

# 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 fol-  
low you.

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

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## STRIKE AT LA BELLE WON BY LOCAL NO. 574

### Union Recognition and Seniority Rights Are Won in Three Day Tie-up

### 574 Decisively Defeats the Union-Busting Attempts of Cliff Hall

An agreement was signed about 4 p. m. on Wednesday, August 14, between Local 574 and the La Belle Safety Storage Company. This company, one of the largest in the industry, was lost by the union in the elections after the July-August strike. Since that time there has been no such thing as recognition of the rights of employees on the basis of length of service, and it was common practice for work to be assigned on a basis of favoritism which left many of the older employees sitting on the bench while new men got in full time.

Under the sting of this discrimination the men began to realize that they had made a serious mistake in not voting to be represented by the union which had fought the battle to establish conditions for them. One by one they came into Local 574 until all but a handful were members.

Backed up by the men, the union officials went to La Belle with an agreement which provided that Local 574 should be the recognized representative of the employees, that a seniority list, drawn by the men, should be posted and followed by the company, and that the company should be governed by all the terms of the strike settlement of 1934. Negotiations were carried on for over three weeks, but the company consistently refused to enter into the agreement despite the fact that the men presented a petition stating that they wanted the union to represent them.

The deadline was set for Monday, August 12, and the strike was called at that time. Meantime four of the individuals who had been on the La Belle "favorite list" went to see Cliff Hall of Local 500, an imaginary union, to see what he could do for them. (Hall specializes in the fink trade.) Hall signed them up and told them that they would now be permitted to work regardless of what Local 574 did.

But on Monday morning when Hall's new members attempted to walk through the 574 picket line with their shiny new buttons securely hid from sight, they received a rude shock and quickly slunk away. Later Hall appeared on the scene, and when he was quickly told by the pickets, in unmistakable language, what they thought of him and his union-

(Continued on page 2)

## Strikers Spoil Tetzlaff Trick

On the morning of Wednesday, August 14, an architectural engineer, who has been 23 years in the employ of the Flour City Iron Works, slipped into the plant through the pretext that he was going in to get some personal belongings which he simply must have. When he came out, the pickets found that he had also collected some materials needed for him to do architectural work for the benefit of Walter Tetzlaff. Upon this discovery, they instructed him that he would have to accompany them to the Strike Headquarters where the officers of the Strike Committee would pass on his case.

At the headquarters the architect put up a vigorous argument about his personal rights and insisted that he was entirely within his province in what he was doing. The Strike Committee agreed that he had a right to an opinion but they demurred on the question of his carrying his opinion into effect. He was told to either return the materials to the plant or to use the strikers' telephone to call Police Headquarters and carry the desired paraphernalia away under police protection as best he could, if he could. After a few moments of cogitation, the worthy architect returned to the plant and came out empty-handed.

## Strike Brings Signed Agreement at Ferrins

On Friday, August 9, the Ferrin Transfer Company signed an agreement with Local 574 providing union recognition, seniority rights and rates of pay and overtime provisions in accordance with the blanket agreement. The agreement further provides that in the event that the company wishes to discharge an employe, the union must be notified and a hearing held before the discharge can take place. The settlement came as a result of a 20-minute strike precipitated when Ferrin consistently refused to enter into a written agreement with the Union.

## Absent Minded Employers

There has been considerable speculation recently as to the possibilities of another general trucking strike in Minneapolis. This has apparently been aroused because of a number of recent strikes against individual concerns by Local 574. These strikes took place because the employers were not abiding by the terms of the strike settlement of August, 1934. It seems that some employers are not in possession of a memory capable of functioning over a 12 month period. It is therefore necessary, from time to time, to refresh their power of retention.

As has been previously stated, Local 574 does not contemplate a general trucking strike nor does it see any cause for one, BUT any employer or any group of employers who disregard their agreement with the Union will find that an agreement with Local 574 is an agreement which must be kept.

