

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

Official Organ of the Northwest Labor Unity Conference

MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE: 257 PLYMOUTH AVE. N.

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!

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MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 1936

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POWER STRIKERS VICTORS

WPA WORKER VICTIM OF MAD RELIEF SETUP

Frank Ross, St. Louis Park Worker, Is Convicted of Non-Support

Savage Persecution by Local Relief Officials Brings Jail Term

The annals recording the brutal treatment of relief clients in Hennepin County could not be complete until the history of the Frank Ross case is written. Perhaps nowhere in the United States has there been a more savage persecution of an individual than that which was accorded this humble St. Louis Park worker.

Ross has been a worker all his life. Born of poor parents, given no chance to secure an education, he became one of the toiling millions who, unnoticed, go through life helping build profits for whatever employer was willing to buy his service.

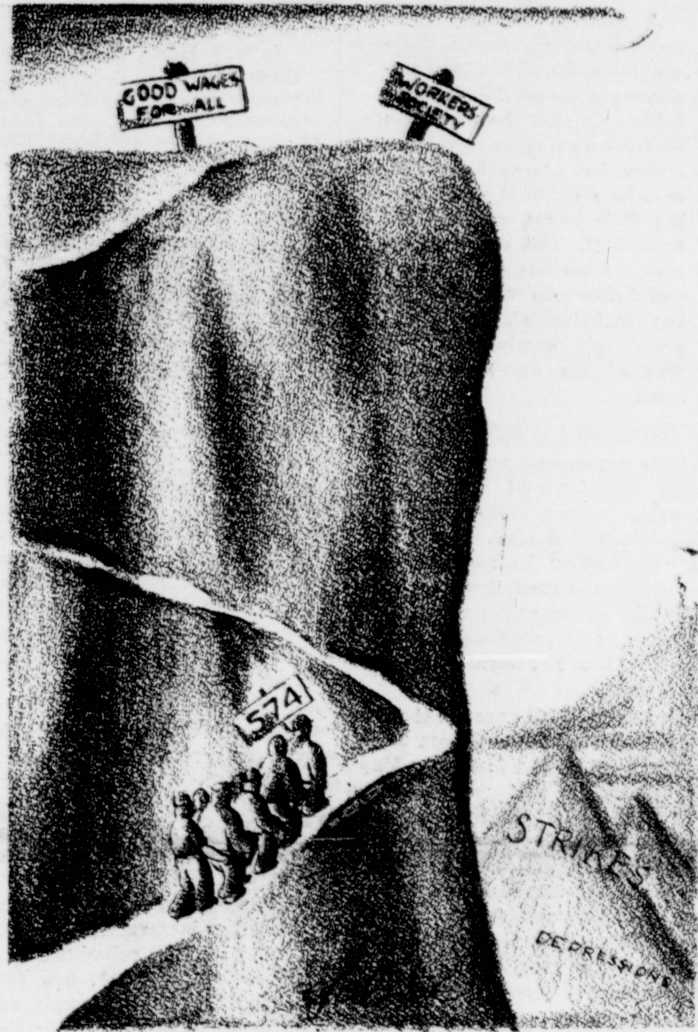
With the advent of the 1929 depression, which moved millions of American workers on the bread lines, Frank Ross was one of that huge army that found itself unable to sell the only commodity which it possessed, labor power. Ross went on the relief line in his native village, St. Louis Park. He worked willingly on the various alphabetical Federal projects. Finally he was assigned to work on a PWA project building a bridge. While working in the icy water early in the spring Ross contracted pleurisy.

Upon recovery from the attack he found it impossible to walk the three miles from his home to the location of the project. When he complained to the foreman, A. H. Haley, that he could no longer stand the long walk nor could he continue to do the arduous tasks that were assigned to him, he was fired. Haley was not satisfied with removing Ross from the job but followed him to the Hopkins Relief Station with relentless persecution. He told the relief officials that Ross was a "slacker" and that he was not even deserving of relief.

When Ross finally applied for direct relief he was told he could have relief only on the condition that he work for the village of St. Louis Park until his relief order was paid for. It must be understood that those in charge of relief in St. Louis Park were not offering Frank Ross a job. They demanded that he work for his food. Forced labor? Yes, or something very nearly like it. Ross, very properly refused to accede to their demands. He stated again and again that he was willing to work for wages in any place or on

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The Road to Freedom



Truck Owners Will Fine Fast Members

The Independent Truck Owners Section, at its last meeting, passed unanimously a motion calling for a \$25 fine to be imposed on any member exceeding a speed of 35 miles per hour when loaded.

This was done to cut down the excessive speed that is now characteristic on some state graveling jobs.

Brown, Dunne Fly To Washington D. C.

V. R. Dunne and Wm. Brown went to Washington D. C. via plane Tuesday morning. They left Minneapolis at 8:30 a. m. and landed in the capital at 4 p. m. That's swift. And cool too. * * * The C. I. O. and the A. F. of L. Executive Council are meeting in Washington at this time.

Ness, Belor to Be Honored By Demonstration July 18

The memory of the two martyrs of the 1934 truck drivers strike will be honored with a labor demonstration and parade Saturday afternoon, July 18. There will be a demonstration and a rally of all labor on the parade grounds beginning at 3 p. m. Saturday. The parade grounds will be the scene of a speaking program which will include such well-known labor notables as R. D. Cramer, editor of the Minneapolis Labor Review; I. G. Scott, labor alderman in the 10th ward; Wm. Brown, President of Local 574; Miles Dunne, editor of the Northwest Organizer, and others.

