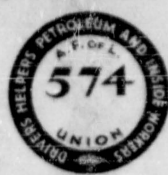


UNITED
LABOR
ACTION

THE ORGANIZER



TWO TWENTY-FIVE

SOUTH THIRD STREET

SMASH THE
CITIZENS
ALLIANCE

Vol. 1, No. 7

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, THURSDAY, JULY 19, 1934

Price one cent

Bosses Fail To Roll Trucks

ive to Make
s. Union City
Necessity Now
Is Fighting the Cause
Every Workingman

neapolis is an important industry, one of the most important in the whole Northwest. But it has been a union town. The bosses have the gall to boast in their advertisements that this is "one of the leading hop cities in the United States."

Unfortunately the truth is that the bosses pass around a lot of dark clouds to what Local 574 is trying to do. They say it really is not interested in the demands of this strike. If there is one thing beyond the legitimate demands of this strike that Local 574 is interested in, it is this: to make Minneapolis a union town. This is one reason why the strike conducted by Local 574 is so popular with all sections of the working class of Minneapolis.

This is easily possible. The strike being conducted has already helped other unions. For example, 150 truck drivers have signed up with the Drivers Local since the strike. In every union the members see possibilities of extending their success.

Local 574 cannot swing the situation. Every union must get into the fight to make this a 100 per cent union town. We have a chance to make Minneapolis a bright spot on the U. S. map. It is time to do so. Let the union throw itself heartily behind the truckers' strike, helping to organize every driver, helper, platman and inside man, and let every stage of a drive to organize its own union completely. When we get that Minneapolis workers will really be in a position to defend their interests against exploitation and oppression.

It is the time! Make Minneapolis a union town! Solidarity and Struggle, motto of Local 574, should become the motto of all Minneapolis labor.

Attempts to Move Trucks
When Pickets Appear

Several attempts made by bosses to roll trucks yesterday against the order of the Strike Committee of 100 failed when cruising pickets turned the situation into a critical moment. The Pliamum Company, Washington and Broadway, loaded a truck manned by scabs and tried to move it under guard. When the picket squad saw the scabs had a change of heart the whole scheme was abandoned.

With considerable relief the truck went back to the station. The same thing happened a while later at the Toy Laundry. Local 574's slogan remained: No truck is going to be rolled by anybody!

Man Fired — With Company
11 Years

Northwest Corrugated Box Co., 10 E. Marshall St., has just fired a man who has given 11 years of service to the company. 574 will watch this firm, and see that it does not sell moves. All un-unionized companies will cooperate with us

THE BASIS FOR SETTLEMENT

The representative of the new labor relations board of the administration in Washington, the Rev. Francis J. Haas, has arrived in Minneapolis as the new federal mediator in the dispute between Local 574 and the employers.

He has already met with representatives of the employers, and with representatives of the striking workers and, according to the press, has expressed himself as "quite hopeful" about a speedy settlement of the strike.

The workers yield to nobody in their anxiety to see an early conclusion of the walkout. In the numerous meetings held with representatives of employers, it was more than once emphasized by the delegates of Local 574 that they were interested in arriving at a solution of the dispute which would make a strike unnecessary. And now, on the third day of the strike, we are still ready to declare that every sincere effort to bring the dispute to a satisfactory conclusion will meet with the hearty cooperation of 574.

The members of Local 574 did not decide upon the serious step of calling a strike merely in order to parade its strength on the streets of Minneapolis. It was only after every other means of obtaining their rights had been exhausted that the workers decided to enforce their legitimate claims by means of a strike.

Local 574 and the workers united in its ranks, have never hesitated to present their standpoint and to do it without concealment or equivocation. For that reason they have never felt the need of camouflaging the real issues or of creating fake ones. Bluntly and simply, they have used every occasion to state their case. There has never been anything to hide.

The arrival of the Rev. F. J. Haas for the purpose of settling the strike offers an additional occasion for restating our position.

