

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

Official Organ of the Northwest Labor Unity Conference

GENERAL OFFICE: 286 E. 6TH ST.
St. Paul, Minn.
MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE: 225 S. 3RD ST.

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. I, NO. I

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, APRIL 16, 1935

PRICE 5 CENTS

Conference Exposes Plots Against Progressive Unions

Emme Dismissal Is Key to Revelations

Attempted Local Program
Fits New National
Sell-out Plan

CONFERENCE Resolution.....Guide L
"WHEREAS, there has existed for many months a feeling of discomfort, distrust and discontent among the membership of all workers organizations caused by frequent outcroppings of evidence that an unhealthy influence was creeping into the movement, and
"WHEREAS, this feeling of apprehension finally has resulted in the uniting of the progressive workers into the Northwest Labor Unity Conference for the purpose of protecting the movement and ascertaining the true facts behind this vague threat and exposing it to the light of day, and

"WHEREAS, this conference after a careful examination of the gathered evidence and in the light of recent significant happenings has pieced together the details of a dastardly scheme with its many ramifications;

"BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, that the Northwest Labor Unity Conference, in conformity with its avowed objective, disclose the facts of this scheme fully to the workers so that the movement can be on guard against these subversive forces and thereby fully protect the gains which have been made over a long period of years and through much hardship and struggle, and

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following Conference analysis of the plot, be and hereby is ordered published and is as follows:

"In the course of its analysis of labor conditions in the Northwest, the Conference received a report that eight innocent union members had pleaded guilty in an Albert Lea court to a charge rising out of a strike controversy. An investigation of this report led the Conference to startling information.
Continued on page 3, column 3

Labor Defense Move Started

With ever increasing intensity, the class struggle brings the worker more directly into conflict with the representatives of the courts. They are the last bulwarks of capitalism before the actual use of brute force and in which all the laws are ready-made to protect private owned property.

The judges in these courts are almost without exception the recipients of favors from the kept press and well financed political campaigns, therefore with decided bearings against the workers.

Individually, few workers are financially able to obtain legal defense in cases of labor dispute, therefore an adequate defense organization is one of the most urgent demands of a live labor movement. In Albert Lea eight workers were tricked into pleading guilty so that their lawyers could save face and still enjoy a respectable standing before civic and commerce associations and the Citizens Alliance. This is the danger confronting workers everywhere.

In Minneapolis during the truck strike and again in the auto mechanics strike these same tactics were used while in Fargo, N. D.,
Continued on page 4, column 3

IUAW Is Attacked from Many Angles

Bosses, Law Officers Try
to Create Internal Quarrel

There are those who wish that the Independent Union of All Workers was completely off the map. Since it was born, of necessity spontaneous and independent, it has grown to be a power which has to be reckoned with—radical, militant. The opponents of the organization are determined that either it must be controlled or destroyed and their attempts to thwart the organization have led to the resignation of one local president and the ousting of the president of the Central Union.

The last two or three conflicts of the Union have been lessons to the movement. The strike of the Poultry Workers at Faribault showed the futility of fair-dealing from labor-hating officials of large industries and their friends, the Regional Labor Boards. The Union officer in charge of the strike was trailed by "dicks". His past history from the time he entered the labor movement was presented at the Labor Board's hearings.

The Potter Foundry dispute had some lessons, too. The treatment workers receive at the hands of reactionary county officials and the way a worker may be charged with and found guilty of a crime he did not commit was well illustrated.

The enemies of the workers say to the Independent Union of All Workers: "Your presence is not wanted!" The workers say "So what?"

—JOE VOORHEES

St. Mary's Hospital Locks Out Workers

At the St. Mary's hospital in Minneapolis all workers in the laundry department were locked out four weeks ago because they had joined Laundry Workers Union No. 183 and had made demands upon the hospital authorities for correction of conditions.

The case was brought before the arbitration board which had been previously set up by the laundry employers of the city and the union. The board ruled that the room and board for the employees should be reduced by the hospital from \$10 to \$8 per week, that payless overtime be eliminated, that unnecessary Sunday work be stopped, and that the employees be paid weekly instead of monthly. The lockout was the answer by the hospital to the ruling of the arbitration board.

This incident raises a question of real significance. Shall an institution operated for private profit and granted numerous exemptions from the customary regulations of law, including taxation and the NRA, besides being supported by public donations, be permitted to exploit its workers for further selfish gain?

This is a question which should be of interest to all persons, especially when asked for donations. All workers' organizations must rally to the support of Local 183 in this struggle for workers' rights. Demand the reinstatement of the locked-out employees and compliance with the ruling of the arbitration board.

Austin Union Leader Defies Cowardly Foe

Returning home from a union meeting early in the morning of Tuesday, April 16, Frank Ellis, diminutive but courageous organizer for the Independent Union of All Workers, was brutally attacked by an unknown assailant. Armed with a gun and a club his attacker beat him unmercifully, leaving him with injuries from which he may never completely recover.

Ellis has played an important role in the building of the Austin union and is intensely disliked by the opponents of unionism. This vicious assault should open the eyes of those workers who continue to believe that the bosses are their friends; that labor and capital have a common interest.

With his usual courage this redoubtable fighter appeared the next night, despite his serious injuries, at a union meeting in Faribault where he is under bail pending the outcome of a statutory charge obtained against him through a frameup.

The members of the Austin union cannot be too careful in their precautions to protect from violence such an honest, courageous, and faithful leader as Frank Ellis. Men of his calibre are few and far between, and without them real unions which bring benefits to the workers cannot be built.

Debel Sets a Record

Chairman Debel of the Industrial Commission established an all time record for speedy investigation in the Emme case. We are all familiar with the one man band of the dime museum days and the doctor who gives you your life insurance examination over the telephone or could feel of your pulse also over the telephone so as to prescribe a pint back in the Volstead days. Debel puts them all out of the race. They are licked before they start with this indefatigable barrister. He can serve as Sherlock Holmes, jury and judge all at the same time, do up the job over the telephone in three short hours and never have to leave his swivel chair.

