SMASH THE CITIZENS ALLIANCE

VOLUME 1, NO. 42

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 5, 1934

PRICE TWO CENTS

Elections Clinch Victory

574 Protests Methods Used

Telegram to Garrison **Emphasizes Fact**

In a telegram to Mr. Floyd Garrison, chairman of the National Labor Relations Board, Local 574 has lodged a protest against the practice of the Minneapolisst. Paul Regional Labor Board in the investigation of the protested votes in the employee elections. The full text of the telegram follows:

"We protest against the policy of the Minneapolis-St. Paul Regional Labor Board in handling contested ballots. The board has ruled that workers whose votes are in dispute shall be examined at a public hearing by the employers and their attorneys. Local 574 protests this ruling as a violation of secrecy of balloting which subjects the workers to intimidation. We ask your intervention against this procedure which threatens to disrupt the strike settlement arranged by Mr. Donaghue."

The board has called a minia-ture mass meeting for Wednes-day, September 5th, at which time

day, September 5th, at which time it proposes to examine each employee whose vote has been challenged. It is intended that these examinations shall be conducted in the presence of the employers and their attorneys.

Local 574 will not stand for such actions as these. At best, an employee election is far from a democratic method of expression, but under this proposed practice, it would be reduced to an absolute farce. We demand that the employees be permitted to defend themselves without the intimidating presence of the employers and their stooge attorneys.

themselves without the intimidating presence of the employers and their stooge attorneys.

The board has already done an irreparable damage to the workers by releasing information as to the present tally of the votes in those cases where there are ballots under protest. There are a number of firms in which the balloting has been very close, and in these instances, secrecy of the protested votes has become impossible.

This damage can not be repaired, but the incident should serve as a precedent to protect the workers in any future election. In all cases where there are any ballots under protest, the votes should not be counted until the challenged ballots have been ruled upon.

We feel that the very least the

ruled upon.

We feel that the very least the Regional Labor Board can do to make restitution for this blunder is to proceed with the greatest continuous to preserve what little caution to preserve what little semblance of secrecy remains.

Petroleum Workers Meet Thursday, Sept. 6

Meet Inursday, Sept. 6
A very important closed membership meeting of the petroleum workers who are members of Local 574 will be held Thursday, Sept. 6, at 225 South 3rd St. at 9 p. m.

Decisions will be made regarding affiliations and the question of negotiations with the employers will be dealt with.

It is very necessary that all members attend.



GOING FORWARD

The arbitration of the wage schedules will begin immediately after the final results of the elections have been tabulated. The wage rates are to be arbitrated upward from the present minimums of 50 cents per hour for truck drivers and 40 cents per hour for helpers, platform men, and inside workers. This is a first and very important step, but it is only the initial step. There is much work to be done. There are many gains yet to be made.

We must look to the future and lay our plans carefully to guarantee that there will be many benefits in store for us. We want our hours of labor to be shortened. We want still further wage increases. We want better working conditions. We want to live decently and not like the "alley cats" which we have so many times been called. We would like to see our femilies described. like to see our families decently clothed and housed. Our dinner table could and should be much better graced than it now is. It is our ambition to see our children well educated so that they will not have to travel the rocky road we are traveling. We have sickened thoroughly of our debt burdens. We are tired of living on next month's pay and taking up the slack with worrying. We want an honest return for our day's work. We want to live like human beings.

These are not unreasonable desires and they are not impossible of attainment. However, as reasonable as they are, we will never realize these ambitions by sitting down and dreaming about them. Wishes don't work. We have to fight for what we get.

We are going forward to achieve these ambitions. The next step is to build a bigger organization.

Local 574 has built a network which reaches into every nook and cranny of the trucking industry of Minneapolis. It only remains now for every member to take an active part in bringing the un-organized workers into the Union. Your struggle has already brought benefits to them. They must be made to realize this, and you must also show them how the Union will continue to bring them benefits. They must become members.

Those workers in the firms won by the Union in the elections who are not members should be shown how they have benefited and how they will be protected if they join the Union.

The members employed by firms in which the Union did not win the election should begin immediately an intensive campaign to bring more workers from these firms into the Union. A good job of organizing can establish Union representation in these firms in a very short

There is still much work to be done in the firms outside of those which participated in the elections. Many of these are now organized and many more are

yet to be organized.

Our motto is: "The 166 shall become the 1166. Wherever there is a truck there shall be a union man."

Market Vote Solid for 574

Majority Large Firms Carried by Union

Local 574 has leaped the final

Local 574 has leaped the final hurdle in the fight for recognition by the bosses. The counting of the ballots has already given the Union the incontestable right to represent 50 of the firms involved, and in the 29 firms under protest, the challenged votes are such obvious "ringers" that even the Labor Board must this time decide in favor of the Union.

