

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

Official Organ of the Northwest Labor Unity Conference

MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE: 257 PLYMOUTH AVE. N.
GENERAL OFFICE: 286 E. 6TH ST.
St. Paul, Minn.

As from this hour
You use your power,
The world must follow you.

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

VOLUME 2, NO. 4

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, WEDNESDAY, MAY 13, 1936

PRICE 5 CENTS

FILLING STATION STRIKE ENDS

SASH WORKERS WALK OUT OF LOCAL MILLS

Strike 100 Per Cent Effective
as Union Orders
Walkout

Pickets Guard All Plants as
Sash Production
Stops

On Friday, May 8, Sash, Door and Mill Workers struck that industry in a fashion so energetic that before 9 a. m. every sash, door and mill factory in Minneapolis was closed tightly.

The Mill Workers Union, an independent organization, had just finished a whirlwind organization campaign that had brought into the union over 75% of all the workers in the industry. When the plants were closed down on Friday morning the small per cent who had not already joined the union flocked into the headquarters to make application. Before the day was over the industry was 100% union.

Picket lines were established at all the plants and no one was allowed to enter. In some places even the firemen, engineers and watchmen were kept out until an agreement was made with the Union. A solid picket line has been maintained at each plant since the strike was called.

A strike headquarters has been set up at General Drivers Hall, 257 Plymouth Ave. N. Local 574 turned the third floor hall over to the Sash, Door and Mill Workers for their use as long as the strike continues. A commissary has been established on the second floor and the kitchen presents a scene of great activity as the wives of the strikers prepare the noon day meal that is served to the pickets each day.

Although there are approxi-
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To Hold Mass Meet For Strike Victims

Tuesday, May 19, the Non-Partisan Labor Defense will sponsor a public mass meeting in the Pioneer Hall.

The purpose of the gathering is to acquaint the public with the facts in the case of the arrested Northern Oats strikers and other local labor cases.

A good speaking program has been arranged and an interesting and instructive evening is promised.

Among the speakers will be one of the victims, John Janasco, president of the Furniture Workers Union. V. R. Dunne, local labor leader, will also be on the program.

The meeting will start promptly at 8 p. m. The public is invited.

The Steamroller



Local Teamsters Council Plans to Hit Local 574 in Deep Dark Plot

The Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council have concocted what they believe to be a clever plot to strike a blow at General Drivers Union, Local 574. This plot was supposed to be a deep, dark secret. The plans and details of it have been whispered about from ear to ear in a carefully selected circle of those whose only interest, in the trade union movement, is to attempt to erect a dual drivers union in Minneapolis.

In brief the plot is this. Through Meyer Lewis, and other reactionaries in the Minneapolis labor movement, an attempt is going to be made to place the central body and the Building Trades Council on record for accepting deliveries, particularly of building material, from only bona fide A. F. of L. union drivers.

Further details include the lining up of some Minneapolis building material company to put 500 drivers on their trucks who would then be the only "kosher" company. The plot with all of its deep, dark, and sinister ramifications seems 100% air-tight except for one or two things.

In the first place Local 574 knew all about the strategy even before it took shape in tangible form. Dozens of our friends in the local labor movement called us by phone and approached us in person warning us of the action that was being planned and advis-

ing us how to proceed. So the secret aspect of the plot is out.

Secondly, Local 574 has ALL OF THE BUILDING MATERIAL COMPANIES lined up in 574. The weak spot in the well-planned scheme of the would-be union busters is precisely this: They will hunt long and hard before they will be able to find one single building material company who are willing to take a chance in incurring the displeasure of General Drivers Union. What the employers clearly recognize, but what the A. F. of L. fakers seem not to

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Four Oats Strikers Face Grave Charges

One of the repercussions from the Northern Oats strike was the arrest of three workers who have all been charged with a serious offense. Forty-eight members of the union who were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct all had their cases dismissed on a motion by Gilbert Carlson, Non-Partisan Labor Defense Attorney.

However as the defendants left the court room three of them were arrested, again brought before the court and charged with "unlawful entry." These arrested on the more serious charge were Joe Yost, John Janasco, and Harry DeBoer. All are on liberty on \$1500 bail bond.

Petroleum Unionists Brand Lewis as Strikebreaker in Stinging Press Statement

Petroleum Workers strike was ended at midnight Monday night by a vote of the membership. The strike which went into effect May 6 came to an end after five days of struggle against tremendous odds. Utilizing the ambiguous language of the Dr. Lapp award, the petroleum bosses made a compromised proposal which was accepted by the Union in ending the strike. The Union in a signed statement pointed out that the calling off of the strike was not in any way to be understood as an unqualified endorsement of this award. The Union statement says plainly that Meyer Lewis, personal representative of Wm. Green, scuttled the strike by an open public attack against it. The strike was called in an effort to put an end to the systematic violation of the provisions of the former Union agreement by the petroleum companies.

The provisions of the former agreement called for Union wages and conditions for the men in this industry.

The petroleum companies had abrogated this agreement by a so-called leasing arrangement which placed the employees upon a piece-work basis instead of an hourly and monthly rate as agreed by the Union, the companies and Dr. Lapp. The justice of the Union demand that this practice cease was recognized not only by the workers in the petroleum industry but by the entire labor movement.