Conference Shapes Action Program

During past months, happenings in the field of labor activity throughout the northwest have disclosed the fact that there is a decided lack of the co-operative effort which is so essential to the building of sound workers' organizations. This is due primarily to the rapid growth of a large number of unions, labor clubs, and other economic units outside the industrial centers. And even in these centers of industry the unions function under a very loose form of co-ordination which does not permit full freedom for the mutual exchange of ideas and experiences. Too many leaders falter in times of crisis, making costly blunders not because of lack of honest intention but through lack of experience and because of a limited understanding of the fundamental principles of the struggle between Labor and Capital.

Realizing this, a group of pioneering spirits have taken upon themselves the task of bringing together the progressive leaders and potential leaders in the movement so that they may discuss their problems, compare experiences, and in this manner better qualify themselves to lead the workers to greater gains. Out of these discussion meetings has come the Northwest Labor Unity Conference, dedicated to the program outlined in its Declaration of Principles and geared

Mpls. Central Labor Union Supports Drivers Local 574

Owatonna Strike Exposes "Relief"

Steele County Relief System
Worst Yet Known

In recent weeks Steele County and particularly Owatonna went through some new experiences. As the self-styled "Butter Capital of the World," Steele County has consistently kept out Federal and State relief money, laboring under the illusion that it is a self-contained land unrelated to the rest of the State, Nation or World. It has never occurred to the august representatives of this county that they may be slightly favored by the natural resources of the land, and that the very tactics they are so blithely pursuing are the surest way of plunging their constituents into the same morass engulfing their less fortunate neighbors.

Who ever heard of the unemployed and part time workers breaking any butter consumption records? Have these regal officials ever heard of what makes purchasing power? Piecing together scant items of the local press, we find that there are some 250 families unable to sustain themselves in Owatonna and the surrounding territory. Such partial records as the local press confusingly prints give an inkling as to what is transpiring in this benighted county.

It brags about 180 men on the wood lot. It admits 1,300 cords of wood being cut. But very carefully conceals full accounting of those families who are so absolutely destitute of any resources and who MUST, therefore, plead for CHARITY. In another account it exclaims that a whole \$10,000 was spent in one year for food, clothing and shelter for 28 dependent mothers, who incidentally had an aggregate of 82 children to care for. This, then, works out that
Continued on page 3, column 1

Many Organizations Oppose Tobin Action

Special Committee Picked to
Obtain Information
for Protest

In spite of a letter from International President Tobin demanding the banishment of Local 574 from all association with the A. F. of L. unions in Minneapolis, and contrary to the instruction from William Green, president of the A. F. of L., sent by his union-smasher, Paul Smith, to expel the Drivers forthwith, the Minneapolis Central Labor Union last night responded to a storm of demands from the delegates to ignore this palpable anti-union action.

On a motion by delegate Boerbach of the Painters' Union, a committee of five was selected to go into the whole matter of the revocation of the 574 charter. Delegate after delegate took the floor to recall the strikes of last summer. Emphasized again and again by the speakers was the fact that the entire movement made great gain by these strikes.

Delegates from a dozen unions spoke with considerable heat about the impossibility of building the movement if the International officers were to be permitted the pleasant pastime of aiding the bosses and the Citizens Alliance by smashing militant unions.

The committee which is instructed to meet with the officers of Local 574, gather material and carry the protest to Tobin and the A. F. of L. includes Genis of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, Boerbach of the Painters, Adams of the Machinists, Crowl of the Iron Workers, and Delwaide of the Brewery Workers.

Secretary-Treasurer Dobbs of Local 574 made it clear to the assembly that the Drivers were fully aware of their obligations and would honor them as quickly as possible. He further stated that the local had paid toward its per capita tax every cent that could be paid without actually stripping the union of its fighting power so necessary for protection against hundreds of union-hating bosses with which it has to deal. It was shown that not only had a full report been sent to the International about the problems of the local but also a special meeting was asked for and obtained by the officers of Local 574 with the executive boards of the Central Labor Union and the Teamsters Joint Council and International Vice President John Geary of St. Paul. At this meeting a full report was made by the local and the boards of the two central organizations voted to request leniency from the International.

It was pointed out by Dobbs that Local 574 was, is and will be, in spite of all attempts to destroy it, the same General Drivers, Helpers and Inside Workers Union which will fight as in the past for the rights of the men in the trucking industry and will not attempt to destroy other unions regardless of what attacks are waged against it.

Alderman Ed Hudson of the Carpenters clearly expressed the sentiment of the delegates when he said that if necessary the C. L. U. committee should be sent right to Indianapolis to have it out with Tobin.

* * *
Support the F-L ticket in the city elections.

ALL WORKERS INTO THE UNIONS ALL UNIONS INTO THE STRUGGLE

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

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

Smash the Union Smashers!

"The per capita tax to the International must be paid by every Local Union before any other bills are paid." Citing this section of the Constitution of the Teamsters' International, President D. J. Tobin has revoked the charter of the General Drivers, Helpers and Inside Workers Union, Local 574, for delinquency in their tax payment.

This action brings sharply to the front a problem which has become more and more acute in the labor movement each year. Many unions have been still-born because of it; others have been strangled in their infancy; and the few which have survived in spite of this are constantly defending themselves from attack by those who should be their friend.

Local 574 admits that it is delinquent in its tax payment to the International, but an examination of facts will show just cause. During the summer of 1934 this union went through a ten day strike which was followed in a short time by a thirty-six day strike, both of which were forced on it by the employers. The cost to the union was tremendous. The clubbing and shooting of pickets on a large scale by the police brought heavy expenses for doctor and hospital services. Two pickets were killed. The union gave them a fitting burial and is caring for their dependents. Many picket cars were needed to cruise a city of almost a half million population. Thousands of mouths had to be fed. Some of Johannes' victims are still under medical care. With the end of the strike came hundreds of discrimination cases, and the need for constant vigilance against the sniping of the employers. An overworked and underpaid staff has toiled long hours to protect the union, to protect the gains won at the cost of much money, blood and bone.

