

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, OCTOBER 9, 1935

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ARMORED CARS HIT BY LABOR

Union Contract Renewal Brings Raise to Laundry Drivers and Inside Men

Local 18005 to Deal for All
Employees in Laundry
Industry

Agreement Provides Better
Hours and Raises
in Pay

The joint local of laundry workers, cleaners and drivers, 18005 and 183, has signed a renewal agreement with the employers which brings the workers real gains.

For the first time in Minneapolis, an agreement has been signed for the drivers with 32 plants, several of which were previously entirely non-union.

The drivers will receive a guaranteed minimum wage of \$18 to \$20 per week with additional commissions according to the volume of their business.

The former wage scale and hours will prevail on the inside. However, with seniority rights now recognized it will mean an actual pay increase and shortening of hours for these workers.

Pittsburgh Seniority Disputes Are Settled

At the Pittsburgh Coal Company the disputes over the seniority list have been settled. A visit to the yard by the coal organizer, which resulted in a frank discussion with the men, settled this question.

Most of the complaints that have come during the past few weeks from the coal yards have been over the question of seniority. To date they have all been settled peaceably.

Members working in coal yards should take notice that whenever a dispute over seniority occurs, this matter should be immediately referred to the yard steward. If he cannot settle it, it should be immediately brought to the union, where a speedy action is assured.

Local 574 Downs Lake Street Merchants 12-0

Local 574 football team won their opening game when they defeated the Lake Street Merchants Sunday by the score of 12 to 0. Playing a brand of ball that shows that they have received sound coaching, there is no question but what they will be able to give a good account of themselves in the Park Board league in which they are enrolled.

The touchdowns came in the second and third quarters and were scored by Fritz Snyder, fullback, and Jack Novack, quarter. Coach Moe Hork announced that there will be two practice sessions this week at Farview park on Wednesday and Friday nights. The next regular game will be played Sunday. Their opponent will be the National Food team.

Corcoran Holds Mass Meeting of 4 Drivers

Monday night, September 30, there was enacted, at the Central Labor Union Hall, another act in the comedy entitled 'A Laundry Driver's Dream.' The officials of the Teamsters Joint Council had called another mass (?) meeting of laundry drivers for that evening. It was supposed to have been a deep and dark secret. Caution was the order of the day.

All Monday the Master Minds of the Teamsters Joint Council had been walking about on tip-toe. Great care had been taken that the wrong people did not know about the gathering. When the meeting time arrived it became apparent that 100 per cent results

Supreme Court Hears Fargo 'Riot' Case; 'Riot' Frameup Exposed in South Dakota

On October 1 North Dakota's supreme court heard the appeal in the Fargo 'riot' case from the conviction of the 16 defendants in the lower court. Quinton Burdick of Fargo appeared as attorney for the Non-Partisan Labor Defense who is defending the workers and A. R. Bergensen represented the state. Decision rests in the hands of Judges Burke, Burr, Christianson, Morris and Nussele.

had been achieved as far as secrecy was concerned. Not even the laundry drivers themselves knew about the meeting.

At 8:30 seven drivers were gathered around the door wondering what it was all about. Among the seven it appeared that there were three that were not quite kosher. Something must be done to get rid of the three outlaws. So the word was passed around that the meeting would be adjourned and reconvened later.

Proof that state officials have conspired to frame and jail workers has been furnished by a labor paper, The South Dakota News. Threatened with damage and libel suits for exposing a plot to frame workers on a "riot" charge inspired by the state department of justice, the editor said, "We will continue to print the truth. If that is libel they can make the most of it."

Union Acts on Relief Moving

The manner of moving relief clients, long a sore spot in the local relief set-up, has been reformed to some extent. A committee from local 574 along with a committee from the transfer employers appeared before the Welfare Board protesting against the practice of giving this business to the Salvation Army and demanding that the moving of relief clients be done by regular transfer firms who employ labor that receives the union scale.

As a result of this action hereafter relief clients will be moved by regular transfer firms. The welfare board passed a resolution allowing \$10 for each moving job and went on record for allowing the transfer firms to bid on this work.

This action assures relief clients that they can be moved when they wish and by competent workmen who receive a living wage.

Union Scale Will Be Paid on School Coal

The coal drivers section of 574 scored another real victory when they caused a revision in the specifications of the school coal contracts. A committee from the union visited the school board and insisted that the specifications be changed to conform to the wage and hour provisions of our contract with the coal employers.