All labor unions and central bodies have been invited by letter to take part in the demonstration and march and to have speakers on the program. The route of march, which will be led by a Union band, will be Harmon to 10th Street, 10th Street to Nicollet Avenue, Nicollet to Washington, north on Washington to 6th Avenue and from thence to 3rd Street and 7th Avenue North, the scene of the martyrdom. All members of Local 574 as well as the rest of the labor movement are urged to attend this annual demonstration in honor of labor's dead.

Northern States Power Co. Beaten by Local 160 in Five Day Strike

Two Departments Show Strength When Walkout Proves 100% Effective

The five day strike conducted by the organized workers in the Overhead and Underground Departments against the Northern States Power Company came to a successful conclusion Friday, July 3, at 10 p. m. The two hundred workers, all members of Local 160, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, returned to work as of Saturday morning.

Walking out on June 29, after over two months of unsuccessful attempts to adjust differences that existed between themselves and the company, the workers in these two departments gave the management of the Northern States Power Company a thorough demonstration of their organized strength. Despite the statements on the part of the management that only a small percentage of the workers would actually leave the job, the strike was 100 per cent effective. Every worker in both departments joined the ranks of the strikers within half an hour after the strike order was given.

Project Workers Get Wage 'Raise'

WPA project workers in Minnesota have received a raise in pay. Such a startling announcement surely should merit headlines in the nation's press. That the Federal Government should find it possible now to raise the hourly pay rate of WPA workers is something that should teach the malcontents, grumblers and scorners at the paternalism of the great white father in Washington a lesson.

But wait just a moment. There seems to be a little hitch somewhere. Do we hear someone ask how much the raise will amount to a month? Well, that is a matter that requires a little explanation.

The monthly stipend will be just the same as it was before, \$60.50 per month. Then what about the raise, do you say? It turns out that this is a sort of Alice in Wonderland raise. The WPA workers get the raise and yet they don't. While they have been given a raise the monthly check will buy the same old amount of groceries as before.

Is this a riddle? No, just a WPA ruling. The hourly pay has been raised but the hours have been reduced to the extent that the same old pay check will be forthcoming next month.

The WPA workers are scratching their heads and asking themselves, "When is a raise not a raise?"

BALL GAME

A well contested game was played between Local 574 diamondball team and Fairview. The Local team trounced the Fairviews to the tune of 10 to 1. Kerner pitched and Joe Novak was at the receiving end.

The causes leading up to the strike action of the workers in these two departments are ones of long standing. They date back to the time of the first stipulation signed by Robert Pack, general manager of the Northern States Power Company, guaranteeing the Union reforms in wages and working conditions and the setting up of a seniority list.

From the first the company in-

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Material Drivers Receive Back Pay

A meeting was held Friday morning in the offices of the General Drivers Union between representatives of the building material dealers and the Union officials for the purpose of clarifying the division line between the sand and gravel industry and the building material group.

Local 574 has signed agreement covering the employees in both of these industries and some minor controversies had arisen in regard to the classification of some of the workers. The meeting held resulted in a complete understanding and back pay was collected in the amount of \$70 for workers involved.

Socialist Party to Hold a Banquet

The Minneapolis branch of the Socialist Party will sponsor a banquet and entertainment at the Labor Lyceum, Saturday, July 11th, in honor of George E. Nelson, Vice-Presidential candidate on the Socialist Party ticket.

The banquet will start promptly at 8 p. m. and will be featured by an interesting program of entertainment and a splendid program of speakers. The feature of the evening will be the keynote address of George E. Nelson.

Make Minneapolis a Union Town

Northern States Power Co. Beaten by Local 160 in Five Day Strike

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indicated that they were prepared to carry on a campaign of sabotage directed against the Union men in their employ. The principal cause of the grievance was the downright refusal on the part of the company to adjust wages back to the 1932 wage level. All efforts on the part of the Union committee to deal with the management in these two departments were unavailable. At every hand the committee was met with a deliberate campaign of stalling and buck passing.

The limit of endurance was reached on June 28 when the Union met an outright refusal on the part of the management to readjust wages and recognize seniority. That same evening at a specially called meeting of the entire membership of the Union a strike was voted to become effective at 6 a. m. June 29. The strike was very efficiently conducted. All plants of the company were picketed with banners setting forth the grievance of the Union. A commissary was established in the Drivers headquarters where the strikers ate their noonday meal.

On Thursday the company indicated that they wished to meet with representatives of the Union. A meeting was held which only resulted in setting the date further for a meeting to be held at 2 p. m. Friday. At the Thursday meeting the company proposed that the strike be called off pending the results of the Friday meeting. This dangerous offer was promptly turned down by the Union committee and the strike was continued.

The Friday afternoon meeting carried over into the evening and at 10 p. m. an offer was made by the company which was accepted by the Union. In the meantime preparations were being made by the Union to call out all the organized workers at the Northern States Power Company should negotiations break down. The basis on which the strike was settled was substantially that which was called for in the original demands made by the Union. The management agreed to put into effect all the provisions of the original stipulation and to set up an arbitration board to deal with grievances which may arise in the future.

