

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

Official Organ of the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council

MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE: 257 PLYMOUTH AVE. N.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN., THURSDAY, NOV. 9, 1939

FIVE CENTS

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. 5, NO. 30

... One Woman To Another ...

To go on with the thought begun last week... the toll paid by average American working class families for the illnesses and accidents which beset even the best regulated families...

How would such a plan operate for the working class family? Let's suppose that we were operating under it and see... a slip in the mail telling you that it was time for your family's semi-annual check-up...

And another thing... there would be sufficient research laboratories in operation, manned by scientists who know what they are looking for...

I know a case which illustrates perfectly what I mean when I said last week that only the very rich and the very poor can get the really necessary care... the poor because, with much red tape, they can be taken care of in charity hospitals...

Police Aid Puffer-Hubbard Firm, But Strike Still Solid

Mayor Leach Furnishes Cops, But Company Can't Get Scabs—Strikers Present Basis for Settlement—Union Wins Unemployment Insurance Case

As Mayor Leach and the police threw their support behind the Puffer-Hubbard management, a showdown appeared to be developing in the 9-week strike of the Puffer-Hubbard workers, members of the Furniture Workers Union Local 1859.

Last Thursday John Janosco, union business agent, met with the attorney representing the company. The attorney presented a seven-point program to settle the strike. He proposed (1) that the strikers accept the 1937-38 wage scale, which would mean a wage cut; (2) that plant seniority prevail; (3) the management to reserve the right to remove or replace foremen; (4) the management to reserve the right to remove or replace "superannuated workers"; (5) the management to

Boss Buys Wig For Fink Engineer

Probably the most ridiculous boss move ever made in a strike in this country was made Tuesday by Goetzman and Peterson, Puffer-Hubbard receiver and superintendent, when they went down town and purchased a wig for the scab engineer working in the struck Puffer-Hubbard plant.

Apparently the idea was to dress the fink up in the wig, and fool the pickets. Anyway, Tuesday evening the fink came out of the plant wearing the wig, looking like a cross between Santa Claus and Frankenstein.

reserve the right to discharge workers "for insubordination or inefficiency"; (6) the company to reserve the right to buy products manufactured in other plants, when cheaper; (7) the company to reserve the right to dilute labor by having one helper with each journeyman in any department (would decrease wage scale by one-third).

At a meeting between company and union spokesmen Tuesday morning, the management not only rejected the union's settlement proposal, but withdrew its previous seniority offer in favor of a "modified" brand of seniority which gives no protection at all to the workers.

In the meantime, the company has been busy on another front. A few days ago Goetzman and Anderson, the receiver and the attorney, respectively, of the company, called on Mayor Leach and the chief of police, demanding police protection to take scabs into the plant.

Monday the company brought in a car of coal and an outside engineer, protected by a large contingent of cops. Scouting a trap, the union had withdrawn the bulk of the pickets to the union hall. Local 1859 has ordered all strikers to report at the union hall during the day, and only a small picketing contingent is being maintained around the plant.

The company is now in the position of having police protection, but no one to "protect." It has phoned workers at the bottom of

CLU Policy Committee to Meet Store

The policy committee of the Minneapolis Central Labor Union has called a meeting of representatives of all unions having members at the Donaldson department store, where the Warehouse Workers Union Local 359 has been attempting unsuccessfully to get several concessions from the company.

The company's representative, L. MacAloon, will also be called to the meeting. Mr. MacAloon will be asked to clarify the company's position in regard to the employees who are members of the Warehouse Union.

If the company continues to refuse concessions to Local 359, the union intends to take the action necessary to gain its demands. The special meeting has been called for Friday, November 10th, at the regular meeting of the Policy Committee.

359 Making Gains in Negotiations

The Warehouse Union Local 359 is carrying on negotiations with several employers for new working conditions. Negotiations with the Good Foods company and the Goodyear Tire & Rubber company have resulted in the union's gaining shorter work weeks with no reduction in weekly pay. Martin Bros. company has offered some concessions to the union, but the members feel that an increase in wages is due them as well as a reduction in hours.

Former 471 Member Opens Own Cafe

Miss Marion Mack, a former member of the Girls' Division of the Milk Drivers Union Local 471, has opened a cafe at 6 East 26th street, right off Nicollet. Union members in that vicinity might drop in the new Minimac Cafe and sample the food.

the seniority list to come to work, but these workers decided they would stick with the union. Attempts of the company to get outside workers to unload coal have been similarly ineffective. Several workers who have come to the plant, not having been told they are wanted to act as strike-breakers, have left in disgust when they saw the pickets and realized the company had tricked them.