Out of the struggle there has come great gain to thousands of Minneapolis workers. Only through the generous contributions of money and man power by the other Minneapolis unions and additional help from organizations throughout the Northwest was this victory possible. The splendid spirit of labor solidarity forged in this fiery cauldron has given new life to the unions. All this is now being shaken to its very foundation because Local 574 cannot pay its full tribute to Tobin. He rewards the workers for their splendid fight by giving the entire movement a stab in the back.

The time has come for a showdown. The International Unions must be shown that they are the servants of the workers and not their masters. Until this is done a real labor movement cannot be built.

Freedom of the Press

The first attack upon labor is always an attack upon its press. The forces of capitalism constantly seek to muzzle and repress labor's organs of publicity. That is not surprising but it is dangerous and is made more dangerous through the hierarchy of labor itself.

Attempts at collaboration with employers of labor and politicians lead inevitably to compromises which stifle the freedom of the labor press. Leaders who insist upon this dangerous policy cannot avoid betraying the movement by strangling honest expression.

Every effort will be set forth to suppress any publication that has the courage to expose the false and extol the truth of the intensified labor struggle, especially if it means showing up the fruitless policy pressed by incompetent leaders who still think in terms of horse and buggy days.

These leaders or "Big Shots" continue in office with the accompanying privileges they enjoy at the expense of the rank and file and are threatened by the rise of a new generation of desperate workers who are no longer satisfied to remain downtrodden and inarticulate.

This issue of the Northwest Organizer is largely due to just such suppressive tactics by the editors of the labor press overly zealous to serve higher ups in labor and political circles and blazes forth eight thousand strong. Its routing welcome assures success.

Your co-operation is required to make the Northwest Organizer the biggest and best spokesman for labor in the northwest. You may best do this by sending in your own subscription and those of your friends who want to support the progressive labor of this territory, also send for a bundle, pass them out at your Union meeting, and get the reaction of your friends. Don't be afraid to criticize. We believe in free speech as well as free press. Both are good. Above all, send in your live news, your live names and your live efforts for a free and fearless labor press that will give you a true picture of labor's struggle against all forms of enslavement. Make the next issue a bigger and better one.



Letters to the Editor

Fergus Falls Organizes To the Editor of the Northwest Organizer:

The Unemployed Council of Fergus Falls was formed in the fall of 1934. It was a loose-knit organization with no definite aims, save the securing of relief for needy persons. Its membership numbered about 80 men and women. Dues of five cents each three months were charged. Interest soon died in the organization and in January, 1935, a reorganization took place. With a preamble declaring the failure of capitalism to assure even a semblance of security to the worker, it called for a definite radical change in our economic system. It called upon all members to support any movement that worked to bring about this change in a lawful manner.

Realizing that the unemployed alone could do little, the new organization sought to enlist steady employed persons in this cause and the constitution was so drawn.

Cards are issued and fifty cents is charged the first month and twenty-five thereafter. The organization aims at co-operating with all movements that attempt to change from capitalism to a production for use system. It aims to establish, insofar as possible, co-operatives in this district.

Some of its recent accomplishments are:

1. Securing relief for needy families who were refused by relief authorities. Mass pressure is used. We are now attempting to raise the budgets of all relief clients to conform with the recent rise in cost of living.

2. Circulated petitions through Ottertail county calling for a minimum of twenty dollars per week to be paid on government projects in this district. A great many names were secured. These were sent to St. Paul to be used as seen fit by those in the labor struggle.

3. Participation in Workers' Congress. Endorsement of Workers' Bills and constant rank and file agitation for same.

4. Bringing various employers to time for violating NRA codes. Through this medium, we secured increases for employes of the Lake Region Motor Co. of Fergus Falls. A case is now pending against the Fergus Packing Co. There are several thousand dollars in back pay due for employes.

5. Ran a labor candidate against present mayor. Were defeated of course, but it was meant as a trial balloon. We shall try again.

6. We are at present seeking to build an industrial labor union in Fergus Falls. The union and unemployed council would work in conjunction.

The present officers of this organization are: J. W. Rathman, chairman; L. L. Rose, secretary-treasurer; R. T. La Barge, committee chairman.

We will keep in touch with you people and will gladly co-operate in any way possible.

Very truly yours,
R. T. LA BARGE
Box 157, Fergus Falls, Minn.

Emme Answers Commission
April 15, 1935
To the Editor of the Northwest Organizer:

Enclosed is a copy of the letter which I sent to the Union Advocate, the official organ of the St. Paul unions, requesting that it be published as my answer to the In-

dustrial Commission's long statement regarding my dismissal as secretary of that department. I deemed this only fair inasmuch as the Commission's statement was published by the Union Advocate.

To date it has not been published, and I therefore request you to print it in an early edition of the Northwest Organizer.

Fraternally yours,
J. F. EMME.

As a true workers' press we gladly print Mr. Emme's reply to the Industrial Commission's statement so that he may have a fair hearing before the workers of the state. The letter follows:

April 9, 1935

Editor
Union Advocate
408 North Franklin
St. Paul, Minn.

Dear Sir:

Your publication of April 4th, 1935, carried an article of several columns headed: "DISMISSAL OF J. F. EMME IS CLOSED AFFAIR, SAYS INDUSTRIAL BODY Commission Issues Lengthy Continued on page 4, column 5"

THE ORGANIZER—a free press

Biographies E. G. Hall

George Hall, president of the State Federation of Labor, has held that position since the Mankato convention in 1911. He is a cigar maker by trade, and carries many of the characteristics of that trade as well as its shortcomings into the Federation. George, we believe, is honest and sincere insofar as he sees the light. We do not believe that he ever benefited by any of the mysterious ways that money and affluence has come to a few unscrupulous labor leaders; he carries his own Christian name—he never had to change it.

He did not grasp the significance of the rapid evolution of industry that took place about him because he came from a craft that until very recently was considered beyond the scope of mechanical production. His background is almost entirely that of the old school to which belonged Gompers, Perkins, and the group who in those old days carried the leadership of the American Federation of Labor.

George Hall's own organization has never been such as would furnish a laboratory for research and study of labor problems. It came into being with the old Knights of Labor and lived very largely in a semi-dream world, not quite conscious of the race it was compelled to run with the machine world developing just outside the Union hall.

