

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

Official Organ of the Northwest Labor Unity Conference

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

As from this hour
You use your power,
The world must fol-
low you.

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

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MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 1936

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MAYOR DENOUNCED BY F. L. P.

LABOR MOURNS PASSING ON OF MOSE WINTHROP

Labor Lawyer Dies After
Short Illness in
Hospital

Was Known, Respected and
Loved by a Host of
Friends

Mose Winthrop, long and active fighter in the behalf of the working class, died Thursday night at the Swedish Hospital as the after-result of an operation.

Mr. Winthrop was born in Russia 57 years ago. At the age of 2 he came to Minneapolis with his parents and has resided here continuously since. After attending South High School, and later the U. of M., where he graduated in law, Mr. Winthrop has almost continually been in the public eye.

Several times a candidate for public office in Minneapolis, his campaigns were always characterized by the attacks that he made upon existing social evils.

Mr. Winthrop generously gave his time, money, and legal talents to various working class organizations. Thousands of workers in Minneapolis have benefited from the free legal aid accorded them by this staunch defender of workers' rights. He was always a stalwart defender and champion of Local No. 574. Time and time again he expressed unbound admiration for this militant labor organization.

General Drivers' Union knew, loved and respected this Jewish radical lawyer. He gave us much. We owe him a deep debt of gratitude. While we miss him we hope that he will find that peace, quiet and rest that his turbulent life never knew.

Tampa Terror Will Be Told at Meeting

The reign of terror in Tampa, Florida, that resulted in the death of Joseph Shoemaker and the serious wounding and mutilation of two other workers will be discussed in an open meeting which the Socialist Party will hold March 15 at 2:30 p. m. at the Workers Party quarters, 631 Third Ave. S.

Arthur Moore, Socialist Party member, will be the principal speaker. Admission is free. All are welcome.

"Broadway Jack"

"Broadway Jack" Penirth is again back in his old haunts after a week's absence. The enforced excursion into new fields was brought about by a breakdown in the telephone service at his favorite spot.

Building Strikers Eat



N. Y. Building Service Workers Fight Militant Battle With Labor Haters

New York City.—The spirit of militancy in the New York building service strike is rising hourly as the real estate bosses continue their refusal to sign an agreement with the union. There are now over 70,000 workers on the picket lines and more will be called out if a settlement is not reached soon. Strike sentiment is also speeding into other unions as the elevator men get more and more support.

The walkout thus far is confined to only a part of Manhattan Island which is the nerve center of this great industrial metropolis. The picket line extends from the Battery in lower Manhattan to and beyond 150th St. in the uptown district and from the East River to the Hudson. Certain key points are being reserved on Manhattan, among which is the 192-story Empire State building and the area around the Grand Central station. If the strike continues, these points together with Brooklyn, the Bronx, and Queens will probably be called out.

The workers are responding quickly when called out by the union, and those not yet called out are impatiently waiting to be called. Banners have already been prepared for the Empire State building, bearing the legend, "Take a Walk, AL." Smith's office is on the 80th floor.

The Building Service Employees Union is striking for union recognition, seniority rights, higher

As we go to press comes the news that the settlement plan offered by the striking Building Service Workers has been rejected by the building owners. The Building Service Workers Union threatens to call out all workers tomorrow.

wages, and shorter, more uniform hours. The real estate bosses have failed to indicate any desire to settle. They are countering by a propaganda barrage against the union in the manner always followed by the boss. The newspapers, especially those owned by Hearst, are denouncing the strikers. Mayor La Guardia has issued a nemergerency decree which he is using in an attempt to break the strike under the pretext that the strike is endangering public health. This is mere sham and subterfuge as the building service strikers, just as is done in all strikes, have made elaborate provisions for the prevention of any

(Continued on page 2)

TRUCK OWNERS ATTENTION!

The new Rental Truck application recently sent out by the Equipment Department, city of Minneapolis, on the advice of Independent Truck Drivers' Section, Local No. 574, must be filled out, notarized, and sent back to the city engineer's office not later than 30 days after date of receipt. All truck owners should make sure that this questionnaire is filled out in the proper manner, attested to by a notary public and returned to the Equipment Department as promptly as possible. Prompt action will assist you in placing your equipment.

Hosiery Workers Case Is Heard

The injunction suit of the Strutwear Knitting Company directed against the Full-Fashioned Hosiery Workers' Union, the Minneapolis Central Labor Union, Local No. 574, and many other individuals and organizations, in the labor movement has been set for Tuesday, March 10.

Originally scheduled to be tried Friday, March 6, before District Judge Albert H. Enerson of Lambert, Minnesota, who has been brought into Minneapolis ostensibly to "Relieve the congestion of cases in district court." Friday morning attorneys representing the defendants applied for a delay on the grounds that their chief counsel, Fred Ossana, was ill and unable to appear.

Judge Enerson denied the defense motion for a delay and ordered the suit to proceed. Friday morning John Goldie, acting in the absence of Ossana filed an affidavit of prejudice against Judge Enerson who immediately assigned the case to another visiting judge, Martin Hughes of Hibbing. The case has been called for new trial Tuesday.

