

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

Postal, K. M.
1116 Aldrich N.
Minneapolis, Minn.

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!

VOLUME 1, NO. 18

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 21, 1935

PRICE 5 CENTS

UNIONS TO FIGHT RELIEF CUT

STRIKE RANKS GROWING FAST AT STRUTWEAR

**Pickets Close Plant in Face
of Violent Attack
by Police**

**Strikers Hold Funeral for
Company Union as Real
Union Grows**

The Strutwear Knitting Company, long recognized as one of the most infamous sweat shops in the city of Minneapolis, has finally met with a labor force capable of dealing with it. For many years this company has maintained an efficient stool pigeon system, company unionism, the speed-up and stretch-out system, child-labor and all the other vicious practices which go to make big profit for the bosses and miserable conditions for the workers.

Organized under the Minneapolis branch of the American Federation of Hosiery Workers, the Strutwear went out on strike on Friday morning, August 16. The demands of the strikers are union recognition, reinstatement of eight workers discharged for union affiliation, rates of pay on the basis of the scale existing in the five hosiery plants in the middle west and shop committees.

During the organization campaign, Mrs. Struthers, the head of the firm, and Kenneth Comer, the manager, were seen standing in a window of the West hotel with a pair of binoculars, making up a list of the names of the workers who attended a union meeting in the Lumber Exchange building across the street. Immediately after this meeting several men were discharged and as the organization work went on, other workers were discharged as quickly as they took the floor in a union meeting to speak in favor of organization.

The rates of pay at the Strutwear plant are as low as \$13.20 per week for some classifications of employees and even the most skilled employees receive from four to six dollars per week less than is paid in other plants in the middle west. The shop committee asked by the union is a most vital and valuable part of any union. Its function is to represent the workers from day to day in the plant to see that union conditions are maintained and to guard against discriminations and abuse on the part of the company's petty tyrants in various departments.

The strikers encountered little difficulty and there was no disturbance in the closing of the

(Continued on page 2)

Local 574 Makes Gain at Red Wing

While we have not yet received the reports from the committee sent to Red Wing by Local 574, we have received sufficient information to know that the newspaper reports do not give a correct picture of the events at the convention of the State Federation of Labor. Local 574 is reported to have lost its fight at the convention, but this is not the case. The question of the union's reinstatement in the A. F. of L. was before the meeting almost constantly, and the real intention, to acquaint the delegates with the truth about the charter revocation, was thoroughly accomplished. There is ample evidence to indicate that this was the most progressive and fruitful convention held in many years.

574 Aids Rural Relief Workers

Having been informed that appropriations for the August budget had been exhausted and relief work would have to be shut down, a committee of relief workers from Rural Hennepin County came to Local 574 to see what could be done about it. A Committee from the Federal Workers Section of Local 574 accompanied them to the office of Mr. L. P. Zimmerman, Relief Administrator in St. Paul, and as a result of the visit, an additional \$5,000 has been appropriated to provide for relief jobs in Rural Hennepin during the balance of the month.

LATHERS WALK OUT; DEMAND A 30 HOUR WEEK

**All Jobs Tied Up by Union;
22 Employers Sign
Agreement**

**Equalization of Hours and
Union Control Goal
of Workers**

Between 50 and 70 jobs have been tied up by the Lathers' Union, Local 190 since Monday, August 19. The demands of the Union are a wage scale of \$1.20 per hour, the six hour day and 30 hour week, double time for overtime. It is encouraging to see this battle waged for the 30 hour work week, which has come to be generally recognized as absolutely essential for any sort of relief in the unemployment problem. The union is demanding that all hiring be done through the workers' organization, not on the basis of a bureaucratic job trust but under the guidance of an elected committee from the union which will assign men to the job on the basis of rotation and equalization of hours. The job steward system will be used on each individual job.

