

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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WORK RELIEF PROGRAM SETS POOR EXAMPLE

Industry Will Follow Low Wage Standards Set By Government

Unions Must Organize Relief Workers to Preserve Conditions

Roosevelt has announced his wage scale on the new \$4,000,000,000 works program from \$19 to \$94 per month. This must now be considered in the further light of the complete wiping out of the NRA which will release the employers from all restriction on hours and wages, with a shining example set by the federal government.

In regions where there is a reasonable amount of organization, especially in the larger industrial centers, workers will be allowed from \$40 to \$55 per month based upon the size of the town. Thus an unskilled worker in a town of less than 5,000 population would earn \$40, and in a large city of over 100,000 he would earn \$55 per month.

When we reach the second region where organization is less powerful the wage scale is lowered \$8 to \$10 per month according to the size of the towns.

The third region, set up in places where there is but little organization, gives the unskilled worker another cut of from \$10 to \$11 per month.

The fourth region takes in that section in which organization is practically unknown and here is where Roosevelt gets in his best work, in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Here the New Dealers make a real bid for the voters, for remember the majority of the negro population is disfranchised on one pretext or another, and the bosses are the ones who furnish the campaign funds. The wages are \$19 to \$30 per month.

There can be no better argument advanced for organization than the setting of this wage scale. It clearly shows that, low as it is, they did consider the force of organization.

There can be but one answer to this challenge flung into the face of labor. It means the destruction of organized labor or a fight to the finish. To permit the government to set such wage scales unchallenged, means a complete demoralization of all American living standards and the establishment of serfdom. We must fight this dastardly onslaught of organized greed with an organized drive of labor that will smash the industrial oligarchy and free the American worker for all time to come.

Meeting Schedule Local 574

Friday, June 7. Stewards.
Monday, June 10: Full membership.
Wednesday, June 12: Market Workers; Ice Drivers.
Friday, June 14: Unemployed Section.
Wednesday, June 19: Ice Drivers.
Thursday, June 20: Independent Truck Owners and Construction Haulers.
Friday, June 21: Stewards.
Monday, June 24: Full Membership.
Tuesday, June 25: Taxi Drivers; night drivers, 1 p. m.; day drivers, 7 p. m.

Taxicab Drivers Renew Agreement

Minneapolis, Minn.—With the expiration of the old contract on June 4, a new agreement has been signed between the Yellow Cab Company and General Drivers Local 574 which will run for nineteen months.

The new agreement provides for an increase in commission to 38 per cent, approval by the union on all new men hired by the company, and a general tightening of methods to be used in hiring or laying off drivers.

The main feature of the agreement is a provision for regular meetings of the company and the union committee for the purpose of arranging shift schedules, stands, and other operating practices so that the drivers may obtain the maximum bookings, and thus guarantee themselves the largest possible salary.

Labor Opposing "Loyalty" Bills

A bill, supported by Hearst, was defeated in the New York State Legislature last week. This bill would have required an oath of loyalty to the Constitution from college students. The defeat of this bill in the state where Hearst is strongest was due to the skillful opposition of student groups from colleges all over the state.

Support the Organizer

The ORGANIZER is a free workers' press which obtains its financial support solely from the subscriptions of individuals and organizations, together with the bundle orders obtained from workers throughout the northwest. Bundles of the first issues have been sent without charge so that you might become acquainted with the editorial policy and stimulate a demand among the workers in your organization and locality. Funds are needed to continue publication. Subscription rates and bundle order prices have been set at a figure which will barely meet the cost of publication. Use the subscription blank provided in each issue to send in individual subscriptions and bundle orders. Support the ORGANIZER so that you may get the labor news in an undiluted form.

FAST GROWING LOCAL 574 IN NEW LOCATION

Union Men Located at 257 Plymouth Avenue North

New Headquarters Formerly Known as Casino Ballroom

Minneapolis, Minn.—General Drivers Union Local 574 is now located at its new headquarters at 257 Plymouth Avenue North. This location was formerly known as the Casino Ballroom and is famous throughout north Minneapolis for its splendid accommodations.

Rearrangement of space has not yet been completed, but even without change the facilities are good. When the proposed rearrangement has been completed there will be three meeting halls, one to seat 1,200, one to seat 350, and one to seat 150. The large hall has a rubber cushioned floor and will accommodate a dance of about 1,000 couples.

There will be ample office facilities with two conference rooms and a library. A club room and gymnasium will also be installed. Kitchen facilities are available and there is a checkroom with accommodations for 600.

The feeling among the membership of the union is that the new headquarters is much more in keeping with the general spirit and continuous growth of Local 574.