Over eighty of the defendants have been summoned to testify. The speed with which the suit was forced to trial indicates that the defendants may expect the worst. The Hosiery Workers have stated they will appeal the case in event the injunction is granted.

Cleaners, Laundry Workers Win Award

It is important that all members of Cleaners, Laundry Workers, and Drivers' Joint Local No. 18005-183, become acquainted with a special ruling that has been handed down by the Arbitration Board in the appeal case of Aster Johnson vs. the Ideal Laundry.

The ruling follows. "When an employee has been absent from his or her place of employment for a period of less and not more than 90 days by reason of illness or for some other condition beyond his or her control, such employee shall retain all seniority, and other rights, under our agreement."

F-L CONVENTION DECISION HITS THOS. LATIMER

Resolution Calls Upon Ward
Club, Committee
to Act

County Chairman Reads
Prepared Statement
on Mayor

The Sunday convention of the Hennepin County Farmer-Labor Party was chiefly characterized by the fierce attack that was made on Mayor Thomas Latimer. A resolution calling upon the convention to expel Latimer from the party precipitated a struggle that was not settled until, after almost two hours of wrangling, the resolution was amended to read that the convention called upon the 13th Ward Local and the Hennepin County Central Committee to expel the Mayor.

The expulsion of Latimer and the granting of an increased number of delegates to the affiliated trade unions were the highlights of the convention. After a fight by convention delegates representing trade unions, a joint meeting of the program and nominating committee was called. After stormy speeches were made before the committee, by trade unionists, and after threats had been made to bring the fight for increased trade union representation on the convention floor, the committee finally decided to give the unions two delegates each to the state convention, instead of one as was originally planned.

The convention endorsed no candidates for office. The 1934 platform of the Farmer-Labor Party was again indorsed. It is a significant fact that the Hennepin County Convention, which will send 130 delegates to the state convention, was silent on the question of endorsing candidates for Governor.

Among the many resolutions that were adopted by the Sunday convention the most important were: A call for the repeal of the Criminal Syndicalism Law; a demand for free text books in all public schools; a demand that all elected candidates submit to the discipline of the Farmer-Labor Party and that upon the breaking of such discipline they be publicly expelled from the Farmer-Labor ranks; opposition to placing relief applicants on jobs, paying them no more than their relief allowance.

Aside from ordering the expulsion of Latimer and increasing the number of trade union delegates to the state convention, the Sunday meeting did little more than give a number of delegates the chance to express their resentment against party policies and practices.

Make Minneapolis a Union Town

Coal Yard Workers Will Hold Mass Meeting March 16

Monday, March 16, coal drivers, helpers and yard workers, will gather in the most important session that they have held for a year. This meeting will be solely devoted to the discussion of the new 1936-37 coal agreement. The present contract expires with the end of the current month.

It is imperative that immediate steps be taken to formulate the provisions of the new agreement that we proposed to submit to the coal employers. An agreement satisfactory to all can only be accomplished by the combined council of all of the members of the coal workers' section.

Coal workers should come to this meeting with definite ideas of what they wish to be incorporated into the proposed agreement. The meeting of coal stewards which will be held Friday, March 13, will formulate a rough draft of the new coal contract which will be submitted to the coal workers' meeting on Monday.

It is well for all members of the coal section to understand that the draft agreement drawn up by the coal stewards is not a finished document and can be changed in any or all of its provisions by the membership. It is vastly important that every driver, helper, yard man and carry man, engaged in the coal industry, be on hand for the March 16 meeting. Take part in the formulating of the 1936-37 coal agreement in order that you may work, during the coming year, under conditions that are agreeable to you.

Elections Are Held In Transfer Firms

From Saturday, March 7, until the following Saturday, March 14, elections will be conducted by the workers in all of the major transfer companies to determine whether or not the workers, in each individual firm, will operate under the 48-hour week or the 8-hour day.

Although the existing agreement, held by Local No. 574 with almost all Minneapolis Transfer companies, calls for an 8-hour day, with no overtime after that period, transfer workers in many of the companies prefer to work under the 48-hour week. The demand for a change in this provision of the union agreement became so insistent that the Executive Board asked for and secured a meeting with the Employers Compliance Committee. There a plan was drawn up which would permit the workers in each individual company to conduct a referendum on this subject.

Each transfer company is bound to abide by the results of the vote. The balloting, however, will have nothing to do with invalidating or upsetting the 8-hour provision in the union agreement as it applies to the transfer industry as a whole.

The results of the referendum will determine, in each individual company, whether they are to operate, for the balance of the agreement, under the 8-hour day or the 48-hour week.

Bill Brown Says—

The Farmer-Labor Hennepin County convention once again is over. Again representatives of organized labor and delegates representing Farmer-Labor ward clubs twisted, squirmed, and ducked the question of publicly putting the Farmer-Labor Mayor on the spot, politically, for his gross violation of every principle of Farmer-Laborism.

It was amusing to see the reactionary "old guard" fight, with parliamentary maneuvers, to save the "honor" of the Mayor. In justice it must be said that the vast majority of the delegates were for his expulsion. But it was another case of the tail wagging the dog.



