

# BUILD A LABOR TEMPLE - A UNION RADIO STATION

## THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

Official Organ of the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council

MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE: 257 PLYMOUTH AVE. N.

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# Labor Funeral to Honor Bill Brown Saturday

As from this hour You use your power, The World must follow You

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

### On the National Picket Line

During the winter of 1937 the LaFollette Civil Liberties Committee gave a great deal of attention to the affairs of Harlan County, Kentucky. Labor leaders, union organizers, union members, all were being treated with horrible brutality, beaten, shot, killed. This had been going on for many years under the guiding hand of High Sheriff Theodore Middletown and Ben Unthank, chief "guard" for the Harlan County Coal Operators Association.

As a result of this and consequent investigations, the Department of Justice stepped into the picture. There is an old, previously obsolete law in Kentucky, enacted in 1870, which makes it a felony to hinder anyone from his "constitutional rights." The Wegner Act gives the workers the right to organize without interference or coercion. Therefore the Attorney General's office is trying the defendants for violation of this old law.

Among the sixty-three defendants are the former high sheriff, Theodore Middletown, 21 deputy sheriffs, 23 coal company officials, and 23 coal companies. The defendants are free on bail bonds ranging from \$2,500 to \$5,000. They evince very little concern over the ultimate outcome of the trial.

It took a long time to get a jury of twelve good men and true, willing to take upon their shoulders the dangerous task of deciding upon the guilt or innocence of the prisoners. Harlan County and the surrounding territory have too long been held in the iron grip of the coal operators. Most of the panel called for jury duty in this case squeezed out of serving by pleading illness, either of their own or of their families.

Prosecution attorneys question whether this "illness" is at present a fact or whether the fear of future "illnesses" caused by lead poisoning (the "law" in Harlan County is quick on the trigger) is back of the present epidemic.

Observers the country over are watching this trial with a great deal of interest. In its outcome, many feel, rests the future of the National Labor Relations Act. Some commentators say that a conviction in this case will put teeth into the National Labor Relations Act. Under present circumstances, since the Supreme Court decision reversing the

(Continued on page 6)



Who Killed Him?

### Machinists, CLU Demand Contract

Backed by all the forces of the Minneapolis labor movement, AFL Machinists Local 382 on Monday served upon the garage employers a demand for recognition of the union as the sole bargaining for all garage workers in the city.

Immediately upon receipt of the union's letter, signed by representatives of both the machinists and the Central Labor Union, the employers' committee agreed to a meeting at 10 A. M. Wednesday at the place designed by the union.

#### Text of Union Letter

The text of the union letter follows in full:

Mr. Paul Weishart, Chairman Automobile Dealers Labor Com. 1400 Harmon Place Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Sir: At the regular meeting of the Policy Committee of the Central Labor Union held on Friday, May 20th, 1938, at 257 Plymouth Avenue, Minneapolis, the Automobile

### CLU, 382, Meet With Employers

Carl Skoglund and Roy Weir of the Policy Committee of the Central Labor Union, together with a committee from AFL Machinists Local 382, met with the Labor Committee of the Minneapolis Auto Dealers Association on Wednesday morning.

The CLU and Machinists' representatives served notice on the bosses that the whole Minneapolis labor movement was ready to fight unless the bosses proceed to negotiations.

Dealers' situation, Lodge 382 International Association of Machinists and CIO, Local 1140, was discussed. The following decision was arrived at:

That Lodge No. 382, International Association of Machinists, send a letter to the Automobile Dealers informing them that inasmuch as the CIO would not abide by the decision of the Policy Committee and the Labor Movement of the City of Minneapolis, therefore the Central Labor Union Policy Committee requests that the Automobile Dealers recognize Lodge No. 382 International Association of Machinists as the bargaining agent for all men employed in the Automobile Dealers' shops as covered by the past agreement written by Lodge No. 382, and that the Central Labor Union and all A. F. of L. Unions in Minneapolis give all necessary support to bring this to a successful settlement, — to give financial, moral support, and pickets if necessary to bring this to an early settlement with Lodge No. 382.

A letter stating these facts to be sent to the Automobile Dealers, the letter to be signed by a representative of the International Association of Machinists and Mr. Roy Weir, Business Representative of the Central Labor Union.

Therefore, Lodge No. 382 International Association of Machinists requests that the Labor Committee of the Automobile Dealers attend a meeting to be held at 501 East Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis, Tuesday, May 24th, 1938, at 10 a. m., for the purpose of negotiating an agreement, covering employees coming from under the jurisdiction of the International Association of Machinists, Lodge No. 382.

Yours truly, ROY WEIR, Business Rep. Central Labor Union W. A. HEATH, Grand Lodge Representative

### Bakers Win 2-Day Strike Vs. 5 Shops

A two-day strike against five Northside bakeries was successfully concluded Sunday evening by the Bakers' Union Local 222.

The settlement calls for a wage scale of from \$25 to \$38 weekly for production men, and \$22 weekly for janitors and cleaners; a week's vacation with pay; a forty-four hour week in the People's-Lehman corporation (a machine shop); and a forty-five hour week in the North Side, Central, Lincoln and Wolfe bakeries, which are handcraft shops. Several improvements in working conditions were also obtained.

Local 222 wants to thank the Drivers Union Locals 289 and 544 for their splendid support.

### Jewel Tea Is Scab Tea

Thousands of tea drinkers in Minneapolis continued to spurn the scab product sold from door to door by the notoriously anti-labor Jewel Tea company. A firm that follows a policy of intimidating its employees from joining the union merits no sympathy or patronage.

The Teamsters Joint Council calls on all workers and friends of labor to remember the Jewel Tea company's attitude when purchasing tea. There are plenty of teas being sold here by companies that are fair to organized labor.

### Policy Board Discusses With Auto Salesmen

An attempt by the Minneapolis Auto Dealers Association to avoid dealing with the union representing their salesmen will be dealt with by the Policy Committee of the Central Labor Union this Friday morning.

At a meeting between Local 1420 and representatives of the employers on Tuesday, the employers advanced the claim that the company-dominated "Auto Salesmen Association" represented a majority of the men. This preposterous assertion was undoubtedly designed to give the bosses time to stall.

### Millworkers Smash Local 1 Fink Plot

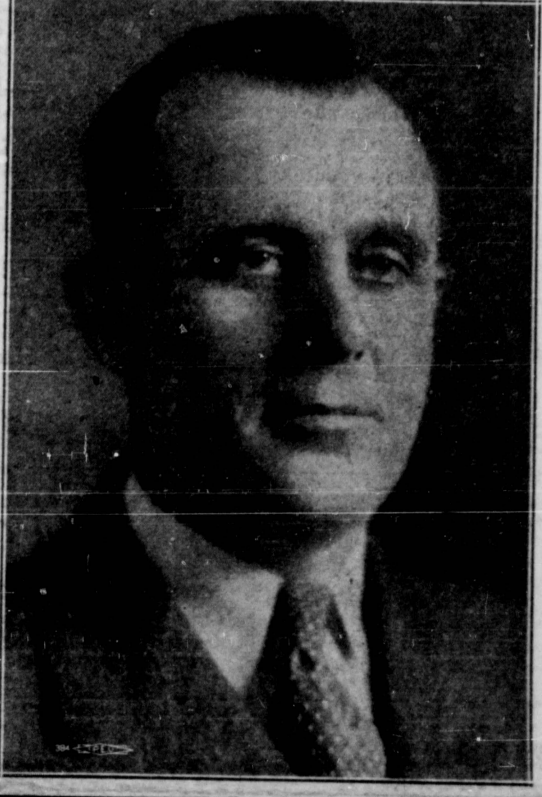
This is a story that will tickle the ribs of every union man—it's the story of how F. L. Taylor and the fink Local No. 1 tried to break the current millworkers strike.

Late last week all strikers received letters from the "Associated Independent Unions," asking: "Would you be interested in going back to work? Are you tired of being bullied and forced out on strike when you know that the majority of your fellow workers really want work? Are you sick of being dominated, coerced, intimidated by a few racketeering, so called Union leaders? Wouldn't you like a union that was run strictly by working men like yourselves, where your officers are elected from the rank and file of your membership?"

The letter ended with the appeal to "get in personal contact with the Associated Council of Independent Unions immediately, either by phone or otherwise," and was signed: M. L. Shumate. Enclosed was a card reading: "LET'S GO TO WORK. Meet with us Tuesday night, May 24, 8 o'clock, at 320 Eighth Avenue South."

Strikers Attend The letter was discussed by the strikers. On Tuesday night about

### Bill Brown



### Statement of the Executive Board, General Drivers Union, Local 544

The General Drivers Union has suffered an irremediable loss. Bill Brown, although only 43 years old, had been a leading spirit of our movement almost from its very inception. He was already a member of the union in 1916, a youth earning his living by driving a team of horses. He went through the teamsters strike of 1916, which was a defeat for the movement. But Bill Brown never lost faith; though the union dwindled and remained weak for years after, he stayed at the helm, an officer of the union throughout the intervening years. He was President of the union in 1933, when the opportunity came to unionize Minneapolis, and he knew how to utilize that opportunity to the full. He stayed in the presidency throughout the ensuing years of growth, through the famous February, May and July-August strikes of 1934, the organization campaigns that followed, and the unification of the whole teamsters movement in 1936. For most of the years since 1916, he was a working member in the trade, a transfer truckman. Flesh and blood of the men he led, he had their love and affection as no other union member. He suffered with them, on picket line, under persecution, and they honored and loved him for it. His vast experience in the movement and his spotless record as a fighter were a tower of strength to unionism throughout the Northwest.

The tragedy is enhanced by the fact that the man who killed him was his friend. They were both transfer truckmen, had been acquainted for years, and in the last eighteen months since Johnson went to work full time for the union, had worked together closely. Outside of working hours they were often in each other's company. As Johnson told Police Chief Forestal, "I had no reason to kill him. He was my best friend." During the past week, several of our organizers, working daily with Johnson, had noticed that he was morose, depressed, uncommunicative, unlike his usual self. He had been unwell and recently under a doctor's care. A conscientious organizer, he had been driving himself beyond his powers. His associates attributed his attitude to overwork, and advised him to get more rest. Then came this terrible deed.

The buzzards are already circling over Bill Brown's body. The enemies of labor and their press are attempting to smear him and the union he built. Union men and friends of labor will treat these enemies with the contempt they deserve.

The death of Bill Brown must be placed in an entirely different category than the slaying of Patrick Corcoran last year. The two tragedies have nothing in common, and we warn the labor movement against the attempts which enemies are making to "link" the two together. Pat Corcoran died at the hands of mortal enemies of labor; it is evident that Bill Brown was the victim of a friend and trade union brother in a fit of temporary insanity.

Taylor Falls Flat Taylor turned on the usual (Continued on Page 2)

### Rites at Main Hall, 257 Plymouth 3 p.m.

Body Will Lie in State from 10 a. m. to 3 p. m. Saturday — Mrs. Brown Asks Miles and Vincent Dunne to Speak

The labor movement that loved and respected Bill Brown will pay its last respects to the fallen president of the General Drivers Union Local 544, on Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock. The body will lie in state in the third-floor auditorium of the Teamsters Headquarters, 257

### Action vs. Sears Firm Seems Likely

During the past week the Sears, Roebuck company continued its stubborn refusal to grant the fair and moderate demands of the Warehouse Workers Union Local 20316.

Union negotiators report the company has attempted to inject into the agreement a clause that would grant them the right to cut wages "not more than ten per cent after June 15th."

Local 20316 has informed its members of the outrageous stand taken by the company. At a meeting of a special committee set up by the membership it was decided to take a strike vote unless a satisfactory agreement is reached by Tuesday, May 31.

Employees of the large Sears, Roebuck mail order concern are 100 per cent behind the union in its demands. The union will accept no wage cuts whatever, and will demand wage increases in those categories where the scales are low. The entire labor movement in Minneapolis stands behind every move of the Warehouse Union in its dealings with Sears.

The Warehouse Union Local 20316 continues to enjoy the distinction of being the only union in the United States to force a major mail order establishment to sign a union agreement. Local 20316 has no intention of giving up this distinction.

### Local 544 Signs New Grocery Pact

The General Drivers Union Local 544 bagged another contract Tuesday, when a new working agreement was signed by the Wholesale Grocery Section. At a membership meeting Monday night, wholesale grocery workers ratified terms of the new agreement.

The new pact is almost identical with that in effect last year, with a few minor changes.

Thirteen firms engaged in this business have signed: Red Owl; National Tea; Quality Food Stores; K. Aslesen; Mutual Wholesale F. & S.; Jordan Stores; Slocum Bergren; Western Grocer; Wholesale Supply; Brechet & Richter; Minneapolis Allied Grocers; and Hancock Nelson Merc. Co.