A careful analysis of the election results shows that a mere tabulation of the number of firms won and lost by the Union does not present a clear and accurate picture of the outcome. The majority of the large firms were carried by the Union. The firms carried by the Union. The firms carried by the bosses are in most cases small establishments employing only a few men. The Colonial Warehouse and the Dayton Company are the only large firms won by the bosses, and the Hatch Package Delivery, Ferrin Transfer, and LaBelle Safety Storage Company are the only medium sized firms which voted for representation by the Citizens Alliance. We have seen enough of Mr. Dayton's activities to fully understand the tactics which he used in sandbagging his workers into voting for him, and we can rest assured that the other bosses who succeeded in duping the men were Mr. Dayton's star pupils. But, in spite of their vicious scheming and conniving, the bosses were unable to crack up the Union.

The market is overwhelmingly solid for Local 574. It was impossible for the market bosses to

scheming and conniving, the bosses were unable to crack up the Union.

The market is overwhelmingly solid for Local 574. It was impossible for the market bosses to deceive the workers. This spawning place for anarchy and exploitation has become so obnoxious that the workers could not but choose to band themselves together to combat its evils. The market workers have finally struggled to a solid footing from which they can carry on the battle for human rights and a decent living.

The large majority of the transfer workers voted for representation by Local 574. The Union is now rooted so deeply in this section of the trucking industry that it would be impossible for the bosses to blast it out. Exploitation has been developed to a science here as well as in the market. There is much work to be done to make life more pleasant for the transfer workers, and 574 intends to see them through.

The workers at L. S. Donaldson's have paved the way for the department store drivers, and the boys at Boutells and the New England have carried the day in the furniture group.

Local 574 has established the right to represent at least a substantial portion of the workers in every branch of the trucking industry. The foundation has been

every branch of the trucking in-dustry. The foundation has been dustry. The foundation has been well established for the building of a real organization and the growth of Local 574 will go forward steadily.

ward steadily.

The final and conclusive proof of the Union's victory is the fact that the employees in the firms who voted for Union representation outnumber almost 3 to 1 those who voted for representation by the Employers Advisory Committee.

A real tribute is due the fight.

A real tribute is due the fight-(Continued on page 3)

The General Textile Strike Starts Solid

The Textile Workers' picket of employers. The organization of lines have formed in front of a the employers has been perfected thousand mills and factories. Throughout the East and South more than a million workers, to the stolen from the men, women and children who do the work in the more than a million workers, pushed to the limit of physical endurance by the cruel bosses who see in these workers, only efficient instruments of production, have now formed the lines of battle. of battle.

The men, women and children in the textile industry face a well organized and well financed group

mills

Not satisfied with a program of Not satisfied with a program of robbery which has reduced a hun-dred thousand families to the status of slaves, the employers, through their spokesman, George through their spokesman, George A. Sloan, endeavor to make the people believe that the textile workers are satisfied with their

wages and conditions and do not wish to struggle for a change. Sloan and his kind will be made to understand in the coming days, that workers organized into trade that workers organized into trade unions will fight for their rights. Properly organized and led, the militant workers in the textile field will sweep like a storm over the obstacles thrown in their way by the bosses. The consuming greed of the madmen who own the mills will drive them to the (Continued on page 3)

Make Minneapolis a Union Town

The National Picket Line

All the frothy demagogy of the "New Dealers," all the sly conniving of the labor fakers, all the threats and red scares, both open and veiled, in the boss newspapers, magazines and radio blasts. are of but waning influence in the face of the stark realities facing the American workers and farmers today; terrifyingly mounting food prices, wretchedly low wages, speed-up and long hours. More and more vividly, labor is seeing that it can depend only upon its own forces to fight itself out of the slave-pen in which it has been driven by the employers has been driven by the employers in their vicious drive to place the whole burden of the depression upon the shoulders of those who produce the nation's wealth. "Spare the bond-holders, the bankers and spoil, degrade, smash the farmers and workers," seems to be the rallying slogan of the nationwide association of bosses. And labor thunders its answer across the picket lines—WE'LL ORGANIZE AND STRUGGLE TO IMPROVE OUR CONDITIONS!

In Spokane all streetcar employees are now on the third day of a strike which has tied up streetcar and bus traffic solidly. Picket lines established by the Union massed around the few cars Union massed around the few cars which the company tried to move, and stopped them cold. The Spokane chief of police is behaving in the usual manner of all police chiefs, yesterday stating that, "all trouble is being caused by hoodiums and communists." Deadly attacks on the American workers tacks on the American workers are always prefaced by remarks such as this.

One eighth of the entire Chicago police force has been assigned to strike duty as the militent strike of the workers of the Motorcoach Company goes into its third week. The elevated and sur-face car workers have been demanding a sympathy strike with the bus men but a labor faker by the name of Bruce, president of the elevated Union, working in

on the elevated Union, working in conjunction with International officers, has so far refused to let the workers take a strike vote.