BILL BROWN President of 574

The Railroad Unions

The triennial convention of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers opens in Cleveland on June 1st, and it now becomes the duty of every progressive B. of L. E. member to draft and submit resolutions for the many needed changes in the B. of L. E. constitution. Bear in mind that these resolutions must be in the Grand Office 45 days before the convention opens. See section 51, page 36, of the constitution.

Resolutions should be submitted in accordance with the above quoted section for the following constitutional changes, to-wit:

1. Repeal of section 85, page 81, of the Statutes, and replace it with a new clause providing for full freedom of membership expression on all subjects.
2. Do away with and eliminate entirely all ritualistic work, including all signs, passwords, grips, obligations, and all the rest of the ceremonial mummery which is now used in opening and closing Division and Convention meetings.
3. Reduce officers' salary to level of pay received by engineers in through freight service. The monthly pay to be based on 3,000 miles per month, plus all necessary traveling expenses when properly itemized. In other words, "Union wages for union officials." This should be the maximum scale for any member working for the Brotherhood.

These high salaries of union officials have become a prolific source of the worst kind of political corruption in the unions. They make of the officials a privileged class and separates them from the rank and file. Those who receive these salaries will do their utmost to remain in office regardless of their fitness. They will try to hang on to their fat jobs at all cost to the membership. They will smuggle all kinds of repressive gag-laws into the constitution and censor the Brotherhood press to keep themselves in office for life. These high salaries, which are squeezed from the members in the shape of high dues, have become a regular curse to the unions. The pay received by Grand Officers and Delegates should be cited in the constitution so the members will know what they get.

Brother Engineers, get your resolutions ready, and get them adopted by your Divisions, and all of you who will visit the Mid-West Union Meeting at Milwaukee on March 31, and April 1st and 2nd, should bring your resolutions there and have them discussed and passed by that body.

That "Labor" paper should also be exposed for what it is at every opportunity. It is definitely on the reactionary side of every question. Its main function is to popularize the Grand Lodge officials and their friends and to keep the railroad workers saddled with the craft system.

Read and spread the Organizer.

Local I.W.W. Branch Will Open New Hall

The Minneapolis Local of the I. W. W. announced they are opening a new headquarters which is located at 55 East Hennepin. Their new hall will be open for inspection the latter part of this week. Many members of their organization are also members of the Federal Workers Section. They cordially invite members of the Federal Workers and members of Local No. 574 to visit their new home.

N. Y. Building Service Workers Fight Militant Battle With Labor Haters

(Continued from page 1) suffering by sick persons or unnecessary health hazards because of the strike.

Not content with a police force of 20,000, La Guardia has issued mobilization orders to 15,000 firemen and 5,000 civil service employees. The firemen and civil service employees have expressed deep resentment against this attempt to use them as strikebreakers and are not lending their support to the La Guardia program. Edward F. McGrady of the U. S. Department of Labor has arrived in the city, after failing to "settle" with the Akron rubber workers. He has so far been unsuccessful in his effort to force an empty settlement upon the New York strikers.

Over 10,000 strikebreakers have been sent out by strikebreaking agencies. One of these scabs, Samuel Gallo, was killed by his own hand Wednesday while trying to operate a lift. Intending to go down, he started the elevator upward and then attempted to jump on. He was crushed to death. Gallo had been studying to be a cop. This incident, together with others, such as a scab operator causing a cable to break, dropping the car to the basement and injuring several passengers, has terrorized the tenants from riding with the strikebreakers.

The sympathy of the building tenants is with the strikers. True, they dislike climbing stairways, but they direct their complaints at the boss realtors and vent their wrath on the finks.

Scabs from the Flynn Detective Agency went on strike because they had to kick back \$3 of their \$9 daily wage to the boss strikebreakers. They attempted to strike but were not so welcome on the streets. The pickets did not consider that this action was enough to make these social morons their brothers, nor did the sympathizing public.

The beginning of the walkout caught large groups of the bosses dining on the top floor of the swanky downtown clubs. They had a fine walk. On Central Park, South, it has long been the custom for the building attendants to take the glorified pooches of the wealthy tenants for their morning stroll. With the workers out on the picket line it became necessary for madame, herself, to do this chore. Arriving at the sidewalk, the dogs broke away from their mistresses and rushed to greet their old friends, the workers, who were now on the picket line. Meantime, the papers had been denying that the building attendants were on strike and charged that hoodlums were doing the picketing. This propaganda fooled many people, but fortunately the dogs could not read as they were not fooled.

Rolling kitchens furnish food and hot coffee to the picket lines throughout the 40 square mile strike area. The strike morals is very high. On Tuesday evening a picket group of 5,000 strong

On WPA Projects

ON WPA PROJECTS

The recent inspection of projects in the city, by WPA officials gave project No. 1781, in the court house, an A1 rating. Mr. McEllygott supervisor and Mr. Callahan were highly commended on the progress and quality of work. We understand that Mr. H. K. Feltus, of the planning commission, is not so hot.

