive board.
Wednesday, April 8—Organization Committee.
Thursday, April 9—Executive Board.
Department meetings will be held subject to call.
All meetings at 257 Plymouth Ave. N., second floor.
Members may present grievances at any of the above meetings.

The Railroad Unions

Program Recommendations for the Coming B. of L. E. Convention

The B. of L. E. Convention opens in Cleveland on June 1st, and it is three years between each Convention. The important question for all progressives is: How well organized and prepared are the progressive minority delegates which will attend this Convention? Are they organized at all? Have they got a program upon which they have agreed in advance? These are important questions for every progressive engineer.

Let us here right at the beginning lay down one elementary principle which every progressive trade unionist must learn if he is going to get anywhere against the official bureaucracy, and that is this: The progressive minority has got to organize itself. This in turn means several things: The progressives must try to get together between Conventions and before Union Meetings to talk over and decide what to do and how to do it when the meeting or convention takes place. The progressive minority must have a program when they come to a meeting or convention upon which there has been previous discussion and agreement. If they have not then they are not progressives but mere individuals playing no role but drawing their pay.

Will there be a Progressive Minority or Majority in the B. of L. E. Convention? What program of good proposals will they have if any? Have they previously met and agreed on a program so they can act in concert at the Convention? The results at the Convention will give the answer.

Minneapolis Railroad Council Program for the B. of L. E. Convention

The Minneapolis Railroad Council submits the following recommendations to all B. of L. E. Divisions and Delegates:

1. Cut Officers' salaries and Members' dues.
2. Repeal gaglaw sec. No. 85, statute and enact free speech clause in its place.
3. Do away with the Ritual. It contains the worst kind of mental swill to stultify the minds of the membership. One would think from reading the B. of L. E. ritual that we were functioning in the dark ages. The ritual also contains vicious laws which are hidden from the members. The B. of L. E. ritual belongs in the ash can.
4. Abolish the B. of L. E. Legislative Lobby. This is nothing but a graft and a bureaucratic racket, and in its place, commit the B. of L. E. to the formation of a political party based on a correct working class program.
5. Unconditional Amalgamation with the Firemen. Put on a campaign for this throughout the country. Hold union meetings at terminals supported and attended by our Grand Officers and General Chairmen. Issue pamphlets and leaflets on the subject. Get behind it in an organized way.
6. Oppose any proposal to levy a blanket subscription on the B. of L. E. for the Labor paper. Compel Labor to function with voluntary subscriptions as far as the B. of L. E. is concerned. Have the Convention go on record favoring an open forum in Labor where the workers may register and exchange their opinions without censorship. Under the present editorial policy the Labor paper is practically useless and sometimes positively misleading. It has no definite program for the railroad workers on anything except to keep them saddled with the craft system and its leadership and to

Milwaukee Newswoman Tells of Police Terror in Guild Strike

Membership Meeting
Wednesday, April 1, there will be the first of a series of general membership meetings for the Cleaners, Drivers, and Laundry Workers Union No. 18005 and 183. Business representative, Rubin Latz, urges that all members of the organization take advantage of the first meeting in April to bring their fellow workers in the laundry and dry cleaning plants, who are not members of the union, to the meeting. All will be welcome. New members will be taken in at this time.

Market Workers Plan Campaign

The organization committee of the Market Workers Section of Local 574 met with representatives of the executive board Friday. The question of the renewal of the working agreement with the market employers was discussed and plans made for immediately drafting proposals for the terms of the renewal agreement.

The principal topic of discussion at the meeting had to do with the labor policies of the employers in the grocery industry. It was reported that in many cases youngsters are being employed by the grocers at salaries of \$12 per week and less for hauling fruit and produce. The foodstuffs are then sorted, culled and ripened in the back rooms of the stores by the same kind of labor. This slave wage condition is seriously endangering the working conditions of the market workers.

The Allied Grocers were reported to be the principal offenders. A program of action to correct this condition was mapped out. The market committee will meet with the full union executive board on Tuesday to arrange for the throwing of the full force of the union behind the market workers in this fight.