Meeting at the strike headquarters at 2525 East Franklin on the morning of August 21, 22 of the employers, general contractors and jobbing contractors, signed the agreement. These employers represented a large section of the

(Continued on page 2)

State Federation Aids Metal Union

All plants involved in the strike of the Ornamental Metal Workers, Local 1313, are still completely tied up. The Stanley Iron Works, which issued a statement last week that it is going out of business, has since changed its mind and now announces that it will be out of business only until the strike is over. The Strike Committee has refused the request of the State Highway Department for a permit to remove some materials from the Crown Iron Works. The desired material was manufactured in May and has lain in storage in the plant since that time. The Union informed the Highway Department that in its opinion the State Government should be placing pressure upon

(Continued on page 2)

Gamble-Robinson On 48-Hour Basis

The Gamble-Robinson Company has agreed with Local 574 that the road drivers will be paid on the basis of a 48 hour week with the overtime differential for all time in excess of that number of hours. It has been the practice for some time to work these drivers from 70 to 90 hours a week with a salary of \$125.00 per month. The men should receive from \$42 to \$57 per week for that many hours. The question of back pay has also been taken up and is now being threshed out. All drivers are warned against entering into special agreements.

MOVE STARTED TO ELIMINATE RELIEF RAISE

**City Administration Wasn't
Elected to Reduce Liv-
ing Standards**

**Local 574 Federal Workers
Meet Friday to Plan
Opposition**

Once again the Farmer-Labor administration in power in the city government has backed down before the pressure of the employing class and made concessions which are taken out of the workers. Behind locked doors, the city council ways and means committee and the members of the welfare and estimate boards Tuesday afternoon voted to "hold in abeyance, temporarily at least," the increases in the relief allowances adopted early in August.

It was further decided that relief shall be applied under the old schedule in accordance with family needs rather than by any fixed schedule. What this actually means is that relief shall be applied on the basis of chiseling each allotment down to the smallest possible amount. This is further characterized as a "scientific basis in cooperation with state and federal authorities."

The local press reports "general accord among the conferees on the program, with the exception of an emphatic no vote by Alderman Edwin I. Hudson on the proposal to suspend the increase in relief allowances voted by the welfare board."

This action came as an aftermath of the regular meeting of the welfare board on Tuesday morning at which no definite action in this direction was taken. The recommendations of the special meeting will be brought in at the next meeting of the welfare board.

Speaking on the question of withdrawing the relief increases, Mayor Latimer reported that a promise had been made to provide additional funds from the state and federal governments contingent on adherence to the schedule of relief allowances effective prior to August 1. As a matter of fact, the welfare board can obtain an unusually large allotment if it returns to the old system. The government will do this because it wants to prevent the establishing of a precedent in Minneapolis which will lead to struggles for relief increases in other cities.

In dealing with the relief question constant mention is made of

(Continued on page 2)

RAY DUNNE BRUTALLY CLUBBED, BOOTED BY POLICE

Among the other provocative acts which they performed at the Strutwear plant on Monday morning, the police deliberately went out of their way to attack V. R. Dunne, an officer of the General Drivers Union, Local 574. Dunne was snatched from the picket line, dragged into the inside vestibule of the plant where he was strangled into insensibility and beaten and kicked with clubs, fists and boots. Not satisfied with the job which they were doing, the police invited the scabs who were in the plant to jump in and take a few kicks for themselves. All this occurred within the sight of dozens of pickets who could view the scene through the glass doors at the front entrance. A short time later a police patrol was sent down to take Dunne to jail but it was forced to turn back when the pickets threatened to upset it in the street. Having failed in

this, the police finally smuggled him out in an armored car without the knowledge of the pickets.