It seems that the timekeepers on many of the WPA projects are intent upon assuming more authority than they are entitled to. Last week, some of the boys on project No. 1767 came up to the Job Grievance Committee and complained that they were short on their pay checks. Nothing paid for those cold days when the projects did not work. When the Job Grievance Committee took this matter up with the timekeeper he told them that he did not want anyone telling him what to do. A quick call to the union headquarters brought Ed Palmquist out on the job and after a short heated argument the grievances of the men were quickly adjusted.

On project 87 most of the workers there have come to the realization that the Federal Workers can do more for them than any other organization, while some of them hold back from joining the union, mistakenly thinking that the only purpose of organization is strike, most of them now realize that only organization can bring justice for the workers on WPA projects.

String Instrument Players Are Wanted

All members of the union who play any sort of a string instrument are requested to meet at union headquarters Friday, March 13, at 8 o'clock. It has been discovered that there is plenty of talent in our organization to form a real string instrument orchestra. Bring your instrument with you Friday night and be prepared to play. Guitar, banjo, mandolin, and Hawaiian guitar players are especially requested to be on hand. The meeting will start promptly at eight.

marched up Fifth Avenue. Despite the hurried dispatching of large numbers of armed police to the area, there were many vacancies among the strikebreakers at the end of the march. The American workers are witnessing again, and on a new and bigger scale, the grand spectacle of a determined union on the march. Once again it is demonstrated that there is no substitute for solid union action.

Poorly Paid Workers at N. S. P. Can Pay Low Fee

Local 160, Northern States Power Employees Union, wish to correct an impression that seems to be prevalent among the more lowly paid workers at the local power company.

Contrary to reports that have been circulated, the groundmen that are employed by the Northern States Power Company are not charged a fee of \$7 to join the union. The employees that receive less than \$110 per month can join the union by the payment of \$1 initiation fee and the further payment of \$1 per month dues.

The only workers at the Northern States Power Company that have to pay the fee of \$7 are those who are earning more than \$110 per month. Although the Executive Committee has communicated with the national office in regard to the waiving the insurance feature of the union, no reply has been received from President Tracey.

A favorable reply would cut down the dues and initiation fee to some extent. It is to be hoped that the International will see fit to grant the very reasonable request of our local and so make it easier for us to go forward.

New Agreement for Lathers, Plasterers

Conclusion of agreements between labor organization and employers calling for a new wage scale was announced to the city council Thursday. The scale to May 1, 1936, will be \$1.25 an hour for plasterers, \$1.20 for lathers, and 85 cents for plaster tenders. May 1 to August 1, 1936, the scale will be \$1.25 for lathers and plasterers, and 90 cents for tenders; August 1, 1936, to May 1, 1937, \$1.35 for plasterers and lathers, and \$1 for tenders.

The schedule calls for a thirty-hour, six-day week, and double time for overtime. The city council was asked to recognize the new scale on city jobs.

Bartenders Union Is in Its New Home

The Bartenders' Union, who recently opened their new headquarters at 32 South Sixth Street, have one of the finest union homes in Minneapolis.

Installed in a clean, light, airy building, the bartenders have spared no expense to make their new union headquarters a place that will be attractive to the membership.

All friends of the Bartenders' Union are invited to inspect the new location of this organization.

Pratt's Express Votes For 48 - Hour Week

The first results of the referendum among the transfer companies on the question of the 48-hour week comes from Pratt's Express. Although several of the road drivers were absent and did not register a vote, the results so far are 33 for the 48-hour week and 3 for the eight-hour day.

MEETING SCHEDULE	
Local No. 160, N. S. P. Co. Employees	
Wednesday, March 4—	Membership meeting.
Thursday, March 5—	Executive Board.
Wednesday, March 11—	Organization Committee.
Thursday, March 12—	Executive Board.
Wednesday, March 18—	Membership meeting.
Thursday, March 19—	Executive Board.
Wednesday, March 25—	Organization Committee.
Thursday, March 26—	Executive Board.
Department meeting will be held subject to call.	
All meetings at 257 Plymouth Ave. N., second floor.	
Members may present grievances at any of the above meetings.	

Huge Union Rally Will Be Held in Union Hall March 20

In conjunction with the Federal Workers meeting, Friday, March 20, there will be an all-union rally and mass meeting for friends and sympathizers of Local 574. In conformity with a motion passed at the last regular union meeting, handbills will be distributed during the latter part of next week.

This meeting is called to protest against the anti-union, anti-working class tactics being employed by Local 221, Ice and Coal Drivers Union, and Local 500, alleged union of truck drivers. These two organizations, with the aid of Meyer Lewis and other reactionary trade union leaders, are employing the vilest sort of tactics in their attempt to break the ranks of Local 574.

At this special meeting full and complete information will be given as to how these attacks must be answered. Local 574 has no fear that such attacks will ever succeed in shaking the confidence of the membership in their organization. Despite the attacks and slander to which we have been subject, our union is gaining in strength daily. But we must take such steps as will assure our continued success in the future.

Every union man should demonstrate his loyalty to his union by attending this meeting.

Make up your mind to be on hand in spite of all obstacles.

Attend the union rally and show our opponents that our ranks are solid and unbroken.