### Warning Notice!

After June 7th, 1938, the Ice and Coal Drivers Union Local 221 will discontinue certifying Cash and Carry ice stations. This action was taken at the regular membership meeting of the union held Tuesday, May 4, 1938. Executive Board, Local 221

# Make Minneapolis a Union Town

# Duluth Cops Gas, Club Guild Pickets Monday

Duluth, Minn.—At 7:15 Monday morning the expected police attack on the picket line maintained by the Duluth Newspaper Guild took place. One hundred cops, acting under direction of Safety Commissioner Len Culbertson, brutally charged about 400 pickets and, with tear gas, clubs and guns scattered the pickets, cleared the streets and

to charge on Picket Line Monday." The story stated that "the management of the Duluth Herald and News-Tribune has announced that on Monday morning it will attempt, with the help of Colonel Len Culbertson, to break the peaceful picket line of the Lake Superior Newspaper Guild by force and violence."

Though armed with this knowledge, the CIO at the head of the lakes made no attempt to arouse the labor movement to mobilize for resistance to the strike-breaking plans of the newspaper publishers and the city government. No appeal to workers to mobilize on the picket lines Monday morning appeared in the "Guild Daily."

Instead, the CIO concentrated its forces on holding a mass meeting in the Duluth armory on Sunday night, where both AFL and CIO speakers discussed the strike, analyzed the arch-reactionary behaviour of the publishers and expressed their opinions of the city police—but made no plans to fight back.

Later Monday the Guild addressed a message to Governor Benson telling of the police assault and calling upon him to "return peace to this community before lives are taken."

There is ten thousand dollars waiting for the person who will bring to the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council information leading to the apprehension and conviction of the murderers. This reward was offered the morning after Corcoran's death, and it still holds.



Bill Brown Says—

## Corcoran Jury Inquest Ends

The Hennepin County coroner's jury which held an inquest into the murder of Pat Corcoran, teamsters union official murdered Wednesday night, last November 17, wound up its affairs Tuesday. In its verdict it recommended that "efforts be continued until the criminal or criminals be apprehended." The verdict was signed by Foreman Kunze and five others.

Thus ended the remaining effort on the part of official agencies to discover the assassins who killed Pat.

## Union Pact Presented to Ruberoid Co.

The problem of preserving rights of workers when one firm is absorbed by another firm, now faces the Warehouse Union Local 20316. Eight months ago the Gold Seal Roofing company, employing about 75 workers in Minneapolis, sold out to the Ruberoid company which is now operating in the same plant housing the defunct Gold Seal firm.

Before resuming operations, however, the Ruberoid company put into effect a wage cut of ten per cent. Further, former employees of the Gold Seal company were rehired with no consideration for seniority rights accumulated by them.

The union recently held a meeting with the workers involved, and mapped out a plan whereby Local 20316 will demand that the Ruberoid company pay the scale of wages now in effect at the B. F. Nelson Manufacturing company, a firm doing similar work. In addition, the union will demand that seniority accumulated by the workers at the Gold Seal company be recognized.

Were the harsh practices of the Ruberoid company to go unchallenged, any employer might sign over his company to a supposedly new owner, rob employees of their seniority and slash wages.

A meeting between the Ruberoid company and union officials was scheduled to be held on Wednesday, May 25. A settlement, one way or the other, is expected to issue from the negotiations.

## Akron Unions Push Back Boss Campaign

Akron, Ohio—Solidarity of the AFL and CIO unions in Akron pushed back the campaign of the bosses to institute wage cuts. The latest sector of the union movement to face the attack of business interests was the Hotel and Restaurant Employees Local 118.

Members of the union didn't scare when the boss association announced it would have to cut wages 12.3 per cent. With the announced backing of both AFL and CIO, the union calmly announced it was prepared to strike.

All strike preparations were made. The determined action of the workers threw cold fear into the hearts of the employers. When the deadline was reached, it was found that 220 of the 225 restaurants had renewed their union contracts—with no reduction in wages. Neither had they dropped the paid vacation clause, as they threatened.

Rubber Workers Score  
Workers at the Firestone plant in Akron also won an important victory when they negotiated a new pact with company officials at no reduction in wages, despite threats of the company to attempt to slash wages.

In a report just issued by the U. S. Labor Department relative to the threat of the Goodrich plant to cut wages or decentralize, two points are stressed: 1. Any reduction in wages at the Goodrich plant would mean a similar cut throughout the entire rubber industry; 2. There is no justification for a general cut in wages in the rubber industry at this time.

Reports of the U. S. Labor Department are very well—but they cut no ice with bosses. The only weapon that can block the companies' anti-union campaign, in the final analysis, is the union movement itself—a union movement fired with the same spirit the rubber workers showed in the winter of 1936 when they defied all the bosses and their political agents in the great show-down of that year.

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# Radio Speech by FWS Hits WPA Policy, Demands State Quota of Jobs

Karl S. Kuehn, Recording Secretary of Federal Workers Section, Local 544, delivered the following speech over Station WCCO on Tuesday, May 24 at 5:30 P. M.:  
Workers and Farmers of Minnesota:

The Minnesota relief and unemployment situation is more serious, more critical, than you may believe. Even the unemployed, those on relief and WPA, whose children are directly threatened with even greater privations than they now suffer, are as yet peacefully unaware of what the new curtailment order signifies.

The next speaker on this broadcast will tell you WPA's side of the story. It is his duty to sing you a lullaby, to put you back to sleep if I can wake you up. He must try to convince you that his Administration is doing all it can do, and all that needs to be done, and that, so far as WPA is concerned, there is nothing you need to do or even can do about it.

But I have a different function here. My organization, the Federal Workers Section of Local 544, has rightfully come to be looked upon as THE instrument of the Trade Union movement here in matters of relief. Relief authorities have learned to respect us because we know what we are doing and we have the confidence of their clients. And if the unemployed and relief workers remain quiet, it is only because their own organization, the Federal Workers Section for whom I speak, has not told them that action is necessary at the moment. But it is my duty now to tell you that the time for certain actions has arrived.

Naturally, in the few short minutes available to us, I can only touch the high spots—give the barest outline. For the detailed explanations and program of action you must attend the Mass Labor Rally tomorrow evening at 8 o'clock in the Drivers big hall at Third Street and Plymouth Avenue north. At that meeting tomorrow night, full analyses will be given by competent and authoritative spokesmen for the Minneapolis Central Labor Union, the Allied Printing Trades Council, the Building Trades Council, the Teamsters Joint Council, and the Federal Workers Section.

Star Tells All  
I want to read you a few lines from last night's editorial in the Minneapolis Daily Star. It gives a remarkably frank argument for higher relief and WPA quotas from the point of view of the employing class:

"There is only one possible answer to complaints raised in communities like Chicago and Cleveland, now running into grave difficulties in taking care of relief clients, that we cannot keep on paying for relief."

The answer is 'You've got to keep on paying for relief.' There's no other alternative.

The difficulties of meeting a heavy relief bill are as nothing compared to the difficulties which would ensue if a great many people were left to go hungry and were denied the necessities of life.

What many people forget who bemoan the high cost of caring for the unemployed is that relief and WPA, among other things, are a form of insurance against first-class trouble on a wide scale."

The Minneapolis unemployed are fortunate in having an organization and a record which impels an employer's paper like the Star to warn the employers of the consequences of their failure to give us a little of what we ask for.

More Jobs Needed  
The WPA curtailment order comes at just the time when 60,000 additional jobs are needed in this state. Failure of the Federal Administration to expand the WPA quotas favors those private employers who want a big oversupply of cheap hungry labor to scab at low wages and undermine the unions. This is always a threat unless relief is adequate and unless there is closest unity between employed and unemployed.

Furthermore, this order comes on the heels of the State Relief Administration's announcement that state relief aid for Minneapolis is cut down nearly a million dollars for the coming fiscal year. Are we to have repeated here the terrible relief crises in Chicago and Cleveland?

Harry L. Hopkins himself has admitted to a Congressional committee that the present 2,600,000 WPA jobs in the United States must be increased to at least 3,100,000 and that these alone will not by any means provide the jobs which are needed.

The new depression has already added 5 millions to the number unemployed in the U. S. since 1937, making a total of 14 millions, and no end is yet in sight. Tens of thousands of Minnesota farmers are at least partly dependent upon WPA and relief. And of the 100,000 or so Minnesota workers who were covered by Social Security Insurance the great majority of those who had benefits coming have already used them up.

Failure to raise relief and WPA quotas is combined with all sorts of schemes for spreading the misery among all the workers—and I don't mean only the manual workers. One of these is the scheme to "return relief to the local communities." All such schemes are a distinct threat to everyone still working, no matter in what capacity.

The federal government has the

resources for giving adequate relief. Its taxing powers enable it to place the load on those best able to bear it—the great concentrations of entrenched wealth.

This country has ample natural resources, efficient processing methods and competent manpower to provide everyone a high standard of living, and when private industry cannot provide us all with jobs then, we say, it is the duty and responsibility of the federal government to provide the jobs or their equivalent in relief.

After the next number, which I think will be a lullaby, grab a piece of paper and a pencil and write to Senator Lundeen and to Congressman Teigan asking them to see that Minnesota's WPA jobs quota be immediately increased to 120,000.

And if you are a WPA worker, a relief client, or a member or friend of organized labor, come to the Mass Labor Rally tomorrow evening in the Drivers Hall to add your voice, your vote and your energy to the program of action which will there be laid out.

And see that your neighbors and fellow-workers are notified.

HELP RAISE MINNESOTA'S WPA QUOTA TO 120,000 JOBS.

## Penn State Unemployed Ask FWS Aid

Typical of the dozens of letters received weekly by the Federal Workers Section of Local 544 from unemployed organizations eager for direction and assistance is one from The Committee for Unemployed, from New Castle, Pa.

The local secretary, Steve Wheale, says that "several of our members have been getting and reading your splendid militant labor paper and watching your progress in the fight for the unemployed. Approximately 40 per cent of the population of this county are on some kind of unemployment relief, and of course we are organized but understand that the members of the Federal Workers Section are getting a better deal on relief than we are here.

"Will you please notify us with all the necessary information on what your relief schedule per family is, and the rate for labor on WPA, clothing, medical and any other help that the unemployed are getting . . ."

The request will of course be answered.

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# Taylor's Efforts to Break Millworkers Strike Huge Flop

(Continued from page 1)  
phonograph record. Announcing he was going to explain what trade unionism means, he launched into a poisonous and lying attack on the General Drivers Union. A few more minutes of this, and the millworkers couldn't take it. Taylor was interrupted from the floor and impatiently asked to confine his speech to the millworkers' strike. He tried to apologize, and then started to discuss the millworkers' strike in such an unrealistic way that stifled laughter was heard around the hall. His attacks on Local 1865 were along the lines contained in the letter. Several times he was stopped and interrupted by angry questions and challenges.

## Embarrassing Questions

The moment he closed, a dozen men leaped to their feet and demanded the floor for questions. The chairman looked a bit dismayed.

"Aren't you trying to split our union?"

"Isn't your Associated whatever-you-call-it trying to set up a dual union?"

"How can YOU give us a union label?"

TAYLOR: "Why, you can make your own label."

"Who'd recognize it?"

"How about the guns two of your fink carpenters pulled on our men today?"

"Can we carry guns if we join Local No. 1?"

TAYLOR: "Sure, you can all carry guns. Anyone can carry a gun."

"You say you will help us go back to work. We can go back to work any time. That isn't the question. We want to win this strike. What have you got to offer?" etc.

## Taylor Fades

For about an hour, Taylor was faced with just such a barrage. His air of plausibility began to fade. The audience could perceive his lack of sincerity. He began to stammer. Before some pointed questions, he could only remain silent. His eyes wandered, he looked at the floor and at the ceiling.

Union men who had never taken the floor at a regular membership meeting of Local 1865 were on their feet clamoring for a chance to fire questions at Taylor. They spoke up boldly, these usually silent workers. In Taylor's attack on genuine unionism they recognized a danger to the thing they loved, and they were fighting mad. It was an inspiring sight.

## The Job That Failed

Taylor melted like a dish of ice cream on a July day. This wasn't the sort of meeting he anticipated when he first boldly began to address the audience. Finally someone in the audience cried, "Let's go home, we're wasting time." To a man, all walked out, laughing and kidding one another about some of Taylor's answers. A sense of utter futility was seen in the faces of Taylor and the chairman. Some of them brought back with them to strike headquarters as souvenirs Taylor's application cards to the fascist strike-breaking Minnesota Minute Men which this fink is seeking to organize.