Twelve thousand of our brothers in Locals 807, 282 and 816, International Brotherhood of Teamsters and Chauffers are Teamsters and Chauffers, are meeting in New York City tomor row night for a strike vote. The Union's contract with the bosses expires on Sept. 1. Demands in-

expires on Sept. 1. Demands include wage increases of from \$5 to \$11 weekly. Nerved and educated by the magnificent struggles in Minneapolis, the New York men are eager to start the battle. Textile mill owners have rejected an eleventh hour proposal for a conference with leaders of the United Textile Workers, making it certain that the general strike of \$50,000 textile workers will begin Tuesday morning, particularly in the southern states where the exploitation is terrific. Insistence of the rank and file of the Union has forced the wavering leadership to march into

The boss newspapers throughout the nation are maintaining a conspiracy of silence concerning the heroic strike of the workers of the Anaconda Copper Company in Butte, Anaconda and Great Falls, Montana. Our brothers have been on strike since May 8, for three and a half months, and so far there has been not a single break in their ranks. Mining, the most important industry in the state, has been brought to a standstill as the miners, pumpmen, smelter workers, blacksmiths, pipefitters, carpenters, etc., are smelter workers, blacksmiths, pipefitters, carpenters, etc., are determined to stay out until their demands are met by the copper kings. Latest reports from Butte say that the company has begun to import gangsters from Chicago in a last desperate effort to open up the mines.

The strike of the 15,000 aluminum workers which began Aug.

11, is still on as company officials and union heads, meeting in Washington with the national la-

bor board, have so far failed to

bor-board, have so far failed to agree on a settlement.

Scores of armed finks patrol the onion fields adjacent to McGuffey, Ohio, as federal mediator Robert Fox strives to end the 3 months' strike of onion workers. Okey Odel, strike leader, is again heading the workers, after having been kidnaped and slugged by thugs hired by the wealthy farm owners. The owners of the large onion farms in this district are absolutely refusing the embarrassabsolutely refusing the embarrassingly moderate demand of the trikers: \$2.00 for an 8-hour day. "Such wages are un-American," they say, and continue their drive to break the strike and force the onion workers back at the point of a gun to work for 15c an hour.

Something a bit novel in the way of strike news is furnished by the several thousand prisoners by the several thousand prisoners in Graterford penitentiary, Pennsylvania's model prison, who are continuing today their strike which first broke out last Saturday. When prisoners go on strike, one can know that conditions in that prison are intolerable to the point of death. The great majority of prisoners confined in our institutions are poor unfortunates, victutions are poor unfortunates, victims of the depression who have been forced to go out and steal to prevent themselves and their families from starving. Figures in the federal Wickersham report prove conclusively that over 90 per cent of the inmates in our prisons are imprisoned for petty offenses against property, offenses which would never have been made had a decent living been available to everyone willing to

Tear gas and baseball bats have been used on the striking prison-ers and the New York Times of Aug. 28 reports that the president of the prison board has authorized the warden to go to any lengths (including the use of rifles and machine guns) to quell future disturbances.

There is one other strike which There is one other strike which we wish to bring to the attention of Organizer readers: that of the 7,000 employees of the United Fruit Company in Costa Rica, who have been out since August 9, when the company refused the workers' demands for increased wages, better living conditions and medical attention. The Costa Rican government is in reality and medical attention. The Costa Rican government is in reality nothing but the "clerk" of the United Fruit Company, and has graciously carried out all the vicious orders of that company. More than 50 strike leaders have been deported and hundreds of strikers have been arrested. Conditions of fruit workers on the company's plantations are abominable. They work in fever-infested waters and great numbers are inflicted with malaria and other inflicted with malaria and other tropical diseases, receiving little or no medical care.

or no medical care.

The Costa Rican workers have just issued a special appeal to American workers organizations to send cables to President Jimenez at Limon, Costa Rica, protesting against the arrests and persecutions of strikers. Upon the success of this strike will depend the future of the whole labor movement in Central America for many years to come.

larly in the southern states where the exploitation is terrific. Insistence of the rank and file of the Union has forced the wavering leadership to march into battle.

Governor Blackwood of South Carolina has matched our own Olson by complying to the request of a Lonsdale textile mill to send in a national guard company to break up picketing and to protect scabs. Workers of Minneapolis are not alone in learning that whenever troops are brought in, it is not for the good of the workers but always to help the bosses.

The boss newspapers throughout the nation are maintaining a bit more enjoyment out of life. bit more enjoyment out of life.

> The golf course stands outside the mill.

So almost every day,
The little children, hard at work,
Can see the men at play.