J. R. Clark Union Settles Hour Fight

At the J. R. Clark Company, where the labor situation has been at a boiling point for a few days, the whole thing arrived at a show-down Monday. The Company, to harass and intimidate members of the Wood Workers Union, had, during the past week, put into effect a three day week, as opposed to the forty hour week that had been worked previously. As a result, members of the Union felt that if the Clark Company was able to get away with the partial shutdown, which placed the workers there on a starvation level, they would, in the end, be able to destroy the union.

The Union Committee, however, thought differently. At 3:30 p. m. Monday they served notice on the management that they considered the introduction of the thirty hour week was a threat to the union and that unless the company returned to the forty hour week, the workers would be compelled to refrain from working until such time as the matter was adjusted. At 3:30 the J. R. Clark company posted a notice on the time clock announcing that starting Tuesday the company would return to a forty hour week and continue that schedule until "further notice." The union committee made a real stand on this issue and are to be congratulated for the fight they made in the behalf of their members.

ATTENTION ALL BOYD DRIVERS
Friday night at 8 p. m. there will be a special meeting of all Boyd drivers, helpers and inside workers. It is extremely important that every employee of the Boyd Transfer Company, who is a member of the Union that they be on hand for this meeting.
Matters that will effect every workers there will be decided on Friday night. Do not fail to be at this meeting.
—EXECUTIVE BOARD LOCAL 574

Local 160 Selects Grievance Group

At a meeting that was held on Thursday, March 5, at 257 Plymouth Ave. N. the members of the operating department of the Northern States Power Company elected a grievance committee that will deal with all future trouble that may arise in their department. The Thursday meeting was a well attended affair. The Executive Committee of the union reports that organization work is at a high pitch.

Truck For Sale

For sale: 1½ ton Chevrolet truck. This machine is in very good condition and will be sold cheap. For details call Ge. 3165 or apply at the union office.

The Laclede Gas Light Co. of St. Louis earned a net income of only \$73,003 in 1935, but spent \$334,434 during the year to fight a strike in one of its departments. The expenditures were made for "guarding plants, payments to service agencies, etc."

Independent Truck Owners Gain Reforms in City Pay List

The Independent Truck Owners' Section of Local No. 574 last week registered another step in the progress of their organization. As stated in last week's Organizer, the truck owners requested of the good roads committee of the City Council that they conduct an investigation into the method of hiring trucks by the City Engineer's office and asked further that a complete revision of the existing payroll records of that office be undertaken.

Speedy action by the City Engineer's office resulted. Last Wednesday the City Engineer's office issued a new printed form of Rental Truck Application. It follows closely the application form drawn up and submitted to the engineer's office by the Independent Truck Owners Section of Local No. 574. It is in the form of an affidavit and requires the applicant to swear to the truth of the statements contained in his application.

Following the questionnaire is a set of conditions setting forth the basis on which the applicant will work, who will be hired, and who will be given preference in the hiring of truck equipment.

In paragraph four appears the condition that is of peculiar interest to the Independent Truck Owners. "Preference will be given to the individual truck owners who drive their own trucks." The Independent Truck Owners Section of Local No. 574 are to be congratulated for the manner in which this reform was brought about. This should demonstrate to

Murphy Crew Holds Meeting on Sunday

Sunday saw a meeting of the Murphy Transfer crew. These meetings are becoming famous throughout the union on account of the splendid attendance and because of the spirited and intelligent discussion that takes place on their problems.

No small measure of praise must be given Rogers and Norton, who have assisted in making the Murphy Transfer a real union place of employment.

Cleaners Union Holds Membership Meeting

A general membership meeting of Cleaners, Drivers, and Laundry Workers will be held on Wednesday, March 18. Executive report and several important recommendations will be given for your approval.

Shop stewards will be given new instructions and a general plan for a new organization drive will be mapped out. Everybody must be present at this meeting Wednesday, March 18, at 703 South, 8 p. m. sharp.

every non-union truck owner the value of belonging to a union organization whose co-operative efforts can bring about reforms that mean a betterment in his working conditions and a better chance for him to provide a living for himself and family.

RAIL WORKER WRITES "LABOR"

Editor's Note: This is the concluding installment of I. Nelson's letter to the editor of "Labor."

Now, Mr. Keating, do you believe that such a program will give us a strong labor movement? As editor of a railroad workers paper, is that the kind of unionism you wish to encourage and advocate? In my 25 years as a member of organized labor, I have never seen a better program for keeping the workers divided and helpless. It should be perfect from an employer's point of view. But when such a program is sponsored by the president of an International labor union and a member of the Executive Council of the A. F.

of L., it becomes simply nauseating. Yet it is no worse than having a publication, owned and supposedly fighting for the best interests of the railroad workers and the working class as a whole, give aid and comfort to the enemies of the workers by supporting such policies and condemning courageous men who desire to get the American labor movement away from such tactics.

