

# 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!

VOLUME 1, NO. 44

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1936

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## YELLOW DOG CONTRACT TRIED

### NSP WORKERS IN OPERATING DEPT. TO MEET

Meeting to Set Up Committee That Can Deal for All Workers

All Employees in Largest Department Urged to Attend

Thursday, Feb. 20, Local 160, Northern States Power Employees, are holding a special meeting for all employees of the operating department. The purpose of this meeting is to acquaint the workers in this department with the advantages of belonging to the union of the workers in this industry.

A personal letter has been mailed to every worker in this department. The letter sets forth the advantages of becoming a member of Local No. 160. The operating department contains the largest number of employees of any single department in the Northern States Company.

Owing to the great number of workers who are employed in this department, it is of great importance that they understand the advantages and benefits that will accrue to them by setting up a grievance committee which, under the terms of the contract, has the power to adjust all differences with the company. The union at the Northern States Power Company holds the contract covering the working conditions and wages of every worker employed by the Northern States.

Not to take advantage of this union agreement, for any worker, is the height of folly. It is your union. It is the instrument by which you can adjust wages and working conditions to the place where you want them. The union represents the only guarantee of your job security.

Attend this meeting 100 per cent. Join the union. Be the best union man in your department.

#### Meeting Schedule Local 160, N. S. P. Co.

Wednesday, February 5th, full membership meeting.  
Thursday, February 6th, Executive Board.  
Wednesday, February 12th, Organization Committee.  
Thursday, February 13th, Executive Board.  
Wednesday, February 19th, full membership meeting.  
Thursday, February 20th, Executive Board.  
Wednesday, February 26th, Organization Committee.  
Thursday, February 27th, Executive Board.  
All meetings at 257 Plymouth Avenue North, second floor.  
Members may present grievances at any of the above meetings.

### Overland Truck Drivers Have Great Need for a Real Union Organization

Today, in Minneapolis, the greatest number of unorganized drivers are those engaged in overland or long distance driving. These workers are not unorganized because there is no need of a union in their craft. Rather, their need for a union that will protect their interests is even greater than that of truck drivers engaged in local hauling. Some of them work under the most difficult and trying conditions. While a very few of them receive anywhere near a decent wage, compared with the wages paid to local truckers, the job forming a union organization of these drivers presents many obstacles. In the first place, they do not work in a group where they have an opportunity to discuss their problems with each other. Second, the present rates of pay and the hours of work vary so greatly that it is almost impossible to get two of these drivers to agree on what constitutes fair wages and decent working conditions for the line drivers. Minneapolis is one of the greatest truck terminals in the Northwest. It is estimated that no fewer than 2,000 overland truck drivers make Minneapolis their headquarters. Truck lines from everywhere unload their merchandise in Minneapolis truck terminals. The task of organizing this vast number of line drivers is hard but not impossible. A well planned and well executed twin city campaign is the answer.

### Truck Owners Will Demand WPA List

The Independent Truck Owners, some time ago, made a request of the State WPA office that they be furnished a list of all of the trucks eligible for work on WPA along with a list of all trucks that were on the waiting list.

Despite the fact that this request was made over a month ago, no indication has come that this reasonable request would be complied with. It is important that the Independent Truck Owners secure such a list.

At the time when the threatened WPA truck strike was averted, it was understood that the Truck Owners section would be furnished such a list. In spite of the fact that representatives of this organization have tried, several times, to secure such a list, nothing has come of it. The Independent Truck Owners have set up a committee who is to wait on the Administrator some time this week. An answer will be demanded.

There is no doubt that such a list will be interesting, not only to those on PWA, but it will be a great help in straightening out the seniority on city work.

### Mooney Says 'Lost Without More Funds'

San Francisco—(FP)—Funds to prepare a 15,000-page transcript of hearing proceedings for the U. S. Supreme Court are desperately needed by the Tom Mooney Molders Defense Committee, Box 1475, San Francisco. "With your continued aid I know we shall crown our struggle with victory," Mooney writes. "Without your aid, we are helplessly lost."

### 574 Halls Are Busy Places

Unlike the headquarters of some unions, the home of 574 is a busy place. The meeting halls here are not arranged in the most suitable manner. There is not enough room for all of the organizations that want to meet here. Some nights there is a conflict between unions as to who will have the most desirable place.

To give our readers some idea of the amount of activity that takes place here in one week we present the meeting schedule of a typical seven day period. Monday, Coal Workers Executive Board, Local 1859. Tuesday, Executive Board, Local 574. Wednesday, Market Workers, Furniture Workers' Local No. 1859. Thursday, Independent Truck Owners, Federal Stewards. Friday, Federal Workers, All Stewards. Beside these meetings our halls are constantly being used by groups of workers who are getting organized, workers classes, drama groups and many other workers' meetings.

In addition to Local 574, two other unions have established headquarters at 257 Plymouth Ave. They are Local 160, B. of E. W., and Furniture Workers' Union Local No. 1859. These two organizations hold all of their meetings in our halls.

### Meeting Postponed

The conference called by the Committee for Industrial Organization of the Packing House industry, which was to have been held in Austin Feb. 29th, has been postponed until March 7th and 8th.