Meantime, Dunne's family doctor, who had been called by the strikers, was refused entry into the plant, the police telling him that Dunne was not injured. Taken to the city jail and finger-

Baseball Sunday

On Sunday, August 25, a double header will be played at Nicollet Park. The first game is at 1 p. m. between the CCC camp No. 787 and the Tenth Ward team. The second game is scheduled for 3 p. m. between General Drivers Union Local 574 and the Flour Cities. The admission to both games will be 35c. The proceeds are to go for a benefit fund for the disabled members of Local 574. Outside of Local 574, the Flour City is the best team in Minneapolis. This will be a real game. EVERYBODY OUT!

printed, Dunne, was finally sent to the City Hospital when he continued to demand medical attention because of the terrific pain in his chest. At the hospital, he was forced to sit on a wooden bench a long while until an X-ray was finally taken which disclosed that three of his ribs had been broken by the boots of the police.

Intending at first to charge him with "inciting to riot," the police finally filed charges of "failure to obey an officer" and he was released on \$25 bail, taken out of the jail by members of the union, who immediately hurried him to his doctor, where he received proper medical attention. He is now at home, enduring the agony of three broken ribs and numberless bruises and scratches from head to foot. Unable to appear on Tuesday morning because of his injury, the case was laid over for one week by Judge Wright.

ALL WORKERS INTO THE UNIONS ALL UNIONS INTO THE STRUGGLE

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

Published every Wednesday under the auspices of the
Northwest Labor Unity Conference

OFFICE OF PUBLICATION
257 PLYMOUTH AVE. N.

GENERAL OFFICE: 286 EAST 6TH STREET, ST. PAUL, MINN.

Subscription Rates

One year in advance	\$1.00
Six months in advance	.65
Bundle copies (10 copy minimum), each	.02 1/2

Entered as second class matter May 1st, 1935, at the Postoffice at Minneapolis, Minnesota, under act of March 3, 1879.

"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."

The New York Relief Strike

Reports from the daily press continue to indicate that the strike of relief workers in New York has died a natural death. Once again we must repeat, this is not the case. There are still over 100,000 workers out on strike. It is true that there is great confusion in the strike but this is not the fault of the workers. The same splitting policies which have long rendered the Building Trades Unions ineffective obtain in this strike. According to custom, we find one branch of the Building Trade continuing to work on a project while other branches are out in support of the strike, and again we find unions out one day, back the next, until chaos reigns.

Once again we see clearly revealed the fatal disease with which the A. F. of L. is afflicted, craft unionism. The Building Trades are not giving anything to the unemployed when they join this strike; it is their own fight as well. If the Roosevelt wage scale prevails, the aristocrats of the Building Trades unions will soon be working for the same rates of pay as the relief workers. If they hope to maintain their scale, they must divorce themselves from their past and embark upon a new program of proper co-operation between groups of workers in a common fight against a common enemy.

Once Again, the Police!

The same type of performance has just been given at the Strutwear Knitting Works as was recently carried out at the Flour City Ornamental Iron Works. On the most critical day of the strike, the first morning, the Strutwear plant was closed completely without destruction of property or physical violence. On this day there were only a very few police present. On the fourth day of the strike, after the plant had been completely closed during this period and there had been no disturbances whatever, the police department, in large numbers, with hand-picked officers, noted for their brutality, attacked the picket line at the plant, prevented with fists, clubs and guns, the workers' constitutional rights to peaceful picketing, and herded all the scabs which they could find into the plant.

Many workers who were deceived before the election are now completely undeceived. They now realize clearly that strikes are strikes, bosses are bosses, police are police, city administrations are administrations sworn to uphold the law, the law of the boss. The only road to the unionization of Minneapolis is the road of militant unions and solid fighting picket lines. There is no substitute in any shape or form, either economic or political.

Union Sentiment

Another evidence of the strong growth of union sentiment in Minneapolis was discovered on the picket line at the Strutwear plant on Monday morning. When the pickets shook down the newspaper men for union credentials they found that almost every one of them carried a card in the newspaper guild. In fact the newspaper boys reported that they were 94% organized in the Twin Cities. More power to you, brother workers, and don't forget to give the unions a break in the stories you write about strikes.