The arbitration board will consist of two representatives of Local 160, two representatives from the N. S. P. management and a fifth member to be selected by the first four. The greatest victory won by Local 160 in the struggle with the company was that it definitely fixes the responsibility for settling grievances and determines exactly how and in what manner they shall be settled.

The settlement of the strike was a real victory for the Union in that it at last compels the Northern States Power Company to recognize Local 160 as the sole bargaining agency of the workers and defines, for the first time, in what form that recognition shall take. The strike action had a healthy effect upon the organizational strength of the Union. Local 160 almost doubled its membership during the controversy.

Jewelry Workers to Organize Union

Workers in wholesale jewelry concerns met in 574 halls last Friday night under Roy Wier's direction. These highly exploited workers are attempting to form a union organization and secure a charter from the A. F. of L.

Laundry Workers Union Growing

The Dry Cleaning and Laundry Workers Union Local 183, which has been conducting an intense organizational drive during the last two months, report that they have more than doubled the membership during that time.

A new agreement is being drawn by the rapidly growing Laundry Workers Union which will be submitted to all laundry employers as soon as the present agreement expires. The new Union contract provides for a higher scale of wages and gives more protection to the workers on the job.

The organizational committee in charge of the membership drive report that they are confident that the membership of the Union will again be doubled during the next 60 days.

The Laundry Workers Union wish to remind everyone to ask your laundry driver for his Union button. It is your protection against non-union delivery and a wonderful aid in helping the Union organize the unorganized laundry workers.

Workers Alliance To Hold Meeting

The Workers Alliance of Minnesota has completed arrangements for a mass assembly of Unemployed, Relief and Project workers at the entrance to the Minnesota state capitol Saturday, July 11, commencing at 10 a. m.

The speakers' program provides for L. P. Zimmerman, State Relief Administrator, who will report on the condition of relief in Minnesota. Attorney General Peterson will explain the legal limitations of relief administration and Governor Floyd B. Olson will submit his recommendations for improving conditions for the unemployed throughout the state.

Victor A. Christgau, director of WPA in Minnesota, will also be one of the principal speakers and will explain to the assembly the operation of WPA under the 1936 relief act.

T. E. Cunningham will present the views of the Minnesota Federation of Labor on unemployment relief and working conditions on WPA.

Representatives of A. F. of L. central bodies, independent and local A. F. of L. unions will appear and state their position relative to the demands of the unemployed workers and farmers who from all indications will turn out by the thousands to hear what the future holds in store for them.

Grain Commission Will Reduce Wages

We understand that the Railroad and Warehouse Commission, Department of Grain Inspection, is starting a share the misery campaign. Reports are that the boys are to receive a reduction in hours and pay up to 50 per cent. It appears that the commission is turning this department into a relief dispensary. We wonder how zealous and efficient a married man with a family can be on \$60 per month. It seems that the commission is not only wrecking this department, but the morale of the employes as well, and they call this efficient state government.

We must not forget these liberals and laborites that head the Railroad and Warehouse Commission at the polls.

Bill Brown Says—

A fire is raging in the steel industry. Workers want organization and the bosses don't. The conditions under which the workers have been obliged to exist in this industry have brought about this conflagration. The A. F. of L. council, on June 8, will have to decide whom they represent, the workers in that industry or the steel institute. If they are sincere, then John L. Lewis should be given a vote of confidence and the entire forces of the A. F. of L. should be thrown into the fight to organize this industry and all other industrial groups. Workers should watch the action taken at this meeting very closely.



BILL BROWN
President of 574

New Sand and Gravel Agreement Covers All Wages and Conditions

A recently signed agreement between General Drivers Union, Local 574, and employers in the sand and gravel industry marks the first time that the employees in this industry have ever been covered by a contract guaranteeing their wages and working conditions. This union agreement covers not only drivers and helpers in the industry, but includes all sand and gravel pit employees. The text of the agreement follows:

WORKING AGREEMENT

This agreement made and entered into by and between the General Drivers, Helpers and Inside Workers Union, Local 574, as representing its members employed by the sand, gravel, crushed rock, excavating and grading industry and employers whose signatures are attached to this agreement.

Article 1—This agreement shall be in force and effect from June 1, 1936, up to and including May 31, 1937.

Article 2—It is understood and agreed by both parties to this agreement that no separate agreement will be entered into between the employers and any individual employee or group of employees which in any way conflicts with the terms of this agreement.

Article 3—It is understood and agreed that forty-eight (48) hours shall constitute one week's work for truck drivers and fifty-four (54) hours for plant men and that any time worked in excess of forty-eight (48) hours by truck drivers and fifty-four (54) hours by plant men shall be paid for at the rate of time and one-third. Sundays and the following holidays shall be paid for at the rate of time and one-third: New Years Day, Decoration Day, July 4th, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. All time worked on snow hauling, plowing and sanding icy streets shall be paid for at the straight time rate. Overtime work in emergency cases caused by breakdown in production machinery in plants or pits shall be paid for at the straight time rate. It is further agreed by the parties hereto that the employee shall give the employer at least four (4) hours notice that his regular work week as hereinbefore provided, will be completed at a specified time. In the event the employee fails to give said notice, he shall not be entitled to receive overtime pay for that week unless he is authorized to work, in writing by the employer.

