

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

Official Organ of the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council

MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE:
257 PLYMOUTH AVENUE NORTH

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

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

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MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, THURSDAY, SEPT. 3, 1936

PRICE 5 CENTS

CITIZENS ALLIANCE TRIES TO BREAK GROCERY STRIKE

MASS MEETING HEARS STORY OF STRIKERS

Governor Peterson Speaks to Striking Grocery Workers

Citizens Alliance Role in Present Strike Is Revealed

Friday night a huge mass meeting was held in General Drivers hall, 257 Plymouth Ave., which was sponsored by the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council. The objective of the meeting was to acquaint the public generally with the issues involved in the present strike on the wholesale grocery houses.

Paid ads in the daily newspapers, inserted by the employers, and the usual anti-union stand taken by these publications had attempted to convey the information that the issues involved in the present strike were only an attempt of Local 544 to create a food shortage in Minneapolis and to impose their will upon a large section of the population.

To correct the impressions the employers had endeavored to convey, the mass meeting was made open to the public and various speakers put forward the Union's side of the controversy. Over 2,000 men and women were in the auditorium when the meeting was opened by Wm. Brown, who acted as chairman. After Brown had explained the purpose of the meeting he introduced Pat Corcoran, secretary-treasurer of the Teamsters Joint Council.

Corcoran said that the issues in the strike were clear-cut and that the only way that it could be settled was by the employers in the wholesale grocery industry agreeing in writing to recognize General Drivers and Helpers Union as the bargaining agency of their employees.

Carl Skoglund and Jack Smith,
(Continued on page 2)

Raymond Bros. Co. Now Organizing

Raymond Bros. Company, one of the largest overland truckers operating west and north of this city, is rapidly becoming a Union concern. Over 30 Raymond drivers are now members of Local 544.

At a meeting held in the Union hall Sunday at 11 a. m. by Raymond employes a steward was selected and a shop committee set up which will hereafter handle grievances with that concern.

Labor Supports Irving G. Scott

The congressional vacancy in the third district created by the endorsement of Ernest Lundeen for the senatorship has provoked an interesting race in that section.

Alderman I. G. Scott, labor representative in the City Council from the Tenth Ward, appears to be leading the field. Alderman Scott, who has had a long record as labor's champion in the City Council, should prove to be splendid timber to represent the third district in Washington.

Irving Scott has been a true friend of General Drivers Union. He will have the unqualified support of that organization in the Congressional race.

Furniture Workers Take New Members

Local 1859, Furniture Workers Union, has been setting a pace in an organizational drive that is difficult to compete with. This Union, which originated in the factory of the J. R. Clark Co., started with approximately 100 members, all of who were employed in the Clark factory. Since that time 1859 has organized the Puffer-Hubbard Co. and secured a Union agreement there. Its officers are now engaged in carrying on an organizational campaign in the various casket manufacturing companies. Already two of these factories have been unionized. Besides this work organizers from Furniture Workers have assisted in organizing several other groups which have later been turned over to other organizations. Local 1859 now has over 400 members on its rolls and is growing steadily.

Workers Unionize Gamble-Skogmo

The Gamble-Skogmo Co., formerly Gamble Stores, have become almost completely unionized in the past few days.