Tuesday a letter was received from the school board which reads in part as follows. "I am glad to be able to report that the changes you wanted in the school board contracts are going into the new contracts, although the bids were in a great part accepted, that is to say where trucks are hired to deliver coal by an independent truck, they are to receive 60 cents a ton, truck drivers are to receive 60 cents per hour, common labor is to receive 50 cents per hour with time and one half for overtime."

Meeting Schedule Local 574

Friday, Oct. 11: Stewards.
Monday, Oct. 14: Full Membership.
Thursday, Oct. 17: Independent Truck Owners.
Friday, Oct. 18: Federal Workers.
Monday, Oct. 21: Coal Workers.

Labor Mourns Passing of Fighter

Julius Frederick Emme, age 56, who resided at 1286 Lincoln Avenue, St. Paul, passed away Saturday, October 5. He is survived by a daughter, Virginia, age 25, residing at 1286 Lincoln Avenue, St. Paul, and a brother, Herman Emme, age 58, residing at Seattle, Washington.

Julius was born August 30, 1879, at Kochstad, Germany. He came to America as an infant, his father fleeing from German militarism. Emme was forced to leave school with only a seventh grade education. He later supplemented this with a night school course in elementary mechanical engineering.

Working in the metal trade, he joined Machinists Lodge 459 in St. Paul around the year 1913, and he never let his membership lapse regardless of his financial circumstances. As editor of the Minnesota Socialist during the years preceding the war, he was many times arrested and tried for his part in labor struggles.

Emme, 14 years ago, fought to have the Minnesota State Federation of Labor go on record for industrial unionism. He was almost thrown out of the same convention for advocating the six-hour day. One of the founders of the Farmer-Labor Association, he was largely responsible for the writing of the "unemployed production for use" plank in its platform. He held his last job in private industry in 1928. He was by this time thoroughly blacklisted in St. Paul and he remained unemployed for two years.

On July 1, 1930, he was appointed secretary of the Industrial Commission by Governor Olson. In this capacity he utilized his long training in the labor movement to make the commission into a real functioning instrument for the benefit of the workers. While secretary of the commission, he organized the



JULIUS F. EMME

Minnesota State Employees Association which today is one of the largest unions in the state. The first pages of the Northwest Organizer were written in Emme's workshop.

On April 1, 1935, he was fired by the Industrial Commissioners for criticizing a judge for his actions in a strike case. The shock of his discharge, together with the worry over the loss of income, deeply disturbed his wife who had been an invalid for almost twenty years. She suffered a paralytic stroke in early September and passed away a few days later.

Bowed with grief and disheartened by such a sharp series of adverses, Emme was unable to withstand the ravages of a serious illness, and he soon followed his wife to the grave.

Julius F. Emme is gone, but he has left us the most lasting of all memories. He has started dozens of young, courageous, intelligent workers on the proper road to the final emancipation of the working class. No greater tribute can be paid to any man.

BROWN, SCOTT DEMAND THAT THEY BE SOLD

Council Police Committee
Evades Taking
Action

Brown Suggests Save Them
for Next Farmer-Labor
Campaign

At the Monday morning meeting of the Council Police Committee, Alderman I. G. Scott of the 10th Ward repeated the motion that he made on the council floor shortly after the Flour City massacre: that the armored cars of the police department be sold. William Brown of the Drivers' Union also appeared before the committee.

Brown said, "If the Farmer-Labor members of the Police Committee don't vote to stop the use of the armored cars in strikes, they will need them two years from now to conduct their campaign for re-election."

Scott and Brown made stirring pleas before the committee. No action was taken.

Wing and Carroll Address Truckers

Thursday, October 3, the Independent Truck Owners Section of General Drivers Union Local 574, held the largest and most enthusiastic meeting they have had since the formation of that section. Over 150 Independent Truck Owners were in attendance.

The meeting was addressed by John Wing from the Labor-Relations office of the State W. P. A. and by Wm. J. Carroll, Personnel Director of the Minnesota State Highway Department. A report of the past two week's activities of the Independent Truck Owners was given by Miles Dunne. At the conclusion of the speeches, Carroll and Wing were kept busy for half an hour answering questions.

As a result of a better understanding that was achieved at this meeting, a large number of Independent Truck Owners reinstated themselves in the union, many paid their dues and indications are that a new spirit has entered the organization.

Overtime Chiselers Hit by Market Men

The new market committee swung into action last Wednesday night as they held their first meeting. The entire committee was present. The principle subject taken up was that of the various firms on the market that did not pay proper overtime. It was also reported that there are known cases on record where workers had entered into an agreement with bosses to work for less than the union scale.