That's the story of how Taylor did a job for the sash and door bosses, split Local 1865 and smashed the strike. He came to grief on the hard rock of real unionism.

## Negotiations Pend

A change in the personnel of the employers' committee has taken place. At present time it was reported negotiations between the employers and a committee from Local 1865 would be resumed later this week. The strike of sash and door workers in the Twin Cities is in its fourth week.

A committee was elected to assist the union business agent in carrying out negotiations.

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## TAXI TOPICS

Jacob Schuller was seriously injured in a regrettable accident at the Yellow Taxi garage Friday. A number of hollow tiles, loosened from a wall, fell on him while he was working on a cab. "Jake" is one of the oldest employees in point of service, a member of Mechanics Local No. 382. We all hope for a fast and complete recovery.

The "Stuttering Swede" at the Liberty Cab had a ringside seat at an impromptu three dog fight in which all wore heavy muzzles. They did no damage but the resultant frustration and noise would put a bull-fight in second place.

The alert driver gets to know the different sounds of starters' whistles. Take for instance Kirkham's, a short nervous peep as if the prospective passenger might change his mind. Nick Ploumen's copies a top sergeant, while Tom O'Brien, H. McKean and Francis Ebner's tooters have the dulcet urge of the pied piper.

The annual scramble is on, everyone exchanging days off so they can go with their favorite gang to the lakes to demonstrate their piscatorial art. So far the reports have been encouraging and pike is good eating.

Charlie Heath and Cecil Duncan are the latest converts to the L. B. brigade. It's nice to eat in a restaurant and relax for thirty minutes but this set-up usually finds one miles away from the choice eating place.

A new wrinkle in alarm clocks: they can now be had so the alarm plays the Blue Danube or reveille. For hard-to-rise taxi-men we suggest an alarm that incorporates the sounds of starters' whistle, door slamming, and the click of the meter flag and fender bender.

Added here: the smart-aleck who, when you've driven a party unassisted through a maze of difficult streets loudly gives directions for the remaining two blocks to show his friends he's a regular man-about-town.

Had a couple of "furriners" at the garage, during the dues. Messrs. Miller and Warner from the other branch of our local.

Orange blossom department: We have just learned that Rev. Ejerre did his stuff last Tuesday evening which in due course of time will make Bob Brown eligible for the L.B.B.

Also that rumor we gave you about B. E. is fact, according to reliable informants, so maybe "Benny" will soon shush the shouts of a charivari.

Bro. Russ Wenzel, see hurler for Local 544's ball team, really had a field day Sunday when he shut out the tough Jefferson Busses by a score of 12 to 0. Russ

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fanned ten batters. We think you got something there, boy.  
Saw the Swede half of this column down by Dunwoody raptly gazing at the carnival gyroplane. Do you s'pose he still has that aviation bug in his system?  
Paul Urlic is back on his feet again after a long sojourn in the Vets hospital. Hopes to be with us soon. The quicker the better, Paul.

## Bar Notes Local 346

This is our first official column. Come on, members, greet it by sending in interesting news pertaining to our industry. Remember, it's your column.

Our membership meeting Monday was again pretty well attended.

We're going to have bigger and better socials now. An entertainment committee was enthusiastically elected at Monday's meeting, and big things are being planned. The grand opening of our new headquarters, and a picnic are in the air.

County Commissioner L. G. Scott and Al Hanson, register of deeds, both up for re-election, spoke to the membership. Both were given letters of endorsement.

We took in 151 new members last month. Nice going, eh? What other Minneapolis union is growing so fast?

The union has completed negotiations with the Drug Dealers Association, which add about 500 new members to our fast-growing local.

Any member violating the contract as to working hours, wages, etc., will be held responsible to the Executive Board. Present your grievances immediately. They will be taken care of.

That was a good report from the Glenwood Cafe. The Board will take action.

Was that clique, referred to in last week's Northwest Organizer, burned up at the facts presented. The truth hurts, doesn't it, comrats?

The Joint Board is picketing both Wade's restaurants on Lake Street and on Hennepin. This is a tough nut to crack. Fellow unionists, do not patronize these scab joints until they see fit to deal with the union.

Your recording secretary is your columnist. Send in all communications and news items to her.

**STERILIZED RAGS SHOP TOWELS**  
(Retail Basis)  
Re-Washing  
**NORTHWESTERN SUPPLY CO.**  
210 15th Ave. S. St. 280

**Cooperators' Life Association**  
458 Sexton Bldg.  
Minneapolis, Minnesota  
Legal Reserve Life Insurance  
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Join the cooperative movement!

**South Side Lumber Company**  
Lumber - Shingles - Insulation  
1100-1110 SOUTH 3RD ST.  
Telephone Main 8657

**American Lumber & Wrecking Co.**  
New and Used Building Materials  
2501 Washington Ave. N.  
Cherry 3381

# The Only Road Out For Over-Road Drivers

### Dobbs Describes Plight of Highway Drivers —Growth of Highway Transportation—Present Working Conditions—Anarchy Prevailing in Methods of Paying Wages—Unions and a Uniform Wage Contract Only Answer

By FARRELL DOBBS

Secretary, North Central Area Negotiating Committee

The plight of the workers in highway transportation—the over-the-road drivers and helpers—has become a major problem to be solved by the drivers' unions involved.

In the last few years, over-the-road trucking has become one of the great industries. But the employees in it, lacking adequate union direction and protection, have been subjected to miserable pay and intolerable working conditions.

#### Good Pay Once

In the early infancy of the industry, pay and working conditions were far above present standards. The employers had to provide good conditions then in order to attract into the industry a capable personnel. But once they had thus secured a body of workers of high calibre, good conditions did not last. No widespread unionization existed to maintain good conditions.

Moreover, the growing industry attracted shoestring operators and similar types of "rugged individualists," who proceeded to carve for themselves a place in the industry out of the flesh of the workers. This ruthless competition soon enough began to extend into the ranks of the bigger fleet operators—again, of course, at the expense of the workers. Then came the depression of 1929 and the years following, and this too was "solved" at the workers' expense.

#### Present Working Conditions

A wide variety of wages and other working conditions prevails today among the highway drivers. The chaotic conditions make difficult a summary statement, but this much can be said: Wage rates in the over-the-road trucking industry are computed in the following various manners: Flat payment per hour, no overtime differential; or flat rate per mile. The mileage is ordinarily computed according to standard "short line distance" tables and does not represent the actual miles travelled. For example, if the mileage table shows that the distance is 250 miles between two points on a run and the mileage rate is 2c per mile, the driver would receive \$5.00 for the run regardless of how many miles he drove. The trip might have involved detours and there may

#### The Road Out

To wipe out these manifold grievances of the men requires strong, militant unions, united together for common action, on the basis of uniform wage agreements, on a trade-area basis. These are the objectives of the 11-state area negotiating committee. We have learned to work together in the last few months. Our program has met with the approval of Dan Tobin. There remains, now, the task of getting the employers into line. That is now being accomplished.

#### "Independent" Owners

There is an increasing tendency to force ownership of the truck on to the employee, paying him by the mile, ton or trip and forcing him to shoulder all of the cost of truck equipment, including purchase of tractor, trailer, tires, repairs, gasoline, taxes, fines, etc.,

and take his chances on having anything left for wages. By this method the employer also evades the payment of Social Security taxes. This method of exploitation of the driver has proven so lucrative that some employers have abandoned all efforts to operate their own fleet and are doing business through the use of driver-owned equipment on a brokerage basis.

In addition to this, the driver may be required to load at the point of departure, make pickups and deliveries at intermediate stops and unload at the end of the run for this same flat payment of \$5.00. It can readily be seen what a vicious speed-up and stretch-out system this is.

In other cases, the employer may allow a flat payment of a certain sum for a designated run and this is what the driver receives, regardless of the actual amount of time worked. He may lose time because of a breakdown, or he may be forced to lay over, or he may be tied up waiting for freight, all of which lengthen the actual hours he works to earn the stipulated trip pay. Whether the driver is paid by the mile according to the mileage table, or by the trip, the basis of payment is computed to comply with operation under the most ideal conditions. If anything goes wrong on the trip the driver's pay is automatically reduced in direct proportion to the additional number of hours the trip requires.

A vicious system An even more vicious method of exploitation is employed by forcing the driver to work on a tonnage basis, giving him a certain low percentage on the actual amount of freight moved. In some cases this is based on gross revenue and in other cases on net revenue. In other words, in the latter case, the employer takes out all of the cost of operation and then gives the driver a percentage of what is left. In this case the driver is subjected to every form of swindling in computing operation cost and, in the best event, is directly dependent on the ability or inability of the employer to efficiently manage the operation.

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## New Pact Won by 544 Grocer Men

#### AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MINNEAPOLIS WHOLESALE CHAIN STORE AND RETAILER-OWNED GROCERY WAREHOUSE OPERATORS COVERING EMPLOYMENT AND WORKING CONDITIONS OF THEIR EMPLOYEES (DRIVERS, HELPERS, PLATFORM WORKERS AND INSIDE WAREHOUSE EMPLOYEES).

We, the undersigned employers, wholesale grocers, chain store and retailer-owned warehouse operators, do hereby adopt and agree to be legally bound by the following agreement covering employment of drivers, helpers, platform workers and inside warehouse employees in Minneapolis.

#### I.

The Union shall be the sole representative of those classifications of employees covered by this agreement in collective bargaining with the employer. There shall be no discrimination against any employee because of union affiliation.

#### II.

Seniority rights, based on length of service, shall prevail and govern the laying off and rehiring of employees due to fluctuation in business volume and changes of methods of transportation and distribution.

#### III.

That the regular work hours for drivers, helpers, platform workers and inside warehouse employees shall be forty-four (44) hours to forty-eight (48) hours per week and time and one-half for overtime. Weekly schedule of hours now in force and effect in various wholesale grocery warehouses shall be maintained.

#### IV.

The minimum rate of pay for drivers shall be seventy cents (70c) per hour and for helpers, platform workers and inside warehouse employees sixty cents (60c) per hour. Shipping and receiving clerks shall be paid seventy cents (70c) per hour and assistant shipping clerks not less than sixty-two and a half cents (62½c) per hour.

Any employee, 75% of whose time is engaged in the duties of Banana Man or Tomato Man shall be paid at the rate of seventy five cents (75c) per hour for time worked in these classifications. Employees receiving more than the above minimum in any classification shall not have their pay reduced.

#### XI.

The employer agrees to grant the necessary time off without pay but without discrimination to any employee designated by the Union to attend a Labor Convention or serve in any capacity on other official Union business, provided however, that any key men needed for the efficient or uninterrupted running of the business must obtain the written consent of the employer.

#### XII.

The employer agrees not to enter into any agreement or contract with his employee, individually or collectively, which in any way conflicts with the terms and provisions of this agreement.

#### XIII.

The employer agrees that if any employee is required to wear any kind of uniform, same shall be furnished and maintained by the employer, free of charge, and shall bear the Union label.

#### XIV.

In the event of any controversy arising because of loss or damage resulting from the negligence or intent on the part of an employee, settlement shall be made as provided under paragraph nine (IX) of this agreement.

#### XV.

Should the employer require any employee to give bonds, the premium on same shall be paid by the employer.

#### XVI.

Employees shall receive full pay for all time spent in the service of the employer. When regular employees are called to work they shall receive a guaranteed minimum of four hours pay.

#### XVII.

Employees required to be available daily for a period of six (6) consecutive days each week for service and not employed shall be guaranteed a forty (40) hour minimum weekly wage at the rates set forth herein.

#### V.

All employees who have completed one year of service with the company shall receive one week's vacation with pay each year.

#### VI.

Except for work performed by regular crews, double time shall be paid for all special work done on Sundays and legal holidays, provided however, that such regular crews shall have a regular day off and shall be paid at the rate of double-time if required to work on that day.

#### VII.

Drivers who do long distance hauling shall be paid expenses, such as room and board, at cost, when out of the city.

#### VIII.

Wage rates fixed in this agreement, or wages which may be later set by negotiation or arbitration shall be minimum rates of pay only. No wages paid in excess of the minimum prescribed shall be reduced.

#### IX.

It is understood and agreed that the Board of Arbitration shall be constituted of and composed of four members, two to be selected by the employer and two by the Union. Such board shall have authority to hear and arbitrate all grievances which may arise in the course or conditions of employment. In the event that these four representatives are unable to agree, they shall select a fifth and impartial person and all matters not agreed upon shall be submitted to such Board of Arbitration, whose judgment shall be final and binding upon both the employer and employee herein.

