

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

Official Organ of the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council

MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE:
257 PLYMOUTH AVENUE NORTH

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

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

VOL. 2, NO. 36

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, THURSDAY, DEC. 24, 1936

PRICE 5 CENTS

TEAMSTERS COUNCIL WILL OPEN NEW HEADQUARTERS

1000 CHILDREN ATTEND PARTY GIVEN BY UNION

Members' Little Ones Crowd Large Hall as Santa Appears

Children Enjoy Program of Music, Singing and Merriment

The second annual Christmas Party given by General Drivers Union for children of members was, to put it very mildly, a howling success. Double the number of children were present at the party this year than attended last year's doings. Fully 1,000 children and half as many adults jammed their way into the auditorium on third floor, enjoyed the program of entertainment, saw Santa Claus distribute candy and other good things, and, in general, had a happy, hectic afternoon.

Long before the appointed hour of 2 o'clock had arrived, hundreds of children were climbing the stairs to the third floor and hundreds more were out on the street waiting to gain admittance. The program opened with a clown, followed by a magician and several other acts that kept the little ones in an uproar of merriment.

A huge Christmas tree, whose top touched the lofty ceiling in the auditorium, was the center of interest for all of the children. It was beautifully decorated and presented a truly wonderful appearance.

The climax of the afternoon came, however, when Santa Claus made his appearance at the head

(Continued on page 2)

Machinists Union Strike at Imperial

Machinists Local No. 382 report that the Imperial Machine Co., 1611 Central Ave., manufacturers of snow plow and highway building equipment locked out 30 members of the Machinists' Union at noon Monday.

The immediate cause of a lock-out was the presentation of a union agreement by the Machinists' Union calling for the establishing of union wages and decent working conditions in this plant. E. A. Morrison, local manager of the Imperial Co., Saturday refused to accept an agreement that was tendered to him by a representative of 382.

The union workers at this plant have already established a picket line and will turn the lockout into a strike against the company.

Over the Hump



Story of Exploitation Of the Dead Revealed In Local Casket Strike

Trust Control by Casket Makers Is Shown; Price Fixing and "Trade Agreements" Used

Workers employed in casket manufacturing firms in Minneapolis have been on strike for almost two months. To date there are no indications that the owners are prepared to enter into negotiations looking towards the end of their labor difficulties.

As a matter of fact what started out as a strike has apparently been turned into a lockout by as coldblooded a group of reactionary exploiting employers as exists anywhere.

Determined to maintain their system of semi-peonage and slave wages in Minneapolis casket manufacturing plants, the haughty "casketeers" have refused every offer on the part of the union to end the strike and enter into an agreement with their workers who are represented by Local 1859 Furniture Workers Union.

Incredible conditions of employment prevailed in these factories prior to the strike. There are many proven cases where workers were employed for as little as 27c per hour. Women workers, of whom there are many in the industry, worked under conditions that are indescribable. The strike

of these workers was a spontaneous uprising against horrible conditions under which they had suffered for years.

Investigations into the situation in the casket industry disclosed startling and sinister facts. There is little question now but that an almost ironclad trust exists in the casket industry and facts so far revealed indicates that this trust owns or controls many funeral parlors and undertaking establishments. Through a system of manipulations and threats to set up competitive funeral parlors in certain localities, they have compelled many legitimate funeral parlor

(Continued on page 2)

P. J. Corcoran Is Elected Officer Of Joint Council

At the last regular meeting of the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council, P. J. Corcoran, former secretary-treasurer of Milk Drivers and Dairy Employees Union, was chosen full time organizer for the Council.

He will assume his new duties shortly after the first of the year. At this special meeting the only two items on the agenda were the selection of a new headquarters for the teaming craft unions and selection of an organizer to serve the council.

Corcoran was elected to this office by a unanimous vote of the council delegates. He will open an office at 257 Plymouth Ave. N. as soon as the remodeling has been completed.

Sanitary Drivers Elects Officers For the New Year

City and Sanitary Union, Local No. 644, held their annual election of officers Friday, December 18. The following officers were elected to serve the union the coming year: Ray Helvig, president; R. R. Prindle, vice president; Wm. Holter, secretary-treasurer, and H. H. Seavey, recording secretary and business agent. The following board of trustees were elected to serve for the next 12 months: F. Dehman, A. W. Rowe, and R. R. (U Makem I Reckum) Kitchen.

The office of business representative has recently been added by the City and Sanitary Union. Much organizational work remains to be done among these drivers and the local considers it well worth while to place a full time paid representative in the field.

Business Representative Seavey has been getting fine results organizing drivers who come under the jurisdiction of this union.

Drivers Meet With Drug Wholesalers

Meetings are now taking place between wholesale drug employers and representatives of General Drivers Union. This proposed agreement will cover drivers, helpers, and platform men now employed by the local wholesale drug concerns.

It is expected that an agreement will be reached before the first of the year, bringing a new and higher schedule of wages for the workers involved.