### Special Notice

All members of Federal Workers Section. Attention! Friday afternoon at 4 o'clock there will be a special meeting for all members of the Federal Workers Section Local 574. It is of the greatest importance that every member be present at this meeting. Matters of greatest importance to our organization will be taken up. Decisions will have to be made that may seriously affect our future activity. Do not fail to be present.

### Union to Form Amateur Band

It has lately come to the attention of various members of the union that laying dormant in the union is a great variety of musical talent.

Several members of our organization who are musically inclined, are very desirous of forming a band, orchestra or some other form of musical organization, where they can give expression to their talents.

A little inquiry has disclosed the fact that there are literally dozens of first class musicians who are members of Local No. 574.

We don't intend to form any band or orchestra that will compete with the musician's union. But it is certain with the talent at our disposal we could have an excellent amateur musical organization that could be used to great advantage by the union.

Any and all members of local No. 574 or the Federal Section should get in touch with Dick Atherton, 2937 29th Ave. S., or leave your name and address at the union office along with kind of instrument you play, length of experience, etc.

No matter whether your experience has been great or little, get in touch with the new band that is being formed.

### Power Workers To Hold Affair

Saturday night, Local 160, Northern States Power Employees, will give a celebration dance in Drivers' Auditorium, 257 Plymouth Ave. N. This affair will be held to celebrate the signing of the union agreement between Local 160 and the company.

The committee in charge has worked hard to make the dance a success. Good music has been provided and a good time is assured for everyone.

Tickets are 25c. Every employee of the Northern States Power Company is invited to come and bring their friends.

This Week's Pome  
Wanted, a buyer—  
(What? No taker?)  
For Lewis, Meyer—  
Labor Faker.

### CLARK COMPANY ATTEMPTS BOLD BLOW AT UNION

Individual Agreements Are Given to All Workers to Sign

Alert Union Committee Halts Company's Union Busting Campaign

Last week the J. R. Clark Company attempted to trap the workers at that factory with a new form of "Yellow Dog" contract. Only two weeks before Furniture Workers' Union Local No. 1859 had signed a contract with the company covering new wage schedules which brought raises, throughout the plant, of about 14 per cent.

It seems that the company, after signing the agreement, had a change of heart. They probably came to the realization that it was up to them, in some manner, to set aside and negate their agreement with the union.

Monday, Feb. 10th, the plant was suddenly flooded with an innocent appearing card headed "Terms of employment."

The card listed first, name of employe, second, department, third, rate of pay. A space was left for the signature of the employe. The card already had been signed by the J. R. Clark Company, as employer.

At the bottom of the card, was the real joker. It read "This agreement subject to change without notice, if required by government regulation." So rapidly was this work done, that before the Union Committee had taken recognition of the fact that their contract was in danger, dozens of workers, in the plant, had affixed their names to the cards.

However, as soon as one of these cards landed in the hands of the Union Committee, a meeting was hurriedly called. In the meeting, it was decided that the shop committee go through the plant and pick up the cards before they reached the office. This was done.

Monday night the Union Committee had 95 per cent of the cards in its possession. The prompt action taken by the committee apparently blocked the company move to break down the union agreement. This, however, was not the end of the matter.

Wednesday morning saw a new and different form of individual contract appear. This one was slightly different. Dropped from the end of the document was the line reading, "This agreement subject to change without notice, if required, by government regulation." In every respect, however,

(Continued on page 3)

# Make Minneapolis a Union Town

# Meyer Lewis' Minneapolis Activity Not Yet Ended

Is Now Forcing Local Trade Unionists to Disclaim Local 574

In the past few weeks a striking change has taken place in the attitude of many members of organized labor towards Meyer Lewis and his local activities. It would almost seem, from the changed attitude, that the present Meyer Lewis is not the same Meyer Lewis who descended on Minneapolis last fall screaming Red and Bolshevik and announcing his intention of cleaning up the local labor movement, destroying local 574, and, in general, purifying and sweetening the whole Minnesota labor setup.

The capitalist press was filled with his mouthings and ravings against the left wingers and the progressives in Minneapolis. His appeal to civic clubs, woman's organizations, clergymen, and even to the police department itself did not go unanswered. There was an immediate rallying of forces behind this dauntless "leader" as he announced that he was here to put the hobbles on radicalism. And how did Meyer Lewis define radicalism? Well, in general, any labor organization that displayed symptoms of conducting an aggressive, militant struggle for the welfare and betterment of its members was placed in the category of being not quite kosher. Lewis seemed to be able to tell at a glance what organization was respectable and what one was not.

His attack on the Minneapolis labor movement, blazoned in headlines throughout the nation, drew unfavorable notoriety to Minneapolis unionists. His threatened attack on Local 574 drew little, if any, sympathy or support from any labor union in the city. Too well, Minneapolis trade unionists understood the value of the huge drivers' organization and well, too, most of them realized the immense contribution that was made to Minneapolis unionism by the heroic struggles of this union. Most unionists, who have given any thought to the matter, know and realize that the destruction of Local 574 would spell their defeat and destruction as well.

The Citizens Alliance knew it and realizing the valuable aid that was being accorded them by Meyer Lewis' attack, made statements in the public press, congratulating him on his stand and offering their wholehearted cooperation and support. In general, all the forces in the city who were desirous of the destruction of the labor movement figuratively, took Lewis in their arms and embraced him.

The Minneapolis labor movement was disgusted and horrified with the turn events had taken. Repudiation and condemnation of Lewis was heard on every hand. Resolutions and motions were in-

duced calling upon Green to withdraw Lewis from Minneapolis and so put an end to his vicious anti-union activity.