The strike was endorsed by the American Federation of Labor through the central labor bodies of both Minneapolis and St. Paul. Due entirely to the fact of the popular feeling among the trade union workers for support of this strike, Mr. Meyer Lewis had been forced to also give his endorsement. It is a noteworthy fact, however, that he never was in accord with the struggle being waged by the petroleum workers.

During the entire period of the strike he carried on a policy of harrassing the Union and its leadership. Meyer Lewis saw in this strike not an opportunity to force the petroleum bosses to live up to the spirit of the agreement which they had signed, but rather an opportunity to carry out the plan that had animated his every action since his arrival in Minneapolis.

This plan was and is, to split the tuck drivers and warehouse men away from the filling station attendants, to turn the drivers over to Tobin's fink Local 500, then to revoke the charter of the station attendants, thus striking a death blow to this progressive Union. During the last two days of the strike certain undercover individuals approached the petroleum employers and proposed that the drivers and warehouse men be ordered back to work.

The same individuals assured the petroleum bosses that if the men refused to return that Union men could be furnished to man the trucks and platforms. The meaning of this strikebreaking proposal is clear. Men from Local 500 under the leadership of Tobin's thugs and gunmen would have become "official" Union scabs. That

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Warehouse Men

Friday, May 15, at 8 p. m. there will be a meeting for all warehouse men and inside workers in the transfer and storage industry. In the last few weeks many of these workers have joined the union. However there are still a great number who are not members of Local 574.

It is of extreme importance that all workers in the industry who come under the classification of warehouse and inside workers become members of the union before a settlement of their wages and working conditions is attempted. The warehouse men, in the transfer industry, properly come under the jurisdiction of General Drivers Union.

Remember the place and date. Attend the meeting Friday, May 15, General Drivers Hall, 257 Plymouth Ave N. Both union and non-union workers are invited.

574 Button Display Brings Drivers Raise

In south Minneapolis a lumber company, whose drivers were unorganized, last week had a load of lumber refused because of the non-union delivery condition. The employer sent one man up to join the union so that he could make the delivery. When the other two drivers, who were employed there, heard about it they also came up and became union men.

They were advised to put their union button on their cap and wear it openly. The boss noticed the buttons but said nothing. But when Saturday came the two drivers came up to the Union hall and gleefully announced that their pay had been raised to conform with the union scale.

Union membership pays real dividends.

Sash, Door and Mill Workers commissary, in General Drivers Hall, Monday served 50 pounds of weiners, 12 pounds of coffee, 75 dozen buns, 8 pounds of sugar, 10 quarts of milk along with mustard and other trimmings.

Make Minneapolis a Union Town

Petroleum Unionists Brand Lewis as Strikebreaker in Stinging Press Statement

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this scheme fitted in very well with the Meyer Lewis plan is evident. As every Union man well knows, demand after demand has been made upon the Petroleum Workers Union by Mr. Lewis that they confine their organization activity to the station attendants.

He maneuvered with Mr. Bradley, president of the National Filling Station Attendants Organization, and the local reactionary Union officials from the first day of his arrival toward this Union splitting end. Unsuccessful up to the time of the strike in carrying out this plan due to the resistance of the petroleum workers he ceased the opportunity which seemed to present itself during the strike to club them into line.

Frustrated by the solidarity in the ranks of the striking workers, Meyer Lewis attempted a bold stroke Sunday evening. Over the heads of the entire Union membership he issued a statement to the press saying that the A. F. of L. had called off the strike and ordered the men back to work. This statement was quickly utilized by the bosses of the Citizens Alliance and wide publicity given to it over the radio and through the daily press.

The ranks of the petroleum workers engaged in a bitter strike struggle with their employers were thrown into confusion by this act of treachery. A meeting of the strike committee was called which decided upon a closed membership meeting on Monday evening. A complete review of the situation was given by the Union leadership. After a thorough discussion by the Union members it was decided to call off the strike, rebuild the organization and continue the struggle for the realization of the just demands that have been the basis of this strike action.

That a bitter lesson has been learned by the petroleum workers about the Union busting and strikebreaking activity of Meyer Lewis was clearly evident by the determined attitude of the men to keep their ranks solid and resist to the end any attempt to split the filling station men from the drivers. It was clearly evident an understanding had been reached that the more or less temporizing attitude which had been apparent at times in the Union in its dealings with Meyer Lewis was at an end.

William McComiskey, president of the Petroleum Workers' union local 19802, A. F. of L. issued a statement in which he explained the union had accepted the proposal with the understanding that it "does not in any way settle or effect the basic issues on which the strike was called."

"These issues," he said, "are the unfair leasing arrangement which makes a mockery of the wage and hour provisions of the Lapp award

by lowering wages, lengthening hours and creating unemployment.

"We are calling off the strike, not because we feel that the issues involved have been settled, but because the disloyal actions of Meyer Lewis in withdrawing his support and openly attacking us in the public press has made it impossible for us to carry on at the present time. We are convinced of the fact that had not this unprincipled attack by Meyer Lewis been made upon us, we would ultimately have emerged victorious."

Mill Workers' Wives Serve Members Food

The Sash, Door and Mill Workers commissary, which has been functioning so smoothly and efficiently during the strike that it has fed daily about 700 workers, seemingly without effort, has been in charge of some energetic and capable women.

Credit for the splendid organization of the commissary should go to Mrs. John Weeber, Mrs. M. R. Almquist, Mrs. Franz and Mrs. C. C. Johnson. They have performed there like soldiers.