Such a background is hardly a fertile soil to produce an aggressive and militant leadership. The gradual disappearance of the craft to which Hall belongs, unable to adjust itself from hand to mechanical production, demonstrates its inadequacy as a training ground for labor leaders. We have differed with him many times, but only in matters of principle, not personally.

At the last session of the Northwest Labor Unity Conference, O. J. Fosso of Austin, Minnesota, and Kenneth Gorgan of Albert Lea, Minnesota, were expelled from that body because of activities which the delegates did not consider to

A Tribute to Sincere Union Men, Women

An old saying runs something like: "It's easy enough to be pleasant when life goes along like a song, but the man worth while, is the man who can smile when everything goes dead wrong," meaning of course, that after all man must stand or fall by his adherence to principle when tried and tested under fire.

In the shabby and unfair treatment meted out in the discharge of Julius Emme as secretary of the Industrial Commission such a testing fire was created and several persons more or less prominent in the Labor movement were tried by it.

Let us look at this testing for a moment to see how the real timber stands up under fire and how the false fibre betrays and quickly points out the weaklings.

Nels Nelson, a former B.A. of the Carpenters' Union, at present, we understand, residing in Cleveland, was offered Emme's job. This Nels replied that if Emme was not good enough for the job it was no job for him to accept. Next Walfrid Engdahl, also of the Carpenters, was offered the job and he on becoming acquainted with the circumstances under which Emme was let out also refused to accept. Then after several days of skirmishing Emery Nelson a State Federation vice president and an officer of the Minneapolis Milk Wagon Drivers, accepted the job. Ann McEwan, of the Duluth Labor World, at the risk of her job stood by her guns while her counterpart on the St. Paul Union Advocate turned traitor to free speech in refusing to print an open letter on this very matter.

To those standing their ground and resisting all attacks on the principles for which Labor has fought and stood for we extend this tribute. Even greater honors are due for this display of the courage of conviction by the Nels Nelsons, the Engdahls and the McEwans for on such convictions has the Labor movement been built and on such convictions will it continue to grow and prosper.

Strange Happenings

In a European country some years ago militant labor leaders commenced to mysteriously disappear. Soon enemies of the workers were also mysteriously disappearing. Then nobody disappeared.

Some Sweet Sugar

Some of you unemployed just borrow a pencil and paper and see if you can figure this one out. When a beet sugar factory makes a hundred per cent run it has a deficit of \$720,896.00 but when they cut production 52 per cent in the next year they show an earning of \$1,029,965.00. Get wise, man, the more you work the less you get, the less you work the more you get. That's what is wrong with your system, Mr. Working Stiff, you don't know the sweet sugar game.

be in keeping with the best interests of the labor movement.

They have also been removed from official capacity in their own organization, and Fosso, we are informed, has now replaced the sincere but much censored editor of the Austin American, a paper made possible by the Austin Union but very carefully maneuvered out of the Union's control.

Law, Order League Would Give Mike Johannes Life Job

Would Place Him Under Civil Service

No one can justly accuse the Minnesota Law and Order League of being inactive. This questionable organization is just full of ideas for changing the Minnesota statutes so that the employers can use the courts and the legal machinery more effectively in their war upon the unions.

The latest maneuver against the workers is brought from the chambers of intrigue by Representative Walter H. Campbell of Minneapolis, an official of the Merton Mortgage Co. This public-spirited solon has introduced a bill in the State Legislature, House File No. 1379, which provides for the placing under Civil Service of Police Superintendents in cities of the first class having a population of 400,000 or more. This would affect none other than Chief "Mike" Johannes of Minneapolis who became famous by directing the wholesale clubbing and shooting of the striking truck drivers last summer.

To make sure that Mike would get the job the bill provides that any Superintendent of Police now holding such office shall not be required to take an examination to continue in office, and, to prevent his being removed, it provides that written charges must be preferred against him for a hearing before the Civil Service Commission with the right of appeal to the District Court.

In this manner Johannes would be free to open a real campaign of terror against the Minneapolis workers without fear of removal. This bill was killed by vote of the committee to which it was re-

ferred, but Campbell, faithful lackey that he is, was finally successful in bringing it to the floor of the House through a round-robin maneuver. Every worker in Minnesota is watching the Representative from his district to see how he votes on this bill, and he had better vote right.

Senator Weber of Slayton did his bit for the cause by releasing a blast about a revolution in May so that Campbell could sidle up to naive legislators and whisper into their ear that they must vote for the bill because Johannes was the only man capable of putting down this revolution (being sponsored by Weber).

This is the most dastardly "reform" presented this session but not the only one. The Crime Commission came to the Legislature with a whole series of questionable recommendations. These proposed changes and the Crime Commission itself will be carefully analyzed in an early issue of the Northwest Organizer.

bring the SERA into Steele County.

On Monday, March 25th, the Union inquired of the "overseer of the poor" as to what disposition had been made of their demands. The "overseer" informed them that no orders had come to him and the relief would continue in the same manner as it had in the past. The Union members thereon refused to go back to work and a strike was called, effective 1:30 p. m., March 25th.

The county officials had meantime been busy, not in attempting to improve conditions for the unemployed but in organizing armed resistance against them. Between Saturday, March 23rd, and Monday, March 25th, about 75 special deputies were sworn in. Machine guns, riot guns and tear gas was hauled into town. **Twenty-two workers quit the job and seventy-five deputies were sworn in.** Do you suppose the officials had a guilty feeling about the deplorable conditions and were, therefore, rather squeamish?

Tuesday, March 26th, finds the "money saving" officials in full swing. Union pickets making a trip out to the wood lot, to see what is happening, find twelve unenlightened workers who, either because of some long lingering belief in promises or because of timidity, are working on the wood lot. Alone? Oh, no—guarded by thirty-five well-fed special deputies. Oh, yes; the money saving is still going on. Twelve workers earning \$21 are guarded by the thirty-five deputies at a cost to the taxpayers of the county of \$185 per day, plus ammunition for riot guns, machine guns and tear gas guns. On Friday, March 29th, the local press ran a headline stating that the strike was peaceful. Subheads said that the Union "resorts to peaceful picketing" and "Augmented Sheriff's Force Finds No Work."