But strangely, of late a great number of more or less leading figures in the Minneapolis movement, have begun to accept Lewis as one of their own. They say now that he is not so bad; that he is doing some work for the labor movement; that after all, he is a representative of Wm. Green and so must be accorded co-operation. The attitude of these people would lead one to suppose that Lewis has changed his spots since arriving in Minneapolis.

Let us see if that is true. First and foremost, every member of the Minneapolis Trade Union movement must understand and know Meyer Lewis' real mission in Minneapolis. He is not here to drive out the Reds (although he would like to do that). He is not here to destroy Local 574 (because he can't).

His real object is to drive out, silence, or stifle everyone whose opinion does not exactly coincide with the craft union leadership of the A. F. of L. executive council headed by Wm. Green.

His chief duty is to browbeat and intimidate anyone that is suspected of showing sympathy for the position taken by the Committee for Industrial Organization. He is the watchdog for Wm. Green in Minneapolis. The greatest crime that can be committed, at this time by any union or Central body, is to officially, or unofficially, display sympathy or interest in changing the present craft setup of the A. F. of L.

How, and in what manner, has he been able to bring about, among trade unionists, an apparent changed attitude towards himself and his activities? He has done it in the only way that bureaucrats of his type can ever win support for their untenable and reactionary position. He has threatened the leaders of the Minneapolis Central body with revocation of their charter, if they do not go along with him. He has said, in effect, to the Editor of the official trade union organ, "support my position or we will get someone that will." He is here to make sure that anyone suspected of leanings toward industrial unionism will not be able to express their opinions before any considerable group of trade unionists.

Lewis represents trade union rejection. He is the high priest and spokesman for a dying order. In his struggle to stem the rising tide of industrial unionism many honest trade unionists and many sincere and militant labor organizations will be thrown into the breach in a futile attempt to hold back trade union progress. Do not be deceived. The Lewis of today is the Lewis of yesterday and he will be the same Lewis tomorrow, performing a despicable role as he attempts to serve a master who is living in the yesterdays.

## Real Movie Union Beats Fake Set-up

New York—(FP)—Local 306 of the Moving Picture Operators' union won its long battle with the "Allied" union when state supreme court Judge Frank Adel ruled the latter "was at all times and still is" a company union and declared its 10-year contracts with 100 New York theaters "against public policy." The decision, hailed by Local 306's counsel as a victory for bonafide unions, climaxes a 3-year campaign by Allied to gain control of Gotham's movie houses, marked by picketing and considerable violence.

## Bill Brown Says—

Great things were done at the C. L. U. Wednesday night behind closed doors. The Secretary of the Milk Drivers Union assured delegates that all of their troubles were over as far as strikes were concerned as one of our labor aldermen had promised to introduce the Milwaukee Ordinance. This ordinance on strikes calls for a committee of three business men, three clergymen, and three employers who would have the power to say when strikes are just and when they are not. Who would the Strutwear strikers recommend as employer's representatives? Nice going, Secretary of Milk Drivers!



BILL BROWN  
President of 574

## Green's Speech to Miners Lengthy; Delegates Shout 'No' at Conclusion

The Labor Review, official organ of the Minneapolis Central Labor Union, devoted two-thirds of last week's issue to reprinting the speech made by William Green, President of the American Federation of Labor, before the convention of the United Mine Workers in Washington, D. C.

Now we can find no great fault with the reprinting of even such a lengthy statement. But all efforts are judged by the results they achieve.

King Canute set up his throne by the seashore and, to demonstrate his tremendous power, defied the tide to rise. No doubt, on this occasion Canute made a very impressive speech as he issued his edict. But his feet were wet by the rising tide, just the same.

In the Miners' Convention, Green devoted over two hours in attempting to quell the rising sentiment for industrial union organization in the A. F. of L. The results he accomplished were about the same as those achieved by that historic would-be tide-halter.

The rising tide of industrial organization not only wet Green's feet, but rolled completely over his head. Three delegates voted for Green's "Harmony Proposal." Three thousand shouted no. No, upon the mature consideration, we don't believe that Green's speech merited quite the amount of space that was allotted to it in that pillar of trade union truth.

## NOTICE

All members of Local 574 who are ex-service men and who have not yet made application for their bonus can receive the free assistance of Brother George Gites, who is a Notary Public. Brother Gites has had considerable experience in assisting ex-service men with their bonus applications. Monday, February 24th, between 7 and 9 o'clock p. m., all ex-service men who wish to make their application will be given free assistance at the union office.

## Tampa Terror Reign Told in Pamphlet

Tampa's reign of terror is told in a moving manner in a new pamphlet received today. It is published by the Committee for the Defense of Civil Rights in Tampa. The arrest, beating and mutilation of Joseph Shoemaker, leading to his death, is told in detail. The brutal treatment accorded his two companions, Rogers and Poulnot, is linked up with the whole story of Florida Ku Klux Klan repression.

The pamphlet is entitled TAMPA TAR AND TERROR.

The Non-Partisan Labor Defense is co-operating with other working class defense organizations in the Committee for the Defense of Civil Rights in Tampa.