#### X.

The employer recognizes the right of the Union to designate a Job Steward or Job Committee to handle such Union business without pay as may from time to time be delegated to the Job Steward or Job Committee by the Union Executive Board.

#### XI.

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### Nebraska Drivers Win \$400 Back Pay, Seniority

Omaha—As the result of a one-week tie-up of the Oberg Transfer company, back pay to the extent of \$400, plus seniority, was won for the drivers involved. Three drivers unions—those in Grand Island, Lincoln and Omaha—cooperated, tying up all Oberg trucks until the drivers won their demands.

### Comment on New Transfer Contract

In the May 19th Organizer was re-printed the 1937 transfer section agreement. Some transfer workers, members of Local 544, were puzzled by the fact that Section 34 still referred to overtime rates of time and one-third. The contract was prefaced with the text of the agreement recently reached between the Minneapolis Transfer Men's Association and the General Drivers Union, calling for overtime to be paid for on the basis of time and one-half. After June 1, 1938, the overtime rate is time and one-half. With this exception, all provisions of the 1937 contract will carry over the coming year, until June 1, 1939.

### Important Correction!

In our editorial on the situation in the local garage industry in last week's issue, the paragraph headed "The AFL Machinists Go Along" read: "The AFL Local 382 voted to accept the recommendations of the Policy Committee, indicated they would go along, and then turned on the committee and the rest of the labor movement and tried to open independent negotiations with the bosses." This obviously incorrect statement was due to a printer's error.

The original copy read: "The AFL Local 382 voted to accept the recommendations of the Policy Committee. The CIO union participated in the meetings with the Policy Committee, indicated they would go along, and then turned on the committee and the rest of the labor movement and tried to open independent negotiations with the bosses."

shall become effective as of May 31, 1938, and shall continue in full force and effect, until May 31, 1939.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties hereto have caused these presents to be duly executed this 24th day of May, 1938.

## How Minneapolis Workers are Housed

There are two ways to look at the city of Minneapolis.

If you read the circulars of the Chamber of Commerce, you will see a beautiful metropolis, scenically situated around lovely lakes and parks, full of fine hotels and spacious modern homes.

But if you look around for yourself, you'll find a far different picture: Old dilapidated houses, unsanitary crowded apartment buildings, workers living in primitive conditions, unbelievably behind the times.

For every spacious home in such districts as Lake of the Isles, where Civic Council members spend their time between union-busting conferences, there are thousands of dwellings in the poorer districts which long ago should have been condemned and replaced with homes fit to live in.

Minneapolis is not very old. Yet almost 40 per cent of its homes are over 25 years old. In the poor sections of town, over 75 per cent of the homes are over 35 years old, and after that long a life, any residence is obsolete.

These figures,\* based on a survey in 1936, might suggest to the Minneapolis Civic Council a way to spend its \$325,000 to advantage. "Build Minneapolis" is a high-sounding slogan. But Minneapolis doesn't need building, it needs re-building!

#### Dangerous Homes

Is it possible that our "best citizens" don't know that there are 16,541 homes in this city that are in a dangerous condition, their walls sagging and bulging, their foundations crumbling and their roofs leaky?

In addition, over two thousand so-called homes are in such miserable condition that they cannot possibly be repaired. These homes are dangerous, unsanitary wrecks, unfit for human beings. But between eight and ten thousand workers are forced to live in them.

\*The above figures are not based on the sanitary conditions of

the buildings, but on their structure.

Let's step inside and find how the workers enjoy the products of this modern age of conveniences.

About six thousand families in Minneapolis live in homes, flats or apartments in which they do not have private indoor toilets. Half of these families also get along without gas, and about a fourth of them do not have central heating. This is how the low income group lives in modern Minneapolis.

Bathtubs also are at a premium. Sixteen thousand family dwellings, all in working class districts, have no bathing conveniences. Meanwhile in the exclusive districts of the wealthy, there are houses with three bathtubs for one family.

The bitterest fact is that precisely in the ill-equipped, rotting, decrepit homes, the largest families are obliged to live. Over 16,000 homes in Minneapolis are overcrowded, and it is these overcrowded homes, to a great degree, which are not equipped with private indoor toilets.

Housewives in over 4,500 families are forced to cook their meals on wood or coal stoves, having no gas, and about 2,000 families have no electricity.

#### No Running Water

One of the first marks of a modern civilized community is the distribution of running water. Yet in Minneapolis over 1,500 homes did

without it in 1936, and probably still do. As for heating facilities, over twenty per cent of this city's dwellings have no central heating plants, but heat with primitive stoves. This percentage is terrifically high for a section of the country in which the winters are severe.

Minneapolis rents average \$26 a month. This is one of the highest average rents in cities of comparable size. The rents in this city are higher than those in Indianapolis, Syracuse, Providence, Worcester, Portland, Dallas, Oklahoma City and many other cities in the same population class.

Not only do the banks and loan companies, which own the vast majority of Minneapolis' \$221,000,000 worth of real property, refuse to tear down the ill-equipped and time-worn dwellings, but they keep the rents up so that the workers with low incomes are forced to seek out the cheapest, and therefore the worst possible places to live.

It is time the workers found a way out of these slums, which breed misery and disease.

\*Statistics quoted taken from "Social Saga of Two Cities" by Prof. Calvin Schmid of the University of Washington.

### Janney Firm Deals With Local 20316

Last week employees of the Janney, Semple, Hill company voted strike authority to a Committee of 25. When the company saw that the union—Warehouse Workers Local 20316—meant business, it immediately contacted the union and signified its desire to avoid a strike and work out a seniority clause that would be satisfactory to the union.

Subsequent negotiations brought forth an agreement on seniority that was demanded by the union. A special committee of five will be set up to determine proper interpretation of the seniority clause.

A meeting between the company and the union negotiating committee was held Tuesday, May 24, to complete negotiations of a new agreement. At press time, it was reported negotiations were progressing favorably.

Approximately three hundred employees are involved.

**BUY GOOD YEAR TIRES AND AUTO SUPPLIES ON OUR BUDGET PAY PLAN**

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Record Value! All Wool  
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Saves up to 25% more on electricity than even the current-saving Meter-Miser of 1937. Simplest refrigerating mechanism ever built!

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1. Release cubes instantly—2 or a trayful. Save 20% more ice!  
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Here's cooking and baking—as you like it! High speed? Yes! Low cost...and sure results? Yes! The Frigidaire Electric Range gives you all these advantages—at the sacrifice of none. See it now... It's America's Newest cooking Sensation!

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# The 1912 Lawrence Strike: Greatest Pre-War Victory

### Textile Workers Triumph Over Frame-ups, Militia, Employers, Government — New Strike Tactics: Union Soup Kitchens, Chain of 10,000 Pickets, Exodus of Children — Wage Increases for 250,000

After telling the stories of sad defeats of the American workers in great struggles of the last century, it is a joy to relate the thrilling tale of the great textile strike in Lawrence, Massachusetts, in early 1912, where the workers swept everything before them. What a victory that was. After beating down the most vicious boss-offensive, the textile workers won all their demands—overtime, higher wages, easier premiums. They built a union. About 250,000 textile workers all over New England profited because of the triumph. And lastly, they plucked out of the shadow of the electric chair two strike leaders, Eitor and Giovanniotti, whom the employers were seeking to frame.

#### 30c a Week

On January 1, 1912, a law passed by the Massachusetts legislature, cutting the weekly working hours of women and children from 56 to 54, went into effect. The mill owners extended the new law to the men also, since the latter were in the minority in the mills. On the first pay day under the shorter week the workers found a corresponding reduction had been made in their earnings. They were being paid for only 54 hours, a loss of about 30c weekly. To the well-fed, such a loss seems nothing. To a textile family, it meant no bread. The average weekly wage was only \$8.75. The long hours of labor, the low wages, the speed-up, were undermining the health of the New England working class. Children suffered from rickets. The infant mortality rate was enormous—higher than anywhere else. A vicious premium system drove the employees to early graves.

Before the wage cut went into effect a committee from the Industrial Workers of the World, the I.W.W., had waited on the mill officials to ask what effect the reduction of hours would have on wages. The committee was given the run-around.

On Thursday afternoon, January 11, when the pay envelopes were distributed, the weavers at the Everett cotton mill stopped their looms. By the following night over 19,000 workers in Lawrence were out on strike. They were led by wobbly leaders, Eitor and Giovanniotti. The organization of the strike was superb. A broad Strike Committee, consisting of two or three elected representatives from each of the twenty or so nationalities, was set up, with absolute command of the strike.

#### The Demands

Four demands were drawn up: (1) a 15 per cent wage increase; (2) double pay for overtime; (3) abolition of the premium system; (4) no discrimination against strikers. On the third day of the strike the Mayor had already ordered in 250 militiamen to break the struggle.

Shortly thereafter five more companies of national guardsmen patrolled the mill district of Lawrence. The strikers replied by holding mass meetings and parades. The strike spread, to Fall River and Haverhill. The Governor ordered out the state police and another four companies of militia. Still the strike spread. By the end of the first week, at least 14,000 were out.

Mill owners were desperate. On January 20 detectives discovered dynamite in three spots around Lawrence. The press lost no time in attributing planting of the dynamite to the strikers. (After the strike, the president of a construction company confessed to the District Attorney that the dynamite planting had been plotted in the Boston office of a textile corporation. A local undertaker was arrested, found guilty, and given the insignificant penalty of a \$500 fine.)

The attempted frame-up with dynamite, and the use of the militia against the strikers, was just a beginning. In the early days of the strike, when a picket line approached the Pacific Mills the workers were drenched with streams of water from fire hoses. Strikers retaliated by throwing pieces of ice. Thirty-six strikers were immediately arrested and sentenced to one year in prison.

#### Handling of Relief

The strike aroused workers all over America. During the first days of the strike the Strike Committee issued an appeal for funds. An average of \$1,000 daily was received for the duration of the

nine weeks' struggle, from unions and general groups.

A general relief committee was formed, with special relief committees for the separate nationalities. A system of distributing stations and soup kitchens was organized. Each family was allowed from \$2 to \$5.50 weekly for food, plus allowances for fuel and shoes. Two doctors gave medical assistance.

As early as January 16, all the forces of capital and government tried to trick the strikers back to work. The governor sought to bring in the State Board of Conciliation. The commanding officer of the militia sought to put across a proposal whereby each mill would settle separately. When the mayor sought to bring about a meeting to settle the dispute, the entire Strike Committee invaded City Hall to meet with the mill owners. The later withdrew, refusing to meet the Committee. The governor proposed a thirty-day truce. The Strike Committee didn't budge. When the president of the American Woolen Company finally agreed to confer directly with the strikers, six members of the Strike Committee journeyed to Boston and presented their demands. The company refused them.

#### More Frame-Ups

Strikers learned the bosses were going to try to open up the plants on Monday, January 29. The Committee called for a parade at 6:30 in the morning, and blocked the attempt. Militia and police attacked the paraders. During a clash between strikers and police, a girl striker was shot and killed. The militia drove into the crowd with bayonets, dispersing them. Eitor and Giovanniotti, the two I.W.W. leaders, were arrested for the murder of the striker! Neither had been present at the scene of the shooting. Their places on the Strike Committee were taken by Bill Haywood, Jim Thompson, Bill Trautmann and Elizabeth Gurley Flynn.

The day following, martial law was declared. Twenty-two companies of militia patrolled the streets. A funeral procession of strikers for the dead girl picket was dispersed by a cavalry charge, a young Syrian striker receiving a fatal bayonet wound.

#### Picket Chain

A new picketing plan was instituted on February 12: an endless chain of pickets, as many as 10,000, wove throughout the mill district, without halt to avoid arrest. Pickets wore cards reading "Don't Be a Scab." This strategy was employed until the end of the strike.

The state legislature stepped into the picture and tried to effect a settlement over the heads of the strikers, by dealing with the United Textile Workers Union, a small and insignificant organization which was seeking to scab on the strike. The attempt failed and the employers faced loss of their spring and fall trade.

#### Exodus of the Children

To ease the burden of relief and to advertise the strike, the Strike Committee proposed that the children of strikers be cared for during the strike by working class families and sympathizers in other cities. Such a plan had often been used in Europe. This was its first appearance in the United States. Within three days 400 families had volunteered to take strike children. A special committee was set up and carried out the plan with marvelous efficiency. Batches of children were sent to New York, to Vermont, New Hampshire, Philadelphia, etc.

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The authorities at Lawrence were disturbed at the sympathy aroused for the children. On February 24 police attacked a group of 40 children being sent to Philadelphia. Many women and children were horribly beaten, in the time-honored methods of the police. The news of the brutality outraged all that was best in the country. So many protests poured in that no further efforts were made to prevent the sending out of strikers' children.