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Business Representative Local 18005, Cleaners, Dyers and Laundry Workers Union, 225 S. 3rd St. Hours from 11 to 1 and 5 to 7 p. m.

Milk Drivers Ask 5 Day Week

The local Milk Wagon Drivers and Dairy Employees Union has opened its contract with the boss-es to demand a five day week without any reduction from the present rate of pay for the six day week

present rate of pay for the six day week.

We congratulate our brothers on this forward step and pledge to them the solid support of Local 574 in obtaining their demands.

Once again, the Milk Drivers set the pace for all labor organizations. It is in this direction that we all must move. Not until the work week has been shortened and the rate of pay increased to a point which provides a decent living will the workers be able to free themselves from poverty. Not until this has been done will we be able to release our brothers we be able to release our brothers from the miseries of unemploy-ment with its attendant bread lines and forced labor.

The Milk Drivers deserve the admiration and support of every wage worker in Minneapolis.

Bosses Persecute Strikers' Doctor

No one can justly deny that the bosses are methodically efficient in persecuting the workers and their sympathizers and supporters. Wit-ness the case of Dr. Enright, who was guilty of aiding the injured strikers.

He has rendered the Union He has rendered the Union a yeoman service, remaining on duty countless hours during the strike to do what he could to stem the flow of blood caused by Johannes' guns and relieve the agonized suffering of the injured pickets. He is a true friend of the workers. He saved the lives of many of our brothers. our brothers.

our brothers.

True to form, the bosses have hailed him into their courts of "justice' and given him what they intended to be a thorough grilling which would prevent him, and others like him, from again committing the terrible crime of aiding injured strikers.

If we judge the doctor correctly, and we believe we do, the threat did not work. He will continue to conduct himself in accordance with his own fine ideas of medical ethics.

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THEATER GAYET Now Open

With the reopening of the Gayety Theatre Saturday, September 1st, for its twenty-sixth consecutive of the highest class type of Burlesque in the country. season of Burlesque, the Minneapolis bright spot will again present the same brand of entertainment that has made it nationally famous for the presentation

This year, Manager Hirsch was fortunate in securing for his opening show the outstanding attraction of the World's Fair, the original "Roxanne," doing her famous Black Panther Dance, a dance which in sensa-tionalism by far eclipses the fan dance of last year.

In addition, the management states that they are presenting the best show and chorus that the theatre has ever had. There are two shows daily with a special Midnight Show every Saturday night starting promptly at eleven-thirty. Popular prices will prevail and reserved seats may be obtained in advance by calling Geneva 8985.

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Ages 6 to 14. All wool materials. Suits include 2 pairs knickers and vest. \$7.85 value



Market Vote Solid for 574

(Continued from page 1

ers who have brought this victory to the Union. They are the veterans of two hard fought strikes; the second, and more vicious of the two, coming before they had scarcely had time to recuperate from the first. They have held their ground against the brutality of the police. They have successfully resisted the clubs and blackjacks of the police, the Law and Order League, and the Bergoff thugs. They saw many of their brothers shot in the back by Bloody Mike's legal murderers. They saw Henry Ness and John Belor go to martyrs' graves. They withstood the 27-day siege of Olson's martial law with its strike-breaking military permit system. breaking military permit system. They only fought harder when the military seized their headquarters. They suffered the humiliations of the military stockade and the filthy Workhouse. They fought unflinchingly until the bosses yielded to their very reasonable demands.

demands.

Then when the election came they withstood all the lies, threats, and fakery of the boss. They you as they had fought—for the

Union.

This is victory and these are men. With them, 574 can go in only one direction—FORWARD!

The General Textile Strike Starts Solid

(Continued from page 1)

use of all the familiar weapons of reaction—thugs, gunmen, police, spies and agent provocators. They will use, in fact, they have already called out, the troops.

Against all of this the workers have their Union, with a policy which brings into the stream all of the masses who are ready to fight, and marshals them FOR the fight. This instrument, the Union, can throw back in confusion every can throw back in confusion every dark force. Victory is in camp behind the picket lines. It becomes necessary, immedi-

ately, for every union man and woman, together with every friend of the labor movement, to place themselves at the disposal of the themselves at the disposal of the striking workers through their organizations. More than that, now, right now, here at home in Minneapolis, organization work must be placed FIRST upon the order of the day. The trade unions, through their Central Labor Union, can render the greatest possible assistance to the textile workers by turning the full measure of their attention to the task of organizing the garment work-

of organizing the garment workers in this city.

Thousands of workers await a well planned, united move from the trade union leaders, who can and should move now in the brilliant light of the truly magnification. liant light of the truly magnifi-cent textile workers' struggle.

Bosses Evade Meeting Mechanics

The Machinists' Union has pre-The Machinists' Union has presented demands to the bosses on behalf of its members in the automotive repair trade. The workers are asking a five-day week, 90 cents per hour for journeymen, seniority rights, and shop committees to enforce agreement and prevent discrimination.