COUNCIL MOVES TO NEW HOME NEXT MONTH

New Headquarters to House All Sections of Drivers Union

Driving Crafts Take Over Building at 257 Plymouth Ave.

Sometime during the month of January all teaming craft unions affiliated with the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council will leave their present location, 24 North 8th St., and join General Drivers Union Local 544 at the latter's headquarters, 257 Plymouth Ave. North.

Last week, officials of the Teamsters Joint Council signed a five year lease on the entire building, which at the present time, houses General Drivers Union. The acquisition of this building by the Teamsters Joint Council will provide a splendid permanent headquarters for all Minneapolis driving craft unions.

General Drivers Union has been in its present location for two years, occupying, however, only the upper two floors. At the present time offices of General Drivers Union are on the second floor. On this floor also, are four small halls. The third floor is taken up by a large auditorium which will seat in excess of 1,500 people. The auditorium is provided with a stage and a loudspeaking system.

The contract for remodeling the building has been let and when the necessary changes have been made the headquarters of the driving crafts will be the finest union headquarters this side of Chicago. The offices of the teaming unions will occupy the ground floor of the building.

Besides the unions affiliated with the Teamsters Joint Council, office space will be provided for several unions who now have their

(Continued on page 2)

All members of Local 544 are hereby notified that a complete shakeup in the meeting schedule of the local union will take place in the month of January.

The Executive Board is now engaged in preparing a new schedule of meetings for the coming year which will be radically different from that of 1936. The new schedule will appear in next week's Organizer.

Make Minneapolis a Union Town

COUNCIL MOVES TO NEW HOME NEXT MONTH

(Continued from page 1)

headquarters in the building. In addition to this, offices will be provided for the Northwest Organizer, official organ of the Teamsters Joint Council and an office for the organizer of the Joint Council.

The ground floor of the building will be completely remodeled and redecorated. A new floor will be laid, sanitary facilities provided, and two small halls will be partitioned off in the rear of the building.

Unions which will maintain offices and meet at the new headquarters are: General Drivers Union Local 544, Milk Wagon and Dairy Employees Union 471, City and Sanitary Drivers, Laundry Drivers Union No. 131, Ice and Coal Drivers Union No. 221, Tea and Coffee Drivers, and Taxi Drivers No. 125. Besides these unions the charter which recently arrived for Bakery Drivers will soon be used to build a real union of pie, cake and bread drivers. Two other unions make Drivers' Hall their headquarters at the present time. They are Local 160, Northern States Power Co. Employees Union, and Local 1859, Furniture Workers Union.

This move of the Teamsters Joint Council comes at a most opportune time. At least one of the driving unions now housed at Eighth Street has outgrown its present location and this along with the general growth of the teaming unions in Minneapolis has necessitated the present move. Besides the remodeling on the first floor, changes will be made on the second floor of the building to provide at least one more hall and a recreation room. It is contemplated that a month will elapse before the remodeling and redecoration is completed.

Clerks End 'Strike' At 5 and Dime Store

The "strike" by the Retail Clerks Union against the Woolworth Co., 7th and Nicollet, ended Saturday night. The store had been bannered for about two weeks ostensibly for the purpose of getting a discharged employee back to work.

The fine hand of some of the local labor connivers was apparent in this maneuver. The action of the Retail Clerks did little to solve the question that was often raised; when is a strike not a strike?

The period for assessment collections has been extended. All payments must positively be in by January 7, the next meeting date of the ITO section. Every one is expected to have their money in before that time. There may be a small number that will neglect to pay, but they can expect to have their names printed in this column, besides whatever penalties the membership decides to impose upon the slackers.

Local 1859 Meeting Schedule

- Executive Board—Dec. 5.
- Committee men, Executive Board—Dec. 12.
- Box Section—Dec. 15
- Clarks Section—Dec. 16.
- Puffer-Hubbard Section—Dec. 18.
- Executive Board—Dec. 19.
- General Membership—Jan. 16.

Independent Truck Chatter

Wanna Buy a Truck?

An anonymous trucker working on a county WPA graveling job began to wonder why he had so much trouble to meet his bills every month after working steady for about a year. Below is a rough analysis of truck expenses he figured at six hours a day, thirty hours a week, which is more than the belt line or city projects get. The figures vary on different jobs and these are by no means complete or wholly accurate, but compare your computations with these.

- \$4.50 Owners wage, six hours at 75 cents.
- 1.65 Gasoline per day.
- .68 Depreciation.
- .23 Insurance.
- .30 Tires.
- .44 Oil, garages, int., miscel.
- \$7.80 Total daily expense.
- \$9.00 Truck wage, six hours at \$1.50.
- 7.80 Truck expenses.
- \$1.20 Net truck earnings.