Time and again, police and militia would attack women pickets, peacefully parading, and beat them senseless. During the strike, 296 arrests were made. But the strikers' ranks remained unbroken. The greater the brutality of the employers and the forces of government, the more workers came out on strike.

#### The Victory

With such solidarity, with such resourceful and imaginative leadership, with such support from the workers throughout the country, the strike could not be beaten. On March 12 the companies surrendered. Two days later 10,000 strikers gathered on the Lawrence Common and heard the Strike Committee recommend acceptance of the mill owners' offer. Overjoyed, the strikers returned to work, having achieved one of the most remarkable victories won by labor in the United States. All their demands were granted in full or in part. The strike was a victory for textile labor throughout the East. Apprehensive of strikes in other New England mills, owners were forced to grant the same wage increases to about 250,000 textile workers. On March 24, the Strike Committee went out of existence, to be replaced by Local 20 of the National Industrial Textile Workers Union of the I.W.W.

#### "Open the Jail Doors"

Although the strikers returned to work, their victory was not yet complete. Eitor and Giovanniotti were still in jail. They must be freed. The union adopted the slogan: "Open the jail doors or we will close the mill gates." The prosecution of the two strike leaders resembled the Haymarket and Sacco-Vanzetti cases—only it ended happily.

An Eitor-Giovanniotti Defense Committee was organized, with Bill Haywood as chairman. The committee collected and expended \$60,000 during the course of the defense. Conferences were held in a dozen large cities. Agitation, by means of protest parades, demonstrations and meetings, mounted steadily.

The day the trial opened a demonstration strike of 15,000 textile workers in Lawrence was held, and workers all over Massachusetts voted to call a strike if the trial went wrong.

Each day crowds of workers gathered outside the courthouse to cheer the prisoners as they left the trial room. Protests poured into the court from all over the country. In Sweden and France a boycott of American woolen goods was begun. In Italy, workers nominated Giovanniotti to the Chamber of Deputies.

The trial lasted 58 days. The attempted frame-up of the authorities was smashed. There was no evidence to convict and on November 26, the jury returned a verdict of not guilty. That afternoon the released prisoners were cheered and embraced by 10,000 Lawrence workers, celebrating the completion of the Lawrence strike victory.

In the future free society the battle of Lawrence—like those of Minneapolis, Toledo, Flint, Frisco—will be preciously guarded and remembered.

Next week: Bloody Ludlow, and Rockefeller the murderer.

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## Independent Truck Chatter

Your Ways and Means Committee has decided to ease the burden of its regular weekly meetings for the summer by scheduling only one meeting a month to be held every third Thursday. Short sessions, however, will be conducted at all full membership gatherings on the first Thursday.

It has always been commonly known that the local territory for hired trucks has been over-crowded with the pouring in of federal funds for work relief. Just at present, conditions are at such a favorable peak for our section that many advocate a mournful countenance and a repressive outlook be presented the public as a best means of insuring its continuance. To those who adopt such an attitude does it not seem proper to point out that we are all subject to certain practices, based on the sound principles which gained us the many reforms which you old-timers all fought for. With this protection from an onrush of newcomers solidly established we need not be afraid to admit our success and to point out our gains. The General Drivers do, why not the ITO?

In opposite tone to the foregoing paragraph, it would be well for all of you to tell those who are venturing to buy trucks at this time with a small down payment or turning in cars in trade these facts: At present there is an extraordinary seasonal spurt due partly to an election year. There is a bigger difference between a short job and a year's work when compared with the relentless certainty of a finance company's contract, than which there is nothing surer than death or taxes. Lastly, the last obstacle, which only time can eliminate, is a Union seniority list in every company and industry.

Frank Johnson passed out cigars last week. All the Belt Line drivers got a break.

Be prepared to attend a special meeting of all WPA truckers for consideration of the boost in hours. The powers that be are finding it hard to give us a break.

Those who have not received a notice to get a number on their truck should call in for a letter on the matter. The drive for a checkup has achieved satisfying results, but some laggards are holding up 100 per cent cooperation.

All ears are close to the ground these days. The magic word "GRAVEL" has some hypnotic power which attracts all dump truck drivers like none other.

Your city dispatcher's office has more equipment on the streets now than I've ever seen before.

You buyers of new trucks consider well before taking the leap. There is one truck on the market which can work as cheap as a 1 1/2 ton truck working for the \$1.50 wage and is big enough to haul with them all the way up clear to the \$2.50 scale. Only one guess.

The Richfield Bus Co. operates an International; the 38th Street line of the Twin City Bus Co. lets you ride in Fords; now what are Chevies good for? Bill Camp even went to Dodge.

Charlie Buchanan was divorced last week. SCANDAL! NO! From his number two Mack.

**PINCHHITTING FOR SPACE:**  
Who's the 5 yd. pacemaker? Remember Tinker to Evers to Chance? We got them one better: Fireman Swanson - Longhaul Johnson - Westerdahl and Martin Sears. Wet a line! Prosperity plus: Calling Eckart for work for ITO . . . sand to the

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## Austin Labor Fights the Open Shop

Austin, Minn.—An aroused Austin working class is preparing to give the open-shop campaign of the Austin Business Men's Association such an answer as will smash it to smithereens. The boss association is attempting to put pressure on all local companies to refuse to renew or sign closed shop agreements with any union, and is further seeking to split the uptown unions from the packing plant union.

#### Bars Closed

Last week the Bartenders Unit of Local 478 voted unanimously to strike for a closed shop. The strike affects eight local bars, none of which opened Thursday morning. All bartenders and bar maids are on strike.

Attempts on the part of the union to contact the employers' advisory committee have come to naught. The committee has notified the union that the Employers Association has refused to allow them to negotiate closed shop contracts.

#### Ward Strike Continues

The Montgomery Ward strike, on for several months, is in the same situation as when it started. The management made a phony counter-proposal to a union committee on May 17, which would give raises of \$1 weekly to one union member, \$2 weekly for another. Nothing was said of seniority rights, sick leave, vacations, etc. The strikers have rejected the offer.

#### An Old Story

The boss "union" continues to prevent Jacobson, owner of the Hotel Austin, to sign a closed shop contract with Local 478. In a conversation with union representatives, Jacobson has admitted that personally he would sign the contract, that he had no difficulty running his business under the closed shop, etc.

#### Unions Firm

The attitude of the union movement towards the strike-breaking open shop campaign of the bosses was succinctly stated by Joe Voorhees in an article in the current Austin "Unionist": "The organization of unions here will continue to maintain the gains they have made. The employers that have listened to those who have nothing to do with their welfare, and tried to fight the union, will be the losers."

asphalt plant . . . city paving . . . L. O. Swanson to the U . . . WPA has approximately 20 illegible trucks working, and they have a lot of nerve trying to renig on 110 hours with that setup! . . . Your Thursday list goes straight to the contractors now. R. F. is the Hennequin county No. 1 job Jonah; just check his record . . . Wanted: one Local No. 1 button, just for a souvenir . . . Another WPA truck pinched for speeding on Lyndale . . . 544-wise—your ITO books are in swell shape now . . . Most important and almost forgotten is the disposal of the benefit dance. A check for \$500 was presented to Mrs. Turnham last Saturday by members of the committee.

Members of the ITO extend their deepest sympathy to the family of Albert Brandt, former member of the independents, who passed away recently. Brother Brandt is survived by his wife, of Minneapolis, and relatives in Wisconsin. Adam Webber and Eddie Lusak were pallbearers at the funeral.

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## The Union Gallery



**Bill O'Donnell**  
This is the popular secretary of the Local Gas Workers Union, which recently signed a closed-shop agreement with the Minneapolis Gas Light company. Bill gave up the possibility of a baseball career in the major leagues to learn the plumbing trade. He was a member of the Plumbers Union. He's married, lives on the East Side, and has two children. O'Donnell admits his wife is boss. His ambition is to become a grandfather.

## With the Limousines

Don't forget our next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, June 7th. Some of you brothers who don't know where we meet need a little enlightenment. We meet at 257 Plymouth Avenue North. Let's all attend.

The contract committee will make its report at this meeting. We all want to have a say in their proposals.

William Hines—the owner of the chauffeur's license you turned in at the office has been found.

I'll have to take Eskrid Neilsen's offer — I'll see you at Harry Smith's, you can be my guide.

You brothers who have not yet paid your \$1 assessment, please do so. We will read the list of members who are three months or more arrears in dues. There is a \$5 fine waiting for all of them. This fine stands. Please take notice.

Heard that Robert Dick is back. Like to see you at the next meeting. Also Irwin.

Will be seeing you all Tuesday, June 7, at 8 p. m.

## Card of Thanks

General Drivers Local 544  
Dear Friends:  
We wish to extend you heartfelt thanks and deep gratitude to each member of your organization for the beautiful floral offering and sympathy during the darkest hours of our lives the loss of our precious baby son John. May God bless all of you for your thoughtful consideration.  
Mr. and Mrs. James O. Carlisle

## DEMAND UNION CLERKS

The following patents were issued May 17, 1937, to Minnesota inventors as reported by WILLIAMSON & WILLIAMSON, Patent Attorneys, 325 Metropolitan Life Building, Minneapolis, Minnesota:

Brownell, Byrd, Ely, Minn., knife sheath; Burnett, Clarence M., St. Paul, Minn., take-up device; Corser, John, Minneapolis, Minn., rock crushing machine; Hall, John H., Minneapolis, Minn., ventilating system; Hillebrand, Earl, Albert Lea, Minn., temperature control system for ovens heated by hydrocarbon burners; McNeill, Andrew G., Minneapolis, Minn., clock thermostat; Meeker, Samuel, St. Paul, Minn., egg yolk and white separator; Rand, Rufus R., Jr., Minneapolis, Minn., airplane structure; Raymond, Lambert L., Minneapolis, Minn., Boy B., Minneapolis, Minn., vehicle and mounting mechanism therefor; Stauds, Edwin G., Minneapolis, Minn., paper box making machine and method of folding; Tector, Clinton K., Cloquet, Minn., port closure device; Van Meter, Harry G., Battle Lake, Minn., furnace; Westlund, Oscar E., Minneapolis, Minn., work holder for endless conveyors.

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## Local 131 "Gas and Suds"

#### New Office Hours

After a somewhat stormy session regarding the hiring of an office girl, suggested by our B. A., it was finally referred to the Executive Board for investigation. The board has worked out the following schedule: The Business Agent will be in the office between the hours of 1 and 3:30 each afternoon. The rest of his time will be devoted to outside work and to keeping books up to date. Office Hours: 1 to 3:30.

Burt Hegdahl of the Despatch was laid up three or four days last week with a sprained ankle, but is back on the truck again. By the way, Burt is one of the old-timers in the business, with a record of over 35 years' service. Very few if any can top that in the entire trucking industry.

#### Notice

Remember, next meeting will be Wednesday, June 15, 8 p. m.

#### Attention

Reserve this date also—Big Joint Picnic at Excelsior Amusement Park, on Sunday, all day, June 26.

#### Joint Picnic Committee

A committee of 32 will handle the details and plans for the big picnic. Those chosen are as follows: Publicity committee, Jack Nelson, chairman; transportation committee, Claire Johnson, chairman; Raymond Johnson, Nels Nordland; athletics, Norman Carl, chairman; Harry Hoffman, Earl Erlander, Donald Ivers, Marie Elbert; entertainment, Harry Brown, chairman; Luella Luckensgaard; LeRoy Ree; finance, Al Johnson, chairman; Harry Brown, Rubin Latz, Claire Johnson, Jack Nelson, Norman Carl; donations, Rubin Latz, chairman; Hene Swanson, Alvina Baldwin, Roberts, Henry Lake, Hymie Milstein.

#### Arbitration Board Decision

After a lengthy hearing on last Thursday, it was definitely decided that Mr. Lichterman, manager of Eagle Cleaners, owed three drivers back pay from Nov. 1 to the extent of \$187.48. He must pay double, according to our contract. There's a couple of more plants that will have a "hearing" shortly.

#### Unofficially, We Hear—

That a couple of Custom boys fell in the drink at Mille Lacs while "fishing" on opening day.

#### Diamondball Lineup

Val O'Connor, catch; Earl Elmer, pitcher; Fred McCormick, first base; A. Silburman, right short; C. Karch, second base; Tiny Fowler, left short; W. Hardie, third base; Dell Campbell, left field; H. Bartho, center field; L. Sutherland, right field. Hazeldine, relief infield; Nakken and Schultz, relief outfield. Manager, Webb. The team can use a couple of more players. Call Webb at Nevens.