Klan Is Involved In Tampa Tar Trial

Additional light on the reign of silence clamped down on members of the Tampa police department and further identification of the seven former Tampa cops indicted for kidnapping E. J. Poulnot, member of the Modern Democrats, came from new state witnesses in the flog case at Bartow. While Defense Counsel Pat Whitaker, Tampa politician, continued to use red scare tactics, fact upon fact bound the web of implication more tightly around the Klan policemen.

Yellow Notes

It was a sad experience for the baseball manager Sunday. They lost the first game of the season; but Pat says, "We'll trim their ears next time." Don't fail him boys.

Did you notice darkness in the vicinity of the Washington rack? Well, that's "Shadow" and his helper, the new washers.

Wait until that baseball team gets new uniforms, then they will go to town.

More of the boys will be happy this week when they drive a new Yellow.

The "Mayor" wants to thank all the boys for the help he received during his recent illness.

Watch the 6th Street stand now. You know the cooks and waiters have declared the Yellow Cab official transportation.

It has been reported Crandall spent considerable time looking for a "suit stretcher" after being caught in the heavy rain last Saturday night with one of Brown Clothing Companies suits on.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Burnette and family wish to extend their heartfelt thanks and appreciation for the beautiful floral offering received from Local 574 in the loss of their beloved Mother.

Our old standby Al Canfield is confined in the hospital now.

Bill Brown Says—

The evening papers of May 11 carried another one of Meyer Lewis' contributions to the Minneapolis labor movement in the form of an attack on the striking workers in the petroleum industry. Although Meyer has never been able to fool us it is sad that he did gain the confidence of some of the Eighth Street Generals and some of the so-called radical leaders. Local 574 is not running the strike of the Petroleum Workers. If we were the band leader from Iowa would have never been able to have a chance to do the thing that he has done in this strike. We know him and his kind, and forewarned is forearmed.



BILL BROWN President of 574

Returning Worker Finds Union Hall Scene of Activity

By G. J. Dunne

After an absence of about a week from the headquarters of my organization I returned on Thursday morning and found the hall a den of activity. A little nonplused by what was going on and attempting to get some clarification, I approached our most highly esteemed office manager, Mr. William Lotz, and about the following conversation took place.

Q. Who are all these men in the halls so early in the morning?

A. Why, don't you know that we have two strikes on this week?

Q. Do you mean 574's on strike?

A. Oh no, the Petroleum Workers Union Local 19802 and the Sash, Door and Mill Workers Union.

Q. Say, Bill, who are these Sash, Door and Mill Workers and what are they striking for?

A. I could tell you a lot more about it but their president is up in the hall. You had better see him; his name is Brother Spitzemberger.

I walked up to the third floor, found about 400 men formed in and talking the situation over. I asked for Spitzemberger and he was pointed out to me. Spitzemberger appealed to me as a calm, deliberate, honest worker who had gained the confidence of his Union by his religious attitude toward his organization. I introduced myself and the first question I asked how is your strike going?

He was exuberant, enthusiastic, and reflected the whole attitude of the workers who were assembled in the hall. His answer was "fine" and "we're going to stick." I returned down to the office and talked with Bill Lotz and he told me about the Northern Oats controversy, Petroleum Workers strike and the campaign drive which has been organized by the Executive Board of Local 574.

On the campaign drive the executive Board has ordered every organizer and official of the Union to be on the streets at least two days a week between the hours of 7 a. m. to 6 p. m. in a clean up on miscellaneous drivers who are not as yet members of this organization. The slogan is, "Every Driver In Minneapolis A Member of Local 574." He assured me in

Laundry Workers Sign New Firms

The past week has been the most successful in the entire history of our Union. Through the militant efforts of our pickets and the help of Local 574 we negotiated closed shop agreements with the following firms: Artistic Cleaners, 820 8th Ave. S.; Progressive Laundry, 228 E. Hennepin; and Service Cleaners, 4556 4th Ave. S. The effectiveness of united action in labor struggles was vividly demonstrated by the help given us by Local 574 in preventing the unloading of a load of coal to the Artistic Cleaners, compelling them to cease operation and thus forcing the management to grant our demands.

my absence the above policy had been adopted and commented that Local 574 makes no idle gestures.

Just to find out for my own information of how the program is working out I checked on the day of my visit and found that we had taken in 105 new members and only given out two withdrawal cards, making a total net gain of 103 new members. I was so impressed with the policy and the program of this progressive Union that I could not refrain from putting my thoughts into words.

They tell me they are going to increase their activities toward making every driver in Minneapolis a union man, and if you look at the steel blue eyes of Farrell Dobbs, or if you talk a moment with the fearless Bill Brown, or if you want to spend a few more moments in the headquarters and discuss with that old solid rock, Carl Skoglund, you are going to come away from those magnificent headquarters of the General Drivers Union, Local 574, with a feeling of utter confidence for the future and security of the working class.

Lumber Co. Drivers Flock Into Union

The drivers in the lumber companies, who in the past have never been well organized, are now flocking into the Union at a pace which promises to see that industry 100% organized in a short time.

Since the strike of the Sash, Door and Mill Workers, who are in close contact with the lumber drivers, a new spirit for union organization has prevailed with the lumber workers. When the organization of these drivers and helpers is completed a meeting will be called for that section for the purpose of setting up a wage and working agreement.