So that leaves \$1.20 a day or \$6 a week he can spend for foolishness if his living expenses don't exceed \$22.50 weekly, and also provided he doesn't have any breakdowns, smash-ups, blowouts, accidents or loss of time that are incidental in a trucker's life.

Some people have just a vague idea what our delegation is to do in Washington, D. C. It will not be their purpose to go on the floors of Congress and harangue a bunch of sleepy congressmen. They will rather concentrate on those officials that are directly concerned with setting up of Federal work regulations. Already through local government officials, a program has been arranged so that a maximum number of higher administration officials can be contacted with a minimum of lost motion. The committee will analyze the wrongs that exist in the state WPA setup and suggest methods to correct these grievances. The men that have been chosen to go are well informed to the last detail as to the truck situation here, and are most capable of presenting their case in a manner designed to obtain favorable results.

Committee and Cully Commune

The committee has met with Cully Anderson, and all the technical delays on the acceptance of the city seniority list have been surmounted. Don't flood Cully's phone with calls for work or mob his office when unemployed. Give the union office all the information concerning your truck. Be sure to leave your emblem number.

The new issue of ITO emblems are more easily identified than the old ones. Red on an aluminum background is the new color scheme. Keep them on your radiator in a place where they can be seen at all times.

Hints to Gentlemen of Leisure

Those that have been laid off Federal work and other unemployed people that would like to have a job, should make good use of their time by writing a barrage of letters to congressmen and administration officials protesting the recent WPA layoffs.

Zoological Notes

In view of the bad times coming for WPA trucks there has been some thought of sending a volunteer committee into the north woods to garner a few facts about hibernation as practised by the bears.

Bill Brown Says—

The driving unions of Minneapolis will soon have the finest home of any labor organization in this part of the country. The move of the Teamsters Joint Council in taking over the building now occupied by General Drivers Union is one of the healthiest steps that has been taken by any labor organization here in years. The driving crafts can well be proud of their new home.



BILL BROWN President of 544

Story of Exploitation Of the Dead Revealed In Local Casket Strike

(Continued from page 1) owners to become their puppets and stooges.

Investigation has also revealed that caskets made under slave conditions in neighboring states are being imported in Minneapolis and local casket manufacturers using the threat as a shortage caused by the strike have raised prices far beyond reason.

The Minneapolis Trade Union movement, through the Central Labor Union, will call upon the Attorney General of the state to conduct a thorough and sweeping investigation into the ramifications of the casket trust. It is a well known fact that the price of funeral and burial service is way beyond the actual costs involved. Millions of dollars of illegitimate profits have been piled up by the local casket barons.

A resolution calling for a thorough investigation was introduced in the Central Labor Union meeting, Wednesday, December 23.

Yellow Notes

The members of the Yellow Taxi Drivers unit wish to extend to all members of Local 544 and their families the very best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

"Broadway Jack" bought his wife a Frigidaire for Christmas. He is expecting something nice in return.

Our "Big Boss" Masters made a trip to Chicago again last week. The tire question again.

Some of the boys have been tempted to get out a search warrant to find the new phone box at 7th and Plymouth (Emerson and Plymouth). The phone box is located in the old White Eagle oil station and the light is on the canopy on the 7th Street side.

The mild weather has played havoc with the business the last week. It has also put several on the sick list. Here's hoping we get some snow soon so it will settle the dust.

Have you noticed how "fat" Slim Burnett is getting lately? A few more weeks and he ought to be able to make a shadow (by hiding behind a match).

Max Silvers took a nice little ride last Saturday night out on W. 44th Street. He was looking for an address that didn't exist. Ask him how the trip "improved" his disposition.

Ed Harlan surprised himself the other day. He actually took in \$10 in one day instead of taking three days to book that much, as per usual.

With the Laundry Workers Union

Local 183 will be represented by four delegates to the Central Labor Union during the coming year. This marks another milestone in the progress of Local 183. The Laundry Workers Union, due to its increased membership and progressive policy, will now take its rightful place with its increased representation, among that portion of the labor movement that forms the vanguard of progressivism in Minneapolis.

The Francis Drake Hotel and the West Hotel have been added to the list of hotels having signed agreements with the Union. The agreement calls for a sharp increase in wages and marked improvements in working conditions.

The Dispatch Laundry and Cleaning plant is about ready to crack. This plant has a signed agreement with the Union, but due to the anti-union policy of this concern, much difficulty was encountered in organizing the workers. Judging by recent activity, "it won't be long now."

"Stop Watch Ackerman" of the Custom is up to his old tricks again, and is flagrantly violating the piece work clause in the agreement according to reports of the workers. The patience of the Union is just about exhausted as far as these tin "Hitlers" are concerned. These puppets may think that the Union considers the Union agreement sacred, and it does, but take a tip—there is one thing we consider more sacred and that is the welfare and rights of the workers. Wherever we find these glorified office boys attempting to defeat the meaning of the agreement and indulging in studied persecution of the workers, at which they are past-masters, they are simply asking for a showdown, and the Union won't come out second best, you can be assured of that.