We were just informed that Ernie Dietz of the Custom Laundry while running for a street car Tuesday morning got his foot caught and mangled by one of the wheels. It is believed one of his toes will have to be amputated. He is at the St. Mary's hospital, and would appreciate some visits.

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## The 289 Blab

By A. M. Ogren  
Next Meetings: Stewards meeting, very important; Tuesday, June 7, 7:30 p. m. Retail Drivers, Thursday, June 9, 8 p. m.

Check up on yourself. Are you coming in on time? Twelve men were fined last Thursday for working overtime, pulling in after 3 p. m. and various other offenses dealing with time. Too many men are being seen on the streets after three o'clock, so consider this fair warning in case you get called.

Ed Skelly arises to say that most of these here so-called politicians should be muzzled along with the rest of the dogs.

The picnic is definitely set for Sunday, July 24, contrary to the piece in last week's paper.

The Jewish Bakers, the inside men, were out on strike for one day last week but the trouble is ironed out and they are back at work.

Our diamondball team has yet to play a scheduled game, being rained out last Wednesday, as were all other games.

For land sakes, don't forget the picnic—July 24 is the day. The place is Eagle Lake picnic grounds. Reserve this day for sure. You'll laugh, you'll shout like all get out. Fishing, bathing, races, games, dancing and what not. What could be better? Let's go!

We'll all be sitting in our office Tuesday, May 31, waiting to hear all the fish stories after Decoration Day. Try and control yourself tonight.

Sam Ash was wondering what he should do over the week-end last week and somebody suggested he put his hat on and go home.

By the way, Sam Ash and a couple of the other boys are on the committee to check up on time and they're watching them pretty close. Sam says he'll have every bakery driver in town pulling in on time or know the reason why. Good boy, Sam. More power to you.

Local 289 Picnic, Sunday, July 24.

**For Sale Cheap:** 1936 Chev. dump truck, 1 1/2 ton. Owned by late Albert Brand, 544 member. See at Jefferson Garage, 1114 Currie Ave.

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# West Coast Seamen Decide to Join AFL

## Draw Balance Sheet of CIO and Find that it Failed

### John L. Lewis Made a Fatal Error When He Appointed the Notorious Harry Bridges As Regional Director—Bridges' Promises to Lewis Fell Through—To Show Results, He Tried to Rule or Ruin the Seamen's Unions

After more than two years in which it was unaffiliated, the Sailors Union of the Pacific, justly famous for its militant defense of the working conditions of West Coast sailors, has voted to accept a charter of affiliation from the AFL.

The decision is not yet completely official. It requires adoption at four successive meetings of the Headquarters Branch in San Francisco, polling of all other locals, and votes by crews as ships make port. But two Headquarters meetings, a full poll of the coast locals, and numerous crew votes, already indicate an overwhelming vote for AFL affiliation—easily a ten to one vote.

Nor is this all. Meanwhile the Pacific Coast Marine Firemen, Oilers, Watertenders and Wipers Association have been conducting a referendum on the question of amalgamation with the Sailors Union. The official returns now record a vote of 1,015 in favor of amalgamation as against 171 unfavorable votes.

Thus it is already certain that the unlicensed seamen of the West Coast will be part of the AFL. Since the Masters, Mates and Pilots never left the AFL, this puts an end to the hopes of the CIO to dominate the West Coast shoreline.

### One Year Ago . . .

Anyone who would have predicted these developments a year ago would have seemed mad. The CIO seemed to be carrying all before it like a tidal wave. The Sailors had disaffiliated from the reactionary set-up of the International Seamen's Union (AFL) and strong currents in it were carrying it toward the CIO. The powerful West Coast locals of the longshoremen, with the exception of the Tacoma, Washington local, broke with the International Longshoremen's Association (AFL) and joined the CIO. The men on dock and ship were united in the Maritime Federation and it seemed only a matter of a little time before every maritime worker would be in the CIO on the West Coast. Every genuine victory of the CIO—in auto, steel, rubber, etc.—furthered this tendency.

### What Workers Wanted

Organization of the unorganized, democratic rank and file control, militancy against the bosses, union autonomy—these were the things which, so often not found in the AFL, the West Coast workers looked for in the CIO.

Then came the failure of the CIO in "little steel." The tidal wave fell back, workers in the CIO unions found the top officials opposing militancy, opposing democracy, opposing union autonomy. These factors slowed up the West Coast move toward the CIO.

### A Fatal Error

But, above all, the present CIO fiasco on the West Coast is the direct result of a fatal error of judgment by John L. Lewis. Harry Bridges offered him a proposition. Lewis knew Bridges had been a leader of the successful longshoremen's strikes of 1934. Bridges made big promises: he would "deliver" all the maritime workers, the northwest lumber workers, and "thousands of agricultural workers."

What Lewis didn't know, apparently, was that Bridges is a Communist Party puppet and that this clique had changed their tune. Lewis should have known better than to make a deal with Bridges, who was then already under fire for his frantic efforts to prevent a maritime strike "so as not to interfere with Roosevelt's election," for having agreed to unload "perishable cargo" during the strike, for giving tacit support to Senator Copeland's "fink book" to force seamen to accept government registration and regulation. But Lewis made the deal: he appointed Bridges CIO regional director.

### Impossible Promises

Some of Bridges' promises were, in any case, impossible of fulfillment. His decision—more accurately, the Communist Party decision—to split the lumber workers away from the AFL, was a reactionary move. It contributed nothing to the CIO pledge to organize the unorganized. On the contrary, it split the organized. For the lumber workers depend-

### Sailors Union Resolution For Entry into AFL

WHEREAS: The Sailors Union of the Pacific has remained independent for a period of over two years for the purpose of making unbiased observations during the A. F. of L.-CIO organizational drives; and,

WHEREAS: It has become apparent that the A. F. of L. has adhered to the true principles of Labor while the CIO has degenerated into the machine of a political party; and,

WHEREAS: The conditions gained through the militant activities of the Sailors Union of the Pacific are being threatened by the reactionary policies of the CIO forces in the Maritime industry in a boss-collaboration, labor-smashing crusade as evidenced by their approval of government hiring halls, their violent picket line smashing tactics, and their attempt to establish the NMU, on the West Coast and,—

WHEREAS: The A. F. of L. has consistently supported the Sailors Union of the Pacific in resisting this incursion; and,

WHEREAS: The A. F. of L. has offered the Sailors Union of the Pacific a national charter on the following terms:

1. Complete autonomy.
2. Complete control of funds and property.
3. Complete right to negotiate and sign its own agreements.
4. Right to call strikes on and off by referendum vote.
5. Right to select and adopt the name of the organization.
6. Never to be assessed for political purposes.
7. Right to elect own officials by referendum vote.
8. Never to impose a check-off list on the membership.

THEREFORE: Be it resolved, that a secret ballot be prepared reading, "Are you in favor of accepting a national charter from the A. F. of L. on our own terms as outlined above?" and be it further

RESOLVED: That this question be voted upon at Headquarters and in the branches during the next four regular meetings, or at special meetings called for the crews of ships which will not be in any port for one of these regular meetings; and, finally, be it

RESOLVED: That this resolution be printed in full in the official organ of the Sailors Union of the Pacific each week during the voting, and that it shall be read to the membership without comment at each meeting while the balloting is in progress.

four square against any and all moves to put the seamen under government regulation.

But precisely the job of handcuffing the workers—above all the seamen—to the Roosevelt Administration, was Bridges' main pre-occupation. For months his clique tried to win Lundberg by fawning flattery and slick maneuvers. That didn't work. Finally the word came down the line. Either capture the seamen or smash them!

### Sailors Defeat CP

Attempts at capturing them didn't work. In the elections a few months ago the Stalinists went down to overwhelming defeat in the Sailors. That was followed by the ousting of Bridges' clique men from official leadership of the Firemen, and the election of a leadership friendly to the Sailors.

### Union-Buster

If not capture, then smashing of the unions. Bridges' instrument for this purpose was the "National Maritime Union," the C. P.-controlled East Coast organization, which has been unable to secure conditions in any way comparable to the hard-won victories of the West Coast seamen. All efforts to get the West Coast seamen to "amalgamate" with the N. M. U. on the basis of becoming subordinate units subject to the N. M. U. officials failed, for the West Coast men understood what treatment they would get under those conditions. "Industrial unionism at home"—Amalgamation of all the seagoing crafts on the West Coast—was the first task proposed by Lundberg, followed by the establishment of a national union on a bona-fide democratic basis. This was, however, the last thing Bridges wanted.

Under direct orders of Bridges, the N. M. U. proceeded to raid ships under contract to the Sailors Union of the Pacific. A series of such incidents led to the climax when the N. M. U. connived with the owners of the Shepard Line and their mutual friends on the

National Labor Relations Board. The five Shepard ships were operating under closed-shop contract with the S. U. P. The ships were sent into eastern ports, discharged their crews and, when ready to operate, called for N. M. U. crews, although the S. U. P. maintains regular hiring halls for West Coast ships on the East Coast on the basis of an agreement whereby the N. M. U. maintains similar halls on the West Coast. With N. M. U. crews on the ships, the Labor Relations Board solemnly proceeded to hold an election, with only the N. M. U. and the defunct International Seamen Union on the ballot. This N. M. U. "victory" was the excuse for the Shepard Line to void its existing contract with the S. U. P.

When the ships arrived on the West Coast, the S. U. P. struck them. Whereupon Bridges mobilized his "pork chop goons"—men working under permit and at the mercy of Bridges—to break the picket lines. Backed by the Firemen, the Tacoma longshoremen, the AFL teamsters on both coasts, and a rising tide of protest in Bridges' own organization, the S. U. P. is holding firm to its position that a union contract takes precedence over any governmental election, let alone a phony one.

The splendid solidarity shown by the AFL unions in this fight weighed the scales in favor of AFL affiliation. At no time had the S. U. P. withdrawn from the AFL Central Labor Council of San Francisco. It was now clear that, unless the union was ready to surrender to the Bridges machine, the bonds of solidarity with the AFL unions must be knit ever closer. That was the reason for the decision of the leadership of the Sailors Union of the Pacific to submit the question of affiliation to referendum. Now the membership has voted for the proposal.

Trade unions and strikes are unable to remove the conditions which convert labor power into a commodity, and which doom the masses of the toilers to poverty and unemployment.

### Funeral for Bill Brown Saturday at 3 p. m.

(Continued from page 2)

son was on the most friendly terms with Bill Brown and the other drivers' officials.

They decided to tell Vincent Dunne about Johnson's behavior. Vincent, they knew, had planned to attend the regular meeting of the Central Labor Union.

Jack Smith volunteered to drive Johnson to the Central Labor Union. There, Johnson repeated his story to Vincent.

According to V. R. Dunne, Johnson had a wild strained look

on his face. Vincent expressed disbelief. He advised that they all return to the cafe.

### Incoherent Story

Back at Friedlund's they sat down with Johnson and asked him for details. His story was incoherent, and he refused to tell exactly where Brown was. Pressed for details, he would merely wave his hand vaguely. After an hour's questioning, he finally said Brown's body was in his car and that the car was parked out on

Washington Avenue. Vincent and Miles Dunne promptly walked down Washington Avenue. A half-block away they saw Brown's auto. Someone was slumped over in the seat.

The two immediately went to the Northside police station and reported what they had seen. A police car was sent to investigate, where patrolmen found Brown's body. An ambulance was called. The ambulance surgeon reported Brown dead.

Police then picked up Johnson at the cafe and took him to police headquarters, where he admitted killing Brown. Johnson was then placed in a cell.

The slaying of Bill Brown by Johnson surprised no one more than it did Captain William Forby of the North side police station.

"Why, these boys used to come into my office every day," Forby said. "They seemed to be real pals and used to drop in and kid me quite a bit."

### Unions Arrange for O'Connell Speech To Defy Boss Hague Terror in Jersey

Trenton, N. J.—Congressman Jerry O'Connell of Montana gave a pledge on Saturday at the state convention of Labor's Non-Partisan League, that he would speak in Jersey City on May 27 to defy Boss Hague's prohibition of free speech.

O'Connell charged that the decision calling off his and Congressman John T. Bernard's scheduled challenge of Hague on May 7 was not his decision, "but made against my better judgment. I have never run away from a fight before, and I will not do it the next time."

Unlike the May 7 arrangements, which were in the hands of the Communist Party-controlled "International Labor Defense" which at the last minute backed down and prevented Bernard and O'Connell from speaking, the arrangements for the May 27 fight are in the hands of the labor unions. William J. Carney, CIO regional director for New Jersey, and formerly a militant leader of the rubber workers, has applied for a

permit for an outdoor meeting. O'Connell pledged himself to speak "whether or not I have a permit."