Article 4—All truck drivers coming under the terms of this agreement shall be paid for at the rate of sixty-two and one-half cents (62 1/2c) per hour, and plant men regularly employed shall be paid a minimum of fifty-five cents (55c) per hour. There shall be no piece work which will cut the scale of wage below the minimum.

Article 5—All other things being equal, seniority shall prevail. This provides that the oldest man from the point of service on the seniority list shall be entitled to

Wanted for Union Files, July 1 Issue Organizer

Owing to an error in the filing department at the union office, no papers from the July 1st issue of the ORGANIZER are available for our files. It is important that a complete set of all issues of the paper be kept in the file at the office. The office requests that at least 12 copies of the July 1st issue be mailed or brought into the union office at once. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT WE SECURE THESE PAPERS!

forty-eight (48) hours per week before other men are hired. When layoffs occur the last man hired shall be the first man laid off. When returning to work the last man laid off shall be the first returned to work. Provided, however, that the above provisions relative to seniority shall not apply to new employees until a trial period of fifteen (15) days shall have passed. The following clauses shall be considered justification for immediate discharge: Drunkenness, dishonesty and gross insubordination.

Article 6—There shall be no discrimination against any employee because of union affiliation.

Article 7—Any difference arising from the interpretation of this agreement shall be submitted to a committee of four (4), two (2) to be selected by the employers and two (2) to be selected by the Union. In the event that the four (4) fail to reach an agreement within five (5) days they are to select a neutral chairman. All decisions of said Board shall be final and binding on both sides.

Article 8—It is further agreed by and between the parties hereto that the employer shall allow the employee pay for fifteen (15) minutes to cover driving time from the garage to the site of work and fifteen (15) minutes from the site of work to the garage, when the distance is more than one-half mile from the said garage; said driving time shall only be paid for on the basis of straight time and shall not in any event be paid on the basis of overtime.

This agreement entered into this _____ day of July, 1936, between the General Drivers, Helpers and Inside Workers Union Local 574 and _____, to which we hereby set our hand and seal.
GENERAL DRIVERS,
HELPERS AND INSIDE
WORKERS UNION,
LOCAL 574

By _____
And _____
By _____

Pups for Sale

Charles Quick of 650 Polk St. N. E. announces that he has several six weeks springer spaniel pups for sale. They can be purchased at a reasonable figure.

Independent Truck Chatter

Do collectively what you cannot do individually and reap the benefits of organized effort.

Below is a result of the committee meeting which was held with the Good Roads Committee on June 7 at which time we asked for an increase of 10 per cent for the rental of hired trucks.

Resolved by the City Council of the City of Minneapolis:

That the salary and compensation for contract trucks in the service of the City of Minneapolis, effective June 15, 1936, and until further action by the City Council relative thereto, shall be fixed as follows:

- 1 1/2 ton trucks, \$1.50 per hour
- 2 ton trucks, \$1.75 per hour
- 2 1/2 ton trucks, \$1.75 per hour
- 3 ton trucks, \$2.00 per hour
- 3 1/2 ton trucks, \$2.25 per hour
- 4 ton trucks, \$2.50 per hour

Passed June 26, 1936, Daniel F. O'Brien, President of the Council.

Approved June 29, 1936, Thomas E. Latimer, Mayor.

Attest: Chas. C. Swanson, City Clerk.

According to numerous scientific tests, it is ascertained that automobile tires which are mounted during the winter have 30 per cent longer life than tires "broken in" during summer heat.

Twenty-five dollars is collected in gas taxes every time the clock ticks.

We think the truck manufacturers could well pick up the slogan of the automobile industry and say two trucks in every garage.

Heard on the gravel job:
Hank, have you the checks?

Blackie: Good morning, Judge.

Violence Grows in Southern Centers

A wave of almost unprecedented violence against labor organizations is sweeping through the states south of the Mason and Dixon line, reports indicate. In Gadsden, Alabama, seat of the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., northern rubber union officials barely escaped with their lives from a mob led by company foremen and thugs. In Chattanooga, John Dobbs, head of the Central Labor Union, was shot as he marched on the picket line at a strike-closed candy factory. The terror continues unrelieved in the cotton districts of eastern Arkansas, where farm workers have been seeking \$1.50 a day wages.

General Drivers Union Local 574 has a stewards system that is unique in the annals of the trade union movement in Minneapolis. At the last roundup of the stewards 68 active functioning stewards were listed on the rolls.

Wage Scale

The new official wage scale for independent trucks is published in the column under Independent Chatter this week.

LOCAL 574 MEETING SCHEDULE

- Friday, June 12 — Federal Workers
 - Thursday, June 18 — Independent Truck Owners
 - Friday, June 19 — Job Stewards: Federal Workers
 - Monday, June 22 — Full Membership
 - Tuesday, June 23 — Taxi Drivers; night drivers, 1 p. m.; day drivers, 7 p. m.
 - Friday, June 26 — Federal Workers.
- Other section meetings will be specially called.

WPA WORKER VICTIM OF MAD RELIEF SETUP

(Continued from page 1)

any project that was compatible with his physical condition. Ross found his food order withheld and his family in a destitute and starving condition.