Many new faces will appear among the leadership of several unions for the coming year. In some cases, this means merely a change of officers, but in many unions, it means more than that. It means a new deal for the workers, a freedom from the compromising, ineffective, out-moded methods of a bygone day. The day of the blustering, spellbinder type of trade union politician is fast drawing to a close, and in his place will appear aggressive, fearless, clear conscious leaders with courage and vision, who, because of the directness of their policy, will lead the workers not only on the economic field but the political field as well, to a better workers' world. May the best men win.

1000 CHILDREN ATTEND PARTY GIVEN BY UNION

(Continued from page 1)

of the stairs. He was immediately surrounded by hundreds of the kiddies as they endeavored to attract his attention. He proceeded to distribute gifts of candy, nuts, apples, and oranges. The bags containing these dainties had been provided for everyone there.

The party did not break up until every child had been satisfied. A few of the little ones, temporarily lost from their guardians, were picked up by the committee and returned to their owners. Hats, caps, mittens, mufflers, overshoes and like articles of clothing were lost. Many of these garments are now in the union office waiting for their owners to call.

The committee in charge of this year's Christmas celebration are to be congratulated for doing a splendid job. The personnel of the committee follows: Brothers Hagstrom, Gardner, Bennyhoff, Viens and Hork.

Thanks of General Drivers Union go to the following firms who generously donated to make the party a success:

Carlson Bros., Freidman Fruit Co., L. K. Stein, Cooperman Fruit, Phillips Fruit Co., Stillman Grocery Co., Falk Paper Co., Minnesota Paper and Cordage Co., Powell Candy Co., Loose Wiles Biscuit Co., Gellman Brothers, Western Grocery, Allied Grocery, and Al Friedlund's.

For Union Made Christmas Cards CALL DALE MACHEN 478 Sexton Bldg., BR. 1034 The only source of supply in the city

MEETING SCHEDULE LOCAL 160

- Jan. 5—Stewards and Executive Board.
- Jan. 6—General Membership.
- Jan. 12—Executive Board
- Jan. 19—General Membership.
- Jan. 26—Executive Board.

MEETINGS FEDERAL WORKERS SECTION

- FWS membership meetings, first and third Friday of each month, 8 p. m.
- FWS Leadership class No. 1, each Tuesday, 7:30 p. m.
- Direct relief grievance hours, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 to 12 a. m.
- Federal Workers Stewards Meetings—Each Wednesday at 8 p. m.

Meeting Schedule Local 544

- Thursday, Dec. 3—Independent Truck Owners.
- Friday, Dec. 4—Coal Stewards.
- Monday, Dec. 7—Coal Workers; Package Delivery.
- Wednesday, Dec. 9—Market Friday, Dec. 11—All stewards.
- Monday, Dec. 14—General membership.
- Thursday, Dec. 17—Independent Truck Owners.
- Friday, Dec. 18—Coal Stewards.
- Monday, Dec. 21—Coal Workers.
- Tuesday, Dec. 22—Taxi Drivers; night drivers 1 p. m., day drivers 7 p. m.
- Monday, Dec. 28—General Membership.
- GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE—Meets each Tuesday at 8 P. M.
- EXECUTIVE BOARD—Meets each Wednesday at 9 a. m.

Downtown BA's Give Party for City Strikers

Christmas Party for Children, Dinner and Dance for Elders

The Board of Minneapolis Business Agents must be congratulated for the splendid gesture they made in organizing a Christmas party for all workers who are on strike and for giving a Christmas tree celebration for the striker's children.

The committee, which was set up only last Friday, found themselves hard pressed for time but in spite of the lateness of the day and the multiplicity of duties which everyone found themselves engaged in, succeeded in staging a real celebration for the strikers and their families.

Included in those who find themselves out of employment due to strikes at the present time are 300 members of Local No. 1859, Furniture Workers Union, 250 members of Candy and Food Workers Union from the Hollywood and Pearson Candy Co. and 30 members of Machinists Union, Local No. 382, who are on strike at the Imperial Machine Co.

A Christmas tree celebration with gifts, entertainment and a Santa Claus was given the strikers' children Tuesday afternoon followed by a dinner dance given in the evening for the strikers themselves. Both affairs took place in General Drivers hall, 257 Plymouth Ave. N., which had been donated for the occasion.

Christmas baskets were later distributed to the most needy of the strikers' families. Thanks of the committee go to all local labor unions who contributed so generously to the affair. Special thanks must also go to Robley D. Cramer, editor of the Labor Review, who was the driving force behind the celebration.

A considerable sum of money was raised by the committee, which was not enough, however, to defray the entire expense of the party. Contributions will still be received at the office of the Central Labor Union, 18 North 8th St. A list of donors to the affair will appear in next week's *Organizer*.

Prize Family

The unofficial award of the largest family attending the second annual Christmas Party of Local 544 went to Brother B. Cormier, who had seven of his children at the annual celebration.