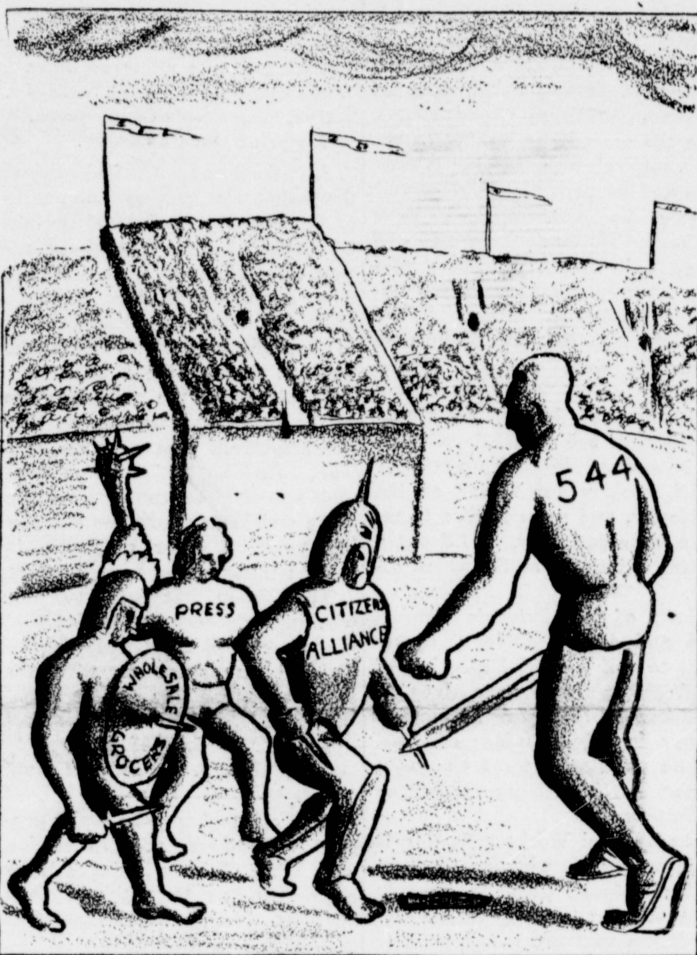
Dunne-Brown

G. Dunne and W. Brown, who are working on grievances, report that they are settling an average of eight complaints a day. This is a never-ending job as chiseling employers continue to fight the Union.

Office Change

A new office routine has been established which calls for one of the stenographers to work Saturdays. In accordance with the Stenographers Union rules, which call for a five-day week, girls will be allowed one other day off each week.

The Gladiator



Employer-Employee Board Issues Damaging Statement

Local 544 Not Consulted as Board Pleads for Strike End

Thursday, August 27, Local 544, General Drivers Union, was greeted with the most flagrant and open attempt at legal strikebreaking that has ever been attempted in this city.

At that time the Latimer Employer-Employee Board issued a public statement over the signatures of its members and with the approval of the Mayor a statement calling upon the strikers in the wholesale grocery companies to return to work by Monday, August 31.

Truck Owners Meet September 3

The next meeting of the Independent Truck Owners Section, to be held on September 3rd, will be of special importance. It is urged that members make it a point to be present and to see that his brother members whom he is in contact with are notified and told to attend.

This statement was signed by Dr. C. Prosser, Sheldon V. Wood, Donald D. Davis, Robert F. Pack, T. E. Cunningham, J. Bosco, G. Alexander, as members of the Latimer Board.

The statement explained that the Latimer Board could not offer its services as mediators, arbitrators or conciliators until such time as the strikers returned to employment. It said that it was the established policy of the board not to offer its service during the time a strike was in existence. The board said that such being the case the strike must be ended before the services of the board could be used. General Drivers Union challenges the sincerity of the statement, its truth and the motives behind it.

That part of the statement which said that the board's policy is to not offer its service while a strike is in existence is utterly false. On many occasions the board has again and again offered its service to both employers and workers while strikes were in progress. One has only to consult the back files of the daily press to

(Continued on page 3)

BOSSES STAGE LABOR-HATING 'MASS MEET'

200 Attend Meeting in Answer to Thousands of Invitations

Plans to Fight Labor Fail to Click as Bosses Wrangle

Monday in the Gold Room at the Radisson Hotel a newly organized branch of the Citizens Alliance, "Minneapolis Business Men's Committee," held an alleged mass meeting ostensibly to protest against the existing strike of the wholesale grocery workers but in reality to lay the plans for a sweeping attack upon the entire organized labor movement of this city.

Thousands of cards were mailed out to business men, small and large, professional people and those whom the employers considered might be eligible for their semi-fascist anti-union organization.

The invitation cards read in large type across the top, "Are You an American Citizen?" Underneath in a sub-head, "Have You Red Blood in Your Veins?" The card goes on to say if you have these two apparently necessary qualifications to be at the meeting at the Radisson Hotel at 10 a. m. The invitation stated that Mayor Latimer would be there to express his views on the question, "should Minneapolis be rid of the Communist leaders of the group which is attempting to force its selfish demands on an otherwise peaceful and prosperous community?"