The article then very carefully goes on to state that the County Commissioners have taken no action in meeting the unemployed problem, doing so in language calculated to goad any red-blooded man. The article attempts to intimidate the workers on strike and gloatingly relates how well prepared the officials are to meet any form of direct action. The most provocative thing we have ever seen.

(Further developments will be printed in the next issue.)

Wright County Organizes

Wright County is another place where the workers have come to the conclusion that promises are not the best nourishment. The Wright County Unemployment Council is making real headway. Unable to longer endure the dictatorship of the local relief administration, they organized and promptly had a change effected.

The new E. R. A. local head, speaking at a meeting of the organization, promised to work with them. Having had promises before, however, they are taking no chances but going right on with expanding their organization as is attested by: Kokato meeting big attendance, Monticello and Buffalo meetings scheduled, and full county meetings monthly. Wright county is determined the past order of things is over.

Thief River Falls Organizes

The interest of workers in their problems and the growing conviction that the solution must be supplied by them is becoming more clear every day.

From Thief River Falls we get word that "increasing interest is manifest in the open forums conducted by the Workmen's Protective association every Monday evening with increasing attendance. In this way the workers of the country and for that matter the world, are rapidly informing themselves of the facts. They are learning and rapidly too, what is the cause of all our present economic distress.

The Workmen's Protective Association is the awakening of workers in their section of the country. They are becoming determined that present conditions must end.

Conference Resolution

Continued from page 1

tion, which, together with rapidly succeeding events, disclosed the existence of a far-reaching conspiracy, involving officials in the labor movement, responsible functionaries of the political administration, officials of the Labor Board, and agents of the employer organizations.

"The Albert Lea Union defendants were indicted by a Grand Jury on a charge of riot, but rather than defend these men from a charge of which they were innocent, the defense council took the "surer" course and entered into a bargain with the court and the prosecution. As their part of the bargain, the workers received sixty days in jail and a criminal record which will follow them to their grave.

"At this juncture a special section Conference was called at Austin, Minn., to examine the possibilities of rescuing these men from the situation. Attorney Josiah A. Baker of Mankato was retained by the Albert Lea Union on the advice of the Conference Committee. A writ of Habeas Corpus was applied for on the grounds that the conviction had been illegal. The writ was granted by the Court Commissioner of Albert Lea. Immediately on hearing of this action, the prosecuting attorney rushed to Judge Senn, who had been assigned by Governor Olson to hear the case of the union defendants after an affidavit of prejudice had removed Judge Peterson, who was among the original bargainers, from the case. On hearing about the writ, thru the prosecuting attorney, Judge Senn issued an order restraining the officers of the court from carrying out the writ. Then when Attorney Baker appeared before his court to oppose the restraining order, Judge Senn, in most abusive language, severely reprimanded him for his attempt to obtain the release of these union men. Attorney Baker thereon appealed the case to the State Supreme Court and this court handed down a ruling reversing Judge Senn. But due to the many entanglements and the customary red tape, which the law provides, it was impossible to obtain the men's release before the sentence had expired.

"The role of O. J. Fosso, president of the Independent Union of All Workers, in this controversy indicates that there is a need for more democratic control in the unions, and reveals through the editorial policy of the Austin American (Fosso is a member of its board of directors) what a travesty a labor paper can become. Fosso and his paper, The Austin American, fought bitterly to prevent the release of the jailed workers. And when the Union raised objections to the policy of its own paper, it found that it had been very carefully barred from this control.

"Another lesson is to be drawn from the tactics Fosso has used to fight the demand of his union that he resign. The red scare and the charge that the ballot box was stuffed, all of which were used by Fosso, are the most common boss arguments; no sincere union leader would resort to such odious tactics.

"At the above mentioned Austin Conference, Julius F. Emme, speaking as a member of the Machinists Union, as an official of the Minnesota State Employees Association, and stating specifically and clearly that he was not

Citizens Committee Move Started in Minneapolis

Employers Want Substitute for Unions

On Wednesday, April 3, the Minneapolis daily press gave prominent mention to the formation of a Minneapolis Committee of One Hundred an alleged "neutral association to represent moderate views in industrial disputes" which carries on its letterhead the slogan "For Industrial Understanding and Good Will." Just to get a good start toward good will the Committee had the letterhead printed in a scab print shop and on scab paper.

The officers of the Committee are Rev. Morris C. Robinson, chairman, District Judge E. F. Waite, whom the Amalgamated Clothing Workers will remember well but not kindly, and T. E. Cunningham, Vice President of the State Federation of Labor and Chairman of the Minneapolis Central Labor Union, vice-chairman, L. B. Schwartz, attorney, unknown to labor, secretary, and Guy Alexander, County Commissioner and Financial Secretary of the Electrical Workers Union Local 292, treasurer.

Dean Russell Stevenson, of the University of Minnesota school of business, which helps to teach future bosses how to exploit labor, William Greig, of the Bureau of Engraving, a company where the workers must carry their union cards concealed in their shoe, and J. C. Buckbee, director and member of the executive committee of the Citizens Alliance, were among the speakers at the first meeting of the committee.

The agents of the employers present at the meeting spoke at great length about the sterling qualities and excellent principles of the Citizens Alliance, an organization which has long carried an unsavory reputation in Minneapolis labor circles and which every worker recognizes as his enemy.

The ministers reported that they were anxious to hear both sides of the story so that they could take a position on the issues in industrial disputes when they spoke from the pulpit. In practice this would mean that the union officials who participate in such a set-up would be delegating the powers of the union membership to a group of ministers. Labor has too long fought to preserve these precious rights to give them up so easily.

There is grave danger to the workers lurking behind this pretense at "industrial understanding and good will." Do not forget that just a few days after this love-feast the Citizens Alliance held one of the largest meetings it has ever held. Bosses from all parts of the northwest attended together with army and national guard officers, college professors, ministers, police officials and the

speaking in his official capacity as Secretary of the Industrial Commission, condemned the actions of the court and the attorneys in the Albert Lea case, and stated that on the basis of the facts as presented the proper procedure would be to demand the impeachment of Judge Senn.