MAKE MINNEAPOLIS A UNION TOWN

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

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

Bring On Your Vigilantes

Many deliberate acts of sabotage have been committed by the oligarchy of the A. F. of L., but it has remained for Matthew Woll to furnish an anti-climax. What is the motive behind these actions?

In the words of Julius Emme: "All around the A. F. of L. executive board social and industrial revolution is going on. . . Within it, thanks to a constant flow of per capita tax, sits a board of directors who have no contact with the changing class struggle outside, and upon whom the increased cost of living and unemployment, with the attendant miseries, have no direct bearing."

To protect themselves they use a fake issue manufactured by the bosses—"communism." To them, everything is "communist" which is progressive or militant.

In his eager desire to down "communists," Matthew Woll would turn to the American Legion for aid and comfort. But what he does not seem to understand is that in the process he would unleash a bestial, capitalist appetite which could not be sated until it had consumed not only Woll's "communists," but Woll himself.

The American Legion is today the most powerful exponent of fascism in the United States. Fascism, which would steal from labor the partial emancipation it has achieved. Pit gentile against Jew, Catholic against Protestant, black against white; arouse all the primitive hatreds which lie under the thin veneer of civilization so that private profit may be preserved and social misery reign.

The policies of the American Legion are clearly against labor. Its members are hypnotized by a constant fanfare of drums, trumpets and jingoism. Entrenched behind a phillistine agitation for the bonus, the American Legion is a powerful and strictly pro-boss organization. It is into this den of wolves that Woll and his ilk would throw the workers whom they are supposed to represent.

Regardless of what official sanction is taken by the convention now in session at Atlantic City, the die has already been cast in Minneapolis. The local boss press has seized upon Woll's mouthings and is raising a hue and cry for action.

Meyer Lewis, a personal representative of William Green, who has been pussyfooting about the city for several days, adds fuel to the fire by announcing that within ten days every local union will have to take a position one way or the other on the question of Local 574.

As if by prearrangement, a local vigilante headquarters was opened recently on lower Hennepin avenue, which is advertising that it has tar and feathers and other forms of violence to deal out to the workers.

Fortunately for them, the workers of Minneapolis have already been steeled to protect themselves against attack. They have emerged from their struggles as hardened veterans well equipped to defend themselves.

SO BRING ON YOUR VIGILANTES.

* * *

Monumental Stupidity

Last Monday's meeting at the Central Labor Union held for the purpose of organizing a dual drivers' organization in the laundry industry is an excellent illustration of the monumental stupidity of local trade union officials. The very manner in which this meeting was called is indicative of their shameful, double-dealing methods.

Knowing full well that these drivers are organized into the Laundry Workers Union and are covered by a contract held by that organization, yet, at Tobin's behest, his local henchmen attempt to carry on his union-wrecking activities. Called secretly, held secretly with militant, honest drivers excluded because it was feared that their logic would expose the purpose behind their move, the meeting turned out, as all meetings turn out that are based on exclusion, a complete bust.

This shameful disregard of the welfare of the workers in this industry can be laid at the door or none other than our friend, P. J. Corcoran.

Laundry drivers in Minneapolis should realize that their connection with Corcoran and his clique will only result in the breaking down of such conditions as their own union has already achieved, and a complete destruction of their existing organization, the Laundry Workers and Drivers.

Union Drive Under Way on WPA Jobs

At the regular weekly meeting of the Federal Workers section of Local 574 held Friday night, an interesting report of the activities of the Grievance Committee was made by Ed Palmquist. The report showed that Lutz and Palmquist have settled hundreds of cases in the past two weeks.

A report by Organizer Miles Dunne showed that the new works projects are getting under way very slowly. It was also shown that the Relief Department was attempting to withhold rent and grocery orders from WPA workers before they have had a chance to receive their first pay.

It was also decided to install stewards and organizers on all WPA jobs.

Transfer Pact Now Under Discussion

The new transfer contract which was okayed at the special meeting of transfer men is in the process of being signed. News from the employer's committee indicates that they are making great efforts to get the majority of the transfer companies on the line.

Although the contract was originally negotiated with the Transfer Men's association, we have information that the new agreement will be signed by many other companies that are, as yet, outside of the association.

Union Notes

"Widow" Zander has been a busy man the last few days. The Independent Truck Owners Section will lose a valuable aid if the "Widow" ever marries.