On June 4 this worker was served with a warrant sworn to by Mrs. Florence Davis, investigator for the Child Welfare, charging him with non-support. No greater twist of fate could be imagined. Ross was bewildered. He had always worked hard. He had supported his family to the best of his ability. Now after a lifetime of toil and after an honest attempt to conquer fate he found himself in the county jail, fingerprinted and photographed like a felon.

When his case came to trial in Justice Meeker's court the nature of the testimony introduced showed that he had been tried and convicted even before he had been arrested. The savage and vicious attack made on his character by Mrs. Davis of the Welfare Department almost staggers the imagination of a civilized person.

Ross's wife told Justice Meeker that Frank had been a good husband, that he had been sober and industrious and that he had always supported her and their children to the best of his ability. Despite the fact that she, who was most concerned, insisted that Ross was innocent, he was sentenced to 90 days in the Hennepin County jail.

He is there now, a living monument to the brutality and cruelty on a system that demands forced labor for bread. The Non-Partisan Labor Defense has already appealed this case and are preparing to secure his freedom on bail.

In the meantime Ross looks through the prison bars and wonders about the freedom and democracy of which he has heard so much.

Yellow Notes

Our old friend Tom Jennings is back with us again. Welcome back, Tom.

The next request the drivers will have to make of the company is that they put some "seat coolers" in the new cabs. A Turkish bath is a cool place compared to the front seat of the new cabs on a hot day.

Bill Sorenson, who ran the Busy Lee lunch room on 6th St. and 4th Ave. for so many years, reports he is going to open a new lunch room at 618 3rd Ave. within a short time. He also reports it will be a 100 per cent Union lunch room.

The hot weather of the last week or ten days has really brought out the fishing fever among the boys and just try to keep them on the job.

It is very evident from the amount of "heat" the editor of this column received for not making a contribution to last week's issue, that the fellows appreciate having articles inserted regarding activities at the Yellow garage. It is somewhat difficult to gather information for each week's issue and it would be very much appreciated if each and every one would help me by giving me details regarding incidents that occur.

Truck Owners Secure Their Withheld Pay

Nine members of the Union, all from the Independent Truck Owners Section, received, last week, a concrete and vivid demonstration of the value of belonging to a militant labor organization that is continually fighting in the interests of its members.

Independent truck owners employed by the A. R. Swanson Company, hauling out of the Consolidated Material pit on Cedar Lake Road, received \$117.10 back pay. These truck owners had been engaged to haul gravel at the rate of 35c per ton. When their first pay day arrived they had all been paid off, not at the 35c per ton rate but at 5c per ton less.

They immediately complained to the Independent Truck Owners committee who turned the matter over to Organizer Rainbolt. The Union promptly went to the contractor and informed him that the agreement he had entered into with the men meant exactly what it said and that back pay would have to be forthcoming for every ton of material that had been hauled from the pit. After some necessary time had elapsed in order to check over the pay roll list, back pay checks were forthcoming for the nine workers involved.

The largest check was \$27.50 and the smallest \$3.70. There were two valuable lessons learned from this action. First, it taught the value of Union organization to those nine members of the Independent Truck Owners Section and second, it served as a warning to other trucking contractors that agreements entered into between them and members of the Union must be lived up to.

Northern Oats Co. Still Closed

The striking employees of the Northern Oats Company, non-union food processing mill, are valiantly carrying on the strike which has been in existence for over two months. Despite the fact that Mr. Lowfex, manager of the struck plant, has tried with every means at his disposal to reopen the mill with scab workers, all his efforts have fallen flat and not a wheel has turned since the workers walked out in protest against the starvation wage scale that was in effect prior to the strike.

Wednesday, June 24, the management made its last desperate effort to put scabs into the factory. News that the attempt to reopen he mill soon reached the ears of the officials of the Flour and Cereal Workers Union, Local 19152, the organization to which all the striking workers belong, and by the time the scabs arrived at the plant they were greeted by a picket line. Despite the efforts of the pickets 14 scabs succeeded in making their way into the plant.

The Flour Workers then appealed to the Cabinet Makers Union, who were at that time on strike in all sash and door factories. The Sash Workers promptly responded by the sending of 150 pickets. The pickets marched into the mill and when the smoke of battle had cleared away, 10 of the scabs were on their way back to St. Paul and four of them on their way to the hospital.

Wednesday, July 1, the striking union workers received a counter proposal from the management of the Northern Oats Company. The counter proposal gave wage raises averaging 3 1/2c per hour. It was rejected by the Union. It is expected that negotiations will be resumed at an early date.

Laundry Union Plans a Picnic

The second annual picnic given by the joint local of Cleaners, Drivers and Laundry Workers Union No. 18005-183 will be held Sunday, July 19, at Powderhorn Park, 34th St. and 14th Ave. S. A program of sports, music, speakers and other entertainment has been arranged.

The following are in charge of all activities:

Rubin Latz, general chairman; Clarence Mathews, races; Nathan Osborn, entertainment; Frank Elliot, ball games; Mabel Hanson, refreshments; Margaret Mathews, publicity; Alvina Baldwin, finances; Ray McInteer, tickets.

Among the speakers that have accepted invitations are: Harry H. Peterson, Attorney General; Joseph A. Poirier, Assistant Attorney General; M. Urbuees, Chairman Central Labor Union; Miles Dunne, Editor, Northwest Organizer; Dewey Johnson, State Fire Marshal; Hon. Wm. H. Bennett, State Representative; Hon. S. H. Bellman, State Representative; Zender Jennis, Business Representative Amalgamated Clothing Workers.