William Lotz, bookkeeping general, locked the Economics Class in the hall back of the office Tuesday night. There was great indignation.

Local Teamsters Council Plans to Hit Local 574 in Deep Dark Plot

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understand is that Local 574 has the drivers ALL ORGANIZED in Minneapolis.

By what fantastic stretch of imagination do the A. F. of L. stooges think that any Minneapolis employer of drivers is going to be allowed to have himself put in the "middle" on this question. What they also fail to recognize is that the employers do not wish to deal with any union. But they will deal, and they have dealt with the union organization that has the power of the ORGANIZED drivers behind it.

The people who laid this plan out on paper no doubt are satisfied that it will be successful. But we predict in advance that it will be just as unsuccessful, sterile and devoid of results as have been the other efforts of the 8th Street Generals to down General Drivers Union.

The building material that is delivered on building projects in

Truck Owners Hold Meeting

The Thursday meeting of the Independent Truck Owners Section was by far the largest meeting of that group that has ever been held since its organization. They were compelled to hold their meeting in the club rooms on the second floor due to the fact that the striking Mill Workers Union were conducting a meeting in the auditorium. Fully 250 independent owners crowded into the club room when the meeting was called to order.

Due to the fact that two such large meetings were held on the same night, there was also a shortage of chairs. The Independent Truckers, however, demonstrated their solidarity with the mill strikers by putting up with this inconvenience. Reports during the meeting indicate that the Independent Section is continuing to take in new members at a rapid pace. The steering committee reported all members working.

Auto Workers Elect Their Own Officers

Organized autoworkers moved a step nearer unification of existing unions in the industry and organization of those not yet in the field as the United Automobile Workers of America completed their second annual convention at South Bend.

After electing Homer Martin of Kansas City president to succeed Francis J. Dillon, appointed by President William Green of the A. F. of L. a year ago, delegates moved to assess the membership \$75,000 and seek \$175,000 from unions attached to the Committee for Industrial Organization to finance their organizing campaign.

J. L. Lewis Warns Steel, Tin Workers

In a blistering wire to the convention of the Amalgamated Association of Steel, Iron and Tin workers at Canonsburg, Pa., John L. Lewis, chairman of the Committee for Industrial Organization, repeated the Committee's offer of organizing aid specifying half a million dollars as the amount the Committee was prepared to spend, termed the offer of the A. F. of L. executive council "inadequate, futile, and conceived in a mood of humiliated desperation and warned the convention that it stands "at the crossroad of economic destiny for millions of workers in your industry."

Minneapolis, this season, will be delivered by 574 drivers or there will be no delivery.

Local 160 Meeting Schedule

- Wednesday, April 22—Stewards and open organization meeting
- Thursday, April 23—Executive Board
- Wednesday, May 6—Regular membership meeting
- Thursday, May 7—Executive Board meeting
- Wednesday, May 13—Stewards and open organization meeting
- Thursday, May 14—Executive Board meeting
- Wednesday, May 20—Regular membership meeting
- Thursday, May 21—Executive Board meeting
- Wednesday, May 27—Stewards and open organization meeting
- Thursday, May 28—Executive Board meeting

Letter of Thanks

General Drivers Local Union No. 574 257 Plymouth Ave. N. Gentlemen:

Many thanks to you for taking charge of Arthur Thompson's funeral and for the lovely flowers you sent.

May we also express our very great appreciation for your friendship to him and all your kindness through the years.

It was wonderful that you were willing to take care of his small daughter too but she seems to have found a good home.

Very sincerely yours, RELATIVES OF ARTHUR THOMPSON

SASH WORKERS WALK OUT OF LOCAL MILLS

(Continued from page 1)

mately 700 mill workers on strike the task of feeding all of them is handled smoothly. They eat in relays. Half of them eat while the other half maintain the picket line. Many gallons of coffee and hundreds of sandwiches disappear rapidly when the hungry picket crews get into the hall.

With the workers in the industry organized so completely there is not the remotest possibility that the mill owners will be able to reopen their plants until they settle with the Union. Daily strike meetings are held at 4 p. m.

Frank Spitzenberger, President of the Sash, Door and Mill Workers Union, reports that the spirit of the men is excellent and that they are determined that there shall be no break in the ranks until the employers agree to recognize and deal with the Union. The following sash and door factories have been completely closed down by the Union:

- Bach E. E. Millwork Co.
- Bardwell-Robinson Co.
- Carlson, Aaron
- Carr-Cullen Co.
- Curtis-Yale-Purvis Co.
- Kullberg Mfg. Co.
- Lake St. Sash and Door Co.
- Lawson & Nelson
- Luce-Lindgren Co.
- Roland Millwork Co.
- Rydell, A. T. Inc.
- Serley Sash and Door
- Simons, Inc.
- Thompson Lumber Co.
- John L. Olson Co.

Local 574 Report Shows Real Gains

The membership report of Local 574 for the month of April gives a very clear and concise picture of the healthy growth of the Union. The membership drive has netted a total of 186 new applications for membership and 42 reinstatements from delinquency, together with 14 members who have turned in their withdrawal cards.

That the membership drive is only now gaining momentum is proven by the fact that there have been more than 100 new members brought into the union during the first six days in the month of May. The records show that a total of 85 withdrawal cards were issued in the month of April, most of them from the coal section. This indicates that the members who work at seasonal occupations are being more careful about protecting their union membership.