The record is not complete without mentioning that shortly after adjournment of the last A. F. of L. convention, William Green sent a special representative, Mr. Meyer Lewis, to Minneapolis, who announced, through statements in the capitalist press, that he was sent hereby Mr. Green to purge the Minneapolis labor movement of "reds." His battle cry was eagerly taken up by the Citizens Alliance, who "noted with hope and encouragement" that at long last the A. F. of L. was going to clean up the local labor movement and offered co-operation to "the fullest extent." For several weeks, Meyer Lewis did not go near a workers union meeting, but used the reactionary press and appeared before employers' gatherings to plead for support in his activities and urging employers who had contracts with Local 574 to break them. The employers, having no stomach for another battle with 574, flatly rejected his proposal. When at last he appeared before the Central Labor Union to demand that local unions denounce 574, he received the trimming of his life. In defense of his activities he stated that he was only attempting to carry out William Green's instructions. His latest bid for fame is revoking the charter of the petroleum workers local union and the reason given is failure to pay per capita tax. As this is an industrial union who maintains friendly relations with Local

574 and has refused to agree to have its membership raided by Meyer Lewis's pet craft unions, the real reason for his actions are not hard to understand. He has established permanent headquarters in the city and will no doubt continue to do what he can to prevent industrial organization of the workers and to remove militant trade unionists from the labor movement.

The truth of what I have related here can be verified by anyone desiring to do so, and therefore, LABOR'S statement that "no one is trying to drive the industrial unionists out of the A. F. of L." is a plain misstatement of facts. It is becoming plainer every day that Mr. Green and his associates are doing everything possible to defeat further attempts at industrial organization of the workers. In spite of the ability of the craft union adherents to carry their point at the last A. F. of L. convention, in reality they received a crushing defeat, and they realize that if the examples of militancy and organizational policies set by such unions as 574 in Minneapolis are to be generally adopted by the workers, their time as labor leaders has not very long to run.

Because of my firm belief that organization by crafts has outlived its usefulness, I am convinced that LABOR is taking the wrong position when it condemns Mr. Lewis and his associates for, in my opinion, doing what they can to strengthen the organizational structure of the American labor movement. This question is not confined to the A. F. of L. only. The demands for amalgamation of craft unions in the railroad industry is an indication that this question will also have to be faced and settled by the railroad workers. The shopmen's strike in 1922 was a good example of the disastrous

results of craft union division in that industry. And the quicker we realize that labor's problems are not going to be solved by pleadings before state legislatures and in the halls of Congress, but by the use of its economic strength and its solidarity on the picket line, the quicker we will get at the important work of consolidating our forces for the battles facing us. A publication like LABOR should use its columns to point out the necessity of building our organizations along lines that will give us the economic strength to win our battles, instead of joining hands with the forces of reaction that are determined to keep the labor movement divided and helpless.

In conclusion, I wish to comment on an article in the Mail Bag column of LABOR, issue of Jan. 28th, headed "Why must millions suffer in the midst of plenty?" Evidently the writer of that article could not understand why it was necessary for LABOR to censor his inquiry and for the purpose of showing the workers how LABOR handled his contribution, he had the original and also LABOR'S abbreviated set up of same, published in the NORTHWEST ORGANIZER, a trade union paper published in Minneapolis, where I happened to read it. Now Mr. Keating, what was in the original article that could not be published in LABOR? What is more natural for a worker, who is bewildered by the contradictions in our social system, than to ask the leader of his labor organization for an explanation of the causes of these conditions and the remedies that must be applied to change them? And is it not also natural for a worker to expect that in his own paper, which he is assessed to support, he should be permitted to express his opinions on problems confronting him

in his daily life and direct questions to his leaders regarding same, without running up against editorial scrambling for some reason or other? Yet I note that this contributor's direct inquiry to our labor leaders has been carefully steered away from them and directed to "some one." What is the reason for this? Is it because you feel that our labor leaders have no answer to the questions asked and by not placing the questions before them, they do not have to bother with a reply? The correct answers to the questions asked by this brother are of great importance to the workers. I note in the February 11th issue of LABOR a MAIL BAG contributor directs us to the Bible for the answer, that "the profit of the earth is for all." Very well, but how are the workers to go about it to get their just share of these profits? That is the important question and our labor leaders, if they have an answer, should feel it their duty to inform us.

LABOR'S censorship of workers correspondence is repugnant to every believer in free and full discussion as a remedy for our social ills. A reply to this letter will be appreciated.

Yours fraternally,
I. NELSON
Member, Lodge 510, B. of L. F. and E.,
2822 Taylor St. N. E.
Minneapolis, Minn.

- MEETING SCHEDULE Local No. 574**
- Monday, March 2—Coal Workers.
 - Tuesday, March 3—Executive Board.
 - Thursday, March 5—Independent Truck Owners, Federal Stewards.
 - Friday, March 6—Federal Workers, all No. 574 Stewards.
 - Monday, March 9—Full membership meeting.
 - Tuesday, March 10—Executive Board.
 - Thursday, March 12—Federal Stewards.
 - Friday, March 13—Coal Stewards, Federal Workers.
 - Monday, March 16—Coal Workers.
 - Tuesday, March 17—St. Patrick's Day.
 - Thursday, March 19—Independent Truck Owners, Federal Stewards.
 - Friday, March 20—All Stewards, Federal Workers.
 - Monday, March 23—Full membership meeting.
 - Tuesday, March 24—Executive Board; Taxi Drivers, Night Drivers, 1 p. m.; Day Drivers, 7 p. m.
 - Thursday, March 26—Federal Stewards.
 - Friday, March 27—Federal Workers, Coal Stewards.
 - Tuesday, March 31—Executive Board.