The much debated section 7-A in the National Recovery Act merely restates the right which labor has won for itself time and time again in the course of vigorous and bitter fighting and which it must at all times be prepared to defend to the last ditch, for in defending it, it is only defending its own life. This right is the right to organize into trade unions of their own choosing, run and controlled by themselves, and independent of the domination by any employer or group of employers. Decades of experience have taught the workers that the elementary means of defending themselves against attacks made upon their standard of living by employers, is the trade union. The union, strongly and solidly organized, ever vigilant and militant—that means the worker's job, that means the worker's bread and butter.

Without the Union, the worker is at the mercy of his employer. His wages can be reduced to the starvation level. His hours of labor may be lengthened until he drops from sheer exhaustion. His conditions of work may be reduced to the level of the coolie. Unorganized, un-unionized, the worker must suffer all this pressure exerted to increase the profits of employers without being able to make an effective protest or to offer effective resistance.

It is this right which is at stake in the present dispute. And the workers on strike have made it clear beyond the possibility of doubt that they will not budge a single inch in the struggle for this right. On this point there cannot even be any talk about concessions.

A right which is acknowledged "in principle" without being exercised in practice, doesn't mean a thing. It becomes a downright deception. When the workers organize into a union of their craft, trade or industry, and they commission their union and its officers to speak and act in their name, they are doing nothing more than exercising the right to organize.

And that is all that the members of Local 574 have done, and that is what they insist upon continuing to do. The Union is their protection, their shield. They will not allow it to be shattered.

Entirely in harmony with this view and in-

separable from it, the workers in Local 574 insist upon their right to be represented by their organization in all negotiations with employers concerning questions affecting their work and wages. That, too, they regard as nothing more than an elementary right which they will never voluntarily surrender.

Last May, the employers refused to acknowledge this right. Local 574 was compelled to go on strike in order to enforce its demands. Everybody knows that the mass of men who followed the banner of 574 in the May strike proved beyond a doubt that the vast majority of the truck drivers, helpers and inside men were in the Union's ranks.

The irresistible strength of the Union obliged the employers to retreat from their position last May. But it was only a "strategic retreat," for it soon became obvious that they were continuing their efforts to crush the Union and break up the solidarity of the workers. They discovered a new pretext for refusing to deal with the workers in an organized form. They denied Local 574 the right to speak in the name of the inside workers.

With obviously ulterior motives, they insisted upon snooping into the membership books of the Union to see if it really represented the inside workers. Our Union, in common with every trade worthy of the name, contemptuously rejected this demand. Our Union defends its members; it does not expose them to the persecution and discrimination of employers. The employers, who realized perfectly well that the inside men had authorized us to act in their name, were finally given plenty of proof of the indisputable fact:

In May, the solidity of the strike and the completeness with which the market was tied up, showed plainly whether or not Local 574 had the inside men.

Now, in July, anybody who still doubts the fact, can have his doubts dispelled—not by asking for membership rolls which no self-respecting Union keeps open for public inspection—but by counting the men on the picket line! The employers, who didn't need any more proof than they had, but hypocritically demanded it—well, they have it now.

The men in 574 want a Union that protects their interests, one that is free from the control of employers. They want a Union whose policy the members themselves set down, whose leaders the members themselves select. They want no policy and no leadership rammed down their throats from the outside. That is why they resent with increasing irritation the demands of the employers, the Citizens Alliance, the press and other reactionary elements, that the Union should throw out their leaders and put in their place individuals who will serve the interests of anybody except the workers themselves. That is why they have expressed their support of and confidence in their leaders—time and again, spontaneously and in deliberately drafted resolutions.

This is the fundamental stand that Local 574 has taken and for which it is prepared to fight stubbornly and unyieldingly. It is this position that it has put forward in round-the-table conferences with the employers. It is this position that it is defending on the picket line right now. There is going to be no compromise and no retreat on this score.

Local 574 is ready to meet half-way anybody who understands and is ready to recognize these fundamental rights. As they have shown many times, Local 574 and its officers are always prepared to meet with the employers for the purpose of adjusting the dispute PROVIDED that these rights are not called into question.