When the meeting was called to order by Arnold L. Guesmer, a

(Continued on page 2)

A. E. Knudson Co. Signs With 544

As we go to press comes the news that the fourth wholesale grocery company has signed the Union agreement with Local 544 covering drivers, helpers and platform men employed there. The A. E. Knudson Co., which is located at 114 S. Third St., is now a Union concern and as such deserves the patronage of the labor movement.

The four wholesale grocery companies now operating under a signed agreement with Local 544 are as follows:

A. E. Knudson Co., 114 S. Third St.
W. A. Jacobson Co., 210 N. Fifth St.
W & B, 604 Third Ave. N.
N. W. Bakers & Confectioners Supply, Kedney Warehouse.

Make Minneapolis a Union Town

MASS MEETING HEARS STORY OF STRIKERS

(Continued from page 1)

both officials of Local 544, who have been directly in charge of the wholesale grocery strike, then spoke and explained the efforts that had been made to avert the strike and what had transpired after the strike had been called. Smith urged that all workers give their unqualified support to the fight and especially urged the teaming crafts to render Local 544 all the assistance in their power.

Brown then introduced I. G. Scott, alderman from the Tenth Ward, who told the assembled workers that this fight was a fight on the entire trade union movement. He promised to do everything in his power to help bring the struggle to a successful conclusion. Bob Cramer, editor of the Labor Review, told the crowd that this fight was one that the whole labor movement must get behind and support. He cited the gains that had been made by organized labor since the 1934 truckers' strike and said that the Citizens Alliance was determined, at this time, to have a finish fight with the Minneapolis labor movement.

Miles Dunne, editor of the Northwest Organizer, briefly reviewed the history of the local labor movement since 1934 and showed that the Drivers Union had been the spearhead in the fight on the Citizens Alliance and showed that great gains had been made by labor because organized truck drivers had shown that it was possible to win labor struggles over labor-hating Minneapolis employers.

While Dunne was speaking Governor Hjalmar Peterson entered the hall. He was greeted by an ovation from the crowd and was immediately introduced by the chairman. The Governor read a prepared statement in which was outlined the rights of labor unions and the position of the Farmer-Labor party toward the labor movement.

His pledge that troops would not be used against striking workers was greeted by a roar of approval from the crowd. The meeting adjourned at 11 p. m.

Business Agents Hit Labor Board

Tuesday noon luncheon meeting of the Minneapolis Board of Business Agents took drastic action on the question of labor members of the Latimer Employer-Employee Board being a party to statements designed to hamper and embarrass the actions of labor unions. The three members of the board were instructed by motion to issue a corrected statement in regard to the Thursday demand of the Latimer Board.

A committee was also set up to wait upon Governor Peterson to protest against the removal of Olson appointees in various state offices. The meeting also heard the report on the wholesale grocery strike by Smith and Skoglund of Local 544.

Fargo Drivers

Fargo drivers are reviving their Union there in good shape and are conducting an organizational drive at the present time. Good results are reported by Union officials who say that the Union's sentiment at a high pitch there now.

Relief Clients Freed from the Pauper's Oath

Relief clients need not sign the pauper's oath. The Welfare Board voted to rescind its requirement when it met in special session (Monday or Tuesday) on call of the Mayor to reconsider the whole controversy. All that is now lacking for complete victory by the Federal Workers Section on this issue, and this will come too, is the return of the signed affidavits to their signers.

The Board's action came after a conference last Friday between the Mayor, the City Attorney and a committee from the Federal Workers Section. Officials then realized that the pauper's oath requirement is illegal and that the Federal Workers demands were solidly justified and would be enforced.

Two vital anti-labor purposes were seen behind the affidavit requirement. It was looked upon as terrorism to force needy clients onto the open labor market to reduce general wage levels. It was regarded as part of a widespread scheme to disenfranchise poor workers. These dangers are not lessened in regard to those who have already signed, until the papers are returned intact. Relief officials claim that over 5,000 such affidavits were recently signed here.