## Central Labor Union Meetings Baffle Inquirer for Truth

### Miners' Convention Backs John Lewis

The United Mine Workers gathered in their yearly convention, Washington, D. C., have already taken strenuous action to back up the Industrial Union stand of their International President, John L. Lewis.

In conformity with predictions made prior to the convention, Lewis went before the gathering of his miners and asked their permission to carry on as he "saw fit" in his program for industrialization of the A. F. of L. Not only did the convention accord Lewis the support that he sought but the delegates placed in the hands of the United Mine Workers Executive Committee the right to withdraw from the A. F. of L. if and when they see fit.

This vote of confidence demanded by Lewis indicates that he is prepared to go to extreme lengths in forcing his will upon the A. F. of L. Executive Council.

A significant fact that cannot be overlooked was the rejection of over 200 resolutions calling for the building of a labor party. In their stead was a vote of approval of the Roosevelt regime. This indicates that Lewis has at least the tacit support of the National administration.

Do you know that Donald Tutty has become a night club entertainer?

We wish to inquire at this time, as officially as it is possible for unofficial people to be, just what is meant by the manner in which the last few Central Labor Union meetings have been conducted.

Is the Central Labor Union holding executive sessions or are they, as was formerly the practice, open to the trade union public.

If they are not closed sessions just what is meant by barring people who are interested in listening to the proceedings of that body. If they are closed sessions we would like to know in what manner, and when, the customary procedure was abandoned.

Is there a motion on record in minutes of the central body declaring that their sessions are closed to visitors? If there is no such motion on record then by whose authority does the doorkeeper bar interested parties from entering the hall and listening to the deliberations.

The sessions are evidently not 100 per cent closed. It is somewhat similar to the gates of heaven where some are admitted and some are rejected. Is the doorkeeper the final arbiter of who's right and who's wrong?

That seems to be the case at the present time. Whether we, personally, are admitted or rejected is of very little moment. But we think it would be worth while for some honest delegate to raise the question and so help to solve this somewhat curious and vexing problem.

## The Railroad Brotherhoods

## Conference to Talk Program For Rail Unions

February 22nd Meeting Will Discuss Amalgamation of Unions

Saturday, February 22nd, in Room 216, West Hotel, there will be held a conference of Railway organizations. The organizations that will meet there at this time are three groups of railway workers, principally in the engine service, who will discuss plans for amalgamation and consolidation of the various railroad unions.

The February 22nd meeting was called by the Minneapolis Railroad Council. This is an organization of delegates from various railway unions in the Minneapolis terminal whose object is to bring about a more efficient organization of railway workers.

The Minneapolis Railway Council has been functioning for over two years. Their program includes not only the consolidation of the 21 railway unions but they also declare that all transport crafts including truck, bus, airway, railway, and coast-wise steamship workers should all be members of an industrial organization of transport workers.

The Railway Council is not a union in the sense that they have not set up an organization to function in the place of the present railroad unions. Rather, their objective is to compel the present railroad unions to adopt a genuine amalgamation program.

Many other similar groups are functioning in other parts of the country. At the West Hotel meeting two other independent railway organizations have been invited to send delegates. They are: The Amalgamated Locomotive Engineers of Cleveland, Ohio, and the Amalgamated Transportation Employees of Washington. Both of these organizations have indicated that they will be on hand with delegates.

The principal objective to be accomplished at this meeting is the calling of a nation-wide conference of all Railway organizations who are sincerely interested in the amalgamation of the Railroad union. All interested Railroad workers are urged to be present.

## N. S. P. Committee Meets Management

The Local 160 Grievance Committee in the Overhead Department of the N. S. P. C., has held a first meeting with the heads of this department but have been unable to successfully settle the differences which exist.

An appointment has now been made for the Executive Board of the union to go with the Grievance Committee to take up the grievances involved. If satisfaction is not obtained at this meeting, the matter will be carried on to higher company officials.

A special meeting has been called for all operators at 257 Plymouth Ave. N. on Thursday, Feb. 20th, at 8 p. m. Grievance committees for all stations will be selected at this meeting. The Underground Department in a meeting last Sunday took similar action.

The Executive Board of Local 160 reports that the organizational machinery of the union is developing at a very efficient rate of speed and is reporting real accomplishment.

| MEETING SCHEDULE LOCAL 574 |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| Monday, Feb. 3:            | Coal Workers.  |
| Thursday, Feb. 6:          | Independent Truck Owners.                                  |
| Friday, Feb. 7:            | All Stewards; Federal Workers.                             |
| Monday, Feb. 10:           | Full Membership.   |
| Wednesday, Feb. 12:        | Market Workers.  |
| Friday, Feb. 14:           | Coal Stewards; Federal Workers.                            |
| Monday, Feb. 17:           | Coal Workers.  |
| Thursday, Feb. 20:         | Independent Truck Owners.                                  |
| Friday, Feb. 21:           | All Stewards; Federal Workers.                             |
| Monday, Feb. 24:           | Full Membership.   |
| Tuesday, Feb. 25:          | Taxi Drivers; night drivers, 1 p. m.; day drivers, 7 p. m. |
| Friday, Feb. 28:           | Coal Stewards; Federal Workers.                            |

## California Sugar Workers Write Interesting Letter

On January 31st the Northwest Organizer received a letter from Sugar Workers Union Local No. 20058. This Union, which is on strike against the Holly Sugar Co., wrote to our Union asking that we do everything in our power to give them what assistance we could and to call to the attention of the rest of the Minneapolis Labor movement the boycott they have instituted against the Holly Sugar Co. On February 6 we replied saying that we would do everything in our power but telling them that we were an independent union not now affiliated with the A. F. of L. Nothing daunted they came back with a reply in a letter received February 13th, which we consider so interesting that we reprint it in full:

J. W. Boble, President  
H. L. Bennett, Secreary  
SUGAR WORKERS UNION  
Affiliated with A. F. of L.  
P. O. Box 821  
Tracy, California

Feb. 13, 1936

M. B. Dunne  
Gen. Drivers' Union Local No. 574  
257 Plymouth Ave. N.  
Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Sir and Brother:

In regard to your letter of 6-36. I will try and give you some details of our trouble here.