There is still some evidence however of negligence on the part of some of the members and a few of the job stewards in connection with delinquency in dues. The Executive Board of the Union is urging all the job stewards to check more carefully on dues and delinquencies and to notify the Union headquarters whenever and wherever they need assistance in straightening out the dues status of any member.

The organization drive provides a splendid basis for the correction of delinquencies as well as the initiation of new members. The job stewards must be quick to take advantage of this assistance.

Pa. Federation For C. I. O. Position

Support of the Committee for industrial Organization and its plan for organizing steel workers was voted by the Pennsylvania Federation of Labor, in a convention at Uniontown.

The Railroad Unions

One would naturally think that in a situation like the M. & St. L. case, where about 1500 railroad workers are threatened with a loss of their jobs, that the Grand Lodge Officers of these 21 railroad unions would be here on the ground holding Union Meetings, not only of the M. & St. L. workers but all local railroad workers. The Presidents of the 21 Railroad Unions have organized themselves into what is commonly known as the "Railway Labor Executives Association," and it is a wonder that one or several members of this Association has not up to the present been here and held any joint meetings with the workers affected in the M. & St. L. situation. Why is it that those meetings are not being held? You would naturally think the Union Leadership would want to hold meetings with the workers involved in this case to discuss with them the question as to the best thing to do in this case. The men involved, as well as other railroad workers, would like to hear first hand from their leadership what they recommend to be done about it, and the leadership should be anxious to know if their recommendations were acceptable to the workers involved. Not only should there be one meeting held but a series of such meetings with Grand Officers in attendance to decide on what to do and how it should be done.

The M. & St. L. men are in trouble and naturally they like to see their leaders here and hold meetings with them to learn what plan or program their leadership have in mind in order to protect them. Just think of it, not one single joint Brotherhood meeting has been held here by the Brotherhood leadership on the M. & St. L. controversy. It is hardly believable but it is true. This indicates one of two things, namely, that the leadership of these 21 Railroad Brotherhoods have no program for the M. & St. L. workers who are now faced with a loss of their jobs, or, if they have a program, they have very little faith in its correctness and effectiveness. In either case they hate and fear the idea of facing the workers in these meetings which we propose here. Good leaders, who had some constructive proposals for the M. & St. L. workers, would have held these Union Meetings a long time ago and would now be ready, with the backing of the men, to take a certain definite stand on the M. & St. L. dismemberment. As it is now the M. & St. L. men are left to drift for themselves without either program or leadership from the Grand Officers.

As matters now stand the Minneapolis Railroad Council makes the following definite proposals, to wit:

That a Brotherhood Provisional Committee be organized on the M. & St. L. consisting of the most capable and active members of the 21 railroad organizations on that property.

That this Committee wire and write their respective Grand Officers, not their Congressmen and Senators, to come here and conduct a series of joint meetings with all local railroad workers on the M. & St. L. situation.

That this Provisional Committee hold and sponsor these Union Meetings whether the Grand Officers come or not. The thing is, get the workers together on the M. & St. L. case at all costs. The small business men can't save you. It's up to the railroad workers who are the real party in interest

Northern Oats Workers Cases Are Dismissed in Local Court

Subscriber

Northwest Organizer
257 Plymouth Ave.
Enclosed find one dollar for which please send me the Northwest Organizer for another year. Enjoy it very much. Continue the good work.
Yours truly
STEVE BENJAMIN
817 3rd Ave. N.
Faribault, Minn.

in these shufflings of railroad properties. Our leaders ought to know this and act accordingly.

Get this Committee organized as soon as you can. Demand some of the funds that are being collected for this committee so it can go to work and organize meetings, get out handbills and other needed publicity in the campaign. Write and wire the Grand Officers to come here and help and call on these big fat Brotherhood Treasuries for some substantial financial aid in this work.

Get the Committee organized; get meetings going, not just one but many, get the Grand Lodge Officials here, get some Grand Lodge money here also to pay the bills. All local railroad workers pitch in and help. Come on, let's go.

THE MINNEAPOLIS RAILROAD COUNCIL
631 Third Avenue South,
Minneapolis, Minn.

P. S. The Minneapolis Railroad Council wishes to contact all progressive railroad workers in the United States. The above address will reach us.

Oats Workers to C. L. U. Organizer

As stated in last week's Organizer the employees of the Northern Oats Co. who are on strike at that plant have, by the decision of the Union Executive Board, been turned over to Roy Wier, organizer of the Central Labor Union, who in turn turned these workers over to the Flour and Cereal Mill Workers Union Local No. 19152 A. F. of L.

Although these workers had voluntarily come into Local 574 for help, our union, while it wished to render to them all the assistance possible, felt that they did not properly come under the jurisdiction of our organization nor could we take the responsibility of their organization.

In line with our policy of not accepting groups of workers in to 574 who are covered by the jurisdiction of another union we allowed the Central Labor Union organizer to make disposition of their case. As a result of this decision Brother Wier, along with officials of the Flour and Cereal Mill Workers Union, held a meeting in 574 hall with the Northern Oats Workers Tuesday afternoon. As a result of this meeting all of the striking workers joined the Mill Workers Union. Their strike, which is not yet settled, is now being conducted by that organization.