In a statement to the Organizer, Herman Hussman, business agent for the mechanics, says,

agent for the mechanics, says, "The employers' association has answered our request for a meet-ing by reciting their by-laws to us ing by reciting their by-laws to us which are supposed to prove that they cannot meet us. We are interested in wages and conditions, not by-laws. The bosses are stalling. We intend to force them to face the issue."

The mechanics meet Thursday, Sept. 6, 8 p. m., at 1310 Marquette Ave. S.

The National Anathema

My country is not free,
There is no liberty,
But still we sing!
Land where the few divide
The wealth that we provide,
From every platform-side,
Let freedom sting!

Bill Brown reports an avalanche of applications for the L.

********* ADVERTISE in the ORGANIZER

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To the Editor of the Organizer 225 South 3rd Street Minneapolis, Minn.

Enclosed you will find one dollar (\$1.00) in payment for a one year subscription to the weekly Organizer.

> NAME. ADDRESS STATE CITY.....

The Workers' Voice

I had the misfortune to be out of Minneapolis during the entire strike, but that doesn't mean that I was out of touch with it. My daughter, who was a very much interested spectator, sent me daily copies of your paper, and those copies were the best read newspapers in the northwest.

I had never before realized how interested the people in the northwest are in our Minneapolis struggles. It was gratifying to watch

west are in our Minneapolis struggles. It was gratifying to watch these people, who live several hundred miles away, discussing the pros and cons of our own situation, that had seemed so local to me. It made me realize that the working people around the world are interested in one another's problems, and also that it is a small world after all.

I want to compliment 574 on its innovation of a daily strike

I want to compliment 574 on its innovation of a daily strike paper, and am very glad to hear that the Organizer will go on as a weekly. Here's one home in Minneapolis that will never fail to get its copy. More than that, I intend to see to it that all my newly made friends in Montana and the Dakotas get a copy weekly.

-A Friend

To the Editor of the Organizer
Dear Editor:
We all know what the world

thinks of a scab—a man that works as a strikebreaker. It seems to me that a man who consistently refuses to support the organiza-tion of his craft is worse than a scab because the scab makes no bones about being what he is while a no-bill considers himself as a decent member of society and therefore entitled to the respect of his fellows.

A scab says in effect: "Here I

of his fellows.

A scab says, in effect: "Here I am acknowledging to the world that I am a rat, and self respect has departed from me. I know you strikers will sock me with eggs and assault me with bitter words whenever I noke my head words whenever I poke my head out from behind police protection. I'm a dreg of humanity and you can take me or leave me." That

I'm a dreg of humanity and you can take me or leave me." That is what a scab the same as says.

But listen, a no-bill speaks thus: "Here I am alongside of you and expecting civility from you in our daily associations. Each day I work my eight hours, each pay day I draw my check, based on the rate the union got for me. My seniority date is always guaranteed me. I am assured of extra pay for overtime work. Day in and day out I am drawing the same benefits that you do, and I AM NOT PAYING FOR THEM. YOU ARE DOING THAT."

"Your money and your efforts keep the Truck Drivers' Union going in Minncapolis. When the Committee meets the Truck Owners to discuss something that concerns me I am represented by the representatives paid for by you.

"I would not think of asking

cerns me I am represented by the representatives paid for by you. "I would not think of asking the drivers to chip in and help me pay my grocery bill. I would not dream of asking you to throw in a dime apiece to help pay for my radio or my car. I am too high principled for anything as cheap as that. But I am not too high principled to ask you to buy me my UNION PROTECTION that means more than anything else in my daily life, and I won't even thank you for doing it. To do so would be to acknowledge that my rotten half-baked excuses are all wet."

wet."
What about it, you non-card drivers and inside workers in Minneapolis? As long as you don't belong to the Union and continue to work alongside men that are working day and night to keep the Union going wou are laying down Union going, you are laying down on your obligations to yourself, your family, your fellow-workers, and to humanity. REMEMBER

there is no half way business to it—you have got to be all RIGHT or all RAT. Think this over. The cost is not

much, about the cost of one scoop of beer a day. The beer, perhaps sometime, will give you a head-ache; lack of membership will sometime give you and your loved ones a heartache.

-A Loyal Member

Dear Editor:

I note with satisfaction that the New York Drivers won their de-New York Drivers won their demands without a walkout. It occurred to me, sitting back here, and nursing the pain in my leg from Bloody Friday—that there are unions all over the country who are going to profit by our fight here. In the last few weeks I have read of several strikes that have been "stalled off" and that have been favorably decided for the workers. Minneapolis taught have been favorably decided for the workers. Minneapolis taught the employers all over the world just how tough the employes can get when driven far enough. It looks as though we are going to have to be pace setters for the rest of the working world from now on. Not a bad position to be in. I'd say. And when we succeed in, I'd say. And when we succeed in making this city a union town we will make the rest of the world sit up and take notice all

the time.