We applied for our charter about the 1st of July, 1935, and as soon as the company found that we were organizing they started a drive against us and organized labor.

The company discharged five men, who they thought, were the leaders. Four of these five men had been employed at the Tracy plant six to eight years, the other one had been with them two years. Their excuse was that they had too many men. The bosses went to every man and told him if he attended any union meetings he would be discharged at once, and of course lots of the men believe them. The Supt. and Asst. Supt. and some of the lesser foremen were on the street in front of our hall every meeting night taking names of the ones that attended. They talked with every individual man that worked in the plant and told them that we were an outlaw union and were not affiliated with the A. F. of L. or any Central Labor body, and that we were a bunch of radicals and were only here to try and get the working man's money, and then we would all leave town.

They promised the men if they would not join the union they would give them steady work the year around. As soon as the busy season was over they laid all those men off with a promise that they would give them a job at a new mill recently bought as soon as possible and the wages are from 25c to 35c an hour, 40 hours per week but they must stay at the company hotel and pay \$35 a month for board and room. A few have gone back to work and several have come to the union and wanted to join, which we have

taken in with a nice strike assessment.

The company has taken every dirty intimidation that could be thought of to drive us out, but we are still here and gaining membership at every meeting now.

The President of the Central Labor Council even came to our meeting and advised us to give up our charter as all union men were blacklisted with the company, and would have a better chance for work if we gave up our charter. Of course we can't make any accusation but I think anyone can see through that.

The Central Labor Council had an election of officers Jan. 29, and the progressive groups elected a whole new setup of officers so we don't have that to contend with.

The Sugar Workers Union is a good rank and file group and we intend to have a union in this sugar factory no matter how long it takes.

Another think that was against us was we were all green hands at organizing and we were unable to get an organizer here to help us, until we went out on strike, then Joe Casey, state organizer of A. F. of L., came here and told us our mistakes, what we should have done and shouldn't have done, then left and has never been back. "Thank goodness." We are affiliated with the State Federation of Labor at San Francisco and the San Joaquin County Central Labor Council, 443 E. Weber Ave., Stockton, Calif.

We have had splendid support from other Locals and Central Labor Councils and the company is sure feeling the pressure of the boycott.

The bosses at the mill admit that sugar is moving very slow. The Asst. Supt. has been on the street in front of our hall the last two meetings with a long look on his face, so I have every reason to believe we have them coming our way.

If you can get anything out of this letter to put in your paper (which we all think is a splendid paper) put it in and make it as strong as you wish, and would like to have a copy of the paper if I am not asking too much.

I wish to thank you for your splendid support and interest in our union.

Fraternally yours,  
E. M. Moon Asst. Secy.

By I. W. M.

## Maritime Unions Face Life Struggle

On the Pacific coast the Maritime Unions are probably facing a life and death struggle for the continuance of their organizations. The shipping interests on the west coast have lashed the population of coast-wise cities to a frenzy by fascist-tinted newspaper propaganda.

Literally thousands of citizen deputies have been sworn in and armed. They are being told the usual twaddle that it is their duty to protect "flags, homes, mothers and religion."

Actually the ship owners are preparing to break their contracts with the Maritime Unions and so provoke a struggle for which they are well prepared and in which they expect to come out on top.

Citizen vigilantes are openly arming themselves and boasting that they are willing to strike a blow in the interests of "law and order," which means of course, in the interests of the employers.

The unions, in the meantime, have asked for a congressional investigation into the delay made in granting them the Department of Labor awards of a year ago.

## Lundeen Talks

The Frazier-Lundeen Social Security Bill will be the subject of a radio talk by Congressman Ernest Lundeen of Minnesota, Friday afternoon, February 21, from 2:15 to 2:30 Central Standard Time (3:15 to 3:30 P. M. Eastern Standard Time). Mr. Lundeen will speak from the Washington studios of the Columbia Broadcasting System. His address will be carried by Station WCCO, Minneapolis.

## CLARK COMPANY ATTEMPTS BOLD BLOW AT UNION

(Continued from page 1)

the second card was as bad as the first.

What both amounted to was about this: Such a card, if signed by the employee, constitutes an individual contract with each worker that signs such and agreement. It would hold priority over, and supercede any previous agreement that had been made.

There can be no question but that the prompt action on the part of the shop committee saved the union from a serious misstep. The workers who signed the cards, can not be blamed. They had no way of knowing whether their actions were right or wrong. Fortunately, no harm was done.

This little skirmish with the employer should teach every worker at the J. R. Clark Company the value and the need of an alert, militant union organization that stands ready, at all times, to fight in this behalf. The Shop Committee is to be congratulated on its stand in this matter.