Why Bernard did not join O'Connell in making good their previous failure was not indicated. Apparently Bernard remained in the hands of his previous advisers, while O'Connell broke with them.

The May 7 fiasco was a serious blow to labor's rights in Jersey City. The failure of the congressmen to make their scheduled appearance has encouraged the red-baiting and reactionary Hague machine to continue its terrorism against CIO unions. Leaflet distributions and outdoor meetings are forbidden. Gangs of Hague supporters, like typical Fascists, celebrated their victory over labor the same night by brutally beating a score of Jews, smashing photographers' cameras, and threatening bystanders with blackjacks and brass knuckles.

As the hour approached at which Bernard and O'Connell were scheduled to appear in Journal Square, three weeks ago, hundreds of police roped off the area. Into the square marched American Legionnaires, city employees and others belonging to the Hague machine, carrying banners against "Reds," the Civil Liberties Union, the CIO, etc.

But thousands of workers also gathered, waiting for the congressmen to appear, waiting for leadership against Hague. . . . Meanwhile, across the river in New York, the two congressmen had been crouched at the International Labor Defense headquarters. Hour after hour went by, while O'Connell and others argued that they should go through with the fight, but the I. L. D. officials insisted on calling it off. Finally, at 10:45 p. m., they prevailed, and the I. L. D. head, Marcantonio, issued the announcement:

"The reason why it has taken so long is that I have been unable

up to this moment to persuade either of them not to go. . . .

"However, as president of the I. L. D., I cannot permit innocent people to face certain bloodshed, violence, and perhaps death at the hands of a mob. . . ."

Instead of a mass struggle against Hague's terror, Marcantonio declared, "we would call upon President Roosevelt to intervene to restore law and order to a lawless city." Nothing came of this, of course.

Fortunately, the CIO unions have not taken the cowardly course followed by the I. L. D. They have now prepared to back O'Connell in a free speech fight in Journal Square on May 27. Now that the issue is one directly between unions and Mayor Hague, one wonders whether the officials of the AFL Central Labor Union of Jersey City, who disgraced themselves by endorsing Hague's prohibition of the May 7 meeting, can possibly repeat this reactionary action.

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### 544 Blanks Bus Nine in First Game

In a game that drew one thousand spectators to the Parade Grounds last Sunday afternoon, the General Drivers Local 544 baseball team played almost perfect ball to shut out the Jefferson Bus nine, 12 to 0.

The smoothness and finesse of the Local 544's ball players was truly amazing. The infield clicked with big league precision on the one double-play opening that presented itself. Griggs on first base handled himself particularly well. As for Russ Wenne, he's a ball team in himself. Sunday he allowed only four hits, besides slamming out three hits to score three runs. Wenne has one of the most versatile deliveries ever seen outside the highest professional circles. Dick Dubay contributed his usual classy performance behind

### 544, Heinies Play Sunday At Parade

By sheer good luck, the game that every ball fan has been waiting to see—a game between Local 544's nine and the Heinies, last year's state champs—has been scheduled for next Sunday afternoon at the Parade Grounds No. 8. It was reported Wednesday by Herman. Both teams had open dates over the Memorial Day week-end. The game will start promptly at 2 p. m., and every Local 544 fan and all lovers of good ball will want to be present.

On Monday the 544 team will play the United Shippers, last year's American Division champs, at Parade Grounds No. 8, at 2:30. Thus, lots of good ball playing can be seen over the week-end holidays.

the plate, besides getting four hits out of five.

Bro. Dakin still has a good buy in a house trailer for any union member.

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### Local 1859 Calls Special Meeting

A special membership meeting of Furniture Workers Union Local 1859 has been called for Wednesday, June 1, at 8 p. m. The third-floor auditorium at 257 Plymouth Avenue has been obtained for this meeting. Every member of the union, without exception, must be present. The meeting has been called by the Executive Board of Local 1859.

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# Northwest Organizer

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

## Why Some Get Relief— And How to Get More

Every militant worker who has had the opportunity to be active in a healthy trade union has learned that the way to improve his working conditions is to depend only on the strength of himself and his fellow workers. The organized might of labor—that's what gets results. Big-hearted bosses and politicians somehow never get around to giving the workers anything—until they are confronted by a powerfully-organized labor union.

This important lesson applies not only to wresting concessions from private industry, but also holds true in securing from the government WPA jobs and unemployment relief for the many workers—there are now fifteen million unemployed in this country!—whom private industry no longer can provide with employment.

### Unexpected but Frank Testimony

That only the might of labor secures, not only better working conditions, but also such relief as is given, this fact is unexpectedly admitted by an employers' spokesman, The Minneapolis Star. Obviously speaking to the numerous employers and their political agents who are attempting to cut down relief, an editorial in the Star of May 23rd, points out:

"There is only one possible answer to complaints raised in communities like Chicago and Cleveland, now running into grave difficulties in taking care of relief clients, that 'we cannot keep on paying for relief.'"

"That answer is, 'You've got to keep on paying for relief. There's no other alternative.' The difficulties of meeting a heavy relief bill are as nothing compared to the difficulties which would ensue if a great many people were left to go hungry and were denied the necessities of life."

"What many people forget who bemoan the high cost of caring for the unemployed is that relief and WPA, among other things, are a form of insurance against first-class trouble on a wide scale . . . insurance against widespread disturbances aimed at the status quo . . . The relief policy continues to be the country's best safeguard against subversive action against our form of society and government."

### A Lesson for Labor

It is by no means accidental that this unusually frank statement appears in a Minneapolis paper. For in this city the unemployed have, as their spokesman, the Federal Workers Section of 544. Here unemployed and employed are closely knit together. The full power of organized labor is thrown into the fight for WPA jobs and unemployment relief. As a result, relief standards are high and are kept high by the vigilant work of the FWS, backed by all labor. This means that to the extent that workers do get WPA jobs and relief, they do so thanks to the organized efforts of the labor movement, thanks to the might of organization.

And this fact points the road to securing WPA jobs and relief for those who need it and are not getting it, and to securing still higher standards of living for WPA and relief workers. MORE AND BETTER ORGANIZATION. MORE MILITANCY AND DETERMINATION THAT THE BOSSES OWE US ALL A LIVING.

## Hands Off Mexico!

The insolent stand of Great Britain in attempting to defy the Cardenas government of Mexico and to dictate its own rules in opposition to the laws and courts of Mexico has resulted in the severance of diplomatic relations between Mexico and Great Britain.

The British attempt to "get tough" with Mexico followed upon the hostile moves against Mexico taken by the Washington administration; the cessation of silver purchases, and the lowering of the world price of silver, one of Mexico's chief exports.

### Who Supports the Fascists?

The very day following the severance of formal relations between Mexico and Great Britain, the daily press announced that the fascist Mexican general, Cedillo, was preparing an uprising against the Cardenas government. We know enough of the situation to figure out who it is that supports Cedillo—it is the oil companies whose properties were expropriated by the Mexican workers.

It is an old trick for the imperialists to throw their backing to a rebel general when the government refuses to do their bidding.

Cardenas has moved vigorously and courageously against Cedillo and is reported as having the situation well in hand. The Mexican unions, thoroughly aroused at the fascist threat to their existence, are demanding arms so they can wipe out the foreign-supported fascist army.

In the present tense situation in Mexico, organized labor in the United States must show itself to be in complete solidarity with the Mexican people who are trying to free themselves from imperialist domination.

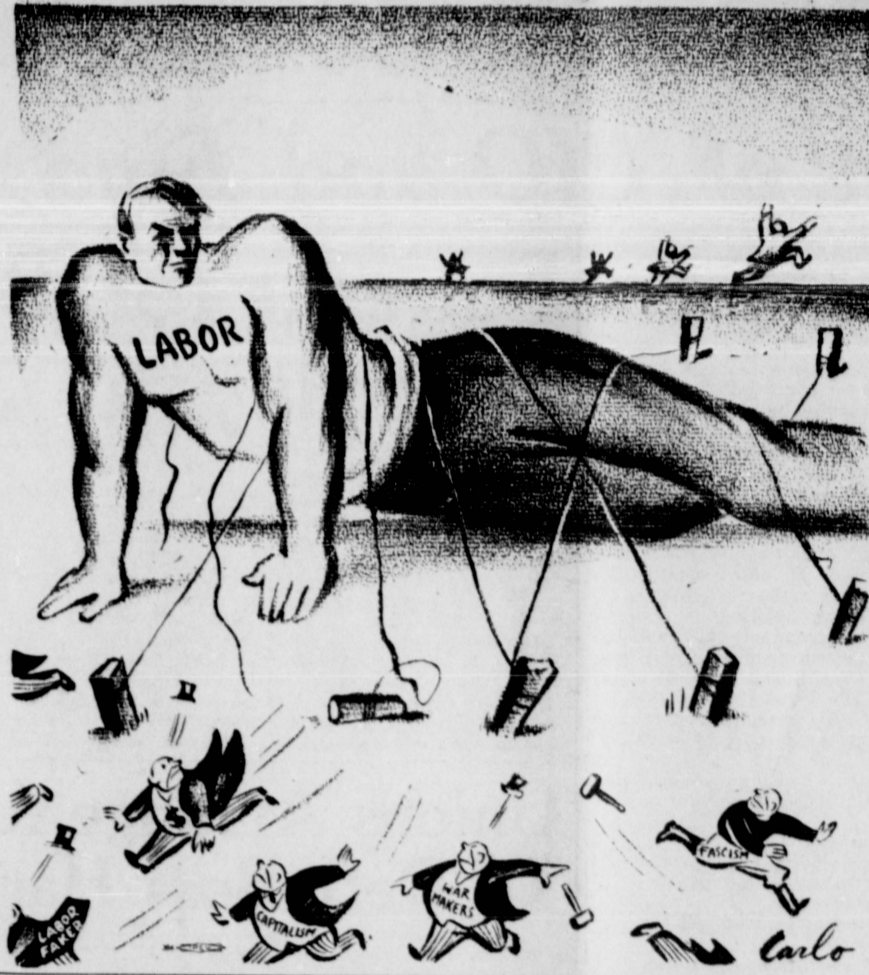
### Demonstrations of Solidarity

Resolutions supporting Cardenas' actions against the foreign oil interests and Cedillas must be drafted. The great oil companies, who have plundered Mexico for decades of untold wealth, must be made to drop their demands for "compensation."

And we think it would be a fine idea for the Midland Oil Cooperative to open negotiations for the purchase of Mexican oil, which the oil trust is trying to keep from the world market. Why shouldn't the Midland Oil Coop set an example to other oil cooperatives and to the labor movement, demonstrating its solidarity with the Mexican unions by purchasing Mexican oil? Surely, the customers and members of the Midland Coop will support this suggestion to the fullest.

All support to the Mexican unions who have forced the oil expropriation! Hands off Mexico!

## Gulliver Awakes!



## Keeping Step With 544

By Micky Dunne

General Drivers Union of Minneapolis is playing a leading role in the new seven-state over-the-road agreement.

The Building Trades Council met in the Teamsters building Friday with the 544 Executive Board, where a campaign against Local 1's encroachment in the Building Trades was planned.

Two new offices are being fitted up on the second floor. One will house the Filling Station Attendants.

### So What

Cabinet making shops and fash and door factories say they will not sign with the union.

Dick Das, former bearded Menace, has just been married—It's the second leap.

Frosig spellbound the transfer section at that Thursday night meeting.

### It Sounds Deadly

Cemetery Workers and Embalmers are completely unionized.

Union agreements are falling into line in a fine way this spring.

Little Known Facts About Great (?) Men

Mayor George (I love 544) Leach does not carry a union card.

Inside Bakery Workers are on the verge with employers.

The Omaha Drivers Local now subscribes to the Northwest Organizer.

Kelly Postal's wife is very, very ill.

Pee-Wee Dunne is back on the switchboard.

On page 47 of the May 23rd issue of Time magazine you will find something interesting.

### \$50,000 Reward

For anyone proving that (I Love God) Taylor was ever right about anything.

The Federal Workers Section has scored another major victory.

Christ Moe, veteran coal section fighter, now works in the printing trade.

Non-union brewery drivers are being organized.

The 544 baseball team is without a doubt one of the classiest in the city—at least two team members have been given the double-O by the Minneapolis baseball club.

Many members of the I.T.O., who have strayed from the fold, are back in the union.

### Thought for the Week

Be a little more explicit, please, Mr. Petersen.

