

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

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

Official Organ of the Northwest Labor Unity Conference

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

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

VOLUME 1, NO. 27

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 1935

PRICE 5 CENTS

CANDY WORKERS ARE ORGANIZING

TRUCK DRIVER RESCUED FROM PHONEY UNION

Fell by Wayside Listening
to Promises of Pseudo
BA

574 Officials Force Local
500 to Return His
Dues

What is perhaps one of the quickest turnovers ever recorded in the trade union movement took place last week. A misguided truck driver, harrassed by the combined threats and promises of one of our leading dual union organizers, fell from grace. He joined Local 500.

This condition, however, did not prevail for long. Apprised of the fact by other loyal men in the same company, the officials of 574 lost no time in getting on the job. There was no trouble to convince the erring brother that he had made a mistake.

A demand was made that the dues that he had paid in the fake union be returned to him. This was done. The next day he was again a member in good standing in Local 574.

A day and a half's adventure in the field of fake unionism convinced him he had made a mistake. He is now back in the fold contented and happy.

Executive Board Aids Market Men

The Tuesday night meeting of Local 574 Executive Board was a session that was replete with a number of interesting occurrences. Appearing before the board was a committee of market workers consisting of Harry Peterson and Al Hegbloom. They were there on behalf of the market workers section to ask that a resolution be forwarded to the City Council in regards to the splitting of cars by local merchants. Their request was granted and the resolution will be forwarded to the Welfare Board in due time.

Al Knute of Great Lakes Coal Company also appeared before the board at its request in regard to reinstatement fee. The board made a decision that Knute should pay the reinstatement fee. That decision has since been complied with.

A committee also appeared before the board from the Co-operative Coal Company and laid before the board a plan that has been proposed at the Co-operative Coal to put the yard workers on a piece time basis. This plan was condemned by the board. A communication has been addressed to the Co-operative Coal Company on this subject.

A group of Daily Star drivers also appeared before the Executive Board in regard to the controversy that took place last week which hinged around hauling for the Daily Star. This controversy has been straightened out.

10,000 VOTES FOR PROGRESS



Undaunted by the temporary setback received at the hands of the craft union bureaucracy at the A. F. of L. convention, the industrial union movement within the A. F. of L. is growing in strength and authority. Little would the proponents of industrial unionism a decade ago dream that this form of organization would ever receive 10,000 votes in an A. F. of L. convention. This vote was recorded in the 1935 convention of the American Federation of Labor in Atlantic City. The vertical union movement will not be downed. It will continue to grow until it finally pushes the obsolete form of craft unionism from the American scene. Then and then only will a form of workers' economic organizations rise which will be competent to cope with modern capitalist developments.

Tom Mooney Asks Aid from Drivers

The question of the freedom of Tom Mooney which is now a burning issue in the entire American Labor movement is rapidly approaching a climax in the hearings held before the California Supreme Court. Recognizing the importance of this issue, the editors of the Organizer sent a letter to Tom Mooney's counsel, Frank P. Walsh, in San Francisco, asking for a statement on his case.

We received a personal letter in reply from Tom Mooney urging us to do whatever could be done in his behalf and citing the importance of his case to the labor movement. The concluding part of his letter read as follows:

"Anything the Minneapolis General Drivers and Helpers Union Local 574 can do for me at this time will be very much appreciated, as finances are extremely needed to carry on this work we have been doing for 19 years. I want to send warm personal regards to all the members of Local 574.

Sincerely and fraternally yours,
TOM MOONEY."

A. F. L. Convention Will Be Discussed

V. R. Dunne, prominent Minneapolis trade unionist and speaker, will address a meeting to be held Friday night, October 25, at 8 p. m., on the subject, "The American Federation of Labor Convention: Craft or Industrial Unions?" Brother Dunne spent two days at the recent Atlantic City convention of the A. F. of L. The meeting will be held at 631 Third avenue south, under the auspices of the Minneapolis branch, Workers Party of the United States. An admission charge of ten cents will be asked.

Meeting Schedule Local 574

Friday, Oct. 25: All Stewards.
Monday, Oct. 28: Full Membership.
Tuesday, Oct. 29: Taxi drivers; night drivers, 1 p. m.; day drivers, 7 p. m.
Thursday, Oct. 31: Halloween Dance

Gift Tax Evaded by Local Finance Kings

The so-called gift tax, which goes into effect in 1936, is causing the owners of huge fortunes to hurriedly dispose of their holdings via the "gift route" in order to evade the new tax. Headed by George F. Baker of New York City, who recently made stock gifts of five million dollars, 50 additional corporation directors have made transfers in the past 60 days that total almost one billion dollars.