"A newspaper reporter who had come uninvited to the meeting and who is reported to be a mental case, carried this statement back to his editor. A front page "splash" followed, accompanied by editorials under such headings as

St. Louis Union Sees Committee in Action

Some very interesting and enlightening facts about the feebleness of the National Labor Relations Board and the vicious role which "Citizens Committees" play in a labor controversy have become apparent in the strike of Gas House Workers' Union No. 18799 against the Laclede Gas Light Co. of St. Louis.

In December, 1934, the question of recognition of the union by the gas company was referred to the Regional Labor Board and a decision was handed down in favor of the union. The company refused compliance and the matter was taken before the National Labor Board with the result that the decision of the Regional Board was upheld. The company still refused to respect the decision, and the Labor Board did nothing about it. Confronted with this unmistakable evidence of the impotence of the governmental boards, the union took the only course left open to it—a strike was called.

Due to the arrogant manner in which it had ignored the decision of the Board the company found itself in bad public repute. But this was not a serious matter. The local "Citizens Committee" could fix that and here is the manner in which it was done:

The "Citizens Committee" offered a proposal for the settlement of the strike which provided for recognition of the union by the company, BUT any employee found guilty of using intimidation or coercion to bring a fellow employee into the union was to be fired immediately. This proposal was given much favorable publicity in the daily papers, both in the news columns and by editorials, and the gullible public, mistaking the "Citizens Committee" for a group of reputable citizens, thought that this must surely be a fair and impartial proposal and that was that. Let the Gas House Worker, daily strike bulletin of the union, tell you what this proposal really meant.

"Acceptance of this contract would mean the destruction of the gas workers' union," says the strike bulletin. "The reference to coercion and threats against members of the company union means that the Laclede Gas Light Co. is determined to maintain their company union. The method of settling questions of intimidation and coercion would leave in the hands of the company a weapon with which they could destroy the Gas House Workers Union. This contract says nothing about seniority or an arbitration board to settle wage and other questions."

The gas house workers of St. Louis have learned what a treacherous thing a "Citizens Committee" is, and they will never again permit themselves to be duped and betrayed by these anti-labor groups.

Slowly but steadily the gas supply of St. Louis is being shut off. Day by day victory to the union comes nearer. These workers have learned that their salvation lies in the building of a strong union, and that there can be no substitute for their own organization. The lesson has been a bitter one, but they are now on the right road and cannot again be ensnared by the phoney committees of the bosses which masquerade as public benefactors.

Owatonna Strike Exposes Relief

Continued from page 1

each mother was responsible for the care and welfare (they are expected to rear good citizens) of about three children. The county "Grand and Glorious" allows \$357 and some odd cents to each mother per YEAR.

They brag that unemployed during the week of April 5th earned \$3.30 per day but neglect to say how seldom these workers had a chance to earn this stupendous wage. What was it? one? two? or even three days in a period of weeks? Is all this enormous wage paid in cash? No, it is paid in SCRIP! This we find to be the background for the formation of a militant workers' organization.

When general conditions had become deplorable, organization of the workers started, and, of course, the usual anti-labor organization also sprang up. This time a rather novel set-up was used. We find "a group of county employed men" (a paper organization) formed "to aid each other in emergencies." The funds, of course, were to be completely under control, this time under the local City Clerk. After being thoroughly fooled by this set-up, the workers organized a real, militant organization of their own which they called The Owatonna Industrial Union.

On Saturday, March 23rd, the Union delivered, through a committee of three, the following demands on the Steele County Board of Commissioners:

1. Abolition of the use of scrip, all relief work to be paid in cash.
2. Abolition of piece work, all relief work to be paid for on an hourly basis at a minimum of 40c per hour, with a minimum of 40 hours a week and four weeks a month.
3. That the practice of taking away automobile license plates, before a person may receive relief, be immediately stopped and all plates now in the custody of relief officials be returned to their rightful owners.
4. That all single and young workers, who are unemployed and in need of relief, be placed on the relief rolls, with a minimum of \$20 a month.
5. Immediate action from the county commissioners to

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Conference Resolution

Continued from page 3

"This is still America, Mr. Emme."

"The Industrial Commission summoned Emme before it, and confronted him with the newspaper report, and demanded his resignation. Emme refused to resign on the grounds that the commission was basing its action on garbled and incomplete accounts of the happening and demanded that he be given a fair and impartial trial. The hearing was denied and Emme was discharged by the Commission, ostensibly for his remarks about the judge, but actually for a far different reason.

"After Emme's discharge, Commissioner Debel told a delegation from the Machinists Lodge 112 that Emme could not be given a hearing because such a hearing would bring out matters that the labor movement could not afford to expose. What has this to do with a statement about a judge? What has the labor movement to hide? We know of nothing for which the movement must apologize but there are many things certain labor officials dare not reveal. It is to conceal the acts of individuals and not for the protection of the movement that Commissioner Debel spoke. What is it that must be concealed? Let the facts speak for themselves.

"In a long letter published in the March 23rd issue of the Duluth Labor World, President E. G. Hall of the Minnesota State Federation of Labor attempts by insinuation to convict Emme and H. A. Schultz of the Minnesota State Employees Association of preventing the organization of state employees into A. F. of L. Unions and accused them of using the MSEA to racketeer upon the state employees. This is not the first underhanded attack made by the Executive Council on Emme. The May 15th, 1934, issue of the Federationist reports a motion by Vice President Frank T. Starkey of the Executive Council protesting the activities of Emme to the Governor, notwithstanding the fact that Starkey and Emme met continuously in the same state office, but rather than take issue on the matter, Starkey spoke encouragingly about the formation of the State Employees Organization on several occasions.

"In his indictment of Emme, Commissioner Debel states that Emme has taken an active part in organizations other than the A. F. of L. unions. Emme admits freely that in some forty years of service to labor he has answered all calls for assistance in building workers organizations. This impartiality of service reflects much credit to Emme. Why must Commissioner Debel show his partiality by seeking to "feather the nests" of certain vice-presidents on the Executive Council?