One of the largest gatherings of organized labor is expected at this picnic.

Wright County WPA Workers to Picnic

The Wright County WPA section of Local 574 will hold its first annual picnic Sunday, July 19, at Allbright's Mill. The committee in charge has spared no effort to make this first outdoor gathering of Wright County WPA workers and unemployed a notable one.

Workers from adjacent counties have been invited and it is expected that several delegations from organizations outside of Wright County will be at the picnic. Allbright's Mill has proven itself to be a splendid place to hold such an entertainment as being planned by the Wright County unit of Local 574.

The committee announces there will be music, refreshments, games and a splendid program of speakers which will be headed by Brother G. J. Dunne, Recording Secretary of General Drivers Union and Chairman of the Minneapolis Federal Workers Section.

All workers in the western part of the state are cordially invited to attend.

Project Workers Strike Over Pay

Thursday WPA workers in Wright County, employed at the Howard Lake graveling project, conducted a successful strike to do away with discrimination that was being practiced by local WPA officials. Although the workers on this project, numbering 69 men, have been subject to a whole list of petty persecutions, the action that resulted in the strike was the deliberate attempt on the part of WPA officials to hold over the pay day from July 1 until after the double holiday.

Wednesday night workers employed on this project voted to strike Thursday morning unless their checks were forthcoming. When the paymaster did not appear in the morning the workers laid down their tools and walked off the job. After a few hurried telephone calls the Wright County relief superintendent decided that the men must be paid.

It is a significant fact that the checks, which were passed out Friday morning, July 3, were dated July 2, proving conclusively that they were in the possession of the local officialdom prior to the dispute over the pay day.

Fred Hartshorn took the fatal leap two weeks ago Saturday night.

Mill Worker Tells Of Conditions

July 5, 1936
Minneapolis, Minn.

To the Editor of the Northwest Organizer:

One of the greatest, yet the least publicized strikes in the Sash and Door industry has come to an end after seven weeks duration. It may justly be recorded as great a strike for at least three reasons: first, it was a completely tie-up of an entire industry; second, all attempts to reopen the plants in spite of the strike were promptly thwarted, and third, that it was not marred by any serious violence on anyone's part.

Although the settlement of the strike fell short of expectations on the part of the workers involved, because it has not raised the scale of wages appreciably, nevertheless, certain gains were made, and one of the most important was the recognition of the right of collective bargaining by the employers—an instrument for raising wages. What little was accomplished must serve as a consolation for those indomitable participants in the struggle for living, who have suffered and sacrificed. We are not discouraged by partial failure and have resolved to stick to the Union in order to correct the mistake made last.

From all indications, we conclude the employers do not wish more strikes like the last one, and they are apt to be more willing to negotiate terms with our Union next time. A vast majority of the employers took their defeat with good graces, taking in their employees with open arms, remarking: "let bygones be bygones, let's go to work," while few, especially those very pious, fumed, fussed and acted like madmen, discriminated against some employees.

We have been discriminated against by employers for all reasons, by the contractors because our strike impeded their building operations, and also by some officers of the C. L. U. because we were organized as an independent union and were being assisted in our growth by Local 574. In fact we were bounced from place to place so much that we grew callouses all over, and we think we may pride ourselves on being able "to take it on the chin."

To Local 574 and its officers we owe our gratitude for their untiring efforts in helping us to organize and carry on the fight as far as we wished them to, and also for the spacious halls we have used for our meetings and kitchen for for noonday meals during the strike. Being modest, all they ask for as a reward for their kindness, is to help make Minneapolis a Union Town.

—Louis Proczek

Citizens Alliance Asks for Huge Sum

The June 19th issue of the Minneapolis Citizens Alliance bulletin is asking its membership to agree to a 1936 budget of \$75000. The bulletin starts out by pointing out that "labor unrest" is likely in Minneapolis during the coming year and asked that the forementioned sum be raised for their "current program."

To those who understand language of the Citizens Alliance bulletins know that the \$75,000 budget is a war chest with which they expect to wage an unceasing battle on labor during the coming 18 months period.

Members of the Federal Workers Section of Local 574 who are employed on the Old Soldiers Home project, announce that they are now working five hours per day.

Notes to You by Kenn Harlan

Diary of a Traveling Musician—

July 4—Awoke betimes amid the clatter and clang of my trusty alarm and did forthwith perceive that due to the indiscretion of yesterday eve, the little man with the hammer was beating a flammiddle upon the innermost portion of my cranium. And so did gulp down a short quart of roach exterminator as an eye-opener. Which quart did settle heatedly upon mine empty paunch. Thereupon I did mind my clothes and place them upon the dresser, dressing myself in the alarm clock.

And so to breakfast where I did eat a gross amount of raw oysters, cold mutton, stew, onions, toast, cream puffs, baked ham, fried chicken, clam chowder, two napkins, a paper spoon and four green olives. Hence to work.

Off and away in our caravan of motor vehicles to trek some fifty odd miles or more to the place of our labor. Soon I did commence to feel that the heat of the day and the roughness of the road liked me not a little and ere long my stomach did begin to emulate the man on the flying trapeze. Seeking sympathy I did mention to my companion that I was of ill health and commencing to feel as tho I had borne the famous Canadian fivesome. Whereupon that crude individual did say, "It must be something you eat." And I did think of the four green olives I had partaken of at breakfast and I did decide that olives did not agree with me. So onward!