## Legion Post at Northern States

The new American Legion Post now in the process of formation at the Northern States Power Company is enjoying complete co-operation from the management of the company. Hall space is furnished and we are informed special remodeling will be done in the hall for the benefit of the Legion. The company's mailing system and printing facilities have also been made available to the new post.

This all seems fine and gives the outward impression that the management of the company is anxious for the fraternization of its employees. If, however, this were the case, it would seem that the same assistance would have been tendered to Local Union 160 but, as we all know, the local union has met and is still meeting the resistance of the management rather than securing its cooperation.

The reason is very plain. Local Union 160 is interested in improving the economic standards of the Northern States Power Co. The union has already secured wage increases and improved working conditions. As time goes by and the union grows stronger, it will bring further wage increases and further improvements in general job conditions.

The role of the American Legion is a far different one. The American Legion is a strike-breaking organization. The same pronouncement in which the Army War College instructed the army officers to fire into crowds of strikers rather than over their heads included an elaborate method of procedure for the use of the American Legion as a supplementary arm of the police force in fighting strikers.

We, therefore, find a very serious flaw in the beautiful picture which has been painted of the benefits of the new American Legion post at the Northern States Power Co.

## The New 574 By-Laws Merit Close Study of All

The new Constitution and By-Laws of General Drivers Union have been received from the printers and are now being distributed to the membership. A great deal of credit must go to the By-Laws Committee who have been at the task of drafting the By-Laws and Constitution for the past four months. They have done a splendid job and are to be congratulated. The preamble to the By-Laws printed on page 1 of the booklet should be read and studied by every union man. We consider the statement so sound that we reprint it herewith:

### PREAMBLE

The working class whose life depends on the sale of labor and the employing class who live upon the labor of others, confront each other on the industrial field contending for the wealth created by those who toil. The drive for profit dominates the bosses' life. Low wages, long hours, the speed-up are weapons in the hands of the employer under the wage system. Striving always for a greater share of the wealth created by his labor, the worker must depend upon his organized strength. A militant policy backed by united action must be opposed to the program of the boss.

The trade unions in the past have failed to fulfill their historic obligation. The masses of the workers are unorganized. The craft form has long been outmoded by gigantic capitalist expansion. Industrial unions are the order of the day.

It is the natural right of all labor to own and enjoy the wealth created by it. Organized by industry and prepared for the gruelling daily struggle is the way in which lasting gains can be won by the workers as a class.

## Milwaukee Labor Ordinance Spells Danger for Unions

### Fargo Notes

Workers in Fargo last week started to organize an all-inclusive union. Taking recognition of the fact that small craft unions are, for all practical purposes, useless in a town the size of Fargo, the new organization will take into its ranks all workers. At the first meeting, held in the Palm Room, over 60 were present. A great number of those present were former members of Local 173. Charles Faust was elected president and A. G. Latin was chosen executive secretary. The new organization will be known as the Union of All Workers of Fargo. Prospects are excellent for the creation of a union that will be a real factor in Fargo labor circles.

In Minot, a new organization of truck drivers has been formed. The truck drivers' union there will be affiliated with the Teamsters International. Eighteen drivers attended the first meeting where application for a charter was made.

A state Farmer Labor convention will be held in Bismarck March 1st and 2nd. In some quarters it is believed that this move is the only think that can patch up the differences in the old league which, at this time, is badly split. A number of Fargo people plan to attend.

Fargo ORGANIZER subscribers, who are not receiving the paper are asked to notify this office promptly in order that the error can be rectified.

It seems that the FORUM can't get out of the slander habit.

It may be just a coincidence but in the accident where a truck fell 150 feet off the High Bridge in St. Paul, the driver, who was killed, was not a member of the union and the helper whose life was almost miraculously saved, was a good union man. I wonder.

Postmaster Farley: "The Liberty League is the organization of those bourbons who learn nothing and forget nothing. . . It would rule America. It would squeeze the worker dry in his old age and cast him like an orange rind into the refuse pail."

He sounds like Earl Browder.

The so-called "Milwaukee Ordinance" whose adoption is being urged by the Minneapolis labor movement merits some careful study before it receives the wholehearted indorsement of representatives of organized labor.

Aside from its merits or lack of merit as a piece of labor legislation every member of organized labor should bear in mind that nowhere, no time, and no place has any legislation favorable to labor been passed by any legislative body until the rights set forth in the law had been won by independent action of labor organizations.

Roughly, the Milwaukee Ordinance places in the hands of the city's executive officer, along with a committee selected by him, the right to close a plant or an industry involved in a labor dispute if, in the opinion of the Mayor and the Committee, such action is necessary to public welfare.

One of the first points that should be raised is who this committee is going to be, what type of "citizens" will comprise its personnel and who will do the selecting. Conceding that a Mayor, favorable to the cause of labor, will select a committee that will function in the interests of the unions, what of the more reactionary mayor that may follow? Can even the most reactionary representative of organized labor conceive that a mayor such as Bainbridge would appoint a committee that would ever agree that "public welfare" demand that any industry ever be closed? To think so is the sheerest folly.

To place the destinies and the welfare of a labor union in the hands of some "committee" whose composition is, to say the least, a matter of speculation, is for labor to place their head in the lion's mouth.