Members of the Federal Workers Section are notified to make an immediate demand upon their relief workers for return of the affidavits, and upon failure to receive same promptly, to fill out a written grievance at the union office.

News of last Friday's conference and of the Mayor's agreement to call a special meeting of the Welfare Board, was given to the three daily papers in time to appear in all Saturday editions, but no mention thereof was seen by the FWS publicity committee on that day.

The Federal Workers Section is to be congratulated upon its fight on the pauper's oath. It deserves every support to carry on for bigger issues that are inescapable.

Resolution on Grocery Strike

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MACHINISTS
Affiliated With the American Federation of Labor
Minneapolis Lodge No. 382
August 29, 1936

WHEREAS, the employers of the grocery industry who are involved in the present strike have resorted to paid propaganda in the newspapers, the Shopping News, etc., and are trying to turn the public against the strikers, and

WHEREAS, this vicious type of propaganda is trying to fool the public of Minneapolis into believing that there is a food shortage, and,

WHEREAS, this proganda is striving to turn the farmers against the strikers by stating that they are being hindered from marketing their goods, and

WHEREAS, this is false, as farmers are actually donating food and supplies to the strikers' commissary.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that Local 382, I. A. of M., condemns and brands this propaganda as vicious and misleading, and a Citizens Alliance tactic of strikebreaking, and calls upon the housewives appealed to by the employers to rally to the support of the strikers in a front of complete solidarity, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that Local 382, I. A. of M., call upon Labor, and the farmers and the Farmer-Labor Party, to give full support to the strikers in their present struggle.

Passed at Lodge meeting of August 28, 1936.

By HILLIARD H. SMITH
Recording Secretary

Bill Brown Says—

The wholesale grocery employers through their publicity agents, the Citizens Alliance, have started a rumor that there will be a general strike in Minneapolis if the wholesale grocers strike continues. It is the natural thing for the companies that don't want to pay the wages to try and involve the companies that are paying the scale. When we want the C. A. to help us run our organization we will invite them in. Up until now we haven't felt the need of their help. We are ready to sit down and talk it over any time with the employers. In the meantime there is no food shortage.



BILL BROWN
President of 544

Press Statements Released by Drivers Union Suppressed by Press

During the course of the strike of wholesale grocery workers Local 544 issued several statements to the public press to correct false impressions in regard to the position of General Drivers Union. Although these statements were given to all three daily newspapers, with one exception, they were all suppressed. We print them herewith.

A strike has been called against the wholesale grocery companies of this city by the General Drivers Union Local 544. The strike action was taken by a vote of the men employed in this industry after the employers had refused to bargain collectively with the workers through their union.

Local 544, as the representative of the workers, is demanding that the employers sign a union contract providing union recognition and agreeing to conform to the wage and hour conditions now being paid by other employers in related industries.

The Union has informed the wholesale grocery companies that a contract will be signed with individual employers or with the entire group.

GENERAL DRIVERS UNION
LOCAL 544

By Wm. S. Brown, President

The open shop wholesale grocery employers are conspiring with other Citizens Alliance labor hating groups to withhold food supplies from the Minneapolis market.

Confronted with a clear and united demand by their employees through Local 544 for Union conditions, they seek to evade the issue. Refusing to meet with the Union representatives of the men, they unite and plot a starvation scare.

With expensive advertisements in the daily press, these employers slander their employees and the Union which represents them. These press statements declare that a food shortage threatens and warn Minneapolis housewives that a "lawless" group threatens a "dictatorship" over food supplies.

A trend toward dictatorship does exist in this city and it can be definitely shown to have its center among these Citizens Alliance employers.

Two cases in point:

1. The Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Co. is not involved in the present strike. Local 544 has a signed agreement with the N. W. Terminal Co. who warehouse and deliver their grocery supplies. In spite of this fact, the Atlantic and Pacific Tea Co. refuses to accept deliveries. The warehouse is well stocked. Grocery supplies are here in abundance, and yet the A. & P. Company signs statements about "food shortages."