## TETZLAFF PLANS NEW SCAB-HERDING ATTEMPTS AS FLOUR CITY PLANT RECEIVES ONE MILLION DOLLAR CONTRACT FOR GOVERNMENT PROJECT

### Strikers Protest Against Government Giving Work to Struck Plant and Call Upon All Workers to Help Defeat Any Attempt to Open Plant by Violence

Authentic information has been received at the Strike Headquarters of the Ornamental Metal Workers Local 1313 that the Flour City Ornamental Iron Works has been awarded a \$1,000,000 contract by the Government for work on a library in Washington, D. C. All labor is aroused to heated indignation because of this governmental allotment to such a notorious union-hating individual as Walter Tetzlaff. This serves as a slap in the face to labor in its fight for decent living conditions for working men and women. Vigorous protests are already being sent opposing this action, and the

Strike Committee urges all workers' organizations to raise their voices against this unjust act.

Meantime the vigilance of the picket line at the Flour City plant has been redoubled to forestall any attempt by Tetzlaff to herd scabs into the plant to begin work on this project. In addition to this, the Strike Committee has learned that a meeting was held between Tetzlaff and other representatives of the Citizens Alliance where the question of running scabs into the plant to be used there, working under the protection of machine guns and riot guns in the hands of thugs imported from strike breaking agencies, was discussed. An investigation committee of five was appointed to make recommendations on the feasibility of this plan.

Every Minneapolis worker is called upon to stand ready to rally to the support of the striking metal workers if an attempt is made to put this diabolical scheme into effect.

The employees of the Baker Iron Works, who are also out on strike, have been notified to come to the plant and get their tools because the company is going out of business. This is a very poor bluff which is nothing more than an attempt to frighten the workers into abandoning the strike and returning to work under the miserable conditions under which they have long been forced to slave. The metal workers are calling this bluff by strengthening the picket line at the Baker plant and they still say, "If you can't pay a decent wage, get out of the business. There is no place for you."

Subsequent to the arrest of nine pickets on a charge of disorderly conduct growing out of the bantering of the houses of the petty tyrants of the Flour City plant, an amendment to the picketing ordinance was carried in the City Council which gives labor the full right to peaceful picketing and the distribution of literature anywhere within the corporate limits of the City of Minneapolis. An objection to the amendment was raised by the labor-hating bloc in

(Continued on page 2)

## Reinstatement Fee In Effect Sept. 1

At the regular meeting on Monday, August 12, the following provisions for reinstatement in Local 574 were passed by unanimous vote:

Effective September 1, 1935, members who are not more than three months in arrears may reinstate by paying up their back dues. Those who are more than three months in arrears will be required to pay a reinstatement fee of \$10. All those whose names have appeared on the union books since September 1, 1934, will be subject to these provisions. The initiation fee will remain at \$3.

This provision is the first section of the new by-laws.

## In Appreciation

Minneapolis, Minn.,  
Aug. 7, 1935

General Drivers Union  
Local No. 574

We wish to thank you for the beautiful flowers which we received on July 20th and also for the honor that was shown to Mr. Ness and Mr. Belor.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Henry Ness  
and family

## Quick Action

After several weeks of vacillation on the question of organizing, the Inside Workers of the Pioneer Paper Stock Company finally decided to join Local 574 and attempt to build an improvement in their working conditions. The result was that, without the slightest disturbance, on Monday, August 12, their pay was increased to 45c per hour, the Inside Workers' scale.

## 574 Sends Appeal to All Drivers' Locals

There has been no grass growing under the feet of Local 574 in its fight for reinstatement in the A. F. of L. Local 500, the Tobin offspring, which is attempting to introduce dual unionism into the Minneapolis trucking industry, has been met and defeated by Local 574 wherever it attempts to rear its ugly head. The fight has also been carried into a much broader field. A letter, containing a vivid history of the early life of Local 574, its organization campaign, the strikes and the attacks of Tobin since the strikes, has been mailed to every drivers' union in the United States and Canada to acquaint them with the truth about our struggle and to inform them of our appeal to the convention of the International in September.

In Minneapolis work is under way with the sympathetic assistance of over 20 militant unions to call a conference of delegates from all A. F. of L. locals and all Railroad Brotherhoods to open the charter fight on that plane. Letters have been sent to all locals of the Brewery Workers in the state, pointing to the community of interest between Local 574 and the Brewery Workers in their fight against the union-smashing Daniel Tobin, who is also attacking the Brewery Workers in an attempt to steal from them the drivers and thus deal a severe blow to that splendid organization which is builded along the proper industrial lines.