Signed,

Ira Fipple

Fact—

Those of you who haven't heard 574's band recently will be surprised at the improvement. We have tried a new combination. It really clicks. * * *

Athletics—

At Marine, Minnesota, on July 4th, five rooster chases were held. The same rooster was used each time. He would have run again but was found to be suffering from fallen arches. * * *

Introduction—

Meet our new trombone man—tall, handsome and—married. Plays a mess of fine trombone music, argues with Pete Snapco (who wouldn't)?—has a charming wife—doesn't drink—haven't seen him smoke. Bet he has some bad habit though. * * *

Similarity:

Happy as a certain trumpet man whose initials are Pete Snapco when he found that he could play "Sugar Blues" as well as Clyde McCoy. * * *

Confession—

Your correspondent is suffering from shell shock. Why do they make firecrackers so damn big?

The new phone number of this department is GL 3382. Don't call before breakfast.

Word has been received that Ed Irving, our hard working claim agent, has extended an invitation to Robert Page Lincoln, the celebrated angling expert, to accompany him on a fishing trip to teach him the intricacies of enticing the fish to bite. How about it, Ed?

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THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

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

Local Labor Outlook

The outlook in the local labor movement in Minneapolis and throughout the Northwest is the most encouraging symptom that workers are turning more eagerly than ever before to the trade union movement. While there is no way of determining the exact number of individuals who have joined unions during the past year, it is safe to assume that the numbers are well in the thousands. Workers in industries that have never been organized before are forming unions with or without the help of A. F. of L. organizers and are applying for charters in ever-increasing numbers. One has only to glance over the roster of unions which have been granted charters during the past 12 months to realize that the Minneapolis labor movement has taken gigantic strides forward. The awakening of the local labor movement is chiefly due to several circumstances.

First and foremost, in local significance, is the fact that the truck driving industry is almost 100 per cent organized. The organization of a powerful truck drivers union has been one of the greatest advantages that labor could possibly have had. Hardly a group of workers in Minneapolis but have been given aid by the Drivers Union. Physical aid rendered other Unions and other groups of workers by the organized drivers has not been the greatest contribution to the labor movement. The moral value of a huge militant, aggressive union of truck drivers which successfully defeated the Citizens Alliance and all the forces of employers' reaction has been an advantage on the side of labor, the value of which is impossible to compute. The organized drivers in Minneapolis stand as a beacon light guiding unorganized workers down the pathway which leads to economic security. It is safe to assume that the next 12 months period will see even greater gains made by labor in Minneapolis.

Northwest Drivers

In connection with a campaign to organize truck drivers, helpers and inside workers throughout the northwest, the strike at the Gamble-Robinson Company should be an encouraging manifestation of what is possible in this direction. The struck produce distributing firm has branch houses located in various strategic points in the northwest.

Duluth, Superior, Fargo, St. Cloud, Mankato, Eau Claire, Albert Lea, Rochester, Willmar and various other cities house a branch of this company. During the course of the strike on the Gamble Company of the Minneapolis committees of the strikers and organizers of the Union had occasion to visit these places and to talk to truck drivers and helpers working in these localities. Every place, without exception, that was visited by the Union representatives the spirit for Union organization was rampant.

Amazing stories were told to the Union committee of the starvation wages that were being paid and of the near slave conditions under which the majority of these workers were employed. The lessons that were learned by Minneapolis workers from the vigorously and successfully conducted strikes of General Drivers Union have not been entirely unnoticed throughout the rural sections of the northwest. Rather the lessons taught have been quickly assimilated by members of the driving crafts in the northwest and, as a whole they are eager to take advantage of what they consider to be a favorable opportunity to advance their own economic interests.

Building of drivers' locals throughout the northwest, at this time, should prove to be a fairly simple task. All that is needed is someone with the necessary will and ambition to conduct an organizational campaign in these localities.

Local 574 Picnic

Plans for the August 9 picnic of the General Drivers Union are going forward at a rapid pace. The committee reports that the program of sports events and other entertainment features which will be a part of the all day program are rapidly rounding into shape.

Local 574 plans to make their first annual picnic the biggest and best summer affair held by any labor organization. A special program is being worked out for the ladies and children. Every member of the Union is urged not only to attend themselves but to bring their family as well.

A special amount of time is being put in on working out a program for the kiddies. There will be drinks, ice cream, crackerjack and prizes for all the little ones. Remember the time and place. August 9, all day, Webb's Place at Bass Lake.

Walter Winchell will get hell for letting the cat out of the bag: Three of Wall Street's biggest operators are contributing heavily to the Lemke-Coughlin party to split Roosevelt's votes.

SUBSCRIPTION BLANK

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Keeping Step With 574

By Mickey Dunne

Les Baumgart received a beautiful present on Fathers Day. It was a six-pound baby girl. Les is as well as could be expected.

H. Grenacher carried the banner in front of the Northern States Power office on Fifth Street Wednesday afternoon.

Local 1859 is still scuffling around at the Puffer-Hubbard plant in south Minneapolis.

Local 1865 is moving back into General Drivers headquarters shortly.