"Indignation" and "Riot"

In listening to the radio broadcasts of the Taxpayers Association, an organization of propertied individuals banded together in a common effort to reduce relief allowances, it is interesting to note the manner in which they characterize their own protest demonstrations. They are called "indignation meetings," and have the full sanction and protection of the law and police.

When the propertyless, who outnumber the others 50 to 1, hold a protest demonstration, they do not have the sanction of the law and they are forced to protect themselves against the violence of the police, who try to break up the demonstrations and instead of an "indignation meeting," the newspapers call this a riot.

Unions Will Fight Relief Reduction

(Continued from page 1)

the shortage of funds for relief purposes. This gives rise to the question, who should provide these funds? Naturally, those who control the nation's wealth, the means of production, and under capitalism, the monies which are used as a medium of exchange in the commodity markets. These are the ones who must provide for the relief of the unemployed. Let us see how they are faring.

Today, the stockholders in the big corporations are enjoying larger dividends than they have received since 1929. The Sears-Roebuck Company paid over 60 million dollars in dividends during the first six months of 1935. All corporations have enjoyed proportionate increases in their profits. This data is a matter of record in the government reports.

The following quotations from the **New Republic**, obtained from the official figures of the Securities Exchange Commission and the Bureau of Labor Statistics in Washington, give a clear picture of the distribution of profits between employer and worker. In the year 1934, in 27 large corporations the average weekly wage of the heads of the firms was \$1,232, while the average weekly wage of the employees of these firms was \$21. M. J. Condon of the American Snuff Company received \$1,236 weekly, his workers received an average of \$14 per week. Walter S. Gifford of the A. T. and T. Company was paid \$3,966 per week, while the skilled telephone workers received an average of \$27. Bethlehem Steel's Charles M. Schwab struggled along on a mere \$4,807 each week, his employees wallowed in luxury on a wage of \$19. S. C. Stampleman, head of the Gillette Safety Razor Company, got \$1,154 weekly, the workers \$20. In addition to his fat salary, the boss received large dividend checks on the stock which he held. The wage of the worker was his sole income.

This same lop-sided distribution obtains between the employing class and the working class in Minneapolis. Thousands of workers are idle, not by choice, but because capitalism has no place for them. These workers and their families must be fed, clothed and sheltered. And further, these necessities must be provided in sufficient quantity to relieve hardship and suffering;

State Federation Aids Metal Union

(Continued from page 1)

the Crown Iron Works to meet with the Union and negotiate a settlement of the strike, rather than to be demanding a permit from the Strike Committee to enter the struck plant and remove this material.

After President Bergstrom of Local 1313 had spoken before the convention of the State Federation of Labor, that body voted its full endorsement of the strike of the Metal Workers and issued a call for all labor to give the strike full support.

The attorneys for the Union are now preparing the briefs for the appeal to the State Supreme Court from the conviction of the five pickets arrested for picketing the home of A. C. Gustafson, one of the Flour City Iron Works scab-herders.

The Secretary of the Strike Committee reports that \$677.22 in donations have been received from other unions and sympathetic individuals of the Twin Cities.

Meeting Schedule Local 574

Monday, Aug. 26: Full Membership
Tuesday, Aug. 27: Taxi Drivers; night drivers, 1 p. m.; day drivers, 7 p. m.
Friday, Aug. 30: Federal Workers

the schedule to which it is now proposed to return does not fill the requirements. The new schedule under the increase is a decided improvement but is still far short of what should be the American standard of living. The relief workers do not propose to have it taken away from them.

The workers of Minneapolis did not elect the Farmer-Labor administration to office to receive the same treatment from them that they got from their predecessors. They expect the things which were promised to them. A decided improvement in their living conditions. It solves nothing to make faltering and lame excuses about lack of funds. Funds for relief purposes must be obtained from those who have them.

The members of the Federal Workers Section of Local 574 are determined that they shall not lose the gains which have been made. They are determined to act organizationally for their own self-protection. At their meeting on Friday, August 23, this question will be placed on the order of the day and a plan of action determined upon.

