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THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

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Official Organ of the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council
MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE: 257 PLYMOUTH AVENUE NORTH

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Market Bosses Refuse to Bargain; New Contract For Drivers Denied



Sokolsky declared, "Minneapolis is beginning to get a reputation of being a sort of revolutionary center. The city of Flint and the state of Michigan will not get new industries and some now there will leave."

If Mr. Sokolsky thinks that the workers of Minneapolis don't know what labor-hating concerns can do to a city he should have lived in Minneapolis prior to 1933 when Minneapolis was known as the biggest scab town in the country. Concerns that do not pay a living wage are not wanted in this "revolutionary center."

Investigating the riot at the Ford Motor company, Judge Liddy announced he would not rule until Monday on the motion by James E. Green, Dearborn city attorney, to dismiss the Ford inquiry. Process servers had been unable to locate Bennett, personnel director of the Ford Motor company.

Ford said the riot was caused by foreign agitators, but on the other hand, it is just a coincidence that a truck driver was arrested at the gates of the Great Lakes steel with a complete list UAWA members working in Great Lakes steel? Among the names on the list appeared Richard Frankenstein, organizer for the UAWA at the Ford plant. Incidentally, the truck contained tear gas guns, grenades, cartridges and gas masks. Just getting ready for the Fourth, I suppose.

"It is the Labor Relations board and not the CIO that is charged with the administration of the Wagner Act, and for this purpose, the Labor board is empowered by law to appeal to any circuit in the United States for the enforcement of its orders."

John L. Lewis' failure to appeal to the Labor Relations board to invoke the Wagner Act is, according to Republic Steel, the cause of the strike. It seems that the responsibility of invoking the Wagner Act lies with the union. Unless the union appeals to the board and acts to invoke the law, the law has no function. The fact that the Wagner Act does not require that the employers sign a contract will have little bearing wherever the workers are organized because the issue will be settled by force. And that is the only language that capitalism understands.

1859 to Serve New Pact to Puffer Co.

Furniture Workers Union, Local 1859, next week will present a new union agreement to the Puffer Hubbard Company. The new contract, which has been agreed upon by the men, calls for sharp increases in wages and some improvement in working conditions. Wages called for in the new contract range from 65c to \$1.25 per hour.

MODEL CONTRACT SIGNED BY IUAW, AUSTIN DAIRIES

Agreement Considered to Be One of the Best by Local Trade Unionists

Entire Force from Part Time Office Help to Drivers Signed for

So satisfactory is the agreement signed by the Marigold Dairies of Austin, Minn., and the Independent Union of All Workers there, that it might well be used as a model for other dairy workers, say Minneapolis trade unionists. The agreement, negotiated by the IUAW and signed last week by E. F. Shutt of the Marigold company and John Bray, Howard Ollman and C. N. Nilson of the Austin union is considered to be one of the best agreements of its kind.

Providing for the usual eight-hour day, 48-hour week, and time and one-half for overtime work, the contract includes a wage scale ranging from a minimum of 50 cents per hour for part time office and plant help to \$32.50 per week for retail drivers. Other articles in the agreement provide for a closed shop, a ten-day vacation period, full seniority rights and sole representation.

An agreement identical with this one was signed by the Redman Dairy, another Austin plant. The contract appears as follows:

The parties to this contract, The General Driver Helpers and Inside Workers, Local of the Independent Union of All Workers hereinafter referred to as the Union and Marigold Dairies, Inc., hereinafter referred to as the employer, agree to be bound by the terms and provisions of this contract for the period of one year.

Article I. Working Hours
The basic work day shall be not more than 8 hours; and the basic work week shall be not more than 48 hours. Hours worked by any employee under the jurisdiction of this contract in excess of 8 hours a day or 48 hours a week shall be paid for at the rate of time and one-half. The wage rates set forth below shall apply to the basic work day and the basic work week. Each employee shall

Gas Workers Hold Membership Meet

Gas workers Union met Monday night in the first membership gathering since the signing of the agreement with the Minneapolis Gas Light company. A large crowd was on hand as several members aired grievances that have arisen over the interpretation and application of the contract. Most of these were ironed out at the meeting.