We reiterate our views in plain language. A clear understanding of them will make it easier for the Rev. F. J. Haas to bring about a settlement of the strike which was forced upon us, but which we are ready to fight out to the bitter end.

Employers Plan
to Shatter Line
Flops Miserably

Emergency Farm Market
Relieves Distress

Thursday morning, the third day of the strike, which was looked forward to with tension and interest, gave encouraging confirmation of the fact that Local 574 has succeeded in bottling up the market in spite of all claims to the contrary.

At the beginning of the strike, the employers claimed in the press that because they had previously seen to it that stocks were plentifully supplied, they would make no serious attempt to start their trucks rolling until the morning of Thursday, July 19. That date was therefore regarded as a test of the strength of the strike and its effectiveness. And the strikers have met the test with flying colors! No serious attempt was even made to move any trucks out of the market this morning. A concentrating of pickets was so obviously formidable that the bosses apparently decided not even to try to match their handful of scabs against the solid and determined picket lines of 574, larger this morning than at any other time in the strike.

The total collapse of the employers' plans to break through with scab trucks, is enough to give the lie to the statement appearing in yesterday's local press which claimed that an "investigation" had shown that less than twenty per cent of the companies were affected by the walkout. The strike is as solid as a rock and the employers are well aware of it.

While the city market is as quiet and lifeless as a cemetery, involving the companies in thousands of dollars of loss every day, stocks are running low throughout the city, bringing the situation to a head. On the other hand, farmers from the outskirts of Minneapolis have set up a market of their own in agreement with the Union's Strike Committee of 100. This market is doing a land office business and is alleviating any distress that might have been caused the workers and small business men as a result of the strike. This smooth coordination between strikers and small farm products distributors has served to put an additional crimp into the employers' strike-breaking plans.

Men and officers of the Union are in high spirits as it becomes increasingly clear that the strike is 100 per cent effective. No effort will be spared to keep the situation at its present status and the efficiency and determination of the pickets leaves no room for doubt as to their ability to keep the market sewed up as tight as a silk glove.

Membership Meeting
Local 574

At General Headquarters
215 Eighth St. So.
Thursday at 8 P. M.

Important Business!

LATEST NEWS FROM THE STRIKE FROM

The Truth About a Newspaper Lie

The Associated Press is the greatest single link in the national news-propaganda chain of the bosses and exploiters. Its reports appear in the leading papers of every city in the U. S. Yesterday, as the Employers Advisory Committee re-opened its campaign of slanders and attacks on the striking truckers, the Associated Press simultaneously sent through the country its own attack on the workers.

In its main story from Frisco, the A. P. stated that there are now in Frisco various "Reds" responsible for having beaten up "deputies" in Toledo and Minneapolis a couple of months ago. The workers of Toledo can answer for themselves. As for the Minneapolis workers, the truckers in particular, they say:

When the bosses send out their thugs, yeggs, deputies, etc., to beat up Minneapolis truckers, we do not need any imported people to defend us. We members of Local 574 defended ourselves ably in the last strike without any help from anybody else and we can do it again if we have to. Those who picketed in the last strike are not in Frisco today. They are still here, picketing again.

Yes, what happened two months ago was that the Minneapolis workers defended themselves against attack, not

that the finks and thugs were attacked by "outsiders." To every worker in the city, Local 574 says this: examine this lie of the A. P. printed in every Minneapolis paper and then you will know how much to believe of the slanders being spread by the bosses against 574.

Local 574 is not "in the grip" of "agitators." It is a democratic union which does not inquire into a man's policies but only into whether or not he is a good union member. Its leaders are those who built it up out of a tiny organization, led the last strike to partial victory, and have won the confidence of the members. The bosses are attacking Local 574 and its leaders as Reds and what-not because Local 574 is really fighting for the workers' interests and that is what the bosses cannot stand.

The bosses are ready to spend thousands of dollars for ads in their newspapers to attack the strike leaders and the strike, but will not pay out a cent to meet the legitimate wage demands of Local 574.

The answer of the workers is to closer ranks and fight on shoulder to shoulder as good unionists, good strikers, good fellow workers, and to pay no heed to the machinations of the bosses which are designed to split our ranks.