The management cannot operate the plant itself, and of course cops cannot actually produce anything useful. So the Furniture Workers Union is still very much in control of the situation.

Unemployment Insurance Won The union won an important victory Monday when the State Unemployment Commission passed down a decision that all 23 Puffer-Hubbard workers who had been discharged before the strike are entitled to unemployment insurance. The company had attempted to bar these workers from receiving such insurance.

Fr-e-d-a, the U-n-i-o-n C-a-t



This is a c-a-t / Her name is Fr-e-d-a. She lives in the Puffer-Hubbard plant except when there is a s-t-r-i-k-e on. Then she joins the s-t-r-i-k-e and p-i-c-k-e-t-s. Now Fr-e-d-a is lonely because the p-i-c-k-e-t-s have mostly moved down to the u-n-i-o-n h-a-l-l. So Fr-e-d-a will be moved down, too, because she is l-o-n-e-l-y for her p-a-t-s.

Negotiations Start on Pact For Twin City Road Drivers

At the meeting of Minneapolis over-road drivers held Sunday, October 28th, at the Drivers Hall, a number of suggestions were made for inclusion in the new agreement covering over-road work in the Twin Cities. St. Paul over-road drivers met in that city the same day.

FWS Mass Meeting on Winter Relief

This Friday night, November 10th, at 8 p. m. the Federal Workers Section of Local 544 will hold a mass meeting at 257 Plymouth avenue north to take up the question of winter relief.

Main speaker will be William Sinnott, who will tell the inside story of the Welfare Board in its adoption of the food stamp plan. Brother Sinnott, vice-president of the Minnesota State Federation of Labor, was instructed by the Federation to appear before the Minneapolis Board of Public Welfare to oppose the stamp plan, which he did at the recent hearing.

Reports will also be made on the conduct of the WPA trials and the work of the AFL-WPA Defense Committee.

Among the questions to be discussed regarding winter relief are the 25 per cent relief cut and how it affects the supplement; how much fuel and when; and winter clothing, how it is obtained. All unemployed and WPA workers are cordially invited to attend.

Negotiations Now On Tuesday morning negotiations for a new pact covering over-road work in the Twin Cities got under way at the Nicollet Hotel. Operators were represented by a large committee. Representing the men were Art Hudson of St. Paul and Miles Dunne, Curt Zander and Carl Skoglund of Minneapolis. The next meeting will be held at the same hotel on Tuesday, November 14th, at 10 a. m.

Vince Day To Speak on Floyd Olson

Judge Vince Day will be the guest speaker next Tuesday noon at the regular Business Agents luncheon, where he will talk on the life of the late Governor Floyd B. Olson. It will be the anniversary of Olson's birthday. Judge Day was a long-time intimate friend of Governor Olson's and his talk is awaited.

FBI Role in WPA Strike Bared by Cop's Testimony

N. A. Creamery Signs Area Pact

Early this week negotiations were completed between Local 544 and the North American Creameries for an area agreement covering company operations in 23 towns in Minnesota and North and South Dakota. This is the first area pact signed with this company. Previously, Local 544 had a contract, covering only Minneapolis operations. Eighty-two new members have been added to Local 544 as a result of the new agreement. The pact is in effect wherever the company maintains delivery service.

Megarry Bros. Sign AGC Agreement

Late last week the Megarry Brothers construction company with headquarters in St. Cloud signed the Associated General Contractors agreement. The Megarry Brothers company is one of the biggest contractors in the state. It has just won one of the largest dirt-moving jobs in the history of the state, to get under way in Wheaton, Minnesota, next spring. Miles Dunne of Local 544, Arthur Hudson of Local 120, Dale L. Burchett of the Operating Engineers and Bert Mehaffey of the Common Laborers, participated in the successful negotiations.

544 Nears End of Negotiations

With the signing of the department store, petroleum and furniture agreements, and the close of satisfactory negotiations with the package delivery companies, Local 544 neared the end of its major negotiations for the year. The package delivery contract was expected to be signed this week. The department store pact, covering about 500 men, calls for pay for holidays for regular men and a 5c hourly wage increase for deliveries made outside the metropolitan area. The wholesale drug negotiations will get under way within a few days. This is almost the only remaining major agreement not yet negotiated. The present wholesale drug contract expires December 21st, 1939.