But that is not quite all. Brother Cormier reported that he had four more home.

For Christmas Party Funds Are Needed

It is important that all members of the Minneapolis trade union movement should immediately take up with their organization the question of making a donation to the Strikers' Christmas Fund which has been raised by the Board of Business Agents.

Speed was essential in making provisions for giving the strikers and their families some Christmas cheer and, as a result, more funds were expended than have been received.

Urge your local union to make a donation to the Christmas Fund committee. Money will be received at the Central Labor Union office, 18 N. 8th St.

"We Are Proud of Our Coffee"
S & S CAFE
633 THIRD AVE. S.
We feature Home Cooking
Try Our Sunday Chicken
Dinners, They Are Delicious
35c up

Workers Alliance Report On the State Convention

Packed Meeting Greeted the Delegates from Federal Section

The Convention of Minnesota Locals of the Workers Alliance of America was held in St. Paul December 12 and 13 to establish a unified unemployed movement in this state. The Federal Workers Section delegation of over 60 delegates in a total of 179 took part in the convention because it realized the obvious need for unity if the unemployed are to gain further concessions from state and federal governments which provide relief. For this very reason the FWS delegation resisted the unscrupulous attempts which were made by Herbert Benjamin, National Organizer of the Workers Alliance of America and his clique of close followers, to stampede the FWS out of the convention. Anyone who doubts that such attempts were made need but examine the maliciously false opening statement of the first published official document signed by the newly elected state president, Chester Watson, which states that "With the exception of a single group in the convention (meaning FWS) there was evident a general understanding and desire for a united state organization." It further charges the FWS with "personal ambitions based on a disruptive splitting policy which aimed to demoralize the honest efforts of the majority in the convention."

The above quoted statement clearly shows that the Benjamin clique let their WISHES be the father to their actions. The FWS delegation at the convention had declared itself part of the WAM, wholly irrespective of any official posts given to or withheld from it. No action nor statement has changed this position. Thus Watson's statement naively admits that the real intentions of the Benjamin-Bean clique was not and is not to achieve unity but is first of all to destroy the FWS which stands as a staunch guard to maintain the unemployed movement as a basic economic organization and to protect it from petty political adventurers. To Watson's clap-trap about unity, the FWS again replies that it took part in the convention in a sincere attempt to unify the unemployed of this state, and that it will permit neither verbal nor written slanders nor provocations to prevent the FWS in Hennepin and other counties from being integral parts of the WAA and the WAM.

It is true that FWS nominees declined posts in the state setup. This was done as a protest against Benjamin-Beans' hand-picked two-thirds majority on the State Executive board which has the power to disrupt local and county organizations.

In going along under protest, the FWS is primarily determined, as specifically instructed by its membership, that its concrete accomplishments in the unemployed field shall remain intact. This means that the actual support, cooperation and confidence of the entire trade union movement, gained for the FWS through the General Drivers Union and the Teamsters Joint Council, shall continue undiminished. Inseparably bound to this is continued emphasis upon economic struggle as distinguished from petty political side tracking which would isolate and weaken rather than solidify the unemployed movement.

The FWS focuses the searchlight of truth upon the utter unreliability of the Benjamin-Bean clique which in the convention openly and visibly repudiated its

Demand 131 Union Button

Officials of Local 131, Laundry Drivers Union, request that all trade unionists and their friends demand the current month's union button from your laundry and cleaning driver. Help build a powerful union of laundry drivers.

Cleaning Drivers Get Closed Shop

Laundry and Dry Cleaning Drivers Union, Local 131, announce that they have signed closed shop agreements with the following laundry and cleaning firms. The signing of these contracts are testimony to the fact that Local 131 is proving to be a bulwark for the workers in its ranks.

The union firms follow: Golden Rule, Mayme Hoyer, Lincoln, La Salle, Majestic, Master, National, Shapiro, Service, Chicago, Flour City, Franklin, Mill City, Progressive, Safeway, Adams, Artistic, Crystal, Prosperity, Dinty Moore, Swan, and Mrs. Hill.

Ice Cream Drivers All in Local 471

Milk Drivers and Dairy Employees union have recently signed all Minneapolis ice cream firms to closed shop union agreements. The last four companies to come into line were Kemps, Jersey, Ives and Brown.

This settlement brings into 471 over 200 new members. The contract brings new wages and working conditions and what amounts to a five day week.

221 Members Get Pay from Cedar

Members of Local 221, Coal and Ice Drivers Union, received their back pay from the Cedar Lake Ice and Fuel Company last week.