THE HEIGHT OF SOMETHING OR OTHER

An independent truck owner rode a bicycle over to the Union hall the other evening to lodge a complaint.

This week saw the end of a long trail for Skoglund and Rainbolt. They laid the signed sand and gravel agreement on the Secretary's desk and turned their eager but careworn faces to new fields.

K. Postal was sick last week.

The independent truck owners are deeply aroused over the proposed cut in WPA hours. It will mean about \$29 less a month to them.

STATE OF THE UNION

201 new members joined Local 574 during the month of June.

H. Schultz, Local 160 overlord, is the champion long distance telephonist of the universe.

The Union halls would be a strange place if they weren't filled with striking workers all the time. First, 1859 Furniture Workers. After that we had the sash and door workers for two months and then the Gamble-Robinson strikers, now Local 160, Northern States Power Union.

FOR SALE

Hydraulic hoist and power take-off to fit any truck. See John MacShane, 2115 4th St. N., or call Ch. 0145.

Last week's item saying that the Stenos' Union did not believe in mass picketing has been hotly denied.

The Cameron Transfer Company still uses horses.

The Frosig trial has been postponed until the fall term of the district court. The Dane is breathing easier.

There is no truth in the report that Slim Gardner is going to enter the Slim Man's race at the picnic.

Union building laborers are on two big wrecking

projects in Minneapolis. Their last winter's scuffle with Rose Brothers is paying good dividends.

The fight in the stop strata of the A. F. of L. is becoming better all the time. Look for a showdown soon.

It looks like the local power company wants a showdown with the workers.

Frank Ross, persecuted WPA worker from St. Louis Park, is out on bail furnished by the Non-Partisan Labor Defense.

The writer was in Brainerd at the Paul Bunyan celebration last Sunday. It's a nice place but lots of moisture.

The Gamble-Rob boys are all back on the job.

The department store drivers are finding their way into the Union at a rapid pace now. The stores will soon be presented with Union agreements.

IT'S ON AGAIN

A new seniority scuffle has broken out at the Colonial Warehouse. Well, it at least keeps the organizers busy.

Wholesale grocery drivers, helpers and inside workers will hold a meeting in the Union headquarters Monday, July 20.

The market is in the best condition, so far as the Union is concerned, than it has been since the 1934 strikes. No non-union men there.

Local 160 strikers have their strike headquarters organized like veterans. The committee deserves much credit.

Mrs. Seastrom has not been reappointed, neither has anyone else.

WE THOUGHT SO

Guess who bought the grain that was stored in the struck Northern Oats elevator. None other than "friend of the masses" I. S. Joseph.

Tobacco Workers Wages Are Scanty

Earnings of workers in the tobacco manufacturing industry (excepting cigars) averaged \$699.92 a year in 1934, according to a study made by the Department of Labor. Between 1933 and 1935 their earnings increased from an average of \$10.50 a week to \$14.61 a week. Average employment during 1934 was 47.4 weeks.

The International Association of Gideons announced this week that they have placed more than 1,300,000 copies of the Bible in hotel rooms since they began work in 1908.

Maybe that helps to explain why the world has progressed so far since then.

Federal Workers Plan New Drive

The Federal Workers Section of Local 574 which has made great strides forward in organizational work in the past, is not remaining satisfied with past history but is pushing forward to the ultimate goal of organizing all the relief workers and the direct relief clients in the Minneapolis district and is starting an immediate drive with the slogan of "Make Minneapolis a 100% Union Town." At the regular steward meeting held Wednesday evening, July 1, a program for immediate action was discussed and enthusiastically endorsed by the stewards who are the active organizers on the various projects. Each steward has pledged himself to give his full time if necessary to assist in carrying out the program until a realization has been accomplished.

LABOR... Looks at the Press

From an editorial in the Minneapolis Star: No strike has yet won anything that could not have been worked out beforehand by pacific reasonable adjustment of differences around the conference table.

Show me the boss that will sit around a conference table with union representatives—unless a picket line has got him tied up into forty-nine knots.

Some day the workers and farmers of America are going to prescribe a rest of indefinite duration for the five hundred "Morgans" and we are going to take America back for the people.

The Bosses of the World:

They'll deny there is a class struggle—and hire thugs and gunmen to butcher strikers.

They'll refuse their workers the right to organize—and organize to the hilt themselves.

They'll fight to refuse relief to the unemployed—when unemployment is the inevitable result of the profit system they fight to maintain.

They'll howl about the sanctity of the constitution—and mock its Bill of Rights.

They'll claim we live in a democracy—and control for themselves all the mediums of creating public opinion, and the state machinery.

They'll state they stand for peace—and make investments all over the world which can only lead to war.

They'll brawl about the freedom of the press—in order to continue their misrepresentation and distortion of the truth.

They'll state they believe in the family and the home—and pay such low wages that a poor man has not real family life.

They can't get it through their heads that every man has a right to live—but that is what Revolutions are for: To teach people who can't get such things through their heads.

Local 160 Meeting Schedule

- June 30—Regular Stewards meeting
- July 1—Regular membership meeting
- July 7—Executive Board meeting
- July 14—Executive Board meeting
- July 14—Regular Stewards meeting
- July 15—Regular Membership meeting
- July 21—Executive Board meeting
- July 28—Executive Board meeting

*Note the changes of Executive Board meetings and the new setup for stewards meetings.