Vice President Frosig has been sporting a new coat the past few days. Don't be alarmed, however, he hasn't sold anyone out. The coat is on his tongue.

Swanee's back on the band wagon at Colonial.

The Investors Syndicate change to its new quarters was the largest office moving job of recent years in Minneapolis. It was done by the Minneapolis Holmes Transfer Company as a 100 per cent union job.

The Woman's League Against High Cost of Living will hold a public mass meeting at the Wesley Temple Monday, October 14. The public is invited.

The recent disagreement at the Ferrin Transfer Company has been settled by mutual agreement.

Our old friend ex-Congressman Frank Shoemaker is back on the air over station WDGY every morning at 9 o'clock. His comments on labor are pithy and to the point.

Ted Rogers has replaced Orrie Norton as steward at Murphy Transfer. Norton has gone back to railroading, his first love.

The Poultry Workers' meetings seem to have some strange attraction for many of our union members.

Moe Hork of the executive board has now assumed complete charge of the union football team.

The club rooms, under the able management of Ray Rainbolt, are proving to be a popular place these days.

There is no excuse for members not attending union meetings. There is no one who should not give up two nights a month for the organization that has given him decent wages and working conditions.

Harry DeBoer and Grant Dunne

Labor Looks at the Press

Suez canal item: "Several Italian transports passed through here today loaded with Italian invalids who were being evacuated from the heat and tropical diseases of Eritrea. The boats are destined not for Italy but for Italian islands in the Aegean Sea in order not to demoralize the home population with the spectacle of disease-wasted bodies."

Sign in a West Virginia restaurant:

"Ask the waitress for a magnifying glass to see your order of pork chops or ham. Thank the New Deal—Think about this and Vote Right in 1936."

We'll vote right all right—by voting left!

Current ad in a Milwaukee paper reads in part: "The issue raised by this action is NOT a labor issue. It is a direct issue between government by law and order and government by mob rule. . . Signed: The Citizens Law and Order League of Milwaukee County."

They've got one of them things down there too. Milwaukee has been having a "Flour City" case of their own lately—at the Lindemann & Hoverson stove plant. Our union brothers in that town have closed the plant down and are keeping it closed.

Atlantic City, report of the coming A. F. of L. convention: "The building trades department headed by McDonough lined up with the metal trades in indorsing a resolution calling for the revocation of the oil workers' charter unless that industrial union surrendered a number of members to craft organizations within 30 days."

From an Italian leaflet dropped on Ethiopia: "Nobody except Italians can minister to your happiness. . . Have confidence in Italy. The Italians are powerful in army and they are beloved of God."

For the records: "General Charles G. Dawes declared Thursday night that fear is dispelled and that recovery marches on."

Headline: "Ethiopian Generals Fight With Rifles Like Privates."

Now we know Ethiopia isn't civilized. The generals of all good capitalist armies fight over drawing boards—and die in bed.

Washington news item: "Mayor Thomas Latimer of Minneapolis

will be in the coal yards for the next month.

Watch the American Federation of Labor convention. There will be some real fireworks there this year.

Is the State Federation of Labor preparing to split with the Farmer-Labor party?

Gardener of Pratt's says that the empty trailer story was a hoax.

spent more than half an hour in conference with President William Green of the A. F. of L., but refused to comment, saying that it did not concern the local (Minneapolis) situation."

Come off, Tom. When a pair of old fakers like you and Green get together, it means a peppery dish for our workmen.

Stop the Presses!

Mary Atkinson, writing on Hitler Germany: "There is a variety of reaction pro and con to the Nazi government. . . First, the enthusiastic support of the students who now have a definite future in the Labor camp to anticipate."

If those students have a future, so has a lifer at Leavenworth.

In practise the Farmer-Labor party considers unshakable the foundations of that which it intends to reform. It thus inevitably submits to the ideas and morals of the reactionaries.

The worker who becomes a policeman in the service of the present government is a bourgeois cop, not a worker.

Some people still dream of a planned capitalist economy. But capitalism has had time to demonstrate that in the line of plans it is capable only of draining the productive forces for the sake of war.

At great turning points people sooner change their conceptions than their customary words.

Capitalism is unthinkable without darkness, prejudice and superstition.

The wise man is not he who makes no mistakes. There are not, and cannot be, such men. He is wise who makes slight mistakes and who is able to correct them easily and quickly.

"Society can overlook murder, adultery or swindling; it never forgives the preaching of a new gospel."—Frederick Harrison.

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.

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