The Sharp Shooter

Letters to dere emily

Wednesday

dere emily,

well, kid, I suppose you been wondering why i aint written for a week now. the reason is the union is out on strike again. but i suppose you no that by this time—that is if old man butterbaugh is still getting out the Turtle Creek Gazette on time. you know emily we was on strike in May and won out all right, only now the bosses are trying to cheat us out of our victory. so now we are fighting the bosses again. i suppose you still call them employers up in Turtle Creek, like mister golding down at the pottery works, but here in Minneapolis we call them bosses cause we realize how they try to boss our lives. we call em lots of others things too but i wont mention them here.

so now we got a new strike headquarters and we got the old town tied up tighter than a bullseye in flytime. i guess you no what that means emily, and if you dont your old man will no. how is your old man by the way. does your ma still make him wear those brown shirts when he choos tobaccy?

i was working on the day shift picketing today emily and we had a lot of fun. up on 17th avenue north we caught a scab trying to deliver popicles in a private car and the car happened to get turned over in the street and the popicles went all over the street. they was a bunch of kids around and did they go for those popicles. popicles is ice cream on a stick. maybe you aint got anything like that up in Turtle Creek yet. so the kids are all for us strikers and they say to stop more scabs delivering popicles so they can get em free like that again.

well kid i got to close now cause i got to get some shut-eye maybe after we win this strike i'll be making enough money so as i can send you the fare to come down to Minneapolis on a visit. they's a swell bunch of guys in the union which i want you to meet, bill brown and skogie and happy and a lot more good guys.

say hello to the family for me and ask that fathead brother of yours to send me back those pants which he borrowed with two dollars in the watch pocket.

faithfully,

Mike

ps. i forgot to tell you emily. our strike headquarters is right across from the Minneapolis Club which is a club where all the swells in town hang out. like the elks club in Turtle Stump only better. all day long we see old baldheads peeping from behind the curtains at us across the street. a kid who works there was over at headquarters today and says the plutes is so sore at us guys for striking that they dont hardly eat any luncheon at all anymore just milk and crackers. he says usually the old peckernecks stuff themselves like pigs.

and speaking of papers us strikers has got a daily paper of our own now the Organizer. i am enclosing one with the letter so you can see what its like. reading this and then reading the bosses papers and you can see what it would be like if the workers owned the papers and printed news sympathetic-like to the workers. please right soon emily.

The Strikers' Voice

Dear Editor:

As a rank and filer of Local 574 I want to do my part in stopping Mr. D. J. Tobin, President of the International, from giving our employers fuel for their fire and also to ask him to prove slanders he makes against our Union and leaders in the July issue of his paper, the International magazine. His actions are no way to treat our Union.

—A member of 574, not a Communist but a Chippewa Indian and real American.

M. C. C. W. Calls Workers to Aid

To All E. R. A. Workers

Problems of E.R.A. workers grow directly out of existing unemployment conditions. This terrific problem can only be solved by concerted effort by workers themselves. As a first step, it is essential that E.R.A. workers and the unemployed band together to obtain a living more in harmony with the high productive capacity of American industry.

E.R.A. workers and the unemployed, organized by themselves, would alone be a big step forward. But to get best results it is necessary that they win the support of organizations of the employed, particularly the trade unions. Interests of these two groups are identical. They should immediately collaborate for mutual needs.

General Drivers Union 574 is out on strike! Their demands are very modest. They have the sympathy and support of every Trade Unionist in and around Minneapolis, and of the E.R.A. workers themselves. This struggle of Local 574 needs the full support, physical as well as moral, of everyone. The unemployed must now show their solidarity with the employed. The fight of 574 is the fight of all workers. For it, all workers must now organize.

If you are not eligible to join a Trade Union, join a branch of the Minneapolis Central Council of Work-

ers, Labor's common front employment and relief. Whether or not, come to the M.C.C.W. quarters, 303 S. Third St., 6 a.m. and 8 p.m. Register picket duty. Get an MCCW which gives you the official status participant in the strike under direction of the Strike Committee.