- MEETING SCHEDULE Furniture Workers No. 1859**
- Wednesday, March 4—Membership meeting.
 - Wednesday, March 18—Membership meeting.
- The Executive Board of Local No. 1859 meets on call of the chairman.
- All special meetings and all department meetings will be called either by special mail notices or will be published in the Northwest Organizer.

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."

Labor in 1936

The year of 1936 has scarcely started when strikes, of unusual character and involving great numbers of workers, are already taking place. In Akron, Ohio, the rubber workers, resenting the speed-up and wage cuts as a part of the New Deal, have struck with militancy and determination that has hitherto been unknown in the rubber industry. New York City is the scene of a strike that is involving the largest number of workers since the textile strikes of 1934. In both of these strikes the large number of workers involved is not the most significant thing. Rather, it is the militancy with which the strikes are being conducted. It is the do or die attitude of the workers involved. This is an indication that the economic pressure has become so great a burden upon the workers in American industry that it no longer be borne.

The new and determined attitude of the workers engaged in this year's largest strikes has brought changes in strike strategy and strike leadership. The necessity that has brought about this militant action of the workers has made them determined that they must not fail and has made them extremely cautious of all sell-out attempts by reactionary labor leaders. The raising of the banner of industrial unionism in the A. F. of L. by the C. I. O. has brought courage and hope to millions of American working men and women. It is safe to say that 1936 will see strike struggles that will assume proportions and will have characteristics never seen before in the American working class arena.

Waiting for an Answer

A serious proposal has been made by eight international unions affiliated to the American Federation of Labor for an immediate large-scale campaign to organize the steel industry. They are ready to back up their proposal with half a million dollars and the services of trained organizers. Their offer has been described as having "strings attached to it." But the only conditions which they have outlined as necessary for a successful campaign are that its leadership must be responsible and aggressive and that steel organization must be along industrial lines. It is difficult to see how any reasonable person can object to either of these conditions. Certainly the steel workers themselves will not object, since the whole proposal is in line with every organized expression of opinion they have made. And the A. F. of L. itself recognized the necessity for industrial organization in steel when it granted the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers a jurisdiction which covers the entire industry.

President William Green of the A. F. of L. has replied to the Committee for Industrial Organization, which made the proposal on behalf of the eight unions, that he has submitted the matter to the members of his executive council for their consideration and decision. He did not grant the committee the immediate conference on the subject which it requested. The proposal is one which calls for immediate action. It cannot wait on the next meeting of the executive council in May. The steel workers and all of labor look with increasing impatience for the organizing campaign which has been called for by convention after convention. A definite plan of action, backed with hard cash, has now been put forward by unions representing more than a third of the A. F. of L. membership. If the council members don't like anything about this plan, let them put forward a better one. But there must be no more delay.

Union Laundry Drivers

It is important that all progressive and forward-thinking people take recognition of the fact that the Laundry Workers and Cleaners are building, here in Minneapolis, a real industrial type of union organization. It is the duty of every trade unionist to give this organization all the assistance in his power.

Almost without exception every member of organized labor, sometime or another, has some dealings with laundry and dry cleaning workers. The Laundry and Dry Cleaning Drivers who belong to Local 18005-183 wear a union button signifying that they are members of this union. No member of organized labor should consider himself or herself as doing their full duty to the organized labor movement unless they demand to see the union button or union card of laundry and dry cleaning drivers with whom they do business.

It is true that this tactic alone will not build a union. But it is a powerful, and often a deciding factor in the success or failure of a union organization. The driving members of Local 18005-183 belong to the only type of organization in the laundry and cleaning industry that can bring real reforms in working conditions for the people involved. Support this organization by demanding the union button.

Keeping Step With 574

By Mickey Dunne

B. Ambrose is the proud owner of a new 1936 Chevrolet truck.

A delegation from the Mankato local called on state WPA officials Friday afternoon.

Do you know that there are a large number of babies born in Yellow cabs every year? It seems that the stork can't wait.

Thousands of workers mourn the passing of Mose Winthrop, labor attorney.

The editor of "Labor Looks at the Press," C. Hudson, has just returned from an eastern jaunt.

The author of the open letter addressed to the editor of "Labor" is a working locomotive engineer on the Soo.

Look for some real developments among the long distance drivers in the near future.

Have you seen the Bartenders' new headquarters on Sixth Street? Very ritzy.

The local Newspaper Guild should do something for their striking sister local in Milwaukee.

SPRING IS HERE

"Honest" John Williams, meter master, broke into verse last week.

Local 574 seated delegates in the Hennepin County Central Committee of the Farmer-Labor Party last week.

CARD OF THANKS

Gratefully acknowledging and thanking you for the flowers and your kind expression of sympathy.

F. R. Hupp.

THINGS THAT DREAMS ARE MADE OF

Cliff Hall announces that Local 500 will have charge of all county work this summer.