Of interest to the local labor movement is the fact that included in the list are two local financial magnates. Mr. M. C. Honeywell of the Minneapolis Honeywell Company disposed of 3,200 shares of common stock in this manner and Daniel F. Bull of the Minneapolis Milling Company "gave away" 1,200 shares of Cream of Wheat common stock by the same method.

A Substitute for Wages

Our friend of the Minneapolis Journal who writes the column "Reporter's Cuff," very profoundly reports that the prized job in a packing plant is cutting up cows' stomachs. He says this is because workers in that occupation often find valuable objects therein.

If the wages aren't changed since we heard about them last in the packing plants, these valuable objects they find are perhaps all that keeps them from starving to death.

Truck Drivers Are to Open Safety Drive

The Safety Driving Campaign inaugurated by Local 574 will get under way this week. Stickers have been printed which will be affixed to the windshield on all trucks driven by union drivers. While the General Drivers Union has all the respect in the world for the various safety first campaigns that have taken place, it is our contention that this campaign inaugurated by the truck drivers themselves will be the most productive of results.

The stickers will read as follows: "For safe driving Local 574." It is expected that within a week over two thousand of these insignias will appear on the windshields of union driven trucks. Forward with the Union Safety Campaign.

574 Grievance System Brings Quick Results

The Grievance Report System that was put into effect by the union about a month ago has according to reports worked out splendidly. The old system of making verbal reports of grievances either to the job steward or to the office had many weaknesses and defects and did not work out to the best satisfaction of everyone.

After a thorough discussion in the Executive Board and later at a union meeting, the Secretary-Treasurer was instructed to have printed a standard grievance report form. This form when properly filled out gives an exhaustive report upon the grievance and contains all the information available; the report must be signed by the member making the complaint and by the job steward in cases where one exists.

The report is then turned into the office and is assigned by the Secretary-Treasurer to one of the organizers for immediate action. When the organizer has investigated the complaint and made whatever adjustment possible, he is required to fill in a blank with a complete report on the disposition of the case.

Since this system was inaugurated over fifty complaint sheets have been filled out. Of that number thirty have been settled to the satisfaction of the complainant. Twelve are in process of being adjusted and in the remaining eight cases it has been found that the information contained in the report was too vague to be acted upon or that no actual cause for complaint existed.

All members are urged in case of grievances or disputes to see the job steward or come to the office and seek the assistance of one of the union officials in filling out a report.

Mechanics Discuss Contract

Local 382, Auto Mechanics Union, whose contract with the Minneapolis Garage Owners expires in January, have started a series of union meetings for the purpose of discussing a new contract with the employers.

WALK OUT IS SWEEPING THE ENTIRE TRADE

Powells Signs as Workers
in Other Shops Join
Picket Lines

Local 574 Helps Strikers
Form Union and Draft
Demands

Thursday morning the candy makers of the Powell Candy Company walked out on strike in protest against recent wage cuts. There being no union in that industry these workers appealed to 574 for help. Our meeting halls were thrown open to them, help was given in establishing a picket line, an agreement was drawn in our office, and by 4:30 p. m. the strike was won. A shop committee was set up, seniority was established and wage increases averaging 15 cents per hour were won by these workers.

By noon Friday four more candy plants were on strike. Roy Weir, organizer of the Central Labor Union, called in by Local 574, assumed charge of the strikers and a mass meeting of all candy workers was held at 18 N. Eighth Street, Monday night. A large number of workers were present. Six large candy firms were represented. A temporary executive board was elected as the candy workers formally launched their new union.

It is expected that union agreements similar to the Powell contract will be signed before this issue appears.

Federal Workers Elect Palmquist

The Friday meeting of the Federal Workers section of 574 was made interesting by a report delivered by one of the investigators from the Relief Department. Her statement showed that despite the workers that had been placed on Federal projects the relief load remained the same.

In accordance with a recommendation of the executive board of the Federal Workers, Ed Palmquist was elected as permanent chairman. A start was made in placing stewards on WPA projects.

It was voted to send a resolution to the Central Labor Union calling upon them to put into effect a motion passed by that body some time ago, to help organize the unemployed. A report of the grievance committee was made by Ed Palmquist.

Organizer M. B. Dunne said that prospects were brighter than ever for the Federal workers. The meeting adjourned at 10:30.

Brule ("Call Me Bill") Ambrose, the man mountain of the Independent Truck Owners, is a square dance caller—believe it or not.