If you are on E.R.A., register picket duty on the days you work, and hold yourselves in readiness to quit work and join the ranks of 574.

In any event choose two representatives from each E.R.A. job. Saturday morning's conference E.R.A. Workers as called by Local 574 has long supported affiliated with, the M.C.C.W. in the promotion of its correct function in Labor Movement, and now place the M.C.C.W. its proper respect for registering all unemployed for this strike.

We ask your immediate action.

(Signed) MINNEAPOLIS CENTRAL COUNCIL OF WORKERS

Editor's Note: The M.C.C.W. delegated body composed of representatives from various organizations (Trade Union, police fraternal) whose main purpose is to unite the actions of labor on unemployment and relief.

Discuss Strike Status at Overflow Meeting

The members of 574 met last night to review developments of the first two days of the strike. They packed the second floor of G.H.Q. A large overflow crowd, including many workers of other industries, gathered in the street below to listen to the loud-speaker which carried the proceedings to them.

President Wm. Brown of 574 and Miles Dunne of the Organizing Committee made the leading addresses. Other speakers were Elmer Crowl of the Iron Workers Union, Grant Dunne, a representative of the City and Sanitary Drivers, Henry Schulz and Max Finkelstein. Crowl and the Sanitary representative pledged support to the strike.

The picketing situation was reviewed and reported as satisfactory. The significance of the calling of the troops by Gov. Olson was discussed and the danger to the strike from the National Guard was pointed out by several speakers. Because of the extreme heat the meeting adjourned early. Another meeting will be held tonight at 8 o'clock at G.H.Q.

Junk Trucks Not to Move

The President of the Junk Dealers Assn. appeared yesterday before the Strike Committee with a request for permits for his members to drive trucks during the strike. Members of the Committee produced evidence, however, to prove that a dealer had been caught with a load of chickens hidden under the so-called junk. Permits have been refused.

Strikers: Build Your Paper

In view of the immense popularity of **The Organizer**, the edition is being enlarged. Beginning with today's issue, 10,000 copies will be printed each day. Workers in all industries are eagerly reading the first strike daily ever published in the United States.

All strikers are asked to turn in news items for the **Organizer**. A box has been placed near the Bulletin Board in G.H.Q. where you can deposit items of information; these will be collected by one of our reporters.

Volunteers are also wanted to help distribute the **Organizer** around town.

A Living Wage

By J. P. Morgan, testimony before U. S. Commission on Industrial Relations.

QUESTION: Do you consider ten dollars a week enough for a longshoreman with a family to support?
ANSWER: If that's all he can get, and he takes it, I should say it's enough.

Strike Backed by E. R. A. Workers and Upholsterers

At the largest meeting held in the past year, the Upholsterers Local endorsed the demands of Local 574 and voted to take any action in support of the drivers which Local 574 may ask. The sentiment among the clothing workers is equally strong in favor of 574's strike.

Delegations of workers from the Emergency Relief projects have been coming to the Strike Committee of 100 demanding to be organized and to be called out on strike. They express profound dissatisfaction with conditions of their work and a determination to organize for their mutual protection.

Laundry Bosses Reject Union Terms

Negotiations between representatives of the laundry drivers of Local 574 and the laundry bosses, conducted through Rabbi Gordon, came to a standstill last night when the bosses turned down the terms of agreement submitted by the workers' representatives. The bosses countered with terms of their own which, according to Brother R. Latz, Business Agent of the laundry workers, are absolutely empty of any concessions to the workers. The workers turned the bosses down on this.

Rabbi Gordon requested more time to try to reach a settlement. He asked for copies of the two proposals and also for data in the hands of the Union concerning conditions in the industry and union agreements in other parts of the country. Supplied with all these, he said he would like time to study them and to try to work out proposals acceptable to both parties. The workers agreed to meet with him and the bosses this afternoon in another effort to reach a settlement without calling a strike.