Steward's Picture Can Be Purchased

The picture of the union stewards which appeared in the anniversary edition of the Northwest Organizer on April 22 can be secured by the stewards. The picture, 8 x 10 size, can be purchased for 50c. 5 x 7 size will cost 35c. Stewards or other union members who desire to have this picture can order it at the Union office. It will be delivered about a week after the order is put in.

Following a five day "sit down" strike at Northern Oats, forty-eight pickets were arrested last Monday afternoon on charges of disorderly conduct. The only "disorderly conduct" was by the police who broke into the plant and took the strikers off to jail.

The strikers, who are members of Local 19152, Flour and Cereal Mill Workers Union, had kept perfect order.

The Non-Partisan Labor Defense and the Union swung into action, and the release of the 48 was obtained without bail until the hearing Tuesday morning. On Tuesday a continuation was granted until Thursday. When the cases came up on Thursday morning the attorney for the company moved to dismiss the charges, stating that the management believed them to be "misled by outside advice," and that more serious charges were being brought against several of the workers.

As they were leaving the courtroom four of the men were re-arrested, booked and charged with illegal entry, a gross misdemeanor, which is defined legally as "entry with intent to commit a felony or malicious mischief." A warrant was issued for the fourth man who had not been previously arrested and was therefore not in court. There is no evidence of any kind to support such a charge against the four men. Three of them are not even strikers but friends who happened to be in the plant at the moment of the raid for the purpose of bringing coffee and sandwiches to the "sit-downers." Undoubtedly the purpose in bringing charges against these men—as indicated by the company's attorney in the court room—is to attempt to claim the whole strike was the work of outside "agitators."

All four cases are being handled by Attorney Gilbert Carlson and the Non-Partisan Labor Defense. The men are out on bail and a preliminary hearing will be held on Tuesday morning.

"Sit-down" strikes have been proving very effective in the last months, not only in Minneapolis but among the auto and rubber workers and this whole case has the aspect of an attempt to prove the "sit-down" strike illegal. The Non-Partisan Labor Defense is appealing to the entire labor movement of the Twin Cities to support the fight to free these men and to assert the right of labor to strike whether inside or outside the plant.

Fargo Workers Hold Successful Dance

The dance given by the Fargo unit of the North Dakota Labor Association Friday, May 1, was a most successful affair from every standpoint. Given at the Model Hall, the dance attracted many members and former members of Local 173 Drivers Union.

The financial success of the affair can be attributed, in a large measure, to the efforts of Mrs. William Lind and Mrs. Adam McLaughlin who between them sold almost 200 dance tickets. More affairs of a similar nature are planned in the near future.

Sympathy Expressed By Laundry Union

The Joint Local of Cleaners, Drivers and Laundry Workers express their sympathy to comrade Grant Dunne and his wife in their recent misfortune and wish them a speedy recovery. A bouquet of flowers was sent to them in the name of the Union.

Independent Truck Chatter

As we go to stew on this new column we are still in a quandry as what to do about "My Brother Henry."

It has been reported that some independents have been cutting the scale of \$1.35 on part time work when not engaged in WPA or PWA work. This is a violation of the WPA regulation and offenders will be seriously "damned" by this organization.

We understand a certain member doesn't like to be called a Five-Hunderder."

The story goes that the eyes have it, even if they are Brown, or should we say the hand is Quicker than the eye; eh Sarge?

As a result of our notice in the May 6th issue of the Organizer in regards to registering unemployed trucks, we have had seventeen new registrations whom we will place on work as soon as possible.

Perhaps if Henry would put in his appearance we could put him to work as an "Elbow Bender Checker."

Sorry for the disappointment on Thursday, last, in regards to hall and seats, but those fellows from Northern Oats were in the thick of their battle, so let's forgive and forget. Thanks a lot for sticking it out even if you had to stand.

Next meeting falls on Thursday, May 21. Let's have as good, if not better, attendance.

Fellows, please remember the courtesy to the driver ahead, on your job. Don't pinch him between the pit and the dump. Keep your distance. You will burn plenty gas anyway—and you won't burn up your fellow workers.

Let's all kick in our dime for the shirts for the Independent Diamond Ball Team. It's worth it. Stewards will accept donations—freely.

Maybe the title of this column should be "My Brother Henry."

Curt Zander wants to hear from a party who has six inch wheels for a Chev. truck up to 1934. Call Gr. 3168 between 6 and 7 p. m.

Non-Union Drivers Cause Job Tie-up

Union steamshovel operators have struck on state highway construction jobs near Salinas, refusing to work with non-union teamsters. A \$300,000 PWA project is tied up.

Seattle news item: "The Teamster Joint Council is supporting Mayor-elect Dore's plan for compulsory arbitration of industrial disputes. The Maritime Federation of the Pacific has circularized all unions in this area exposing the plan."

Federal Dance

Saturday evening, May 16, the Federal Section of Local 574 will give a dance in the General Drivers Hall. This affair will be a benefit dance the purpose of which is to raise funds for the kittenball team and for the relief of needy families. The music will be furnished by Local 574 band. The last affair given by the Federal Section was a success from every standpoint. Everyone is invited to this dance and a good time is assured to all who attend. Admission is 25 cents.

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

Published every Wednesday under the auspices of the Northwest Labor Unity Conference

OFFICE OF PUBLICATION
257 PLYMOUTH AVE. N.

Subscription Rates

One year in advance	\$1.00
Six months in advance	.65
Bundle copies (10 copy minimum), each	.02 1/2

Entered as second class matter May 1st, 1935, at the Postoffice at Minneapolis, Minnesota, under act of March 8, 1879.