"One of the recipients of these 'feathers,' V. P. T. E. Cunningham, openly boasted that he could rely on the vote of his personal friend, Commissioner J. D. Williams, and that he would have Emme's job by May 1, 1935. This helps to explain the commission's willingness to let Emme's resignation be effective as of some future date. V. P. O'Neal knew of and intimated long before the Austin conference that Emme would be removed.

"After Walfrid Engdahl so loyally fulfilled his obligations as a union man by refusing to serve the Commission as a strike-breaker in the Emme lockout, V. P. Emery Nelson, who had no such scruples, took the position in the

face of the storm of protest from all unions, and informed an irate questioner that the remarks at Austin were not the cause of Emme's removal but would not give the real reason, advising her to ask the Commission which possessed all the facts.

"V. P.'s Pereault and Monkeby brought tremendous pressure to bear upon the editor of the Duluth Labor World in an effort to force her retraction of an editorial entitled "Labor's Gain," in which she complimented Emme for his conduct in helping to build the movement.

"There are other leaders in the labor movement at whom the Executive Council is directing its fire in an effort to destroy the new growing militant leadership which is so successfully building a true unionism in the Northwest. In this effort they have been assured of the support of at least the officials of the Teamsters International who have already shown their mailed fist by revoking the charter of Local 173 of Fargo, while that union was engaged in a bitter strike against great odds, and requested the Fargo Trades and Labor Assembly to expel the union from that body and called upon other central bodies to refrain from supporting them, climaxing all this by issuing a vicious statement to the employer-controlled Fargo Forum.

"In Minneapolis we find that the workers are one day confronted by a newspaper announcement of the formation of a "Minneapolis Committee of One Hundred," which carried on its banner a slogan, "For Industrial Understanding and Good Will." On the letterhead of this organization appears the names of V. P. T. E. Cunningham and Guy Alexander, County Commissioner and official of the Electrical Workers Local 292, both of whom have served on the Regional Labor Board. We call attention to the fact that the letterhead bearing the names of both Cunningham and Alexander was printed in a non-union shop on non-union paper. This Minneapolis Committee of One Hundred is the evil fruit of a number of secret meetings held between a questionable labor leadership, members of the Labor Board, the Prosser committee, and other Citizens Alliance-controlled employer groups. And all this without any report to or consultation with the Central Labor Union or the Board of Business Agents who are the recognized spokesmen of Organized Labor.

"The Conference Committee has learned that a troth was made with the employers pledging cooperation in removing the leadership of Minneapolis General Drivers Local 574 in particular and all progressive union leaders in general.

"At the same time that the employers were pledging their fidelity to the declared aims of the Committee of One Hundred, they announced in the press that they were to conduct an investigation of labor conditions in the Minneapolis market area, the sore spot in the 1934 Drivers strike, and again opened their red-baiting campaign and strike scare through State Senator Weber. This program meets with the approval of the so-called "safe and sane" labor leaders because it promises aid in their effort to remove progressive labor leaders. Their selfish viewpoint prevents their understanding the real reason for this. The Citizens Alliance having twice failed to break Local 574 in a frontal attack, having twice failed to demoralize the union by attack against its members in the courts, and having failed to defeat the striking Auto Mechanics, must now resort to subterfuge to attempt to create dissension within the ranks of Organized Labor so that

Labor Defense Move Started

Continued from page 1

the striking truck drivers of No. 173 were the victims of every kind of legal abuse until by good fortune a competent labor lawyer was obtained, who quickly turned the tables and made monkeys of the local legal wisecracks that had turned prosecution into persecution of the union members.

Recognizing the hopeless inadequacy of the existing labor defense machinery the Northwest Unity Conference is sponsoring the formation of a truly non-partisan labor defense that will really serve the workers. The present committee, which has temporarily assumed the responsibility of this work, appeals to all progressive workers and liberals to rally to the support of this worthwhile endeavor.

Every informed person is conscious of the danger to the workers' rights and should communicate with the Committee for Non-Partisan Labor Defense at 286 East 6th St., St. Paul, Minn., giving the committee the names and addresses of sympathizers and workers who will help in their own locality. Stop this abuse of workers' rights by biased judges and incompetent labor lawyers and leaders.

Space in this first issue of the Organizer will not permit more detail at this time but this subject will be treated regularly in following issues and you are urged to send in your labor defense problems for analysis and action.

THE ORGANIZER—a free press

it can deal an intended blow to the labor movement. This blow can be dealt only through the collaboration of the so-called safe and sane labor leaders.

"Summary: Out of this entire program only the bosses stand to gain. The labor leaders who collaborate with them will only bring disaster upon the labor movement and with it ultimately will come their own self destruction.

"In their selfish aim to maintain their bureaucratic control, the so-called safe and sane labor leaders are recklessly gambling the future welfare of the workers. They plan to divide the State Employees into numerous small, powerless craft unions to which, through the aid of pressure from conniving politicians, they can dictate and thus control conventions and perpetuate themselves in office. To protect themselves from opposition in industrial centers they plan the destruction of all progressive leadership, and deliverance of the functions of unions into the hands of artificial setups.

"Labor is organized on the principle of self sufficiency and self protection and it cannot afford to delegate these functions to foreign bodies; to do so is to invite its own self destruction.

"Throughout the entire history of the American Labor movement the unions have been confronted by continuous attempts on the part of the conniving, labor-hating United States Chamber of Commerce to seduce from them these fundamentals of self-preservation. Vested interests yield nothing to labor but that which organized forces can wrest from them. Legislative acts, meaningless as they are, come only through the forces of organized struggle. Labor has witnessed the fruitlessness of the NRA Labor Boards, and we can expect even less from a monstrosity such as the Minneapolis Committee of One Hundred.

"Success to labor cannot lie with the old and outworn leadership which seeks by collusion with the employing class to hold control.

"Only a new, militant leadership which is so rapidly coming to the fore today can successfully carry the banner of labor forward to its goal.

"THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Northwest Labor Unity Conference calls on all progressive, forward looking workers on farms and in factories, in the cities and in villages, to raise their voices in opposition to this vicious class-collaboration program and demand and support a militant leadership which will lead the workers under the slogan of self-reliance and militant unionism, and

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be printed in The Northwest Organizer."