## La Follette's Party, Viewed By Wis. Trades Council

(Reprinted from "Kenosha Labor," May 20th issue)

The Farmer-Labor Progressive Federation, and its constituent groups, including the Wisconsin State Federation of Labor, are vitally concerned in any move looking toward a new national party.

"All the Federation groups have favored a new party organized on a national scale. Most Federation members, however, it seems, are cool to the manner in which Phil La Follette, without seeking their views or those of farmer or labor groups in other states, has single-handedly launched the National Progressives of America, Inc. They are puzzled by the vagueness of its program, and somewhat fearful that it may be a bid to labor's enemies no less than to labor.

"The governor has not contributed to a better understanding between himself and the important groups whose votes he seeks by concealing his plans.

"Nor has the appointment of General Ralph M. Immell as the executive director of the National Progressives won the governor new friends in the Federation. Labor looks with grave apprehension on a political party whose chief organizer is a commander of the national guard, and particularly one whose record in commanding the militia against the farmers in the milk strike of 1934 is still bitterly and properly resented.

"For our part we hope the Federation will decline to endorse Phil's new venture.

"The manner of organizing the new party was wholly undemocratic. Its program is still too vague to command respect.

"If LaFollette desires the support of organized farm and labor groups it is well that he should learn, before he has progressed further in politics, that their support will be given on the basis of a definite program loyally adhered to.

"We should like to see La Follette a member of a farmer-labor party. But if he and labor are to join hands, then La Follette should come to the labor movement and accept its aims. Labor's experience with Republicans and Democrats has taught it the folly of being the tail to anyone's kite."

## 382 Man Wins Vs. Mpls. Moline

Herman H. Gillian, vice-president of Lodge 382, AFL Machinists, dismissed last December by the Minneapolis Moline Power Implement Company, was ordered reinstated with full seniority rights and with pay for all lost time since December 13, by the National Labor Relations Board, in a decision announced Monday.

The company had refused to put Gillian back to work upon his return from a 90-day leave of absence in December. He had been a committeeman of the union in the foundry. The company's dismissal of Gillian was backed by the CIO Machinists. Gillian had worked in the plant since 1922.

The company has ten days to comply with the NLRB order.

Land O' Lakes Strike Symposium Friday Evening

Minneapolis will have an opportunity this Friday to hear opposing views on the much discussed recent Land O' Lakes strike, when the Minneapolis chapter of the Workers Defense League holds a symposium featuring John Bosch, national Farm Holiday leader; Gene Larson, secretary of the Milk Drivers Union Local 471; and Gideon Edbergh, of the educational committee, Franklin Cooperative. Each speaker will present his views on the Land O' Lakes strike.

The symposium will feature the monthly dinner meeting of the League, and will be held Friday, May 27, at six p. m. at the Minneapolis YMCA, rooms 307-8. Dinner is a la carte. The public is invited.

Ice Men Set Deadline For Signing Pact

May 28 was set as the deadline for the bosses to sign the contracts submitted by Ice Drivers Local 221, by the union membership meeting of Tuesday night.

If the contracts are not signed by that date, a special membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 1, 8 p. m., to take the necessary action to enforce the proposed agreements.

The membership unanimously voted to stand by all their demands and to bring the bosses into line.

Larson Transfer Tie-Up Balks No. 1

It took a half-day strike late last week to straighten out the Larson Transfer company, 3115 East 50th Street. One of the two drivers at Larson's had appeared at work wearing the detestable button of "Local No. 1," the fink organization backed by Mayor Leach and certain employers.

The other driver refused to work, and Local 544 tied up the company from Wednesday afternoon to Thursday noon. At the end of that time, the Number 1 driver had changed his mind, and joined General Drivers Union Local 544.

The Larson Transfer is again a union concern.

Register for Union Golf Tournament

Robert Tibbetts, financial secretary of Warehouse and Inside Workers Union Local 20316, asks all golfers interested in the tournament being sponsored by the union to contact him immediately. The tournament will be played Sunday morning, June 5, at Westwood Hills. Tickets sell for \$1, which includes green fees and free beer. Handsome prizes will be given for the player making the best score.

It will be a blind bogey contest, giving even the worst golfer a chance at first prize.

## FWS Initiates Campaign For More Jobs

Last Friday the Federal Workers Section of Local 544 sent letters to all drivers' union locals in Minnesota, calling attention to the FWS stand that the present quota of 60,000 WPA jobs must be raised to 120,000 to take care of the growing army of unemployed.

The letter appeals to all workers, to all unions, to write to their representatives and senators in Washington, demanding more jobs for Minnesota's unemployed.

The text of the letter follows: "Dear Sirs and Brothers:

The other day Victor Christgau, administrator of WPA in Minnesota, informed the Federal Workers Section of Local 544 that the quota for this state is filled, and that there will be no more reinstatements or reassignments for workers laid off from WPA for causes not of their own making, except in cases where the worker has left WPA for private industry and must return.

The Federal Workers Section has taken the stand that the present quota of 60,000 WPA jobs is not nearly enough and that 120,000 more nearly approximates the number necessary to take care of the present and ever growing army of unemployed.

We have addressed letters to the entire Farm Labor delegation in congress demanding that they get behind a program to increase the quota to 120,000. Unemployment is on the increase here as elsewhere. What happened in Cleveland and Chicago can happen here—relief can be cut off for lack of money. It is the job of organized labor to see to it that WPA and relief standards are maintained and increased.

We are asking you to write to your representatives and senators in Washington demanding that this be their program—more WPA jobs for Minnesota unemployed.

Write to your congressmen and senators! Demand, with the rest of organized labor that Minnesota's quota be increased to 120,000! Fight WPA layoffs! Organize the unemployed!

Fraternally yours,

ED PALMQUIST,

Vice Chairman 544.

GEO. VIENS,

Sec.-Treas. FWS 544."

Kentucky AFL Plans State Labor Paper

The Northwest Organizer has recently learned from E. H. Weyler, secretary of the Kentucky State Federation of Labor, that this body is seriously planning to publish a state-wide union paper. Brother Weyler writes that the Organizer "has been mentioned as one of the best and most progressive in the country" and requests copies of our paper for reference. The action planned by the Kentucky unionists is another token of the swift growth of the labor press, and is hailed by all unionists.

Hygiene Institute Campaigns Against Syphilis

The Minnesota Social Hygiene Institute is conducting a campaign to urge every person to see his physician for a yearly venereal test. Syphilis, if caught in the early stages, is a disease that can be cured, thus preserving the health and life of the unfortunate exposed to the disease.

Many local labor leaders are supporting the Institute in its campaign to popularize the idea of fighting syphilis by yearly medical examinations.

## On the NATIONAL PICKET LINE

(Continued from page 1) decision of the NLRB in the three cases against the Ford Motor Company, the Inland and Republic Steel Corporations, we question the good that "teeth" can be to act whose obituary has already been written.

Last week, WPA workers and trade unionists united in picketing the WPA office in New York City, protesting the new ruling, effective June 30, 1938, which sets \$1,000 per year as the maximum expenditure allowed for each employee. The pickets paraded for two hours, carrying banners protesting the ruling, demanding a \$75 monthly minimum wage instead of the present \$60.50, and a job for every employable person.

More and more, as time goes on, will such items as the above be seen in the daily papers. And more and more often these items will tell stories of mass action of sit down strikes in relief stations, etc. For unemployment is growing.

Sioux City Drivers Vote Full Power to Executive Board

Sioux City, Iowa—About 200 members of the Teamsters Union Local 382 attended a special meeting Sunday, May 22, at the Labor Temple. A resolution was adopted giving the executive board full power to act in accord with the North Central Over-the-Road negotiating committee.

Webster Lumber Pact Renewed

Last week the Woodenware Workers Union Local 20481 signed a new one-year contract with the Webster Lumber company, situated in the Midway district.

The contract, covering about 25 men, calls for a continuation of wages and conditions in effect by terms of the present pact, which expires June 1. The 55c minimum wage, with 70c for machine operators, will be paid; a week's paid vacation and strict seniority are specified.

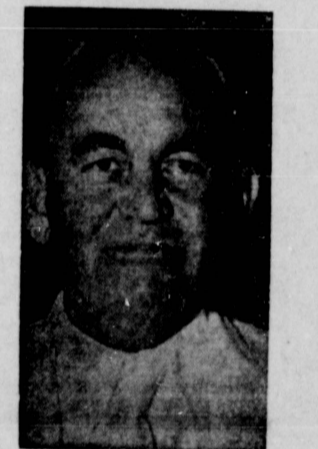
## Mooney Tells Present Move For Freedom

In a letter from Tom Mooney, received Monday, the aging working-class fighter expressed himself as genuinely hopeful that freedom for himself and Billings will be forthcoming in the near future.

Mooney said his brief in the habeas corpus action was filed on March 15th. The State of California replied on April 30th. Now Mooney is awaiting a ruling from the United States Supreme Court, which he expects to be handed down not later than May 31st.

Hearings on the Murray O'Connell resolution now before Congress, which would memorialize the governor of California to pardon Mooney, opened before a subcommittee of the House Judiciary on May 11th. Many important witnesses appeared, despite the fact the subcommittee had no power to subpoena witnesses or to pay their expenses. Expenses were paid by the defense committee, which is now desperately pressed for funds. Mooney asks workers and unions to direct all funds to the Molders' Defense Committee, Box 1475, San Francisco, California.

Today Makes 8,073 Days . . .



UNION MEETING SCHEDULE	
<b>LOCAL 471</b> The Milk Wagon Drivers and Dairy Employees Union Local 471 meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7 p. m.	<b>LOCAL 292</b> Inside Section—First Tuesday Radio Section—Second Tuesday Shopmen's Section—Second Wednesday Utility Section—First Thursday General Membership—Third Thursday Seniority Board—Every Monday Utility Advisory Board—Every Tuesday General Executive Board—Mondays preceding first and third Thursdays Inside Advisory Board—Alternate Mondays from G. E. B. Examining Board—Second Wednesday Utility Stewards—Wednesdays preceding first and third Thursdays
<b>LOCAL 131</b> The Laundry and Dry Cleaning Drivers Local 131 meets the first and third Wednesdays of each month.	<b>LOCAL 103</b> Regular Membership Meeting—2nd Tuesdays Executive Committee Meeting—On call.
<b>LOCAL 664</b> The City and Sanitary Drivers Local 664 will meet the first and third Fridays of each month.	<b>PRIVATE CHAUFFEURS</b> The Private Chauffeurs and Helpers Local 912 meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month.
<b>LOCAL 1086</b> The Retail Clerks Local 1086 will meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month.	<b>LOCAL 221</b> Regular membership—2nd and 4th Tuesdays Executive Board—Every Tuesday, 7 p. m. Grievance Board—Every Thursday, 7 p. m.
<b>PETROLEUM DRIVERS</b> Regular Membership Meeting—First Wednesday each month.	<b>LOCAL 346</b> Day Workers—May 9, 8:30 p. m. Night Workers—May 23, 1:30 p. m.
<b>FEDERAL WORKERS</b> Regular Membership Meeting—Second Friday each month. Stewards' Meeting—Every Wednesday, 8 p. m.	<b>LOCAL 544 MEETING SCHEDULE MAY, 1938</b> Friday, May 6—Job Stewards Sunday, May 8—Wholesale Grocery, 10 a. m. Monday, May 9—General Membership Wednesday, May 11—Market; Wholesale Liquor Sunday, May 15—Over-the-Road, 10 a. m. Monday, May 16—Building Material; Furniture Stores Thursday, May 19—Tent and Awning; Printing; Newspaper, 10 a. m. Friday, May 20—Job Stewards Monday, May 23—Spring Water; Excavating and Sand and Gravel. Tuesday, May 24—Taxi Drivers—Night drivers, 1 p. m. Thursday, May 26—Transfer and Warehouse; Wholesale Drug. Seniority Committee meets each Tuesday at 7 p. m. in Hall No. 1. Grievance Committee meets each Tuesday and Friday at 7 p. m. in Hall No. 2. Executive Board meets each Wednesday at 9 a. m. in Staff Room.
<b>LOCAL 289</b> Retail Drivers—First Thursday. Wholesale Drivers—Second Thursday. Yeast Drivers—Third Tuesday. Cake and Pie—Third Thursday. General Membership—Fourth Thursday.	<b>ICE, COAL DRIVERS MEETING SCHEDULE</b> Local 221, Ice and Coal Drivers Union, will hereafter hold all of its regular meetings at the new headquarters of the Teamsters Joint Council, 257 Plymouth Ave. N. Regular Union meetings will be held on the second and fourth Tuesdays. Executive Board meetings are subject to call. The Union office is now located at the above address.