The union voted to pay on a part time basis Bill Thompson, Secretary-Treasurer, and William O'Donnell, Recording Secretary. The placing in the field of a business representative of the union was turned over to a committee who were charged with investigating the feasibility of employing a business agent.

Furniture Stores Shut Down By 544; 200 Men Leave Job

Seven Companies Are Struck When Employers Refuse to Advance Wages to Meet Cost of Living

All furniture stores in Minneapolis were shut down Wednesday morning by a strike of drivers, helpers, and warehouse men called by Local 544, General Drivers, Helpers and Inside Workers Union.

Over 200 men left the trucks, docks and warehouses as union organizers appeared on the scene early Wednesday and instructed furniture workers to leave the job and assemble at the union hall.

Members Must Appear at 544 Meeting Friday

All members of General Drivers Union, regardless of what section of the union to which they belong, are instructed to attend a special membership meeting Friday, 8 p. m., on the third floor of drivers' headquarters. A crisis has been reached in negotiations with employers over contract renewals and it is imperative that information in this regard be given to the entire union membership.

Only those who are employed at the time will be excused from the meeting. Admission will be checked by membership cards.

TWIN CITY GUILD SIGNS UP THREE LOCAL JOURNALS

First Joint Agreement Between Editorial Workers and Local Papers

Strike Averted When Employers Decide to Bargain With Employees

Unionized editorial employees of the three Minneapolis daily newspapers won a smashing victory Wednesday which averted a strike vote by reaching agreements with the publishers under which they obtain substantially higher schedules of minimum pay, five-day, 40-hour week, and numerous other concessions.

This was the first time that the three newspapers had ever committed themselves jointly to maintenance of wage minimums with editorial employees. The agreement was obtained by the Newspaper Guild of the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul, a chartered local of the American Newspaper Guild. The agreements go into effect July 1, 1937, and will run for one year.

Departmental editors, writers, reporters, copy readers, photographers and art department manager will receive the following minimums:

- Less than one year's experience; \$100.
- One to two years' experience; \$110.
- Two to three years' experience; \$140.
- Three to four years' experience; \$173.
- Four or more years' experience; \$200.

544 PUTS STRIKE AUTHORITY INTO HANDS OF BOARD

Complete Authority Voted to Executive Board of Local 544

Move Comes After Unsuccessful Attempts to Renew Agreements

At one of the best attended and most enthusiastic union meetings held since the 1934 strike days the Monday membership meeting of General Drivers Union, Local 544, voted full and complete strike authority to the union's executive board to use when and if they saw fit.

Permission was voted by the membership to place in the hands of the union's executive board the right to call a strike without further consultation of the body in any or all of the nine sections of the union. While cheering and stamping of feet reminiscent of strike meetings of three years ago greeted the union's decision to take whatever action was deemed necessary to compel Minneapolis employers to renew contracts with the organization.

At the meeting the executive board of the local, along with members of various negotiating committees who have been dealing with employers during the past month and a half, were compelled to report to union members that no progress had been made on any front in attempting to get contract renewals.

Union organizers who have been charged with the responsibility of securing new agreements with employers in cases where such contracts have expired reported to the membership that in every case they had met with the concerted refusal of all employers' committees to advance wages further than 65c per hour.

Under the discussion of this report many members took the floor and pointed out that with the tremendous increase in living cost that has taken place during the last year, increase in wages more than that proposed by the employers were absolutely necessary if their present standard of living was to be maintained.

Fargo Drivers Win Strike on Highway

Local 116 of Fargo won the strike they called on highway project 81 where a graveling job was in progress. The contractor on the struck job first stated that he would "throw up" the job rather than submit to the demands of the Drivers Union.

The union committee told the boss that as far as they were concerned he might as well give up the job as to continue paying starvation wages.

After several hours of negotiation the contractor agreed to the union's terms. The settlement brought a raise in wages of 37 1/2% and a CLOSED UNION SHOP.

Market Employers, Drivers Deadlocked in Negotiations

Central Market Operating Under Almost Strike Conditions; Refuses to Meet 544 Demands

Negotiations with employers on the Minneapolis Central Market appear to have reached a deadlock as market employers continue to repeat their offer of 2 1/2 cents an hour increase and state that this is as far as they are able and willing to go.