WELL-KNOWN FACT DEPT.

John Geary is not an organizer for Local 574.

When Meyer Lewis was asked on the witness stand, by the Strutwear attorney, if he came to Minneapolis to purge the labor movement of "reds" he said no. "What do you mean by no, Meyer? Yes?"

At that, you gave it the old college try.

cast their votes for Capitalist politicians.

7. No skipping of Conventions like the B. of R. T. and the B. of L. F. & E. leadership put over on their membership. The Firemen have not held a Convention since 1931 in spite of the fact that their constitution calls for a regular convention every three years. Don't permit this to happen in the B. of L. E. Union conventions are good things for the workers. Don't let the officials take them away.

8. Serve our demands concerning wages, hours, working conditions, and the six hour day, pensions, etc., on the employer direct and unite all the railroad unions behind these demands, and discontinue the present bankrupt policy of looking to Congress to get these things for us. We have no means of influencing Congress, but we have the means to influence the employer if we have a leadership that will use it.

If the above, together with other good proposals, are put into force and effect by the delegates at the coming B. of L. E. convention, the Locomotive Engineers' Union will point the way out from our present bureaucratic bondage and hopeless division and furnish inspiration to every other union on the railroads.

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they compel them to lengthen the line so that it extends far beyond the strikebound building, they thrust in a wedge to separate the line. The line holds. They decide it's time for a "pinch," and pick Al Lauterbach, 130-pound striker, for the first victim.

Hymie Polinsky, striking photographer and picket captain, asks why Al is being arrested. The police answer is to seize Hymie. Heywood Broun, bulky and brilliant national Guild president, says amiably, "I protest." That, to the blue coated strikebreakers constituted "resisting an officer." Even with Broun in the wagon, however, there's still room for one more. They pick up Abe Holzman a sympathizer.

The decision that Broun has resisted an officer is made in police headquarters. Original charge for all was disorderly conduct.

Scene II—Milwaukee Safety Building

Pickets have paraded from the Wisconsin News building through downtown Milwaukee for mass meeting scheduled in Miller's hall, across the street from police station. Crowd halts before the station. Temper of pickets is good-natured, reminiscent of college football rally. They sing, chant "We Want Broun."

Perry Du Mez, free lance newspaperman, stands on porch railing of police station, hands outspread to appeal for quiet. He starts to inform crowd that a delegation is inside the building to arrange hail.

Suddenly the doors burst open. With no warning, more than 60 cops, fists swinging charge the surprised crowd. "Get out. Move along," "I can't," cries one woman, who is jammed by police pressure against a parked car, "I can't move."

"The hell you can't." They pick her up, throw her between the cars. Five policemen seize another woman; one has her by the throat. Attempting to defend her, several men get slugged. Across the street, down a hill through a parking lot, to the very doors of Miller's hall the crowd is beaten.

Three more arrests are made: Martha Hart, secretary, Amalgamated Clothing Workers' Union; and Mike Porter, a molder, for disorderly conduct and Ray Disch, a painter, for interfering with an officer.

The beatings begun in the street continue inside the police station. Police elevator stops between floors, while one of our friends is unmercifully beaten by police.

SOFT MUSIC, PLEASE!

Bill Mahoney fought against a resolution empowering the state to set up a commission to regulate the rates charged by public utilities. Bill said that it was impractical. Now, Bill.

Meeting Schedule Local 574

Thursday, April 2—Independent Truck Owners.
Friday, April 3—Federal Workers.
Wednesday, April 8—Market Workers
Friday, April 10—574 Stewards; Federal Workers.
Monday, April 13—Full Membership.
Thursday, April 16—Independent Truck Owners.
Friday, April 17—Federal Workers.
Friday, April 24—574 Stewards; Federal Workers.
Monday, April 27—Full Membership.
Tuesday, April 28—Taxi Drivers; night drivers, 1 p. m.; day drivers, 7 p. m.
The UNION EXECUTIVE BOARD meets every Tuesday at 8 p. m.
The FEDERAL WORKERS STEWARDS meet every Thursday at 8 p. m.