# ALL WORKERS INTO THE UNIONS ALL UNIONS INTO THE STRUGGLE

**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."

### Tetzlaff Planning Violence Renewal

(Continued from page 1)  
 the City Council, headed by Alderman Van Cleve, and because of this objection the amendment must be passed upon at a second council session before it becomes a law. Undaunted by this infringement upon their civil rights, the metal workers are conducting meetings in front of the homes of the scabs who swore out the warrants for the strikers so that their neighbors will know them for what they are. On Saturday, August 10, a meeting was held in the vicinity of the home of A. C. Gustafson at 2913 37th Ave. South, which was attended by over 300 union members, together with strike sympathizers and all of Gustafson's neighbors, who were anxious to know the truth about his unsavory conduct.

A second meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 15, at 6 p. m. on the corner of 32nd Street and 30th Avenue South, where Minneapolis will be informed of Richard Scherer, and what he stands for.

Five of the nine pickets arrested for peaceful picketing have been convicted and fined \$10 each despite evidence clearly showing that they were guilty of no offense. Work is now under way for the appeal of these convictions to the State Supreme Court. The strikers are convinced that if the Supreme Court will interpret the law as it is written, the convictions will be reversed and the names of these workers erased from the criminal records of the courts. Finances are needed to carry the appeal to a successful conclusion and the Strike Committee asks that all those who can possibly do so send their donations to the Strike Headquarters at 2525 East Franklin.

The morale of the strikers improves daily and everywhere on the picket lines comment is heard that this strike is going to be won, if it takes all winter.

### La Belle Strike Won by Drivers

(Continued from page 1)  
 busting tactics, he beat a hasty and undignified retreat.

During the day three of those who tried to join Local 500 were brought before the executive board and reinstated in Local 574 with a stiff penalty. The fourth has not been seen since Monday morning. One of the three was found at the CLU headquarters in the company of Cliff Hall. When the pickets made the demand that this man come to the union hall, Cliff Hall called the police and left the CLU halls under police protection, accompanied by the boos of the other business agents, and left the unfortunate worker whom he had duped to look out for himself.

After a three day tie-up in which nothing was moved and all requests for permits denied, the La Belle Company signed the agreement on the basis of the union demands, and the men are to return to work on Thursday morning.

#### Meeting Schedule Local 574

- Wednesday, Aug. 21: Ice Drivers
- Friday, Aug. 23: Federal Workers, Job Stewards
- Monday, Aug. 26: Full Membership
- Tuesday, Aug. 27: Taxi Drivers; night drivers, 1 p. m.; day drivers, 7 p. m.
- Friday, Aug. 30: Federal Workers

## Labor Looks at the Press

Patrick Hurley, Hoover's secretary of war, before the senate utility lobby committee: "The Associated Gas and Electric company paid me \$25,000 to prepare an opinion on the constitutionality of the pending legislation . . . I found the legislation was unconstitutional."

For 25 grand, a guy could see a lot of things.

Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt, on her 75th birthday: "All we Republicans are coming back to our country."

But you won't find the welcome sign out.

Angola, Louisiana: "Five convicts died in the prison hay field here yesterday, where it was 104 in the shade."

Senator Long's state must certainly have a humanitarian penal system.

I. S. Joseph, welfare board member: "The plan of augmented relief is socially and economically impossible . . . I am against it . . . Politics doesn't enter into my views on this matter. I am simply expressing the point of view which any civic-minded citizen would take."

A citizen of which class, Mr. Joseph? Your class, or the working class?

William Green, MAY, 1935: "This legislation (the Wagner Labor Disputes Act) will make the workers of the nation economically free."

and  
 William Green, AUGUST 1935: "The scope of the Wagner Act is limited. It does not apply to all industry and labor. Don't expect too much from it."

Controlled Economy  
 Department of Agriculture report: "Less milk and milk products were consumed in 1934 than in any year since 1925."

Hearst's Daily Mirror: "America's real society, the descendants of the founders of the nation, are quietly evolving a plan to strengthen the citadel of fashion against the invasion of people possessing socialistic ideas . . . Because you read that fashionable families at Newport, Bar Harbor and other smart resorts are planning brilliant dinners for fashionable guests, do not think that American aristocrats are forgetting the dangers that threaten the country from Communist sources."

Famous Last Words: "Why, there's nothing to bargain about—these people don't work for me any more—they're just former employees."

Sioux Falls: "Mitchell Robertson, 46, a vagrant, gagged himself

with a handkerchief, then looped a double electric light cord about his neck and hanged himself."

and  
 Greenwich, Conn.: "An estate valued at over nine millions was left by the late Percy A. Rockefeller, filing of the inventory disclosed Wednesday."

