



# Elections Clinch Victory

## 574 Protests Methods Used

### Telegram to Garrison Emphasizes Fact

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

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

The board has called a miniature mass meeting for Wednesday, September 5th, at which time it proposes to examine each employee whose vote has been challenged. It is intended that these examinations shall be conducted in the presence of the employers and their attorneys.

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

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

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

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

### Petroleum Workers Meet Thursday, Sept. 6

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

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

It is very necessary that all members attend.



All Right—Shell Out!

## Market Vote Solid for 574

### Majority Large Firms Carried by Union

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

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

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

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

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

Local 574 has established the right to represent at least a substantial portion of the workers in every branch of the trucking industry. The foundation has been well established for the building of a real organization and the growth of Local 574 will go forward steadily.

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

A real tribute is due the fight—  
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## GOING FORWARD

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

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

These are not unreasonable desires and they are not impossible of attainment. However, as reasonable as they are, we will never realize these ambitions by sitting down and dreaming about

them. Wishes don't work. We have to fight for what we get.

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

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

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

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

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

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

## The General Textile Strike Starts Solid

The Textile Workers' picket lines have formed in front of a thousand mills and factories. Throughout the East and South more than a million workers, pushed to the limit of physical endurance by the cruel bosses who see in these workers, only efficient instruments of production, have now formed the lines of battle.

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

of employers. The organization of the employers has been perfected by and is financed with dollars stolen from the men, women and children who do the work in the mills.

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

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





# THE ORGANIZER



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## "Riot" Guns

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Chief Johannes was called to another conference.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Violence against the workers solves nothing. It only helps to hasten the struggle to a higher plane.

The city council has ordered 150 "riot" guns.

## News and Views

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

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

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

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

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

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

We are informed that Commissioner Dunnigan is once more eating grapefruit and riding in taxicabs.

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

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

## Solow Returns to New York

Herbert Solow, special correspondent for the Nation, and a sympathizer of labor, has returned to New York after his unintended long stay in Minneapolis.

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

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

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

## New York Truck

### Drivers Get Raise

Truck Drivers Local 807 in New York City has been granted a \$5 a week raise by the Master Truckmen's Bureau (bosses' association). This agreement brings the salary of drivers of six-wheel trucks to \$53.50 per week and drivers of four-wheel trucks to \$47.50 per week. It occurs to us that these figures are considerably removed from 42½ cents per hour. However, here is conclusive proof that truck drivers can command a wage which more closely approximates a decent living wage.

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

I dig your ditches,  
I'm Labor.  
I tend your switches,  
I'm Labor.  
I make your clothes and mend  
your shoes,  
I teach your kids and write your  
news.  
With brain and brawn, with nerve  
and thews,  
I'm Labor.

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

When I ply my needle, trowel or  
pick  
I'm a decent Sheeny, Wop or  
Mick,  
But when I strike I'm a Bolshe-  
vik,  
I'm Labor.