North Central Council Calls Special Meeting

A special meeting of North Central District Council was called for Thursday night in Minneapolis. Summoned by telephone, district council representatives convened at Drivers headquarters to discuss the drivers union crisis in the Twin Cities. Local council representatives decided on the meeting when it became apparent that Twin City employers were united in their decision to defy drivers unions in both Minneapolis and St. Paul. Should a strike become necessary here, council representatives in this part of the country will be asked to spread the blockade throughout the northwest.

Special Gathering of NCDDC Is Called

A special meeting, called by telegram, of the North Central District Drivers Council convened in Minneapolis Thursday night. The purpose of the gathering was to discuss the present crisis in the trucking industry.

extreme displeasure at the treatment accorded the union by trucking employers. Cooler counsel prevailed and on a motion from the floor strike authority was given the union board. This motion received the unanimous vote of the membership.

The meeting also, by motion, called a special membership meeting for Friday night at which time further decisions in regard to strike action will be made. All members are instructed to be present Friday.

Whole World Watches Steel Strikes; Wagner Labor Act Violated by Four Big Corporations

The entire world is watching the progress of the steel strike as all the forces of the law continue to strike at the picket lines. In Chicago the eight victims of the Memorial Day massacre are dead. In Johnstown, Pa., four pickets have been shot, and are in critical condition. Four others were injured on Monday, two of them children. The mayors of both Johnstown and Youngstown continue to deputize and arm vigilantes for the purpose of breaking the picket lines and "restoring law and order."

Several months ago the Supreme Court of the United States, responding to mass pressure, declared the Wagner Labor Relations Act constitutional. Four of the biggest steel corporations are now engaged in flouting that law. Yet all the forces of the law are turned, not against the violators of the Wagner Act, but against the striking workers, proving again that the workers' salvation does not lie in legislation but in strong, militant labor unions.

On Monday, June 14, there occurred three "riots" at the Cambria mill of the Bethlehem Steel corporation, near Johnstown, Pa. Deputized thugs, under the guise of forcing a pathway through the picket line to allow the entry of "loyal workers" to the plant, injured four persons in the afternoon affray. Two of these injured were little children. Driven back, they again attacked and succeeded in arresting three pickets and an organizer for the SWOC. Again they made an attempt to open the plant. This time they used their guns and when the smoke of battle had cleared, four pickets lay wounded, three of them critically.

On Tuesday, June 15, the mayor of Johnstown began a mass mobilization of deputies, arming them with pistols and clubs. Another attempt will be made, according to the radio, on Wednesday morning, June 16. "Back-to-work" organizations are being formed by the city officials and the bosses.

At Youngstown, Ohio, the mayor is repeating the same process. In Chicago the situation at the Republic Steel plant in the south section of the city remains practically the same. "Loyal workers" continue to hold the plant, eating and sleeping on the premises. At Monroe, Mich., where last week the law succeeded in routing the picket line, the company continues to operate on a "reduced schedule."

Governor Davies of Ohio has been meeting with representatives of the four companies and the union officials, but the Tuesday meeting broke up early in the afternoon when the companies' officials walked out of the meeting, again averring that they would "never sign an agreement."

Make Minneapolis a Union Town

WORLD WATCHES STEEL STRIKES

(Continued from page 1)
The governor is reported as having pleaded with the steel barons to sign a proposed settlement which the union's representatives had agreed to, but had met with complete refusal. Radio reports on Tuesday report President Roosevelt as having asked the steel bosses "a pointed question" as to why they would not fix their signature to an agreement and end the trouble.

Seven thousand miners were called out late last week, by John L. Lewis, in an attempt to cut off the necessary fuel supply from the strike-bound plants. Homer Martin of the UAW is reported as having pledged that, should the strike continue much longer, his men will refuse to handle steel from the four companies.

Sporadic strikes in the auto industry continue to tie up plants all over the east. Latest among these is a strike, called on June 15 against the Fisher Body and Chevrolet plants of the General Motors Corporation at Buffalo, N. Y. Twenty-five hundred men are involved.