MAKE MINNEAPOLIS A UNION TOWN

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

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

An Indictment of Craft Unionism

Events in Minneapolis and Atlantic City during the past two weeks have provided a very clear demonstration of the idiocy of craft unionism. Here in Minneapolis the Ornamental Metal Workers Local 1313 are struggling to preserve their membership, not because of attacks by the metal bosses, whom they have just thoroughly defeated, but because of the pernicious ambitions of local craft unions. For many years the local metal shops have remained completely unorganized, and the aristocracy of craft unionism has done nothing about it. With their job-trust craft unions they did not have the power to act. But when Local 1313 came along, organized industrially, the job was done in a very efficient manner. Now the craft unions are clamoring for their "jurisdictional rights." They would cut to pieces a splendid union, and, if they have their way, the ultimate outcome can only be a return to the open shop in the metal industry.

Local 1313 is affiliated with the Machinists' International which is headed by A. O. Wharton. While 1313 fights desperately to protect itself from pillage by the craft unionists, Wharton, in Atlantic City, at the Metal Trades convention and the A. F. of L. convention, aligns himself with the big shots of the craft union plutocracy to defeat the advocates of industrial unionism. In doing this Wharton visualizes gains for the machinists at the expense of the industrial unions organized in the basic industries. He chooses this easy but expensive course rather than to take the lead in aiding the machinists to build their organization on a correct industrial basis among the thousands of open shop metal plants throughout the country.

Unfortunate as they are, this and similar object lessons which are brought before the workers daily will serve to hasten the day when industrial unionism will come into its own, and the A. F. of L. will really become the representative of the American workers. Today, after 55 years of existence, the A. F. of L. has less than three and one-half million members out of a potential membership of over thirty-nine million, a performance rating of about 8%. Nothing could be a more vivid indictment of the folly of craft unionism.

History has proven that progress may be retarded, but it is never defeated. Progress is on the side of industrial unionism. It is bound to come. The date of its birth will be determined by the militancy with which the workers struggle for it.

Another Reformist Betrayal

The Wednesday night session of the Hennepin County Central Committee of the Farmer-Labor party saw one of the most shameful betrayals of working class interest that has ever been displayed in a Reformist Party.

The henchmen of the local administration were on hand to guard carefully against any resolution or motion that would place the Mayor on the spot for the shooting and gassing of workers in the Flour City strike. Every healthy manifestation of the real sentiment of the rank and file Farmer-Laborite was suppressed and stifled by the beauracracy of the Farmer-Labor office holders.

No censure for Latimer, no blame on the Farmer-Labor aldermen who betrayed their campaign promises, but rather an attempt to shift the blame upon the shoulders of obscure police tools.

Although perhaps 90 per cent of the delegates at this session were for the expulsion of Mayor Latimer from the Farmer-Labor ranks, so carefully was the meeting handled, and so skillful were the bureaucrats, that the opposition faded away.

After the meeting, the sidewalk in front of 818 Hennepin Avenue was crowded by indignant delegates who were still demanding that some action be taken. It was another case of an unorganized majority being defeated by a highly organized minority.

It is interesting to speculate upon the thoughts of poorly paid news writers on capitalist newspapers who are compelled to write Pollyanna prosperity stories as they attempt to eke out an existence on the starvation wages that are common in that industry.

Local Team Loses Hard Fought Game

Sunday, at North Commons, saw another hard fought football game between Local 574 and a team representing Mike's Cafe. For the second time in two weeks the team from the Local was on the short end of the count. The game ended with the score 4 to 0 in favor of Mike's Cafe. The two teams were evenly matched. Two safeties accounted for the only scores. Next Sunday the Local team will play the North Siders at North Commons.

Sunday Forums in 574 Hall Resumed

The regular Sunday afternoon forums, which were held last season in our hall, have been resumed in our new headquarters. These workers' forums start promptly at 3 o'clock, an interesting program is always assured, and there is no admission charge.

The speaker will be Henry Zon, labor journalist, recently returned from a course of study in the London School of Economics. Mr. Zon's subject will be, "The British Labor Movement."

Halloween Dance on Thursday, October 31

The big social event of the season will be the Halloween dance and frolic which will be held in the drivers hall on the night of October 31st. Before making your plans for Halloween night see that you have a ticket for the event of the month. There will be special attractions, favors and prizes. The event will be in charge of Ray Rainbolt.

Card of Thanks

Acknowledging with grateful appreciation your comforting expression of sympathy.

Mrs. Wm. Dunne and Family

Labor Looks at the Press

Arthur H. Young, vice-president of U. S. Steel: "We have had enough of these New Deal kibitzers, who behind the mask of assumedly necessary social reconstruction of our national life would, without invitation from the players, change the rules of an ancient and honorable game."

We guess he's talking about Business, the game of put-and-take: we put and the rich take. But the New Deal hasn't changed this.

"The Los Angeles Railway Corporation spent \$350,000 to break a strike of its employees. \$159,960 went to Nick Harris of the World Wide Detective Agency; \$7,393 to Chief Hynes of the Los Angeles Red Squad."—New Militant.