—A Victim of Johannes

Dear Editor:

Michael Johannes, the Gun Man of the CITIZENS ALLIANCE, who is better known as BLOODY MIKE, shows his strength in politics by getting the City Council to purchase 150 riot guns and six machine guns at a cert of \$6 600 machine guns at a cost of \$6,600 (to be paid for by the Taxpayers, NOT THE CITIZENS ALLIANCE), in order that his hench-

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men may be able to shoot inno-cent men in the back, men who cent men in the back, men who are striking for a decent wage so that their families would not have to depend on the city relief in order that they may exist. Where are the guns MURDEROUS MIKE used on BLOODY FRIDAY, July 20, 1934? This bloody day will go down in history, and the fair city of Minneapolis will have a black eye for many years to come black eye for many years to come due to the MURDERER that is now the head of the Minneapolis Police Department. Why doesn't BLOODY MIKE get his guns from the careers who furnished the the concerns who furnished the weapons that were used on that dreadful day, Friday, July 20, 1934, and save the taxpayers this large amount of money?

-A Taxpayer

Dear Editor:

When Teddy Roosevelt said "Millions for defense but not one cent for tribute" he must have known that some day the bosses would need an appropriate slogan, and he couldn't have framed a and he couldn't have framed a better one. Has anyone ever taken the time and energy to figure up just how much it would have cost the bosses to have granted wage increases, as against the tremendous cost of fighting the strike? I suggest that some day when you have nothing else to do, you sit down, armed with all the figures in the cases, and prove to the wealthy men of this country how much they would be "in" if they had skipped this fight, and given the working class of Minneapolis a few cents increase.

—Underpaid Worker -Underpaid Worker

The Organizer Dear Editor:

Dear Editor:

I have always read Brisbane's column in the Tribune, more because I enjoy watching him swing from pillar to post than because I subscribe to any of his ideas. Saturday he made some very pointed remarks regarding the Textile Strike which gave me something to think about. Talking about the government's plan to feed the strikers, he noted the fact that if this is the case "strikes are apt to be long drawn out affairs."

If I were a student of political manipulations, instead of just one of the Minneapolis strikers who tried unsuccessfully to get some of that relief here, I might think Mr. Brisbane had a germ of an idea. Instead, I see the thing from

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the bosses' viewpoint very well. In order to live, people must eat. In order to strike, the strikers' families at home must eat, or the morale of the strike is soon broken. Show me the face of the man who can watch his family starve while he is on the picket line? Therefore the bosses and their hirelings in the city halls all over the country see in the Fedover the country see in the Federal government's statement a danger. Mr. Brisbane, in my humble opinion, made a rather sad misstep when he gave away the bosses little strategy so innocently However, Mr. Brisbane and his backers are forgetting that in this starvation program of theirs they have trained the workers all over

have trained the workers all over to country to starve. Years of suppression have taught the working people of the country that virtual starvation is their lot as long as they will be down and take it. Desperation has also taught them something else. That is far better to die fighting than it is to "take it." Something has happened to the workers. THEY HAVE BEGUN TO THINK.

And thought in the so-called "untrained classes" is a danger that the rich men of this country brought upon themselves unwit-

that the rich men of this country brought upon themselves unwittingly. For a working man to think is, in the opinion of the bosses, little less than rank treason. They label it communism. And as such, they try to scare the worker back into his former confused frame of mind. The time has come, however, when the oppressed working class has been pushed just a little too far.

Here's to more and better editorials in the Organizer, so that it will no longer be necessary for us people of Minneapolis to pollute our homes with what you so fit-

our homes with what you so fit-tingly call the "Prostitute Press." -Thinking Worker

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"Riot" Guns

The kept press of the bosses has announced in screaming headlines that the city council has authorized the purchase of 150 "riot" guns. The general tone of the report is one of great rejoicing, and the details of the verbal battle which preceded voting on the question are recorded with owlish evasions which leave the impression that great significance and much mystery surrounds the whole Mention is made about the opposition of the Central Labor Union and the Labor aldermen to the action. Vague allusions to the recent truck drivers' strike give one the impression that an attempt is being made to create fear in someone's mind. We admit that there is great significance attached both to the purchase of the guns and the manner in which the prostituted "free" press plays it up, but we can see no cause for mystery. The facts are crystal clear. Let us examine them.

We know that deer rifles are used to shoot deer. It is therefore logical to assume that "riot" guns are used to shoot "rioters." Everyone knows what a deer is, but the shoot "rioters." Everyone knows what a deer is, but the meaning of the term "rioter" is not so commonly understood. We will clarify its meaning by an analysis of the occasions on which these guns or their lethal companions have been used recently right here in Minneapolis.