2. The Witt's Market House, a signer of the paid ads, is in no way involved in the strike. General Drivers Local 544 does not wish to cut off or hamper the delivery of food to retail stores. Local 544, representing the men who handle and deliver groceries for Minneapolis wholesalers, has attempted to negotiate a Union

agreement. The Union has been accorded only an arrogant refusal to meet or discuss the question, on the part of the wholesale grocery employers. A strike was called only after all efforts at a peaceful solution had been exhausted.

The strike can be settled at any time that the employers involved decide to give their employees the same rights, that is to have a union contract, which hundreds of other trucking employers in Minneapolis have signed and agreed to.

GENERAL DRIVERS UNION
LOCAL 544

By Wm. S. Brown, President

The General Drivers Union Local 544 and the committee chosen by the market gardeners and farmers at their meeting in the West Hotel on Thursday, August 27, have reached an agreement today through which complete freedom in the marketing of produce will be enjoyed by the bona fide farmers of this community.

The committee representing the market gardeners and the farmers has agreed with the Union that all chiseling should be eliminated through the joint efforts of the two organizations.

The General Drivers Union Local 544 reiterates its stand and declares that a mutual understanding now exists between the farmers and gardeners and the Union on the general question of the rights of each group.

Committee chosen by Market Gardeners and Farmers

By HERBERT L. SMITH

General Drivers Union Local 544

By WM. S. BROWN, President

It is not the intention of the General Drivers Union Local 544 to inflict a hardship upon any retail grocer. All sources of supply other than those sources which are connected with the wholesale grocery firms against whom the strike has been called are permitted to operate. Any inconveniences to the retail grocers is therefore the direct responsibility of the wholesale grocery firms which have refused to deal with the Union.

Contrary to the statement of the employers, Local 544 has attempted for over two months to open negotiations for a union contract. Repeated formal approaches have been made. The employers, however, have refused to meet and negotiate with the union. Confronted by this arbitrary denial of their legal right to collective bargaining, the employees have had no course open to them except to strike.

Local 544 repeats its offer to meet and negotiate a union contract with the entire group of wholesale grocers or with any individual firm or firms.

GENERAL DRIVERS UNION
LOCAL 544

By Wm. S. Brown, President

The chefs in our commissary are sure putting out feeds. Old timers have remarked that it's the best fed strike yet.

Sailor Ebert has the boys spell-bound with his yarns. Guess he's been around plenty.

BOSSSES STAGE LABOR-HATING 'MASS MEET'

(Continued from page 1)

Citizens Alliance attorney, about 200 were in the meeting room. Evidently red blood was scarce that day or else there are only 200 Americans residing in the city. The usual clap-trap of the employers was on hand as employer after employer took the floor to say that his workers were all "satisfied" and that they were being "coerced and intimidated" by "racketeers and extortionists."

The meeting had been planned to serve a double purpose. First, to launch an attack on all unions and particularly 544, and second, to put the Farmer-Labor Mayor of the city on the spot. The meeting failed in both instances. Practically the only people at the meeting were those whose employees were on strike and who were only interested in getting those workers back to work as quickly and as cheaply as possible. The Citizens Alliance promoted meeting also failed to get Latimer into the jam that they had expected. He quickly proved in his talk that at no time his office had been called upon for help which was not granted.

Ben Faber, Osseo banker, president of the Hennepin County "Farmers" Protective Association, was very much in evidence at the meeting. He again opened up with the usual bunk about food "rotting in the fields" and farmers being "intimidated on the streets of Minneapolis by representatives of the Drivers Union. Both statements are deliberate falsehoods. If there is food rotting in the fields in Hennepin County it is only because there is no market for it or because city workers are so poorly paid that they cannot afford to buy it. As far as farmers being intimidated on the streets of Minneapolis by representatives of Local 544 Faber knows this to be absolutely untrue. General Drivers Union challenges this Osseo banker, who pretends to represent farmers, to bring forward one authentic instance of a farmer being prevented from hauling his products to the market. On the contrary, General Drivers Union has a most friendly understanding with all of the farmers' organizations and actively co-operate with them.