Vicious Attack in Union Advocate Answered by General Drivers Union

Slander in St. Paul Paper Inspired by A. F. of L. Leaders

"Ordinary mob organized by irresponsible leaders to serve as shock troops and agitators in every legitimate labor dispute"—thus the Union Advocate, official organ of the St. Paul labor movement, has editorially characterized Local 574. This frothy statement was made in a heat of frenzy over the idea that Local 574 was to be seated in the state convention of the Farmer-Labor Party. It will stand as a glowing tribute to the vicious demagoguery of the unprincipled craft unionists, for it is by them that it is sired.

Local 574 is an important factor in the minds of the liberal politicians. They look upon it as an asset to the liberal political movement. It is militant, progressive and, more important to them, it is the largest union in the state, located in the largest and most important industrial center. They are anxious to have its friendship and support. The fact that the delegates from Local 574 were seated at the convention, despite the protests of the craft unionists, their hue and cry of "red" is living proof of the strength and vitality of Local 574 on the political as well as the economic field. Although it is situated in Minneapolis, its influence does not end there. It has strong influence throughout the state—Mankato, Austin, Willmar, St. Cloud, Cokato, Wabasha, Albert Lea, etc.

The motive behind this new attack on Local 574 is not political; it is an echo of the charter revocation by Tobin, the "purge" by Meyer Lewis. Local 574 has been read out of the A. F. of L. and is officially dead. But the "corpse" will not lie down; it continued to walk; in fact, it continues to grow (almost 200 new members came into 574 in March.)

The craft unionists are out to wreck Local 574, and they don't mind injuring the Farmer-Labor Party in the process, if they think it will help them to accomplish their central objective. In fact, the FLP has already been subjected to direct attack by the reactionary

Cruden and Swalde Again Face Court

It will be recalled that the North Dakota Supreme Court sent back to the Cass County court in Fargo for re-trial the riot case against William Cruden, Austin Swalde, and Hugh H. Hughes. After a series of postponements the district attorney on the 21st inst. took up the role of a lightning-change artist and on 36-hour notice launched against Cruden and Swalde a suit for resisting an officer. The officer they are charged with resisting is the irresistible Andrew Wuams, tear gas expert. The trial began Monday. Charles Banguert of Enderlin, N. D., is appearing for the defense. A long procession of patrolmen, plainclothes men, special deputies, deputy sheriffs, the sheriff and the chief of police have already testified.

MARCH OF CIVILIZATION

Only a so-called civilized, cultured individual will lie down and starve in the midst of plenty. A savage will not.

Honest, Mr. Business Agent, I've lost money for the past ten years.

Latz of the Laundry Workers and Janasco of the Furniture Workers will address the Friday meeting of the Sash and Door Workers Union.

Duluth craft unionists, and the St. Paul breed are known to be preparing for a switch to the Republican and Democratic machines. The very nature of the backward position taken by the die-hard craft unionists on the question of union organization makes it necessary for them to look among the outworn, discredited political and economic elements for support and to lash out viciously at everything progressive.

But the "ordinary mob organized by irresponsible leaders" has only to present its record to answer this slander. In two years' time, Local 574 raised the wages of the truck drivers from \$12 and \$14 per week to \$26.40 per week, and after June 1 it will be \$28.80 per week. Other workers—cab drivers, yard workers, helpers, inside workers—have made similar gains. The old 10, 12 and 14 hour day and the 60 and 70 hour week have been reduced to the 8 hour day and the 48 hour week. Seniority rights have been made a reality. The relief workers have been given real aid by Local 574 so that they might organize to fight for an increased dole and a standard of living more in conformity with the accepted standards of human decency.

What is the record of the "shock troops and agitators in every legitimate labor dispute," Local 574 has rendered valuable aid to the movement in the strikes of the auto mechanics, metal workers, hosiery workers, building laborers, and many others. In every instance the union acted only upon the invitation of the striking union, and in each case the forces and facilities of the truck drivers were placed under the command of the strike committee of the union involved.