Holmes Transfer Co. To Get New Trucks

The Minneapolis Holmes Transfer Company, a 100 per cent union concern, are adding three new trucks to their already large fleet. The rapidly expanding business of this company indicates that unionization of their employees has had a beneficial and health effect on their business.

Bolander Steward Is Married Man

Fred Nelson, master-mind of last season's baseball team and the prospective manager of the 1936 No. 574 team, quietly became a married man sometime during the past winter. The manager seems to have acquired a manager, as it were.

Local 574 to Have Hot Baseball Team

Local No. 574 will have another real high-class baseball team in the field this spring. At the close of last season it is safe to say that the ball team sponsored by our local union was by far the most polished ball club in this part of the country.

Almost without exception the players who finished the season with Local No. 574 team are eager to play again in the uniform of our local union. Manager Nelson announces that he will start to schedule games before the end of this month.

Members of the Executive Board of Local 574 were the pallbearers at the Winthrop funeral Monday.

I WANT OFF

A helper at one of the local transfer companies approached the boss last week and asked if he could have the next Saturday off. The boss replied, "We will be pretty busy Saturday. You had better take some other day." The worker went out of the office, but was back in a short time, repeating his request. The employer finally said, "Why is it so important that you get off Saturday?" the helper replied, "Well, I am going to get married Saturday and I kinda thought dat I would like to be dere."

Bolander's men met in the union hall Friday night.

The difference of opinion in regard to the 48 hour week vs. the eight hour day will be settled some time this week.

Don't be surprised if one Tough Guy slip his head into the yoke this spring.

Just about the whole Strutwear union was in the courthouse Thursday and Saturday. Injunction trouble.

The Non-Partisan Labor Defense still needs about \$250 to complete the appeal of the convicted Strutwear pickets. Donations will be received at the union office.

"Empty Trailer" Gardener was the Big Shot at Pratt's Saturday. He had charge of the election.

It must be the air out there. A truck driver and a dump foreman on the Belt Line, settled their difference, the other day, with the aid of a shovel and a club, respectively.

574 plans on putting a first class baseball team in the field this spring.

THINGS I NEVER KNEW

That the way to organize workers was to write a letter to their boss, a la Meyer Lewis.

But then, I suppose the guy has to do something with his time.

All coal yard stewards should bear in mind the importance of seeing that all of the union members in the yards, when leaving the job, be given a withdrawal card.

If new members continue to come into the union during the balance of the month as fast as they have the first six days, March will be another record month for applications.

Although our death sentence has been pronounced by the Citizens Alliance, Dan Tobin, Meyer Lewis and, we strongly suspect, by some of the Eighth Street Generals, we are still alive and kicking.

And so goes it.

Labor Looks at the Press

Washington news item: "According to A. F. of L. figures just released, unemployment increased more in January, 1936, than in any other January in the past five years. The number of jobless increased 1,229,000 during the month."

And Governor Talmadge, raging against the unemployed, screams: "Let 'em starve." Just let Talmadge and the rest of the bosses try it!

Speaker at a Fascist meeting in Tacoma, Wash.: "Every decent American citizen must unite in the Christian Party . . . We have much vigilante work to do. . . I advise all you people to buy guns. . . Things are going to happen."

Just a forerunner of the kind of talk we can expect to hear all over the country in the next period.

Director of Pres. Roosevelt's pet project, the Warm Springs Foundation, says: "Our Foundation does not have any facilities for handling Negroes—and never has had these facilities."

Akron news item: "Full power to call a general strike in Akron the moment it is found necessary in defense of the 15,000 Goodyear strikers has been vested in a committee of 25 appointed by a special meeting of the Central Labor Union, which embraces 105 local unions."

That's the way a Central Labor Union should act!

Department of commerce report, showing the assistance being given Mussolini by American business interests: "Oil exports in January, 1936, jumped to \$1,238,500 as compared with \$505,000 a year ago; sales of iron and steel scrap increased 325 per cent; shipments of autos increased 100 per cent."

All this should give us a lot of confidence in any "neutrality laws" which Congress rigs up.

From the Christian Science Monitor: "Success of New York's garment workers in abolishing child labor from their industry will bring welcome encouragement to all who are working for the ratification of the Child Labor Amendment."

And the garment workers were able to abolish child labor only because they were well organized in strong industrial unions. The only way to really abolish child labor is to build the union movement. Capitalism has shown for fifteen years that it won't give any concession to the kids.

President of Harvard University: "When one form of government is found by the majority not to answer the grand purpose in any tolerable degree, they may by common consent put an end to it and set up another."

Keep cool, friends—this was in 1775, not in 1936.

President Hoover says, "I am for fish." He ought to be, for it was the fish who elected him in 1928. But they've at least learned not to bite at his hook any more.

Vancouver, B. C., news item: The city of Vancouver has awarded \$50 damages to Mrs. J. Porter for loss of ten canaries which died from tear gas during a battle between striking longshoremen and police near her home recently.

If there had been only five canaries, the cops would have clubbed 'em to death.

Sign of the times: "The Journeymen Tailors' Union, a craft organization, is now voting on whether to go into the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union, a strong industrial union, as a department."

Famous Last Lines: "Oh, you'll get over it. I used to believe in socialism, too, until I was 27."