Except as a means of disgruntled employers blowing off steam the meeting was an abject failure. After four hours of discussion and wrangling the meeting broke up.

P. S. Grocery drivers, helpers and platform men are still on strike.

Jewelry Workers

Wholesale jewelry workers are continuing their strike against jewelry manufacturing concerns and are united in their demands that their Union be recognized as the bargaining agency of the workers in that industry. Regular meetings are held at 18 N. 8th St. Roy Wier is in charge of the strike.

Nelson Welding Co.

E. C. NELSON, Prop.
A Specialty of Truck Body Building
Present Location, 2520 Nicollet
Moving Soon—Watch for New Address

"We Are Proud of Our Coffee"

S & S CAFE
633 THIRD AVE. S.
We feature Home Cooking
Try Our Sunday Chicken Dinners, They Are Delicious
35c up

Employer-Employee Board Issues Damaging Statement

(Continued from page 1)
find out what the policy of the board in the past has been.

The statement proposed that the strikers return to work before a settlement was effected and then submit their differences to arbitration. General Drivers Union wishes to point out at this time that the only issue involved in this strike is one of union recognition. Local 544 has asked that the grocery employers recognize General Drivers Union as the bargaining agency of their employees. The bosses have refused to do that.

The question of recognition of a labor organization is not a debatable matter nor is it one that can be decided by arbitration. Either the bosses recognize the right of their workers to bargain collectively or else they do not. Therefore, the demand of the Latimer Board, that the strikers return to work prior to a settlement of this question amounts to abandonment of the strike.

The Council of Civic Clubs immediately called a meeting to assist in the campaign. They endorsed the position of the Latimer Board and called upon all affiliated civic organizations to address communications to the Governor, the Mayor and the Unions calling upon them to carry out the demand of the Employer-Employee Board. The Executive Board of General Drivers Union decided to ignore the demand and continue with the strike. Efforts were made to get the Union's side of the case to the public without avail. Pressure from every conceivable angle was exerted on Local 544 in an attempt to get it to comply with the dictates of the Board.

It is almost impossible to conceive that responsible labor members of the board should sign such a statement, knowing its full implications, without at least consulting the Union so vitally involved.

Local 544, its officers or members, were NOT CONSULTED IN ANY MANNER PRIOR TO THE ISSUANCE OF THE EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE BOARD STATEMENT.

That the employers seized so eagerly upon the board's demand, and used it so advantageously is proof positive that it was all a part of a monstrous plot to break the ranks of the strikers.

That no harm was done can only be attributed to the firm and determined stand taken by Local 544 and its insistence on its rights to act as the collective bargaining agency for its members.

With the Laundry Workers Union

The laundry and dry cleaning workers have no monopoly when it comes to ironing out wrinkles. The truck drivers union Local 544 are doing pretty well for themselves in ironing out the wrinkles of the wholesale grocery bosses' propaganda.

That big bad wolf, the Citizens Alliance, will have to "huff and puff" a lot more to break down the united front of the Minneapolis Labor movement of today.

Local 183 is gathering its forces for the purpose of launching the greatest organizational drive this union has ever witnessed. No effort or expense will be spared. Organizers will be at different plants every day. Let it not be said that the Laundry and Cleaning Workers are lagging behind the other unions in organizational work.

Let us make our industry afford us a decent, respectable standard

of living, with a sense of security on our jobs.

It is high time to cease being blood donors to an anemic industry which the bosses themselves have brought about by the practice of cutting wages, piece work systems, lengthening of hours, etc. By this procedure he has been enabled to cut prices, and this inevitably leads on to an ever increasingly vicious cycle. The answer to this is ORGANIZATION, to obtain a living wage and shorter hours for the workers, thus stabilizing our industry which no one can deny will benefit the workers, the industry, and the bosses themselves.