A truck strike was called in New York City on June 9 by Local 818 of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters against the Warehouse Association. According to the bosses' figures, 1,000 men are involved. The striking local is composed of haulers of canned foods and perishables, and warehouse workers. Demands are for higher wages (\$36 for laborers and \$37 for checkers), a 40-hour week, union recognition, and seniority. The union claims that wages in the industry are as low as \$18 per week, but the bosses set the average at \$25. It is the fear of the bosses and the hope of the strikers that the strike will spread to include the longshoremen.

At East St. Louis a strike called by the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workers Union, an A. F. of L. affiliate, tied up one of the largest stockyards in the world, on June 8. Thirty thousand head of cattle were left without attendants as the workers left their jobs and formed a picket line outside of the five gates of the yard. The strike was felt immediately by the surrounding packing houses as union truck drivers refused to go through the picket lines. After this development the management of the stockyard declared the market closed and refused to "receive" any more shipments. The strikers are demanding union recognition, 48 hours a week with a guarantee of at least 40 hours work, and a 9c raise which would bring the minimum up to 55c per hour.

Furniture Union at Work in Webster Co.

The Webster Lumber Co., mid-way woodworking concern, is continuing negotiations with Furniture Workers Union over a union agreement that has been proposed there. The union reports that all workers at the Webster company are members of Furniture Workers Union despite the fact that the management contends only a few belong. The proposed agreement calls for increased wages, and a general betterment of working conditions.

Electrical Workers Move Offices to 544

Local 292, Electrical Workers Union, will be installed in their new quarters on the second floor at 257 Plymouth Avenue before the week is out. The offices on the second floor have been newly decorated and some rearranging of the space has been done.

Both sections of the union will have their offices here after the 18th and all meetings will also be held in the building.

Do You Remember?



The July strike continued into August, with the workers holding the city's truck traffic in a bulldog grip. Local 574 has become Local 544, and the Citizens Alliance has changed its name to the Associated Industries. The General Drivers continue to hold the labor-employing employers at bay and to unionize the town.

SCHOOLS AND THE LABOR MOVEMENT

By Marvel Dobbs

The United States Chamber of Commerce, parent body of 1,600 junior and senior chambers in all of the large cities throughout the nation, is sponsoring a program designed to wrest from the American people all the benefits of our present system of education. This plan was devised about five years ago, and after it failed to gain public support, the chamber began to work underground.

Some of the evidences of this diabolical plot are the constant attempts by city and state boards of education to lower the teachers' wage scale, the passage of Teachers' Oath laws in 13 states during the past five years, the curtailment of curricula, overcrowding of classrooms, the outright refusal by banks to loan money to school boards.

A survey conducted by the National Education Society, through its research department, reveals that there were only two states requiring teachers' oaths before the twentieth century. Two states instituted the oath in 1915 and 1917. Six pledges were prescribed between 1921 and 1929. Thirteen oaths were put into effect between 1931 and 1936. There are now 22 states and the District of Columbia which require the teachers to take the oath or affirmation. (The affirmation is allowed where the teachers have conscientious scruples against swearing an oath.) The District of Columbia requires not only the teachers but also the office and maintenance workers to take an oath every month before they receive their salary checks that they "have not taught or advocated communism" during the preceding pay roll period. Their checks can be held up if they do not so swear or affirm. The District of Columbia also requires the oath of allegiance to the flag and the constitution before granting certificates to teach, and these oaths are a part of each contract signed by teachers.

The frequency of taking the oath varies with the different states. In six states this oath is taken at the time of certification. Eleven states require its renewal every few years, or whenever the certificates must be renewed according to law. Five states make the oath a definite part of the teacher's contract and require it to be renewed each year.

Nature of Oath
The nature of the oath varies also, with the different states. Five states require the teacher to pledge to "support and defend" the constitution.

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Seven states add to the constitutional pledge and requirement to "teach by precept and example, love, respect, and undivided allegiance to: (1) the national flag, (2) the state flag, (3) law and order, (4) the government, (5) and American institutions." Rhode Island's pledge contains specific reference to the teacher's personal, civic and professional contacts. Florida requires its teachers to refrain from teaching anything that will conflict with the constitution of the United States. This is also in essence the content of the oath required in Georgia.