No, instead of ordinances of doubtful value, and legislation which generally backfires in labor's face, organization of strong, powerful, militant labor unions is the one and only answer.

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General Drivers' Union Local 574  
257 Plymouth Ave. N.  
Minneapolis, Minn.

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Your kindness and sympathy will always be held in grateful remembrance.

The Teskey Family.

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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."

### A Call to the Left

Any member of the Minneapolis Trade Union movement who shuts his eyes to facts and refuses to come to the realization that here, as elsewhere, exists two separate and distinct sections of the organized labor movement, each headed in a different direction, is as the ostrich who hides its head in the sand when danger threatens. The division on organizational tactics which, at the present time, divides the top strata of the A. F. of L. leadership, have not come about by accident. It is not entirely, as it may appear on the surface, an unprincipled fight for leadership.

What has brought this struggle to a head is the pressure that has been exerted from below by the millions of workers, who have instinctively felt, for years, the inadequacy of the craft form of union organization. The demand of the masses of workers for a form of union organization more suited to the needs of the present epoch has been stifled for years by the exponents of craft unionism. But despite all repression its swelling force has broken all bounds and has burst into the open. Its force can no longer be hidden or covered up even in controlled A. F. of L. conventions.

Every organized worker in the country will feel the effects of the struggle, now going on, before it is over. More than that, every trade unionist in the country will have to decide, sooner or later, which path he is going to take. One leads to the binding and fettering of himself and his organization with the chains of craft union impotency. The other is the road that will bring the American worker to a place where he can win for himself sorely needed economic reforms. It is the road of industrial unionism.

### The 15,000,000 Unemployed

Who will organize the 15,000,000 unemployed workers in the United States? Will they continue to stay unorganized and be allowed to drift into the camp of reaction and become the tools of fascism? One of two things will take place. Either the unemployed will become the ally, supporter and friend of the employed worker, or, in the larger sense, they will be used as a weapon to help crush the militant section of the American working class. Can organized labor afford to see this source of potential strength be diverted to the enemy? Labor's struggle against exploitation is a battle in which the strongest side will win. In this struggle the two opposing forces present their strongest face to the enemy.

Capital, with all the power of the press, state and finance opposes labor, whose only strength is organization. On the sidelines stands the vast army of unemployed. Whose ally will they become? Ninety per cent of this great force are either workers or supporters of the working class. Their natural position is with the ranks of the workers. But if the organized labor movement does not awake to the fact that it must organize these unemployed workers and assist them in their struggles, labor may find, too late, that their ally is in the camp of the enemy.

### WPA Starvation

Read into the Congressional Record last Tuesday, was a letter from a WPA worker in Crosby, Minnesota. This man, supporting a wife and six children on the meagre wage afforded by the Federal Administration, tells the whole story of WPA starvation in a few simple words. "There is absolutely nothing to do here as a means of livelihood except the mines, and they are all, or practically all, shut down. So we have to resort to WPA work or starve." He cites the wage scale of \$44 per month and adds: "It is certain that a man with a family cannot possibly live on this." Thomas seldom refers to himself, but quotes a neighbor: "Me, my wife, and six children live on potatoes, black coffee, and bread. We never have any butter on our table. We cannot think of buying meat. Christmas I bought a few pounds of apples. My little fellows were so glad to get them they even ate the peelings and said, 'Daddy, why can't we have apples and candy and oranges like we used to have?'"

Referring to his own WPA crew, he writes: "When they finally get their thinking done most of them have lost all confidence in getting anything done in a peaceful manner. They talk fight. I tell all of them that violence will never get us anywhere. They shake their heads and say, 'We have tried all of them. What have we ever gotten out of it?' Confidence among workers is at a low ebb. A little more money to buy at least enough to live on will keep communism away longer than anything else."

### Keeping Step With 574

By Mickey Dunne

The Boutell Drivers met, 100 per cent, in the union hall Friday night. The subject of their deliberation was the new contract for Furniture Drivers and Helpers.

The Transfer Employers' Complaints Committee and representatives of the union will meet Wednesday at the St. Anthony Commercial Club. It's on the 48 hour week.

It was too cold for the Coal Stewards Friday night. Just imagine.

Local No. 160 had the hall full of overhead men the other night.

February promises to be another hot month. For Applications we mean.

We again are urging all job stewards to give us news items about their place of employment, members working there, etc. This is your paper. Take advantage of it.

### F. Dobbs was in Austin Friday.

The cold weather has played havoc with the romance department. No marriages or births to report.

### The Strutwear thing reached its Critical Moment.

Jack Frost has been a good picket for the Building Laborers on the Sumner Field project.

Mrs. Ella Hupp, 1450 West Lake St., wife of a member of the Independent Truck Owners' section of Local 574, died Wednesday, February 12th. The body lay in state at the Werness Funeral Parlors, 36th and Nicollet Ave. She was buried at 2 o'clock Friday.

Since the large desk has been moved into the office, we understand that Bill has become Mister Lotz.

The raises that recently have been promised to the Meter Reading Department of the Northern States Power Co. were almost too much for some of the boys to stand. The day after one of them had been notified that he was the recipient of a \$15 a month raise, the boss, noticing that this worker had contracted a bad cold said to him, "You had better take care of that cold or you won't live to enjoy your raise." The reader answered by saying, "If you don't take some of those stops out of my book, I will probably walk myself to death."