Back pay received at this season of the year is like a Christmas present. It was won, however, by determined union action.

own agreements by upsetting the slate of the Nominating Committee (wherein they had a majority of four to three) for the State Executive Board. This slate, if elected, would have been a protection against mechanical bureaucratic control over local and county affairs and assured genuine workers' democracy. Instead, this slate was dumped by a tricky caucus from which all FWS delegates were improperly excluded. After the caucus a new slate was slipped over giving a two-thirds majority to the Benjamin-Bean clique. This provocation was intended to drive the FWS from the convention and thereby to blame it for a split. But the FWS did not bite. It merely declined to serve on such a rubber-stamp board.

The convention might be summed up in the words of one delegate: "It was a good one-sided convention." 1. The delegations were expertly stacked so that the artificial voting strength of three to one against the FWS was, as time will show, almost the exact inverse of actual relationship of forces in the field. By previous agreement, voting strength was to be strictly in proportion to actual membership, but the national officers arbitrarily ruled that it would be based on TOTAL dues stamps purchased from the dates of the issue of local charters.

Continued next week

Second Coal Order Granted by Board In a Hot Session

A committee of the Board of Public Welfare Monday morning voted to recommend to the Welfare Board that workers on WPA projects be given a second ton of coal by the department of public relief.

This action came about as the result of pressure put on the board by Federal Workers Section of Local No. 544 who insisted that WPA pay was inadequate to provide food, fuel and clothing for WPA workers during the winter months.

Good Scores Are Registered Friday

SCORES
F. W. S. 860 937 839—2636
Nat. Tea 807 961 867—2635

544 934 825 917—2676
Con. No. 2 844 844 883—2621

J. C. 753 798 837—2386
Con. No. 1 794 757 860—2411

Ind. 813 982 880—2675
Meats 960 920 895—2775

BOWLING NEWS

FWS dropped two games to the league leading National Teas as Ebert rolled a new high three game total of 591. Cons. No. 1 stayed out of last place by running two from F. J. C. 544 office took two from Cons. No. 2 as F. Dobbs bowled three good games. Meats went into second place as they won the odd game from Ind.

NOTES

W. Sinnott of the J. C. was elected president of the league. Arnold Johnson almost lost his thumb with the ball. Pat Corcoran raised his pin average with some fine bowling. Norman and Hanson of Ind. had 200 scores, as did A. Johnson of 544. Sharp and Ebert also followed suit. Don Amacher get a nice hand when he picked up the 4-7-10 split.

Ward Helpers Go To Transfer Co.

Helpers at the Montgomery Ward Co., who formerly were employed directly by the midway mail order house, are now to take their place on the seniority list at Schirmer-Strasburg Co.

Helpers so involved will take their place on the Schirmer-Strasburg seniority list but will only be eligible for work on the Montgomery hauling.

Season's Greetings to My Patients

May the coming year bring you happiness and prosperity

DR. H. P. McCRIMMON

601 Medical Arts Building

CO-OP COAL ASSOCIATION

To the Patrons
the Profits



739 Johnson Street N. E.
Phone: Granville 4394

THE CO-OPERATIVE

Nature
Organized people.
Purpose
To serve its members at cost.
Methods
1. Each member has one vote and only one vote. Democracy—the people rule.
2. Capital is paid a minimum rate of interest. Money is the servant of the people.
3. Surplus savings are distributed to the members in proportion to their patronage. The people receive the benefits.
Results
Wealth is equitably distributed among the many.

THE CORPORATION

Nature
Organized capital.
Purpose
To serve the public for profit.
Methods
1. Each share of stock has one vote. Plutocracy—money, in control of the few, rules.
2. Capital receives all the profits. Money is the master.
3. Profits are distributed among the stockholders in proportion to their holdings. Money receives the benefits.
Results
Wealth is centered in the possession of the few.

Back Pay Slow In Coal, Grocery

Although both the grocery and the coal agreement which were recently signed by employers in these industries with Local No. 544 call for back pay which was retroactive from one to two months, few of the firms involved in either industry have made a final settlement with their workers.

Back pay in the coal industry was retroactive to August 1. In the wholesale grocery industry, it went back to November 1. It is important for all the workers involved to know that the back pay clause in the agreement is part and parcel of the union contract and must be lived up to by the employer.

Report all failures to receive back pay to the union office at the earliest opportunity. Steps will be taken by union representatives to make the collection.

Local 160 Will Suffer a Loss

Herman Schultz, tycoon of Local No. 160, Northern States Power Employees Union, shattered the peace and quiet of General Drivers Union office last Monday with the announcement that he would soon enter the ranks of the more subdued section of the human race.

Herman is to be married about January 1.

That in itself is not news. But what is news is that he has at last found someone of the opposite sex who is willing to take a chance. Congratulations, Schultz; best wishes, Dorothy.

Wages Are Now OK At the Flour City

The Flour City Box Co., which has engaged in almost endless controversies with the Furniture Workers Union, Local No. 1859, has finally paid all back wages due the workers there and has settled all differences that had existed with the union hitherto.