In 18 of the 23 areas where the Teachers' Oath laws have been passed there are not specific punishments for non-conformity. In these states the usual method against the teachers who do not conform is to refuse them contracts to teach, and to hold up their certificates. The Oklahoma law provides a fine of from \$100 to \$500 and 60 days to six months in jail. West Virginia makes teachers entering into their duties without first filing their oath liable to a fine of from \$5 to \$20 per month for each month of the period of violation, and the secretary of the board may be fined from \$10 to \$20 for delivering any salary drafts to non-signers.

In Colorado the law makes the issuing of a certificate to teach without the oath attached a misdemeanor and the administrative officer who issues the certificate is liable to a fine of not more than \$100 and imprisonment of not more than six months, or both.

Foreign teachers, in this country for a limited period, and here specifically for the purpose of teaching and lecturing at our universities are required in California and New Jersey to pledge allegiance to the government for the period of their employment. Many states do not include this classification of teachers in the oath laws, but some require that they refrain from "teaching, advocating, or propagandizing in any form, against American institutions, policies and form of government."

Budget Goes Down
In 1936-37, with 27,000,000 pupils enrolled in the public schools in the United States, the money spent on education is to be less than the 1930 budget by \$675,000,000, or an average drop of \$25 per pupil. With the federal government spending millions on munitions and armaments, the emergency in education seems to have taken a back seat. The amount of the annual deficit in educational funds during each of the past seven years is about half of the amount spent annually by the federal government preparing for war in time of peace. A bill is now pending before the national congress providing for the appropriation of the necessary funds to make up this deficit. The money would be apportioned to the school districts by recommendation from the State Commissioners of Education, through the Department of the Interior. The law would require that every district holding classes for 160 days for the school year be given \$25 per pupil, and that schools holding shorter terms be apportioned money in proportion to their term. The measure also relegates all administrative matters of local schools to local and state boards of education. What chance this bill has of passing is problematical.


The curtailment of school budgets has meant much to teacher and pupil the country over. Classes have been overcrowded to a point where pupils coming into the higher classes are actually not prepared for the work. Teachers have taken pay cut after pay cut. Thousands of "little red school houses" in the rural areas have been closed during the depression, and as yet have never been reopened. School text books have suffered in like proportion, though for a different reason. They are edited closely in order to keep down any realization on the part of the young student

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Notice to Members on 544 Withdrawals

No member of the union is allowed to take a withdrawal card for less than two months. This means, for example, that if a member took a withdrawal card out in May and went back to work in July he would have to pay his June dues although he did not work in that month. However, if this man did not return to work until August he would be exempt from both the June and July payments and would be required to pay dues for the month of August only. The withdrawal card is intended for only those members who are leaving employment in the trucking industry as a whole. If a member is going to work on a job elsewhere in the driving trades he should secure a transfer to the local union having jurisdiction in that branch.

Leave of Absence
Members who obtain a leave of absence for any period shall not in the future be exempt from the payment of dues. This means that if a man took a leave of absence in May and did not return to work, let us say, until August he would have to pay his June and July

dues to remain in good standing. If a member who has secured leave of absence becomes more than three months in arrears he must still pay all back dues and the \$7 delinquent fine. This provision is perfectly just because a leave of absence protects seniority rights and it is fundamental that a man must remain a member of the Union to have his seniority rights protected.

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Northern States Drive Against Union Goes On; Members Fired

Local 292 Prepares to Stem Company Campaign
A campaign against the union continues with unabated fury at the Northern States Power Company. Leading figures of the strike period and members high in the council of the union, continue to be discharged, one by one, as apparently no checkmate has been found to block the company in their planned campaign to destroy the militant, efficient section of the union.

There is little question of doubt but that some means must be speedily found to block the management's avowed intention of cutting down the union and intimidating its members to the extent that it will no longer perform efficient service to its members.

It is only common sense to realize that a new deal must be the order of the day for the union of the utility workers.

Two courses only are left open; one is, weak supine submission to the company's campaign, the other is a show down with the company which will bring clarity to the situation, new strength and courage to the union membership and a square deal for the members involved in discriminations.

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Mazy Floral Struck By General Drivers
The Mazy Floral company was struck by Drivers Union last Friday as the company refused to apply seniority and at the same time were found to be wage chiselers.

The entire force of the Mazy company, including those employed in the greenhouse, walked out. The strike is still going on and no deliveries are being made to or from this unfair concern.

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