What were the events leading up to Bloody Friday, July 20th? During the first two days of the drivers' strike, a complete stoppage of trucking was effected without a single case of violence, a clear demonstration that all the workers in this industry were very much dissatisfied with the manner in which they were being exploited. The walkout was so complete and effective that the bosses had no one to scab for them. Clearly, they did not propose to submit to the strikers' demands just because all the workers were supporting the strike. This is not the the workers were supporting the strike. This is not the bosses' program. When they cannot break a strike by splitting the ranks of the workers, they direct their attention towards terrorizing them into submission. To do this dirty work, the bosses use hired thugs and the police department with its allies, the state militia and the federal troops.

After the second day of the tie-up, the bosses were convinced that the ranks of the strikers would remain solid and so, true to their style, they began to map out a program of violence. Police Chief Johannes was called to a conference with the Employers Advisory Committee where he was given careful instructions. The nature of this conference and the faithfulness with which he carried out the commands of his masters is disclosed by his sub-

On Thursday, the third day, a truck, bearing a large sign labelled "Hospital Supplies," was convoyed by an army of police equipped with "riot" guns. Careful pains were taken to see that the kept press got pictures of the convoy which showed the sign clearly, and even before the convoy got under way, extras were on the streets with headlines shouting that the police were convoying food to the hospitals. The pictures which had been so carefully taken were plastered all over the front page to verify the news item. No mention was made, however, that the truck, which was capable of transporting over two tons of food, was hauling only a dozen ten or fifteen pound cartons. Nor was it disclosed that the dozens of hospitals and charitable institutions in the city were not in need of this delivery because they were already well stocked with supplies which had been hauled under the and protection of the strikers who had no quarrel with the sick and the suffering. What a vicious and bloodthirsty trap this was, a deliberate attempt by the police to provoke violence and bloodshed! This role the police played. The role of the press was equally vile. By a deliberate falsification of facts, the impression was carried to the public that the strikers were causing the patients in the hospitals to starve.

These men, who hatch such foul plots as this, are the "master-minds" who control the lives of the workers under our present social and economic system. We should be

proud of them!

But the pickets would not fall into the snare. The picket captain informed the police lieutenant in charge that the hospital truck could proceed without molestation and that there was no necessity for the police convoy unless the coppers would like to go along just for the ride. The third day had gone by without violence. The bosses were now frantic.

Chief Johannes was called to another conference.

Bigger and better plans were hatched out. The fourth day of the strike dawned, Friday, Bloody Friday it was destined to become. A more deliberate and more effective provocation had been planned. A truck had been especially prepared for the job. All the signs were painted over and the license plates had been removed-no employer cared to risk having the buying public connect him with such a dastardly deed as this was to be. At the same time that the truck was being made ready, Chief Johannes had his police lined up, riot guns in hand, to receive their instructions and his blessings for a bloody day's work.

We quote him from the columns of his master's voice the kept press, "We're going to start moving goods. Don't take a beating. You have shotguns and you know how to use them. When we are finished with this convoy, there will be other goods to move." Bearing this message of good fellowship toward all mankind, the police proceeded to the wholesale district where the truck was being loaded with a few small boxes.

Upon the first evidences of activity, the pickets began assembling at the scene. Their purpose was to convince the driver of the truck that he was working an injury upon his brothers, to ask him to refrain from snatching the bread from the mouths of their children. But the driver was a hired thug, he was to be protected by the police, the police were armed with "riot" guns, they were there to carry out the orders of their chief, their chief took his orders from the bosses, the bosses wanted to break the strike, their only hope of doing this was to terorize the strikers—a sorry combination, this. The die was cast. Murder was the order of the day.

The truck remained at the platform long after it had been loaded. Why? Because the police were making every possible attempt to provoke the pickets into some act which might give them a pretext to shoot. After some hours of this, it became evident that if there was to be any violence, the police would have to produce it. They had their orders and they were there to carry them out. The convoy was started. A truck, loaded with pickets, which had been parked at the curb, swung out into the street alongside the convoy. Here was a "riotous" act. The police opened fire.

Before the shooting had ceased, fifty-two men were shot, pickets and bystanders. Forty-five of them shot in the back, two of whom were to die from their wounds after hours and days of agony. All of these men were unarmed. Not a gun, nor a stick, nor even so much as a small stone did they have in their hands. Forty-from them were shot in the back while trying to run away from

the barking guns.

These men were "rioters." They were resisting the forces of law and order. Seven of them were guilty of standing within range of the shotguns of the police when the triggers were pulled. Forty-five of them were so 'riotous" that they ran out of the range of the shotguns and caused the police the inconvenience of having to draw their revolvers to continue shooting effectively. Many others, and these were the most "riotous" of all, were guilty of the heinous crime of outrunning even the slugs from the revolvers.