Officials of No. 1859 announce that no cause for complaint now exists against this company.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Shop Stewards meeting Wednesday, Dec. 30, 1936.
Election of officers, Wednesday, Jan. 6, 1937.
Unemployed Benefit Dance, Saturday, Jan. 16, 1937.

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

Published every Wednesday under the auspices of the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council

OFFICE OF PUBLICATION
257 PLYMOUTH AVE. N.

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."

The New Council Home

The move of the Teamsters Joint Council in establishing permanent headquarters at 257 Plymouth Ave. N. was one of the most progressive and forward steps that has been taken by any section of the local labor movement in many years. Signing a five year lease on a large three-story building is indicative of the fact that unions of the driving craft are here in Minneapolis to stay, grow, and continue to gain new benefits for their members.

The new quarters of the Teamsters Joint Council which will house all unions of the teaming crafts is larger by far than the headquarters of the whole Minneapolis labor movement. The headquarters established by the Central Labor Union two years ago has proven itself entirely inadequate for the growing needs of an ever-expanding labor movement. When the old quarters at 614 First Avenue North were abandoned some two years ago, those in charge of the movement were urged by members of the teaming crafts to engage a headquarters that would prove sufficient for the needs of the movement for years to come. The soundness of this advice is realized when it is now necessary for the teaming craft unions alone to lease a building with three times the floor space of the present downtown headquarters of the local labor movement.

The joint council has made no mistake by setting up a spacious headquarters on Plymouth Avenue. It will prove to be a Mecca for the progressive section of the Minneapolis labor movement. When the remodeling of the present building is completed, the drivers headquarters will be a monument to that section of the movement that has looked on the movement with a long term perspective. With the establishment of the new headquarters, teaming craft unions will take their place in the sun where they rightfully belong.

The Casket Racket

The strike of local Casket Workers, who are organized into Furniture Workers Union Local 1859, affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, has revealed some interesting and startling facts connected with the burial and funeral racket in Minneapolis and vicinity.

From the outset of the strike it became apparent that local funeral parlors and undertaking establishments were not at all disturbed by the strike of the casket workers which brought an end to casket manufacturing in Minneapolis. Rather they seemed to be entirely satisfied and, in some cases, they expressed joy that at last someone was freeing them from dictatorship of casket factory owners.

This strange attitude on the part of local funeral parlor owners was so unusual that it seemed to merit the attention of those connected with directing the economic destiny of the workers involved. Unwillingly and bit by bit information has come to life, principally from owners of undertaking establishments, that the undertaking business in Minneapolis was under the almost complete domination of casket factory owners.

Two of the largest casket manufacturing establishments in Minneapolis own or control, directly or indirectly, almost 50 per cent of the undertaking establishments and funeral parlors in this city. At least one of the largest factories has its ownership made up of a clique of undertakers, who are interested in attempting to set up a monopoly in this somewhat gruesome business.

Two of the largest factories forced their products on local establishments by threatening to set up competitive funeral homes in nearby localities and in many instances making good their threat. It is a matter of record that when they set out to compel a local funeral establishment to fall in line with their program, they are almost 100 per cent successful. They do this by virtue of price cutting, advertising and underselling. Once they have succeeded in driving an independent out of business they have by the same token established another link in their vicious chain.

How does this work out for people on low salaries who are compelled to patronize the trust? It increases the cost of funerals as much as 100 per cent in some cases. Price agreements and monopoly control are the order of the day in this somewhat obscure and little talked of business. There is little question but what an investigation by the Attorney General's office would reveal facts in regard to this industry that would be of startling nature. Such investigation is surely the order of the day.

Keeping Step With 544

By Mickey Dunne

Von of the Carnegie Coal bought his drivers 14 heavy work coats. It set him back about \$160. That's one way to spend the back pay.

That Saturday kid party was a riot. Where do they all come from?

The local undertaking industry is going to have to stand an investigation. It needs it, too.

Wholesale drug employees met Monday night. King Skogland was in charge.

IT CAN'T HAPPEN HERE
But it will because Schultz is going to take the leap.

Meat Cutters are on the air.

There will be no stewards or general meeting the last of the month. Holidays.

Back pay is coming slowly in the coal yards.

The Monday transfer meeting ratified the agreement.

DO YOU KNOW
That Rudy Novy is in the fish business?

Pat Corcoran is the new Business Agent of the Teamsters Joint Council. He will open an office at 257 Plymouth Ave. soon.

A nice party that the Business Agents threw for the strikers.

A new Bakery Drivers Local union will be blooming here soon.

The editor spoke to the Pearson and Hollywood strikers Monday noon. A nice looking bunch of boys and girls.

The new headquarters of the teaming crafts will be the show place of the local trade union movement when it is completed.

Coal workers met at the union hall Monday night.

Stenos' union has made some severe demands on General Drivers Union.

The 7th Street comedy is over!

The Bartenders union elected Sunday. There will be a recount.

Casket strikers have uncovered a skeleton in the bosses' closet.

There will be a conference of Northwest Driving unions some time in January.