Let us cease being like a blind horse on a tread mill without vision, without hope. JOIN YOUR UNION! We want everyone working in the Laundry and Cleaning Industry to come into Local 183. Come to our meetings, learn of the benefits to be derived by belonging to our organization. Become a part of that mighty throng that is determined to "MAKE MINNEAPOLIS A UNION TOWN." You owe it to yourself, your family, and your brother-workers.

Remember the initiation fee will be raised October 1st from \$2 to \$5. Let us arrange meetings for the workers in your plant. Just call the office, Atlantic 7678, for particulars. Local 183 exists for your benefit, it is your best friend. THINK UNION, BUY UNION, BE UNION.

Yellow Notes

Did you ever experience the "thrilling sensation" of being choked from the rear while driving through traffic? Try it sometime as it settles your nerves.

The Yellow Cab ball team is waiting for an explanation from the 544 ball team for their failure to show up for a scheduled game Sunday afternoon, August 30.

There sure must be something radically wrong with the principles and policies of a Union organization such as 544 when they continue to grow by leaps and bounds every month.

Did Earl Mitchell ever tell you about the time he was looking for North high school? Ask him to tell you about it.

Ben Erickson is so enthusiastic about driving "days" now, you will have to argue like hell to get him to work nights again.

The committee has received a regular "epidemic" of new applications for jobs in the past few weeks.

You know if you want to get a withdrawal card now it will cost you 25c but remember this card will be honor any place in the U. S.

The strike committee can always use men for picket duty when they have a few hours time to donate. Remember this is your Union as well as the men out on strike and it is your duty to see that they win this Grocery strike.

To All Who Read This Column Every Yellow Cab Driver, Baggage Driver, Telephone Operator and Starter belong to this Union.

No Arbitration For Local 160

Local 160, Northern States Power Employees Union, reports that all efforts to set up an arbitration board for the purpose of adjusting grievances that have arisen during the past few months are at a standstill.

Robert F. Pack, general manager of the N. S. P., has refused to allow a fifth man on the arbitration board to be selected. Pack objected to the entire list of names submitted by the Union. He suggested that the Union submit a similar group of names.

Officials of Local 160 countered by offering to allow the chairman of the labor relations board to act as the neutral chairman. This offer was also refused by Pack. The 21 days which was the limit time for setting up the board of arbitration has almost expired.

The Union plans drastic action if the arbitration machinery is not speedily brought into being.

On WPA Projects

WPA foremen getting half the wages of men under them; \$60.50 watchmen working 40 to 50 hours a week; workers making up time lost for Olson's funeral. Are these right? Federal Workers voted "No," but MWA's secretary approved them. By whose order?

Project 1733 is sore about making up time lost for Olson's funeral. WPA officials say men can be paid only for time actually worked. Furthermore the Building Trades Council requested the holiday. It erred in failing to consult FWS. What about Labor Day?

Robbinsdale Sewing Project women are waking up. They must sign their payroll without seeing it. They want to know what's hidden and why. They were to meet at the Town Hall this week. On your toes, officials!

Steward Pelton on Project 249 reports being snowed under with new applications.

Project III at Champlin is in luck. Ed Palmquist will be there with amplifiers on.

The Pauper's Oath fight cut into organization work last week but is aiding organization results.

In recognition of the need for state and national unity of the unemployed, the stewards recommended three points: That Federal Workers Section affiliate with the Workers Alliance of America (national.) 2. To have no organizational connections with the Minnesota Workers Alliance (because it is not an effective organizing medium). 3. That a state convention of the W. A. A. be held only after the November elections and be limited to unemployed organizations, and that representation be in direct proportion to actual paid up membership. It is felt that the strength and backing of the FWS is essential for unity of the unemployed in Minnesota.

Subscriber

The Northwest Organizer 257 Plymouth Ave. N. Minneapolis, Minnesota
Dear Sir:
I recently saw a copy of your very fine little paper and would like to have it for a year. You can send me the four August copies and have my subscription date from August 5.
Yours truly,
RAY RYAN
P. O. Box 3063
Seattle, Washington

Notes to You by Kenn Harlan

MAN O' THE WOODS—

Your correspondent spent four days last week roughing it in a cabin with running water, gas and radio. Tsk, tsk—these modern times. We spent the greater part of our time hunting for fish. No luck until the last day on which we caught two large northerns—this long. Suffice it to say the two made a meal for eight people. We broke a cane pole on one of them.