Several affairs are already scheduled at the new hall. On Saturday, June 8, a pre-election Farmer-Labor Rally will be held with free dancing and entertainment after the speaking.

On the following Saturday, June 15, the union will hold a housewarming dance, with an admission price of 15 cents at the door. As soon as remodeling operations have been completed, a Grand Opening Ball will be held.

Don't forget the new address, Third and Plymouth North, the old Casino Ballroom.

War Propaganda From Hollywood

The alliance between Hollywood magnates and certain federal officials to propagandize for huge outlays for "preparedness" has cost the taxpayers huge bill. Such films as "Devil Dogs of the Air," "Here Comes the Navy," "Flirtation Walk," and "Don't Give Up the Ship" are made possible by the use of United States airplanes, dirigibles, bombs, battleships, submarines and troops. The bankers, munitions makers and the administration are driving full speed ahead to agitate the workers into another world slaughter.

NRA DECISION IS CHALLENGE TO UNION LEADERS TO MAKE UNIONS EFFECTIVE WEAPONS

Immediate Wage Cuts and Longer Hours Put Into Effect by Employers in Unorganized Industries

The unanimous decision of the Supreme Court handed down last Monday effectively killed whatever was still alive of the NIRA. The decision is significant not only from the legal point of view as demonstrated by the fact that the so-called liberals of the nine wise men of Washington such as Cardozo, Brandeis, voted with the conservative majority, but much more important from the point of view of the workers of this country because of the expected effect of the elimination of the NIRA from

the business life of the country will have upon all those who are employed.

The legal verbiage of the Supreme Court does not give any new aspect to the workers because they knew or at least should have known for a long time that "it is not the province of the Court to consider the economic advantages or disadvantages of" a centralized system which the proponents of the NIRA claimed for the now deceased, NIRA. It was also known, or should have been known to every worker of this country, that on the basis of the long line of decisions handed down by the Supreme Court the property relations, and the sanctity of property is paramount in this country, and human life and interest of and in humanity must give precedent to the property right. This was expressed tellingly by the Supreme Court in the Schechter case when the learned judges threw the destiny of the workers down or up into the rank where rents, advertising, etc are to be found.

It may be of some interest, but probably of no great importance, to look into the reasons why the legislation pertaining to the Nation Recovery, as it is called, was held to be against the Constitution. It is more interesting and also more vital, as far as the working class is concerned to analyze the situation for the purpose of being able to see the effect of the elimination of the NIRA. Not to be misunderstood—the workers know from their own experience that the NIRA, all and parts of it, was in no effective way helping them in their fight against the so-called principal employers of this country.

They recall too well that whenever there was a conflict between the workers on the one side, and Mr. Ford, General Motors, the large coal companies, etc., on the other side, and whenever in such a fight the workers in their innocence invoked the help of the NIRA, the result invariably was special consideration given to the

(Continued on page 2)

Union Collects \$723 Back Pay

Minneapolis, Minn.—Another employer has learned that Local 574 is prepared to enforce compliance with union agreements.

On April 22 this year the Kabish Contracting Company signed an agreement to pay the union scale and conform to other union working conditions. Since that time there have been frequent rumors that the truck drivers were not receiving union pay. There were also mutterings that someone in the union was getting his palm greased.

Numerous attempts were made by the union officials to obtain concrete evidence of violation. Finally on May 29 one of the truck drivers came to the General Drivers headquarters with a complaint showing exactly what hours he had worked and what pay had been received. Armed with this concrete evidence of violation of the agreement, Ray Rainbolt, in charge of the construction section of the union, had all Kabish jobs tied up within an hour. The 16 drivers involved were called to a meeting at union headquarters and a complete record made of the pay which had been withheld.

At 3 p. m. the same day the men had been given back pay amounting to \$723.24 and work was resumed.

"I don't think they will again accuse us of selling out," said Rainbolt, as he left Kabish.

"I don't think so either," said Kabish, with a rueful look on his face, adding "Don't tie me up like that again even if you have to see me twice."

F-L Rally Saturday

Speakers, followed by entertainment and dancing, is the bill of fare at the Farmer-Labor rally at Local 574's new home, the Casino Ballroom, Third and Plymouth, Saturday evening, June 8.

ALL WORKERS INTO THE UNIONS ALL UNIONS INTO THE STRUGGLE

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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."

A Workers' NRA

In rapid succession the United States supreme court has dealt three major blows to the American workers and farmers. Fresh from their success in smashing attempts by the railroad workers to obtain pensions for the men who have grown old in the railroad service, the nine old men in black have turned their guns upon other legislative acts which brought some benefit to the toiling millions. The NRA and the Frazier-Lemke farm mortgage moratorium act have been declared unconstitutional and therefore invalid.