It has been said that a worker who joins Local 574 will find himself almost constantly on strike. This accusation is completely false. All workers were called out on strike in the major battles of 1934 out of which the union was established. Since that time those strikes which have taken place have involved only the workers in the company being struck. There has not even been a strike of an entire section, to say nothing of a walkout by the entire union. And in every case, those strikes called have come as a result of a strike vote by the members involved. There is only one strike factor which at all times involves all members: the members of Local 574 are forbidden to go through the picket line of any striking union under the protection of a union card.

The reason that Local 574 has survived in spite of the constant warfare against it within the movement is because the union is made up of honest, sincere, militant and progressive men who always keep before themselves one central objective; the improvement of the standard of living of the workers.

The hawking and cat-calling of labor fakers and political connivers falls on deaf ears. The authors of statements such as the one we have quoted succeed only in establishing the fact that they are both ignorant and without principle.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Furniture Workers No. 1859
Wednesday, April 1—Membership meeting.
Wednesday April 15—Membership meeting.
The Executive Board of Local No. 1859 meets on call of the chairman.
All special meetings and all department meetings will be called either by special mail notices or will be published in the Northwest Organizer.

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

Keeping Step With 574
 By Mickey Dunne

John Shiel, militant member of the Federal Workers Section who has been in the hospital for the past month suffering from a serious heart ailment, surprised and delighted his friends Monday by appearing at the union hall apparently completely recovered.

Erber Will Speak Friday, April 3rd

Ernest Erber, National Chairman of the Young People's Socialist League, will speak at 631 3rd Ave. S., Friday, 8 p. m., April 3. No admission is charged to hear this sensational young speaker who will speak on the amazing growth of the Socialist youth movement. Erber, in his early twenties, has a long record of achievements in the labor movement. He is known from coast to coast as a leading spokesman for the Socialist position.

ANOKA COUNTY COUNCIL OF LABOR
 Branch No. 1
 Columbia Heights, Minnesota
 March 17, 1936

Federal Section
 Local No. 574
 257 Plymouth Avenue N.
 Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Brothers:
 The members of the Anoka County Council of Labor want to send a hearty thanks to your organization for the interest shown in the grievance case of our member, Harry Stanley. Your grievance committee must be praised for the excellent work they have done on the case.

Respectfully yours,
 Recording Secretary.

The inquiring reporter has unearthed the information that the Scott family will be five shortly. "One more sure vote in the Tenth ward," says Irving.

Sash, Door and Mill Workers Union had a committee of twenty at the union hall Sunday afternoon. M. B. Dunne met with them.

Delegates from the St. Paul Trades and Labor Assembly looked mighty foolish when they heard that the Credentials Committee had seated Local 574 delegates. They had threatened to withdraw if that was done. You're right, Horace, they stayed there.

Since we published the editorial in regard to the preamble of our constitution and by-laws, we have received dozens of requests for copies of it. We repeat, it is a sound working class document.

V. R. Dunne has been in Montana for the past ten days.

For sale or trade, four-room stucco bungalow, located at 5711 Cedar Avenue. Furnace heat, well water. \$220 mortgage against property. Will take \$350 for my equity or will trade for late model truck. Inquire of Joe Haugh, 2904 16th Avenue South, or at union office.

Mrs. Struthers, on the stand, said that she was "not entirely in agreement with the rights of collective bargaining." Who in the hell ever said she was!

Joe Davis, Second Avenue wine merchant, must be an ardent defender of Abyssinian rights judging from the looks of his establishment Friday morning. Moral squad take note!

Several of the smaller transfer companies have become completely unionized during the past two-week period.

Many drivers on the Belt Line project have left there to work on the Rose Brothers job.

The Federal Workers' records are being put in shape by Al Russell.

The J. R. Clark boys are jubilant over their victory.

Brother Carlin, of the Independent Truck Owners, was a convention visitor Saturday afternoon.