Colonel Frank Knox, labor-hating Chicago publisher: "In any program of the Republican party in 1936 must come that first essential of sound government anywhere—a balanced budget."

Sound government for you, maybe, but not for the workingman.

It seemed like old times to see the bosses' ads appearing in the newspapers here again.

"I am in favor of flexible wage scales."—Alfred P. Sloan, head of General Motors Corp.

and  
 "In the months of April, May and June, 1935, the General Motors Corporation showed a net profit of \$52,219,467. — News item.

Hunger is about th' same thing in a raypublic as in a dispotism. They'se not uc hchoice iv unhappiness betwee na hungry slave and a hungry freeman.

### Union Notes

William S. Brown and V. R. Dunne will be sent to the convention of the State Federation of Labor at Red Wing to speak before that body on behalf of Local 574 and urge that it support us in our fight.

The sand, gravel and building material companies will soon be apprised of the fact that they will be expected to live up to the agreement that ended the drivers' strike.

The Drivers' Union is really going to town with the ice situation.

Don't be the kind of a union man that thinks you have done your full duty when you pay your union dues. Think union, act union and live union.

Despite the efforts that were made by the organizers of Local 574, a Company Union has been formed at the Hatch Package Delivery. The workers there will find out in a short time that they have been sold a dead horse. They have fallen for the same, old stale propaganda of the bosses that is as old as the labor movement. Bosses' promises are only good when enforced by a powerful union of the workers.

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**New Blood Is Needed**

The annual convention of the Minnesota State Federation of Labor at Red Wing is arousing special interest since this is an election year. The question is naturally raised, "What have the present officers done?" The answer to this question does not redound to their personal glory. First of all, they are craft-unionists to a man and the inevitable result of this false philosophy has led them into a thousand pitfalls which have been injurious to the movement. At a time when business is tending ever more rapidly toward industrial mergers and gigantic combines, it is nothing short of criminal for those who pose as leaders of labor to persist in following the organizational tactics of horse and wagon days.

In the industrial centers of the state, the possibilities of united labor action are virtually hamstrung through the splitting of the workers into a myriad of petty craft organizations. In the smaller communities, union organization is rendered utterly impossible through this same process. We understand, of course, that it does not lie entirely within the province of the Executive Council of the State Federation of Labor to eliminate these evils but we do contend and with full justification that it is the role of the Executive Council to work towards the building of a really effective American labor movement and not to carry the torch of such chauvinists of craft unionism as Daniel Tobin. This false position is further revealed in the history of the fate of the workers of Minnesota since the NRA has been thrown out by the Supreme Court. Everywhere workers have had their living conditions reduced far below the NRA standards, which in themselves were poor enough.

The Minnesota State Federation of Labor, if headed by the proper kind of leaders, could do much toward building a real Minnesota Labor Movement, could do much toward making union organization an instrument capable of combatting the concentration of capital and could transform the state body into a living organization of human beings instead of a paper organization of economic corpses. What the Minnesota State Federation of Labor needs is a new leadership. It is the task of every delegate attending the convention to see that this objective becomes an accomplished fact.

### The New York Relief Strike

President Roosevelt, commenting on the general walk-out in New York City in protest against the scab wages on the Works Progress projects, says, "This isn't a strike. The construction workers have simply returned to their homes."

We beg to disagree. It is a strike and the workers have not returned to their homes. They are picketing the jobs and calling out more workers, both unemployed and employed. Labor in New York is today in the vanguard in a fight which is for the common good of every worker in the U. S. A. Labor politicians with their long vaunted policy of "rewarding their friends and punishing their enemies" in the political arena failed miserably in their attempt to place a decent living wage into the legislation out of which emanated the W. P. A. The wage scale which the New Deal is attempting to saddle upon the workers in these newly formed works projects is a direct, vicious and immediate thrust at the economic security of every worker. Labor has no alternative but to meet this attack with its only effective weapon, a strike.

In Minneapolis we, too, are faced with the necessity of struggle against this program. It must be placed upon the order of the day in the Federal Workers Section of Local 574, which is the vanguard of the unemployed workers of Minneapolis, and a determined fight must be carried on to protect the gains made by American labor through many years' struggle and at a cost of many lives.