Today great consternation reigns in administrative and legislative circles of the government; the employer-controlled press gives much space in its news columns to speculation over the outcome of the NIRA and Frazier-Lemke decisions, endless statements by confused government officials are printed, while in their editorial columns these dailies chuckle gleefully over this open attack by the supreme court. Workers and farmers everywhere are asking, 'What does this mean? What will happen now?'

There is in reality no great cause for alarm. This decision was bound to come. The supreme court carried out its function just as it was intended by the creators of that body. The role of the supreme court is to safeguard the interests of those who control the nation's wealth. The danger to the workers lies in the fact that those who pose as labor leaders close their eyes to this basic truth and blunder onward toward this inevitable stone wall. In the face of this withering attack against reform legislation, the misleaders at the top of the A. F. of L. go blindly forward on the same insane program, pinning their every hope on further legislation "to settle labor disputes and provide for the unemployed."

A dozen NIRA's, Wagner bills, Lundeen bills and Frazier-Lemke acts will not provide the solution to the social problems of today. A leadership which attempts to win for the workers and the farmers by concentrating its efforts on petitions, letters and telegrams to congressmen, together with occasional demonstrations for this or that bill, in an attempt to put through legislative reforms, is leading the masses into a dangerous swamp. Such reforms are of course desirable, and a great effort should be put forward to obtain them. But to gamble the future of the workers and the farmers on this and this alone is a dangerous game which is destined to prove fatal.

The nine old men in black are very nimble despite their years. They will be found waiting at the end of every legislative trail. If the legislation is favorable to the big employers, the controllers of the nation's wealth, it will be found constitutional; if it is found to be against the interests of the big employers, it will be declared unconstitutional and invalid.

If this method ceases to be effective a change will be attempted. On that day the controlling interests will resort to sterner measures. They will attempt to force to saddle a Hitler or a Mussolini upon the American workers and farmers. Organizations built about a program of agitation for paper reforms will be swept aside like so much chaff. The big league petition artists will have plenty of time to think it over in concentration camps to figure out what happened.

There is only one way to stop a mortgage foreclosure sale effectively—a strong farmers' organization which knows how to fight.

There is only one way to obtain real benefits for the employed and unemployed workers—well organized workers' unions which fight for shorter hours, higher pay, and improved working conditions. There is only one instrument with which to smash a company union—a fighting picket line.

Every worker into his union! Every union into the struggle for shorter hours and higher pay! The workers must write their own NRA through union contracts with the employers.

Decision on NRA Is Challenge to Labor

(Continued from page 1)

large employers; as in the President's automobile decision or in the decision pertaining to the longshore men and shipping workers.

The lesson learned by the workers in the anthracite field of Pennsylvania cannot be forgotten because it clearly showed that the authorities in charge of the enforcement of the NIRA were neither willing nor able, nor at any time ready to challenge effectively the coal barons for the purpose of securing the meager advantages which the NIRA alleged to give to the workers. It cannot be forgotten how flagrantly the decisions of the NIRA board were violated by men of the type and size of Weir of the Weirton Steel Companies, nor did the workers forget the pitiful and cowardly attitude of the government representatives in the recent Toledo strike, or the humiliation which the National Labor Board or Madam Fannie Perkins was exposed to in the controversy with the rubber barons, in which controversy the government and the blue buzzard representing the NIRA came out second best.

There is very little sentiment left among workers for the NIRA; as a matter of cold facts, the disillusionment was growing from month to month and from week to week, seeing the actual disability of the Labor Boards to accomplish anything favorable for the employees, whenever resort was made to the legislation based upon the NIRA. Even though the NIRA was of little, if any, help to the workers in their fight with large employers, there is another aspect of the thing which cannot be lost sight of; this is the changed relationship brought about by the NIRA between workers and the small employers.

It cannot be forgotten that during the past two years millions of workers employed in one-horse shops or in the so-called sweat shops, or in shops which are not considered industrial ones, the working conditions and the basic wages were changed to the great benefit of the workers. Looking over the thousands of small shops, wherein the cheap aprons and house dresses are manufactured, checking up on the small restaurants, taking into account the improvement brought about by the NIRA in the employment of children, there were a great number of workers in this country who for the first time in history were affected by legislation in a manner as they could and should have been affected by trade union organizations.

It is also not to be denied that the trade unions were picking up great numbers of workers in industries hitherto closed to the trade union movement. All these advantages are going to be, as a matter of fact are already today wiped off the slate. It is well to hear Mr. Massman, president of the Grocery Chain Store Distribution Association, warning his associates that "hasty changes in price, wages or hours of employment might upset business and market conditions. Chain store operators maintaining a far-sighted point of view and proceeding with deliberation will aid business stability and preserve public confidence." It is well to listen to him but we, on the basis of experience, may figure there will be very few chain store operators "maintaining a far-sighted point of view."