"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."

Northern States Union Reports New Gains in All Departments

Underground Department Is First One to Reach 100% Goal

The Overhead Department has held several special meetings to draw up complete plans for the adjusting of unfair practices in the Department. The main grievance arises from the time lost because of weather conditions. To overcome this deficiency the men of the Department asked for full restoration of past wage cuts. This the company has not carried out but instead offered reduced monthly wages to some of them, hoping these men would then be satisfied.

This offer of the company is to try to cause differences between the men and thereby break up their united action. Fully understanding this program the men of the Department have drawn up a schedule of monthly wages for all men in the Department on the basis of the 1932 wage rates, with the complete determination to put a stop to the existing discriminations.

At the last regular meeting the membership endorsed the Overhead Department program and ordered the Executive Board to take whatever steps were necessary to carry it out.

The Underground Department, now 100% organized, has been before their Department head with a complete schedule of seniority hours and wages. In carrying out the routine of procedure arrived at sometime ago with the company, their schedule was presented by the Department committee to the Department head. The committee was promised consideration and a reply as soon as possible.

However, after the elapse of a number of days the Department head called together a portion of the Department employees and very arbitrarily told them that nothing could be done, pleading the poverty of the company. When he was asked about the wages of the common laborers, which is now \$22 for a full week instead of the \$24 it was in 1932, he rather angrily replied the men had had been working for these wages in the past and would continue to do so in the future.

The Department committee then again called on the Department head and asked the reasons why the committee had not been given a reply. The committee also stated that the meeting called by the Department head was a subterfuge and demanded to know what was to be done about the requests. After some very pointed discussion the Department head admitted he could not deal with the committee and that he had no intentions of dealing with the committee in a legitimate way. The committee then informed him the Union would not tolerate any further attempt to intimidate the men by holding company meetings to tell the men what they should do about their wages, etc.

The membership at the last regular meeting endorsed the action of the Underground Department

Committee and directed the Executive Board to take whatever action was necessary to gain the demands of the Underground Department.

The Kelvinator Department Service boys are now on a five-day week. All details are not entirely satisfactory but it is hoped that all will be adjusted with the passing of a little time. The schedule of hours and days off put into effect on Sunday, May 10, is to be tried out for the time being.

The matter of meal expenses when working overtime is to be arranged for with the individual involved, before the overtime is worked or when it is obviously to be worked. The men are to either go home to eat or the expenses allowed. The time is to be continuous overtime.

The Drivers and helpers are now to receive time and one-half for overtime. The schedule of days off and hours are to be posted in advance so all will know where they stand.

At the Underground Department "Company" meeting it was brought out that two or three men of the Department were not in the Union. It can now be reported that is changed. All the boys have joined.

Just a note: About 20 new applications were received at the last regular meeting.

Dakota Workers Win Pay Raises

A living illustration that WPA workers and relief clients can better their conditions and force local relief officials to make concessions is contained in the account of an action that took place recently in Fargo.

On April 25 twenty-seven workers employe on the sewer project in that city took strike action to compel WPA officials to make justified wage adjustments on the job. Although the project called for skilled and semi-skilled workers, with one exception they were all being paid \$48 per month, the minimum WPA scale in that locality.

When the strike was settled five of them were raised from \$48 per month to \$55 and the balance from \$48 to \$70, the foreman was removed and other reforms were achieved. William Lind, leader of the strike, declares that a demand for back pay on the basis of the wage readjustment will be asked.

Good Wishes

Minneapolis, Minnesota
My Dear Friends:
Enclosed you will find one dollar for a year's subscription to the NORTHWEST ORGANIZER.
I enjoy it very much and wish you a much greater circulation and good luck.
I remain yours very truly,
D. PAULSEN
1786 Hennepin

Keeping Step With 574

By Mickey Dunne

A new column will make its appearance in this week's issue of the Organizer. It will be devoted to the Independent Truck Owners Section. The columnist is C. Zander.

The editor spoke to a meeting in Moorhead Sunday.

G. Dunne, financial secretary of the Union, who was injured in an automobile accident May 1, has recovered sufficiently to take care of some of his duties.

Tuesday, May 5, was a busy day at Union headquarters. Besides the routine business that was transacted the Northern Oats workers held a meeting in the afternoon. The evening was devoted to meetings of the Sash, Door and Mill Workers, Cameron Transfer drivers and helpers, Cement Block Workers and the Grievance Committee of the Executive Board. While these meetings were going on the Robbinsdale section were holding a card party in the hall.

Mrs. Odetta Gagnon, wife of the Boyd steward, is ill in the University hospital.

Package Delivery men held a rousing meeting in the union hall Sunday morning. Prexy Brown was in charge.

The Independent Truck Owners will assess themselves a dime apiece for the kittenball team of their section.

Harry DeBoer, last week, had the unusual experience of having the wife of a new union member thank him for getting her husband into a union.

Many members of the Sash, Door and Mill Workers Union are well over the 60 year mark in age. They are as militant as kids.

Wright County WPA workers visited General Drivers headquarters Monday afternoon. The usual story, discrimination by local officials.

A Montgomery Ward helper, who didn't believe what he was told the first time, learned that Union men won't work with finks.

WELL-KNOWN FACT DEPT.
Meyer Lewis was not on the Petroleum Workers picket line.