THE ORGANIZER—a free press

Support Fargo Riot Appeal

The transcript of the Fargo riot trial, ready for appeal to the Supreme court is now being made. A fund of \$250 is needed to finance this vital action. Open forums, entertainments and other affairs are being conducted by organizations throughout the northwest to help raise the necessary funds.

Do your part to help show the bosses of Fargo that workers' rights are just as sacred as property rights.

Employers Want Substitute for Unions

Continued from page 3

many hired lackeys of the employers. Congressman Hamilton Fish, notorious red-baiter, and a counterpart of our own Senator Weber, was imported for the occasion. What can this mean, coming right on the heels of a "good will" meeting?

It means that the employers are becoming alarmed over the rapid growth and increasing progressiveness of the unions. Something must be done and done quickly or it will be too late. The unions will have become too strong to be crushed, and the bosses will have to grant the demands of the workers. Frontal attacks have been tried and they were repulsed by the workers. A new method must be tried. A more subtle one.

The bosses must maneuver to gain the confidence of those labor leaders who leap at the opportunity to be considered a good fellow by the employers of labor. They must ensnare them in the net of their "good will committee." They must whip up a lynch spirit against the progressives in the labor movement, dividing the ranks of labor into two factions and thus destroying the workers' power. When this is done they can shed their mask of sincerity and begin a campaign of union-smashing. The situation will then have been saved, and the bosses will once again have their "liberty." Once again Minneapolis will have become the good old open-shop town it used to be. That is the program of the employers.

If the labor leaders cannot see this for themselves, it is up to the membership to show them where their interests lie. There can be no substitute for the unions, and it is toward the building of the unions that the leaders must turn their attention, not toward the formation of treacherous substitutes for union action.

All union leaders should be instructed by the membership to devote their efforts to the welfare of the union and not to the organizing of fake "good will committees."

Conference Shapes Action Program

Continued from page 1

union in its fight for the re-employment of the locked-out workers. A special committee was set up to direct the work of unifying workers' relief organizations throughout the entire northwest. A Continuing Committee of 11 made up of active workers from Duluth, Fargo, Austin, Minneapolis and St. Paul was elected.

The next meeting of the Conference will be held during the month of May. Advance notice will be given in the Northwest Organizer.

Declaration of Principles

"To promote a better understanding and a closer fraternal collaboration between the numerous economic organizations of the workers in this section, the Northwest Labor Unity Conference dedicates itself to the task of bringing together delegates and adherents from all labor unions and other economic groups of workers who recognize the necessity of and will unite in a cooperative effort to bring about a realization of the following aims:

"1. To change through amalgamation and merger the present craft system of union organization with the ultimate objective of building industrial unions.

"2. To promote class solidarity and establish reciprocal aid between labor organizations in times of trouble and strife.

"3. To achieve unity of action in combatting anti-labor organizations such as the Vigilante Bands, (Law and Order) Leagues, (Citizens) Committees, etc., etc.

"4. To promote working class education through forums, lectures, discussions, educational

Letters to The Editor

Continued from page 2

Statement in Reply to Query from Duluth Central Labor Body; Declares Public Hearing of Charges Would Serve No Good Purpose."

... on my ouster, as a reply to a Farmer-Labor protest.

In the article is a statement of over 2,200 words by the Industrial Commission attempting to justify the Commission's action; but in all its length the statement does not inform the public as to why I was dismissed. Quite to the contrary, its caption indicates the reason to be that the Commission had an attack of jitters upon reading a garbled news report of something supposedly said or done on March 2nd at Austin, and the minutes of the Commission go on to substantiate this interpretation.

There we are told the Commission found the printed article was a partial report of Emme's remarks about a judge and the Commission felt the quotations were substantially correct, failing to inform your readers that the testimony was taken altogether from the information contained in garbled news reports written by a reporter of questionable mental soundness and of pronounced bias against my political views; supplementary information was derived from telephone conversations with persons not in attendance at the meeting where I spoke.

The reporter, Mr. R. C. Emory, whose story the Pioneer Press published, is the same man who wrote the pamphlet "30 Years from Now," used in the last campaign against us here, and against Upton Sinclair in California. This pamphlet charges Farmer-Laborites with planning to set up a regime which includes nationalization of women and slavery. I charge that Mr. Emory was well known to the Republican party headquarters in St. Paul, and was instructed by that party to attend the Austin meeting and distort through the eyes of a reactionary propagandist the news of that meeting.

May I suggest that beyond the Commission, and any final action they may take, are two factors as yet without finality of action. First, the governor of the state, who has the power to remove any or all members of the Commission; secondly, the people, who are the final court of appeal.

This court of appeal is very rapidly writing its decision on the flagrant miscarriage of justice to a state employee, and I make bold to say the Commission will be advised of their actions in due time.

Furthermore my many thousands of friends who, because of the betrayal of the Commission's trust, are fast becoming articulate and will not be misled nor lulled to sleep by your heading that the matter is a "closed affair." So far as I am concerned it has been a dignified effort to establish for all time the principle that state employees are human beings and, as subjects of our state, entitled to the protections granted by the Constitution thereof. So far as I am concerned, this will never be a closed affair until that principle is established for all time.

Sincerely,
J. F. EMME

classes and the establishment of a state-wide labor organ.

"5. To infuse the labor movement with a recognition of the class struggle, to acquaint all workers with the scientific truth: That the aims and interests of the wage worker are opposed to the aims and interests of the employer. To oppose all forms of class collaboration; compulsory arbitration, etc.

"6. To promote the organization of unemployed workers for the protection of the unions, as well as for the benefit of the unemployed and to take specific steps to keep within the folds of organized labor those workers who would otherwise be forced out of its ranks through inability to continue their membership because of unemployment."

Editor's Note: The Declaration of Principles will be analyzed point by point in future issues of the Northwest Organizer.

"Crystal gazing and fortune telling by Labor fakers in our Union must stop. We are going to expose them," said the crusader.—The Laundry, Dry Cleaning Worker, Minneapolis.

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