The Central Labor Union Executive Committee, which seems to be principally composed of Meyer Lewis these days, had the Petroleum Workers and the Laundry Workers on the carpet Wednesday noon. No casualties.

A. C. Nichols, Yellow driver, holds the record for an in-and-out. A week ago Saturday he took a withdrawal card. He was out of the union over Sunday. Put his withdrawal in Monday morning and was back on the job Monday noon.

### SOCIETY NOTE

Art Spooner recently returned from Washington, D. C.

Our old friend John Geary has left the warm sands of Miami's bathing beaches and is back on Beech Street.

Bob Fleming, St. Paul B.A., was a union visitor Thursday afternoon.

The little difficulty at the Wer-

ner Transportation has been temporarily settled by the company's agreeing to pay the union scale subject to the approval of Harry Werner who is now on an extended vacation in Florida.

The Armstrong drivers met, 100 per cent, at union headquarters, Thursday night. They say everything looks rosy.

Has Boerbach joined the Eighth Street Chain Gang?

We again rise to inquire if the meetings of the Central Labor Union are Executive sessions. If so, by whose order? I see you, Meyer!

At that, maybe they do have something to hide.

Or maybe just ashamed.

George Mendenhall, Sterling Cartage chauffeur, was injured on January 14th. He received no compensation up until February 3rd when he called the union and appealed for help to settle his claim. Soon one of the organizers was on the job and in two days George received his full check. He hopes to be back on the job again.

Don't miss the big Celebration

## Labor Looks at the Press

Heard over WDGY: "It will take Pekin 25 years to recover its reputation lost in the recent general strike."

Its reputation with who? As for the workers, we will honor our union brothers in Pekin for their magnificent demonstration of solidarity. Bravo, fellow workers. Pekin must be a pretty good town.

Mexico City: "Unless General Calles, conservative politician, leaves the country before Feb. 15, the electricians' union in 13 states has decided to strike, leaving the country in darkness."

Chief Justice Kephart of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court: "It is my opinion that the conclusion of our highest judges that an act is unconstitutional comes from a deep-seated conviction acquired after deep study of that great instrument of government."

But it's more apt to come after a session with the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, or the American Liberty League.

Herman Laborde, general secretary of the Communist Party of Mexico: "All radicals must consider it their duty to support the Cardenas regime."—Christian Science Monitor.

And he said it at a Lenin memorial meeting.

Henry Ford sez: "The word 'security' is not what the people have in mind when they use it. . . They don't mean they are willing to sell their souls for bread."

But the bread is darned important just the same, old man.

Report of the council for social action of the Congregational and Christian Churches in America: "We are experiencing that denial of our elemental rights which is the sign of the presence of Fascist forces at work in our national life. 'Oust the Reds' is the slogan, but the reality of the matter is that the wave of repression threatens to engulf liberals, progressives and radicals alike."

Too bad some of the Minneapolis sky pilots didn't realize this during the 574 strikes.

John J. Raskob: "Beginning life as a poor boy, I have been able to reach my present position because of the blessing of the Con-

Dance that will be given by Local 160 Northern States Power employees Saturday, Feb. 22nd. Just to be different the boys say that no electric refrigerators or turkeys will be given away at this affair.

Many favorable comments on the Railroad Corner.

Our champion sub-getter in Fargo has sent in for another supply of subscription cards. This is the kind of work that really gives the encouragement that pays for the struggle it sometimes takes to get the paper out.

That sterling reporter of current local affairs, the Citizens Alliance Bulletin, reports in its last issue that the Cloquet Match Factory has been closed permanently, owing to the exorbitant demands made by the union of their employees. But the capitalist press reports that the owners of the factory have come to an agreement with their workers and the plant will soon be opened. Wonder which pillar of truth is right?

The Furniture Workers' Union at the Clark Box caught the employer, flat footed off first base Thursday.

stitution (that protects private property)."

The moral is, boys and girls, that you can all become Raskobs if only the Liberty League succeeds in saving the Constitution.

Washington news item: 'More than 200 corporation executives gave away some 20 million dollars in stocks in December, escaping higher gift taxes which became effective January 1.'

We can never get a better system by taxes. The rich can always evade them.

Norman Thomas, Socialist, says: "The religion of the Constitution with the Supreme Court as the high priests and the Liberty League as its preacher will never satisfy human hunger for freedom, peace and plenty."

Mussolini: "An oil embargo against Italy will inevitably lead to war. Sanctions will shift from the economic to the military sphere."

Of course it will. And those dummies who are bellowing for sanctions are in reality supporting the start of another world war.

U. S. Dept. of Commerce report: "1935 shipments of iron and steel products were the largest since the World War, totaling over three million tons. . . Japan and Italy were the largest buyers."

Nations at war are always the best customers, and once again the bosses are getting their profits. It's starting out just like 1914-1916, which led us into the World War.

Bit of dialogue during the Nye Committee investigation: Senator Bone: All we got out of the last war was a burden of debt. J. P. Morgan: (smiling) But we saved our souls and saved civilization.

The next sectional meeting of the Inside Laundry Workers will be held on Wednesday, February 5th, at 8 p. m., at 703 Third Ave. S. A sectional chairman, a recording secretary, and sergeant-at-arms, for 1936 will be elected. Every member is urged to be present.

RUBIN LATZ,  
Business Representative.  
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