It is to be expected that the ink will not be dry on the decision of the Supreme Court when the gentlemen, many of them operating

chain stores, will rush to the bulletin board to inform their employees of changed conditions, as it was done in Chicago by the large department store, the Fair, where the butchers were put to work on the old basis and had to report 24 hours after the decision of the Supreme Court at 8 o'clock instead of 9 to work until 6 o'clock instead of 5:30.

It sounds almost too good when Mr. Harper Sibley, president of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States calls upon American industry and business men "to preserve for the present the wages and work hours established under the NIRA," because, as he stated, for the American business man "this is the moment to prove his good faith."

The American worker, no matter how short his memory is, did not and could not forget that in 1929 when the depression set in, President Hoover called upon the great business men of the country to see us through the "temporary" depression, promises were readily forthcoming. The same business men who have their moment now to prove their good faith had their opportunity, and did headline through the papers of the country that wages shall not be cut, and then rushed to the train to go back to their respective businesses and announce wage cuts and so-called temporary lay-offs lasting for the past five years.

Today, when we have these modern methods of communication, the important decision of the Supreme Court was no secret for any length of time at any place. Honolulu, as the Associated Press reported, already on the 28th of this month predicted "prompt return of low wages and longer hours where in certain restaurants, waitresses returned to the wage basis of \$4.00 for a seven day week."

The American worker cannot fool himself that the result can be anything but a general lowering of wage scales and a still more general increase in working hours. He must be ready now that the decks are clear for action. He must give an answer, and the only

Biographies HENRY PEREAULT

This week we extol another cigarmaker, according to the Federation Year Book, a trade unionist of the old school. Henry Pereaault makes no boast of being progressive and is known as a very bitter opponent of those who propose changes in organization from the craft to the industrial form. Politically he stands for the policy of trading and has a keen eye to see that he always gets his share of the trade.

He enjoys many privileges at the expense of the people of Duluth. Besides being adept at rolling cigars, he is said to be able to roll ivory very well. He has never been incited to live in the open, preferring to live shady and secluded. When in action, he inspires one with the feeling that you can really like Henry better where the light is strongest.

The well informed in Duluth have little differences as regards his service to the interests that control the head of the lake. His service to them is not a matter of question. Organization work among the employees of these interests has been strangely absent, although Henry Pereaault has been a representative of the A. F. of L. and the State Federation as well as vice president for many years.

We hope he will soon devote himself to a task of writing the true history of "Spies of Steel," for we are sure he could give some startling information about Who is Who on the payroll of the steel trust in and about Duluth.

possible one to those who up to now have controlled the life and destiny of 125 million people in this country.

The American worker must respond to the coming onslaught of the employers against the living standards by an effective method of organization. Their answer must be—into the unions to fight for higher standards, and to fight effectively as only can be done by strong and all embracing unions.

Labor Looks at the Press

Conservatives holler because they are patriotic, liberals because they are informed. Both are mistaken.

* * *
Patriotism is the name men give to their fears for their fortunes.

Journalism in 1935

"During the recent Sacramento criminal syndicalism trial, a reporter from the Sacramento BEE slipped a note to Albert Goldman, Non-Partisan Labor defense attorney, apologizing in advance for the fact that the BEE would distort the report of his speech to the jury."—The NATION.

* * *
Sacramento BEE wins Pulitzer Prize for Journalism—headline.

The Higher Logic.

"We must violate free speech and free press in order to preserve them."—Walter Lippman.

Remember This

"The relation that exists between the officers and the enlisted men in the United States Army is not a military relation; it is a feudal relation; it is a social relation . . . It is a relation that ex-

ists between men of a superior caste and men of an inferior caste."—Major J. E. Runcie, West Point.

We're Worried About This Too

"It is folly to continue relief so extravagant that it undermines the morale of those who receive it."—Congress of American Business and Industry, recently held at White Sulphur Springs.

Ohhhh, Mr. Coffman

"Strikers at the Colt Patent Fire Arms plant in Hartford were recently joined on their 6 a. m. picket line by a delegation of 84 students from nine eastern colleges—Wesleyan, Amherst, Smith, Yale, Trinity, Mt. Holyoke, Connecticut State, Vassar and Barnard."—Hartford new item.

* * *
"William Randolph Hearst, the great American patriot (according to his own advertisements) says there's a lot of difference between the United States and Russia. There is—about 4 inches. Over there they plow beside the row—here we plow down the middle." — Wisconsin Leader.