Union Ranks Grow Big at Strutwear

(Continued from page 1)

plant on Friday morning. The only disorder of the day occurred when one of the office managers went among the pickets and tried to induce them to fight their way into the plant where they did not want to go. To clearly explain their feeling towards his program, one of the strikers struck the office manager on the jaw.

On Monday, however, the situation was entirely different. The newspapers carried an announcement that the plant was to be reopened under police protection and there were 68 policemen on duty at the plant. Among these 68 were many who had gained fame for their brutality in previous strikes. The pickets were driven from the sidewalk where they were picketing entirely within their legal rights and clubbed until they withdrew to the opposite side of the street. One of the cops, not satisfied with clubbing, drew his gun and fired a shot to further intimidate the pickets.

At 3 p. m. when the plant decided to close for the day, the scabs were marched out of the rear door under the protection of a heavy cordon of police and led down Seventh Street toward the loop. It was apparent that the plan was to place them on street cars at Eighth Avenue South but the marching group of strikers which followed this despicable procession made it so hot for them that they had to change their plans. The march continued down Seventh Street until the column arrived at the town rat-hole, The Dayton Department Store, where the police herded the scabs into the store, attempting to keep the pickets out. The plan was to permit the scabs to filter in among the customers in the Dayton store and thus sneak into some dark corner and hide themselves from the world which they were ashamed to face. The pickets, however, found ways and means of getting inside and the scabs were discouraged from attempting to repeat their

Lathers Demand A 30 Hour Week

(Continued from page 1)

industry but the union is still confronted with the especial task of cleaning up a chiseling fringe, the chronic labor exploiters. The men will return on Thursday morning to the jobs of those employers who have signed. Meantime, the Strike Committee has issued a call for even greater vigilance, anticipating that the Citizens Alliance may at any time resort to a counter-attack upon the union. All organizations are urged and invited to send delegates to the Strike Committee meeting and to stand ready to come to the aid of the striking Lathers if violence is precipitated by the Citizens Alliance and the Police Department.

The union is determined that all employers shall sign and adhere to this agreement, which runs to May 1, 1936, and arrangements are being made to provide a permanent check to enforce continuous compliance.

Monday performance.

Only eight of the 180 skilled knitters employed by the Strutwear were seen in the scab column. Seven of these are professional scabs who, on previous occasions, have left their machines at the Strutwear plant at the request of the management to go to some other city to scab on hosiery workers who were out on strike. The remaining 172 knitters are with the Union and on the picket line.

At the Union meeting on Tuesday evening, over 50 girls working in the plant were present. They reported that a large majority of the many girls employed by the company are with the union and in favor of the strike but were deceived by the company propaganda. Some of those present had been among the scabs who entered the plant on Monday.

On Wednesday afternoon the strikers have arranged to hold a funeral for the Strutwear Company Union. A coffin has been obtained, and the funeral procession will circle the plant several times, after which the final rites for the company union will be held in a vacant lot across the street from the plant.

The strike has received the solid and militant support of the Machinists Union, the Metal Workers, the Filling Station Attendants, General Drivers Local 574 and the unemployed. Local 574 has refused to make deliveries to or from the plant until the strike is settled.

The picket committee of the strikers has broadcast an appeal to all Minneapolis workers to come out in support of the strike and to see that a heavy picket line is maintained every day, all day, until the Strutwear Knitting Company meets with the demands of the union.

Union Notes

Last Saturday Oscar (alias Lee) Gardner wandered out to the N. W. Terminal and got into an argument. When the smoke cleared away, the job was 100 per cent union.

On Monday afternoon a Committee from Local 574 met with a Committee from the Transfer Men's Association to take up the question of a new agreement for the transfer section. This meeting was merely a preliminary discussion which will begin the work of drafting an agreement. A special meeting of all transfer stewards has been called for Thursday evening, August 22.