Prize Headline of the Week: League of Nations Must Be Forced to Act Against Mussolini's Robber War.—Daily Worker.

That's like saying Al Capone must be forced to protect his boot-leg millions.

From the report of the President's Committee on Social Security: "In the 'dull' year of 1933 in the United States, 14,500 industrial workers were killed at work, and over 55,000 permanently injured."

Mme. Sonja Branting, judge in the Domestic Relations Court in Stockholm, Sweden, after a trip to Germany: "Hitler practises the sterilization of political prisoners as a punishment. . . . No matter how much one may read of conditions in Germany, the reality is even worse."

The prize union story of the week concerns a letter that was sent out to union members concerning the delinquents. These letters, as is usual in such communications, were headed "Dear Sir and Brother." Shortly after the letters had been sent out, a woman got Bill Brown on the phone and said, "We received your letter and I wish to say that while my husband is willing to pay his own dues, he refuses to pay dues for his brother." In reply, Brown asked her why she thought the letter referred to anyone but her husband. She said it was plainly marked at the top of the letter, "Dear sir and brother."

A new bookkeeping system is being installed in the union office that will simplify the work and make for more accurate records.

The new transfer agreement should result in the union gaining 500 new members. Let's all get busy.

The Independent Truck Owners Section placed six of their members on a WPA job last week. All are owners of five-ton equipment.

The Boyd Transfer Company is nearly right.

Work is already well under way on the 1936 ice agreement. There will be some real accomplishments in this direction.

The November-December Hennepin County Grand Jury panel was drawn. Ten men and thirteen women reported. Reading the roster of the panel sounds like page one of "Who's Who in the Minneapolis '400."

Thursday afternoon the first meeting took place between officials of Local 574 and the market

employers. A meeting was called on the initiative of the General Drivers Union looking toward the renewal of the now existing market agreement.

The new contract with the transfer firms is bringing non-union men into the union in droves.

This week's bouquet of roses for the best union steward goes to C. B. Carlson of the Albert Johnson Company.

The Gamble-Robinson drivers had a 100 per cent turnout at their special meeting Friday night. Thirty-eight men were on hand when the meeting opened. The question of overtime was taken up and a way was devised to bring the company into line.

Joe Ellis, steward at Gamble's, deserves lots of credit for the splendid turnout.

The Market Workers Section were the sponsors of a resolution presented to the Welfare Board Tuesday. The resolution protests against the practice of local merchants splitting cars.

Don't miss the Halloween dance sponsored by the Local.

Members of the union are urged to write letters to the Organizer on subjects that may be of interest to their fellow workers.

The Pheasant Hunters Lying Club is now in full session.

Coal Workers! Make it your business to see that your fellow workers in the yard are paid up.

Frankie Blaisdell is in circulation again.

Ace Brewer of the Musicians was a visitor last week.

The transfer industry reports one of the best fall seasons in years.

The By-Laws Committee is still meeting.

The candy workers are not as soft as the name of their occupation would indicate.

Even the game of Five Hundred is getting to be unpopular on account of its name.

Bill Brown has been haunting loop cafes the last few days. Reason? Lack of fall topcoat.

.....In Memoriam — The Rainbolt-Mendel partnership is dissolved

STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, CIRCULATION, ETC., REQUIRED BY THE ACTS OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AND MARCH 3, 1933, of The Northwest Organizer, published weekly at Minneapolis, Minnesota, for October 1st, 1935. STATE OF MINNESOTA COUNTY OF HENNEPIN—ss.

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the state and county aforesaid, personally appeared H. A. Schultz, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the Business Manager of the Northwest Organizer and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management, etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, as amended by the Act of March 3, 1933, embodied in section 537, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to-wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, Northwest Labor Unity Conference, St. Paul and Minneapolis; Editor, Farrell Dobbs, Minneapolis; Business Manager, H. A. Schultz, Minneapolis.

2. That the owner is: The Northwest Labor Unity Conference, whose Executive Committee is as follows: Frank Ellis, Austin, Minn.; Joe Voorhees, Austin, Minn.; William Cruden, Fargo, N. D.; R. C. Sermon, Duluth, Minn.; Milton Carlson, Duluth, Minn.; O. R. Votaw, St. Paul, Minn.; J. F. Emme, St. Paul, Minn. (deceased); Farrell Dobbs, Minneapolis; V. R. Dunne, Minneapolis, Minn.; Carl Skoglund, Minneapolis, Minn.; together with H. A. Schultz as secretary.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding one per cent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: None.

H. A. SCHULTZ
(Signature of Business Manager)
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 8th day of October, 1935.

H. C. RANDALL,
(Notary Public, Hennepin Co., Minn.)
My commission expires Feb. 18, 1937.