Brother Latz, however, informed the negotiators that the Union could not go on talking indefinitely. The workers are growing impatient of delay, and the bosses make no serious offer. Unless a satisfactory settlement is reached they will close up the laundry industry of Minneapolis and force concessions from the bosses.

Tomorrow night the Executive Board of the laundry workers meets. On Saturday night the membership will meet to determine the question of strike; if no agreement has been reached they will call the strike and set the date.

A Real Scab Outfit

The Hall Supply Company, 108 So. 4th St., dealers in bicycles and rubber-tired Toys, is one of the real scab outfits in town. They must straighten up. No union man will buy here until this is done.

Frisco Longshoremen to Fight On

The San Francisco longshoremen, who have been carrying on a fight of heroes for numerous weeks, have announced that they intend to remain out on the picket line until their demands are conceded by the employers. This announcement followed when it became clear that the general strike was no longer in effect.

Although practically called off, the Frisco general strike was one of the most imposing spectacles seen in the United States since the last general strike in this country fifteen years ago in Seattle. Like a flash of lightning was revealed the vast power inherent in the working class if it but decides to make use of it. The fact that the conservative labor leaders at the head of the Frisco trade unions found themselves compelled to call the general strike is itself a tribute to the enormous pressure from the rank and file which refused to stand by idly while their brothers on the docks were being attacked by all the forces of the employers, the government, the police and the troops.

The refusal of the fighting longshoremen to make a disgraceful capitulation to the bosses, even at the demand of the conservative elements in the labor movement, and their decision to continue the fight until they have won, shows that the dock workers in Frisco are made of the same stuff as the Minneapolis truckers.

They have the spirit out of which victors, and not vanquished, are made.

In the face of a monstrous newspaper campaign against striking Frisco workers, aided by raids on working class centers engineered by gangs of hired thugs working in cooperation with the police and the national guardsmen, the West Coast laborers still remain firm. Attempts of the authorities to divert the workers from the real issues at stake by a phony "red-scare" has so far proved fruitless. Strikers moved into San Mateo County, closing all oil stations in South San Francisco and Colma. Frisco radio workers have voted to join the strike, and radio men at sea were voting Wednesday afternoon by short wave radio sets. Streetcar service in Oakland, Alameda and Berkeley remains at a standstill.

The wave of walkouts in support of the wartime workers has extended to Seattle, where boilermakers and machinists voted overwhelmingly for sympathy strikes. At Spokane the Central Labor Council has voted a boycott on all business with California concerns until troops are jerked out of Frisco. Two United States soldiers were ar-

rested in Frisco for refusing to police orders. Picketers closed four restaurants who attempted to open up in the face of general strike. Police launched tear gas and attacks at the picket lines on several occasions.

In the Texas oil fields the general strike caused the bosses to voluntarily initiate a series of wage increases amounting to \$600,000 a year. The strike of truck drivers announced by Thursday morning.

15,000 striking Alabama textile workers established a complete picket line. No attempts were made to break through which were closed late yesterday. Militant picket lines of thousands of determined workers.

Despite the fact that workers struck Kohler plant were able to bilize a picket line of over 100 men, holding the factory in a siege, company spokesmen announced that "only about 800 in Kohler favor the strike."

4,000 strikers at the Anaconda copper mines replied to threats of "industrial police" with a shower of high tension wires carrying the mines were short circuited.

Relief workers in Vermilion, Franklin Counties, Illinois, announced a strike demanding pay increase and continuation of union programs and relief administration.

1929 to 1934—five years of misery for the workers and their families. Dreary years for the workers, famous pay checks, mean homes and here alone, is to be found the plan of the mighty wave of which is now shaking America from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Another year that this time the workers' business. They are not going to rest until they get what is due them: cent living wages, decent relief appropriations. Workers in Minneapolis by no means alone in their support for these demands.

Auto Mechanics to

Tonight at 8 p.m. the Auto Mechanics Union No. 382 will meet at the machinists and mechanic quarters, 1310 Marquette Avenue (near the Garage). All automotive workers are welcome. A proposed wage agreement with the bosses will be discussed. Final decision will be taken from tonight at a closed meeting.