The murderous police did not even grant the workers the courtesies which are observed even in warfare between capitalist nations. Many of the workers were shot in the back while stooping to pick up their wounded brothers.

Who are these policemen? They must be the sons and the associates of the bosses who hatched this diabolical plot. How else could they have participated in this massacre? No, they are not the sons and associates of the bosses. They are the sons of workers like us. But they are the hirelings of the bosses. They are workers who have sold their souls for a policeman's pay. No self-respecting worker would don a policeman's uniform. The requirements of the system he must serve as a policeman make him an enemy to the workers.

The function of the police is to preserve law and order. We know this because we have read it in the kept press and it has been constantly dinned in our ears over the radio. But we know something else, too. We know that the police department has a third function. We read it with our own eyes. You will find it printed very plainly on the cover of the Constitution of the Citizens Alliance, the union of the bosses. The police department has three primary functions—to preserve law and order and the 'Open Shop." How can a policeman be a friend to the workers?

We ask again if the kept press was trying to scare someone by boasting about the purchase of more "riot" guns? We ask you directly, Mr. Boss, for we know that the press is your mouthpiece. Can you frighten the workers by this? No, you cannot! You have already trained them too well to face gunfire. Have you forgotten about your war, the World War?

Murders and threats of murder will not stop the work-Acts of violence against them serve only to sharpen their determination and steel them for more courageous and militant struggle. They have a right to struggle for what is theirs. They have a right to enjoy to the fullest extent those things which they produce. They will not be denied that which is theirs. The sharpening struggle will bring to the workers a clearer perspective of their political and economic position. New leaders will come forth. Better organizations will be built.

Violence against the workers solves nothing. It only

helps to hasten the struggle to a higher plane.

The city council has ordered 150 "riot" guns.

News and Views

We would like to know where Ray Rainboldt got that new straw hat that was three sizes too small

Happy and his gang are the best little vote watchers this side of Tammany Hall.

How did you enjoy your sleep, Tommy? That was rather a hard mattress you were on.

Good news! Harry De Boer is now doing setting up exercises with the toes on his injured leg. It won't be long now, Harry!

Ole Shugren was a pretty tickled boy when the doc chased him out of the hospital last Thurs-

LOST—One suit coat, one hat, and one cap. Finder please get in touch with V. R. "Absent-Minded" Dunne.

We are informed that Commissioner Dunnigan is once more eat-ing grapefruit and riding in taxi-cabs.

"When, oh when, will all this social upheaval end?" the bosses social upneaval end: the board moan, never realizing that the workers will not cease striking be-fore they get their proper share fore they get their proper share in the wealth which they alone produce.

When the employers say election, the union men must go into action just as they do on the pick-et lines. Watch the bosses at all

Solow Returns to New York

Herbert Solow, special corre-condent for the Nation, and a spondent for the

spondent for the Nation, and a sympathizer of labor, has returned to New York after his unintended long stay in Minneapolis. He came to the city with the intention of spending a few days investigating the facts about the Drivers' strike so that he could write an accurate account of the situation for the Nation. When he saw the magnificent organization of Local 574 and the Organizer, our daily strike bulletin, the whole spirit of the fight crept into his blood. He stayed until the battle was over and the Union had come out victorious.

As managing editor of the Or-

As managing editor of the Organizer, Brother Solow contributed as much to the cause as any individual in the Union. This was his idea of moral support—to pitch in and fight. Organized la-bor needs many more men like

Local 574 intends to vote Brother Solow an honorary membership as a token of appreciation for his invaluable service.

New York Truck

Drivers Get Raise Truck Drivers Local 807 in New York City has been granted a \$5 a week raise by the Master Truckmen's Bureau (bosses' association). This agreement brings the salary of drivers of six-wheel trucks to \$53.50 per week and drivers of four-wheel trucks to \$47.50 per week. It occurs to us \$47.50 per week. It occurs to us that these figures are considerably removed from 42 ½ cents per hour. However, here is con-clusive proof that truck drivers can command a wage which more closely approximates a decent liv-

ing wage.

The real significance of this event is found in the fact that the Union's demands were granted without a strike. The New York bosses kept a close eye on Local 574 and found what fighters the truck drivers are. ers the truck drivers are.

dig your ditches, m Labor. I tend your switches, I'm Labor.

I make your clothes and mend your shoes, I teach your kids and write your

With brain and brawn, with nerve and thews, I'm Labor.

I get much praise, I'm Labor. But scarce a raise, I'm Labor.

When I ply my needle, trowel or pick
I'm a decent Sheeny, Wop or Mick,

But when I strike I'm a Bolshe-I'm Labor.