A long and interesting article has been received from William E. Jones of the Amalgamated Trans-

portation employes of South Cle Elum, Washington. It will be published in an early issue.

Bill Grey, an officer of 574 for many years, is a frequent visitor at the union halls. He is now a member of the Federal Workers Section.

The Farmer-Labor convention in St. Paul was a good demonstration of the widespread friendship and good will that our union has established. Literally hundreds of delegates from all over the state assured the 574 delegation that they would fight to the end to have us seated.

Local 160, Northern States Power Employes Union, held a sectional meeting in the union hall Sunday.

With sorrow and regret we announce the death of Harry Wilson, militant fighting member of Local 574. Brother Wilson was seriously wounded in both the General Drivers and Auto Mechanics' strikes. He had one religion and that was unionism. He met his death in a fall from the top of a box car in St. Paul last week. He was buried Saturday.

The Federal Workers Section was represented in the St. Paul convention by G. Dunne and J. Bartlett.

The Raymond Bros. boys are talking about it.

Local 120, St. Paul Drivers Union, is going to move out of the St. Paul Labor Temple. Their new home will be in the midway.

SOCIETY NOTE
 The Eighth Street Generals were over to view the Governor's operation Friday and Saturday. A lovely time was had by all.

The picture of William Brown and the Governor, which appeared in Sunday's Journal, was taken, we understand, at the moment when Brown was pledging Olson the negro vote.

Don't miss the article by F. Dobbs, on his visit to the G. I. O. that appears in this issue.

LABOR . . . Looks at the Press

Berlin news item: "By government orders, Germans born in 1914, 1915 and 1916 must report immediately for military service, beginning Oct. 1."

Born in one war, grown to young manhood, ready to die in another war—boy, that's a great life.

Mussolini sez: "All of Italy congratulates the United States on its fine position taken on neutrality."

Headline-of-the-week: "A. F. of L. Urges Increasing Buying Power

Ice Drivers
 Important special meeting Thursday, April 9, 8 p. m., at 257 Plymouth Ave. N. Everybody out!

Mrs. Struthers Talks

If there was anyone who doubted the true feelings of the bosses about the rights of the workers, such doubts were completely removed by the testimony of Mrs. Florence Struthers in the Strutwear injunction trial. Mrs. Struthers very bluntly stated that she was "not completely" in sympathy with the idea of the workers having the right to join organizations of their own choosing. In other words, she looks upon the workers in her plant as chattel slaves who should be permitted to exercise freedom of action only when this will not conflict with the selfish interests of Mrs. Struthers.

She also admitted very frankly that the Federal Court replevin action, which recently precipitated trouble at the plant, was a deliberate move to get materials through the picket line for purposes other than the alleged transfer to the so-called Peacock Knitting Co. at St. Joseph. The Northwest Organizer pointed out at the time that this whole action was a fake.

Meyer Lewis provided a touch of comedy to the hearing when he testified, under oath, that he was not sent to Minneapolis for a "red purge." He wriggled mightily while trying to eat the statements which he gave to the press last fall stating specifically that this was the main object of his visit. Meyer is finding his "purging" business to be a tough racket.

The Strutwear strikers are reported to be closely studying the work of Local 1859 at the J. R. Clark Co. The sharp contrast between the policies of these two unions and the effectiveness of their programs has given rise to much serious thought.

The Coal Industry

Now that the coal season is drawing to a close, it is to be expected that the sniping of Local 221 will be directed toward an attempt to block the renewal of the 574 agreement with the coal employers. The employers are fully conscious of the advantage which they gain through these unprincipled tactics by Local 221, and they have already given some indication that they intend to try to exploit this situation.

Local 221 appears confident that it can "steal" the coal industry from 574 by offering the coal bosses a "more acceptable" agreement than that presented by Local 574. This is nothing more than an attempt to "organize" workers from a strong union into a weak union, through the bosses. It won't work.

The overwhelming majority of the coal workers belong to 574. More than that, they realize that it is through 574 that they have been able to improve their conditions, and they are ready to fight to defend their union.