NOW YOU KNOW
Oscar Gardner of Pratt's was Santa Claus Saturday.

Thanks to the Musicians Union for the seven piece band that played for the strikers' dance Tuesday. That's real union solidarity.

Rainbolt and Wagner are still chasing 121 greenhouse bosses.

The little difficulty between the Office Workers Union and Local 544 inspired one of the union versifiers to come to bat with the following picture of what may take place:

Oh! the picket line draws closer
For the strike has just begun
And the unfair banners glisten
In the early morning sun.
The strikers' ugly manner
Means a bloody labor row
The General Drivers Union has labor trouble now.

The Stenos stand out in the street
In somber deep array
And gaze into the building
Where they used to work and play.

The mimeograph is silent
Dust has gathered there
The General Drivers Union has been banned as most unfair

The Drivers' heads are silent
As they face the picket line
With the raging girls before them
And an empty hall behind.

The membership is sullen
As the Board there silent stands
For the General Drivers Union has trouble on its hands.

There is talk of thugs and tear gas
There are bluecoats on the scene
The girls are shouting curses
Their attitude is mean.
There can only be one answer
For the Local cannot pay
So the General Drivers Union will fold up and move away.

Meat Cutters 653 In Radio Program

Meat Cutters Union, Local 653, announced that they are going on the air with a series of radio broadcasts, morning and evening, putting forward the case of the Meat Cutters Union. The broadcast will originate from Station WMIN and are on the air at 7:30 a. m. and 7:05 p. m.

All trade unionists are urged to listen to this broadcast in order that they may be informed as to where they may purchase meat products in places that are fair to the trade union movement.

WANTED

Sherman Oakes, steward at Carnegie Coal Co., wishes it to be known that he is in the market for a set of overload springs for a 1936 Ford V-8. See Sherman at the Carnegie or communicate with the union office.

LABOR... Looks at the Press

By Carl O'Shea

That's a good thumbnail description of the Tampa A. F. of L. convention—"Not a callous in a carload."

Dr. Crafts sez: Contrary to the popular idea, there has been too much wealth widely distributed in this country, especially since the beginning of the century, for the good of the people materially, morally and spiritually.

Yah, for a while back there, as many as three hundred guys had a sawbuck in their kick.

Riga, Latvia, news item: A strange creature—half-man, half-ape, a veritable modern Tarzan—has been captured near here by a band of foresters. . . . The ape-man lets out a yell of delight when meat and fruit are placed before him.

Who doesn't?

Maybe it was Johnnie Weismuller.

Anyway there's always a job waiting for the creature if he comes to America. He can become the executive secretary of a Law and Order League.

Hugh S. Johnson sez: There is no more considerate and understanding man in America than the President when he is playing ball with people who he knows want to play ball with him.

That's just what's got us worried.

Laundry Drivers Report Growth

Local No. 131, Laundry Drivers Union, report through their business agent, Clair Johnson, that their union is growing by leaps and bounds. After the signing of the agreement with the major laundry and dry cleaning companies, which raised the pay and shortened the hours of drivers in this industry, workers coming under the jurisdiction of Laundry Drivers Union have apparently come to the realization that their only safety lies in becoming a member of that organization.

Lost Articles at The Union Office

As an aftermath of the Saturday afternoon Christmas Party for children of union members, the union finds itself in possession of numerous articles of wearing apparel that were lost at that time. If your children suffered a loss of any article of clothing on that day while at the party, call at the union office.

Since the elections, the President isn't playing in our league at all any more.

Chicago news item: Stanley McCormick, a mental incompetent and member of the Chicago harvester family, is back in the big money again. During the past three years, his estate, which is managed for him has increased from 25 million dollars to 50 million dollars.

There is rugged individualism for you.

But maybe he is an Aryan or something. Anyway, it shows where initiative and hard work can get a person.

But note this item from Los Angeles: A 79 year old man appeared before municipal court Judge Dawson and begged to be given thirty days in jail. "I'm broke and it's cold," he said.

He shoulda kept his nose to the grindstone—like Stanley McCormick.

At that, it's better than the Townsend Plan.

As Norman Thomas said: To imagine you can get TWICE as much for NOT working after you're sixty as you ever got FOR working before you were sixty—

Life's Little Moments among our feathered friends: H. S. McGrath, a detective, got a Christmas package in the mail that ticked. He hurriedly plunged it into a pail of water. Then he opened it to find he had ruined a \$50 watch.

These flatfeet are a scream.

London news item: Britain and France proposed Wednesday night mediation of the Spanish civil war to permit the Spanish people to decide by ballot whether they wish a Socialist or Fascist government.

These diplomats are the clowns though, ain't they. I bet next they'll be offering to toss a coin to see who'll win the next World War.

Southport, N. C., news item: Hooded night riders who hold prayers after flogging their victims were reported active in this community Wednesday night.

Well, just so they pray it's all right.