Police Sergeant Finn Lets Slip Fact He Rehearsed Testimony With G-Men—Testimony Reveals Widespread Strike Sentiment at WPA Sewing Project—Government Witnesses Contradict Each Other—"Even the Flag in the Courtroom Is Framed"

The high point of the first eight days of testimony in the third WPA trial occurred suddenly Tuesday morning when Police Sergeant John J. Finn let slip the fact he had rehearsed his testimony with G-men. This disclosure created a sensation in Judge Joyce's courtroom.

Fear that the government is building up a new frame-up against defendants was expressed Wednesday by labor officials when informed of testimony by WPA officials that they received "death threats" warning them not to testify. Walter E. McKinnon, WPA superintendent at the sewing project, claims he received a threat through the mail in a woman's hand-writing signed M. C. He said he turned the letter over to G-men.

Coming on top of the earlier testimony of Roy P. Numan, FBI agent for 12 years, that he had gone over the photos taken at the WPA sewing project, and the admission last July by the FBI that it had planted agents among the WPA strikers, organized labor has received the overwhelming impression that J. Edgar Hoover's G-men have had a lot more to do with the persecution of the Minneapolis unemployed than has yet been admitted by the government.

Is Government Planning to Call a Halt?

Despite the tremendous pressure undoubtedly being applied by Governor Stassen and the employing class of Minnesota to "give the works" to the indicted WPA strikers, there was some evidence this week that growing resentment from labor circles all over the country might force the government to call a halt in the persecution of the Minneapolis unemployed. In support of this theory, it is pointed out that on Saturday Federal Judge Joyce announced he "was deferring indefinitely" the sentencing of the eight men convicted in the first two trials. The judge said he would postpone sentence at least until he receives reports from probation officers and possibly until all WPA strike defendants under indictment have been tried. Sentencing of the men was originally set for last Saturday.

Observers further pointed to the extremely interesting article on the Minneapolis trials appearing in the November 7th issue of Labor, weekly organ of the railroad unions, published in Washington, D. C. "It was reported on the highest authority," states Labor, "that these would be the last relievers to go on trial... Organized labor in Minnesota, which is backing the strikers with all its resources, will appeal the convictions of the men already tried. That will place the matter in the hands of Solicitor General Robert H. Jackson, and if he doesn't move for the dismissal of the cases careful observers in Washington will be greatly surprised. It is recalled that Jackson dropped a conspiracy case against Harlan county coal mine operators who had terrorized workers... 'Impartial observers who have come to Washington to report on the Minneapolis proceedings have told Murphy that the condemned men haven't a Chinaman's chance of escaping conviction. The juries, it was emphasized, are being carefully handpicked from lists supplied by anti-labor interests... Attorneys for the accused have protested to the court that no workers are permitted on the jury panels...'

Unwittingly, the government has itself testified to the widespread strike sentiment among the 1,100 workers at the WPA sewing project. From the government's own figures, presented last week, it is evident the strike was even more effective than believed by the strike committee. Of the 1,100 workers, only a handful reported for work on Monday, July 10th. On Tuesday, only 11 workers showed up, that is, one out of one hundred. On Wednesday, 14 workers came to work.

On Friday, July 14th, the day of the bloody police attack on the pickets, a state witness named McKenna testified that only 290 persons worked on both shifts, that is, (Continued from page 3)

Cops Say Song Is Red

A delightful interlude in the trial occurred Tuesday afternoon when Patrolman Dickinson testified that Oscar and Margaret Schoenfeld, defendants, had led the pickets in singing "a Communistic song."

It turned out the cop was discussing the song Solidarity. This song was written long before there was a Communist Party in the world, and has been sung for thirty years on picket lines from coast to coast.

Lawson to Address 471 November 21st

George W. Lawson, secretary of the Minnesota State Federation of Labor, will be guest speaker at the next meeting of the Local 471 membership, Tuesday evening, November 21st. Mr. Lawson will speak at 8 p. m. and all members are urged to attend and hear this important talk.

5,000 Children Expected At TJC Christmas Party In Minneapolis Armory

Plans for the First Annual Christmas Party for children of the fifteen thousand members of the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council are rapidly nearing completion, it was reported this week by Ray Rainbolt, general chairman. The party, to which all kids of the various drivers' unions are invited, will be held Saturday afternoon, December 23rd, in the Minneapolis Armory.

A three-hour show, beginning at 2 p. m. and ending around 5 o'clock, will be presented for the children. Each guest will receive a special gift. The balcony at the Armory will seat about 5,000 kids. If more attend, seats will be set up on the main floor.