The agreement between the coal employers and 574 will be renewed, with improved conditions, even if it becomes necessary to engage in open struggle. And if Local 221 attempts to furnish strikebreakers, they will be treated just like any other strikebreaker.

Before the Decision

Before the decision of the judge is handed down, in the Strutwear injunction suit, it is important that the Hosiery Workers Union outline a course of action for themselves. To leave future procedure and future activity to chance is to defy the worst to happen. The possibility of a sweeping injunction must be taken into consideration in formulating all future plans in regard to carrying on the Strutwear strike. There is little cause to doubt that some sort of a restraining order will not be issued. Taking this fact into consideration it is important that the Hosiery Workers Union prepare themselves for this eventuality. Plans must be made to carry on the strike in spite of any legal obstacles that are placed in the way. This will not be the first time, in this country, when labor unions have been crippled with injunctions and restraining orders. Strikes, in many cases, have been won in spite of the employer's attempt to hamstring the union with legal entanglements. In our opinion too much time has already been lost before calling mass meetings embracing the whole labor movement to acquaint them with the danger that threatens. It is only honest to say that the Strutwear strike has reached the stage that is dangerous, from the union's standpoint. No pains, effort, or expense should be spared at this juncture. Now, more than ever, militancy and action should be the watchword. It must be obvious to the most naive observer of trade union affairs that the hosiery workers, alone and unaided, cannot win. The aid of the whole labor movement must be enlisted. It is the job of the Hosiery Union to proceed in such a manner as will secure that assistance.

574 Band Credit To Drivers Union

The new 574 band is going about the business of organizing itself in a manner which clearly indicates that it is going to be one of the best. The boys have some real ideas on how to outfit themselves. They will present a fine appearance when all their plans are realized.

They gave a fine performance at the recent mass meeting in spite of the fact that they had very little opportunity for previous practice. The maestro, Dick Ather-ton, deserves much credit for his splendid initiative in launching this commendable project.

St. Cloud Linemen Make Up Lost Time

Linemen employed by the Northern States Power Co. in St. Cloud who are employed on a monthly basis at \$135 per month are now being compelled to make up for time that was lost, due to inclement weather, during the past winter. They are being made to work five 9-hour days and one 8-hour day each week, thus making up, each week, 13 hours of the lost time.

During the NRA making up lost time by workers employed on a monthly basis was not compulsory. At the conclusion of the NRA Mr. Pack sent out a circular letter stating that wages and working conditions would not be changed by the ending of the National Recovery Act. The St. Cloud linemen should organize and protest against what is clearly a violation of their rights.

George Barrett's Daughter

George Barrett, resident of Golden Valley and a member of Local 574, suffered the loss of his little daughter Jean, five years old, who died Sunday. She was buried Tuesday at Hillside cemetery. Funeral services were held at the house at 2 p. m., supplemented by a later church service.

Jean is survived by her mother, father and three brothers and a sister. The union extends sympathy to the Barrett family.

by 13 Per Cent Advance in Wages.

Not a bad idea—but workers get higher wages by fighting, not by "urging"—and to wage a good fight today, workers need industrial unions.

Mrs. Jane Smith, of the National Woman's Party, sez: "It is unnecessary to point out to women workers the menace to women of a minimum wage law applying to them alone."

Yep, the least bit of social security is a real menace, all right.

Kenosha, Wis., news item: "Gustav Tocklin took a day off from his factory job to work on the Four Square Gospel church, fell from a scaffold, broke his back, died."

That oughta teach him a lesson.

Madison, Wis.; "Governor Philip LaFollette today brought 70 policemen to the capitol, mobilized National Guardsmen nearby, and ordered more than 100 WPA strikers to raise their siege of the state government. The strikers left."

The LaFollette Progressives give the workers about what Lattimer gave us in Minneapolis. There's a lesson in all this.

The Nation's Morals, as exemplified in a Chicago judge: "Bernard Wilson, 19 years old, who robbed a candy shop of \$8, then returned \$4 because he didn't need it, was held for a mental examination today by Judge J. M. Braude."