The Independent Truck Owners chairman is sporting a shiny new Plymouth. Ah spring!

The Organized office has been enlarged. The office had to grow to keep step with the paper.

If anyone thinks they can buy mill work in Minneapolis just try it. The factories are closed as tight as a bull's eye in fly time.

Bill Brown, Grant Dunne and John Dickerson are all sporting black eyes. It's not the heat, it's the humility.

Cement block workers report that the industry is 100 per cent organized.

A certain coal driver, who has resisted all the attempts to get him into the Union, came up and paid a reinstatement fee Monday. Reason? An iron worker caught him making a delivery.

The Package Delivery men have really done a fine job in organizing themselves during the past three weeks. They

have almost reached their goal.

A new Drivers charter has been applied for in Fargo.

One hundred eighty new members joined the Union the first ten days in May.

It seemed like old times to be with Fargo and Moorhead friends last Sunday.

The Werner drivers are all wearing buttons.

The sash workers hold enthusiastic strike meetings every afternoon at 4 o'clock.

Montgomery Ward helpers met in the Union Hall Wednesday night. They want in.

Dick Das is the winner by a hair.

Chris Moe visited his parents' home at Underwood, Minnesota, last week.

Joe Shafer and Bert Mason made a nice donation to the strikers Monday.

A member of the Cabinet Makers and Millmen's Union Local 1865 came up and donated \$5 to the strikers. He's been on the picket line, too.

F. Dobbs and V. Dunne passed

LABOR... Looks at the Press

Local news item: "Doughboy Volunteers of America, a new organization which demands its members sign a contract pledging themselves to fight in any war undertaken by the United States, was hatched on the University of Minnesota campus today. . . . Anyone may join. There are no mental requirements."

New York item: "NBC let go another batch of employes in their economy drive. The ultimate was reached, however, when not long ago they installed pay-cubicles in the washrooms in their quarters."

Renting desk space to the office help might help keep down overhead.

Local Headline: "Preacher Blames Morals for Loss of Jobs." Come, come. All the fifteen million unemployed can't have bad morals. And if they have, where has the church been all this time?

Local news item: "Dependent children of Somerset County, Maryland faced an unsettled financial problem after the county commissioners voted not to appropriate money for their aid. L. Cooper Dize, one of the board members, said, "Let the children rough it awhile — they'll get along."

From General Sherrill, member of the International Olympic Committee, to Mussolini: "Please accept congratulations from an old American friend for your magnificent victory."

Magnificent, indeed—for a modern army, equipped with poison gas, planes, bombs and tanks, to "civilize" a backward icountry."

New Orleans news item: "Mayor Walmley is pushing an ordinance for the creation of a Major Disasters Council, to consist of the police and fire departments, civil and criminal sheriffs, military units, American Legion, Marine Corps, National Guard, reserve officers and R. O. T. C." Such a mobilization would also

NOTICE
Members of Local 160, Local 18005-183, and Local 1859. Your union has subscribed for the NORTHWEST ORGANIZER for the entire membership. You should receive the paper regularly once a week. If you do not receive the publication, please turn your name and address in to your local secretary. The same holds true when moving or changing addresses. Turn in both your old and new address to your union office. It is imperative that this procedure be followed promptly in order that you receive all issues of the paper.

a sleepless night Sunday. Strike trouble.

THINGS THAT I CAN'T UNDERSTAND
Local 574 Executive Board still receives invitations to the Tuesday luncheons of the Business Agents.

The window display at Rose Bros. had a touch of realism added to it last week.

The picture of the Union stewards is being offered for sale, at cost, by the photographer who snapped it.

Wes Shugard, Armstrong driver, is, without a doubt, the largest 574 member. Six feet 6 inches, 240 pounds.

At an Executive Board meeting Saturday morning, one of those present said he was so tired he wished he could go somewhere where no one could see him for a week. Five voices at once advised him to go to 18 N. 8th St.

Frankly, now, Meyer, what do you think of industrial unionism?
All into 574.

be a swell thing to break strikes and smash unemployed demonstrations."

The editor of Izvestia, Russian daily: "Can anything be written nowadays on anything at all without knowing Stalin? Absolutely not! Nothing can be understood without Stalin, nor anything interesting written."

Only God knows how Marx and Lenin got along without the benefits of this "peerless leader of all time."

ExSenator Reed of Missouri: "The United States is the only country in which the liberties of all citizens are safeguarded and preserved."

Testimony before the Senate Labor Sub-committee: "Free speech, free assembly and freedom of the ballot have not existed in Harlan County for the past 25 years."

Washington news item: "Secretary Roper revealed today he had submitted a letter to the President asking for a general unemployment census."

Hell, the government oughta take its time about the census—the depression has only been here 6 1/2 years.

Fair Cleaners
Organized labor patronize the following 100 per cent union plants:
Crystal Co-operative Cleaners, 3110 Penn Ave. N.
Sunshine Laundry, 2905 Washington Ave. N.
National Cleaners & Dyers, 2823 Hennepin Ave.
Mayme Hoye Cleaners & Dyers, 2817 Hennepin Ave.
LaSalle Cleaners & Dyers, 2611 Nicollet.
All these concerns employ only union help and deserve the support of all organized labor.
JOINT LOCAL, CLEANERS, DRIVERS AND LAUNDRY WORKERS UNION,
18005-183