PATIENCE—

Way back last winter when snowballs were still in season and 544's dance band was still a bit of an infant we asked to be allowed to join Local 73 and do everything right. At that time our application was rejected because we didn't hold our mouths straight or some such. At present, however, we seem to be in much better standing. So now we dig down in the old kick and shell out 25 bucks and we're in. * * *

HEH HEH—

Some amusing misprints occurred in our notes last week—"your ears come up like an old round (hound) dog and your feet start flapping (tapping) unless you're a duck." The fault, we will assume, lies with us. Our script is often illegible. But it was rather amusing, don't you think? * * *

SEASONS—

There's a snap of autumn in the air these days. School days are just around the corner. Out on the sand lots the kids have swapped their baseball diamond for a gridiron. The dull thump of a football heralds the coming of another fall season of sports. The big schools and colleges are lining up their football strength, feeling of their muscular prowess, and in general getting ready to shoot the works. The season will soon be on—and what do YOU think of Minnesota's chances this season? * * *

DANCING—

Will be more popular than ever this fall. These "after the game" dances have always been jammed to the platform with hilarious fans. What with the innovation of swing dancing which gives the dancers an opportunity to express their exuberance, there should really be some knockout affairs. * * *

NOTE TO HUNTERS—

Ducks should be plentiful this year. At least we have our spots all picked. There has been a good crop of wild rice this year. The birds will be nice and fat. We saw them in flocks larger in number than we have any time in the past seven years.—Wanna buy a duck? * * *

Well, cigarette life if you don't weaken. * * *

STRIKE NOTES

George W. Helme Co. donated plenty of snuff for the boys. Thanks a million. * * *

Quite a surprise package that Charley Engelson of the market row sent the writer. O. K., Charley, but my teeth are O.K. * * *

Where do they get all these new cars stuff? We've got a Star, Maxwell and Durant on the list. I hope they don't break down. * * *

Quite a treat for the pickets at that store on Broadway. A couple of gals bought a bottle of pop for each of them. Wish I knew their phone number. * * *

A farmer came up to one of our pickets and told him 544 was O. K. But that he didn't want anything to do with that damn 574.

Teaming Crafts Hold a Special Strike Meeting

Grocery Struggle Gets Endorsement of the Council

Monday night the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council held a special meeting at Drivers Hall, 257 Plymouth Ave. The meeting was called for the purpose of discussing the various issues that had arisen during the strike on the wholesale grocery employers.

Pat Corcoran, Secretary-Treasurer of the Council, opened the meeting by stating that the driving crafts must unite behind this fight as the outcome of it was of vital importance to all the driving unions.

On a motion by Skoglund the existing strike received the unanimous endorsement of the Teamsters Council. L. A. Murphy, Secretary-Treasurer of Local 544, asked that the various unions of the teaming crafts give financial assistance to General Drivers during the strike.

A report by Farrell Dobbs showed that the statement issued by the Minneapolis Employer-Employee Board which was signed by the three labor members of the board had done immeasurable harm to the strike. His report showed that the employers had eagerly seized upon the situation created by the statement which in effect virtually called upon the strikers to abandon their position and return to employment.

Upon a motion, carried unanimously, Secretary Adams of the Council was instructed to call upon Cunningham, Boscoe and Alexander to repudiate their previous stand.

The Secretary was also instructed to address an official communication to the Secretary of the Central Labor Union asking that the question of labor representatives on the Latimer Employer-Employee Board be made a special order of business at the next CLU meeting.

After some discussion it was decided that it should be the policy of unions affiliated with the Teamsters Joint Council that no member should make deliveries to a struck job. The meeting adjourned at 10 p. m.

The picket that got socked on West Broadway says that he's going to collect plenty.

The commissary is functioning 100 per cent. Good eats every day.

Some of the would-be scabs have already changed their minds about taking the places of grocery workers.

Local 544 Meeting Schedule

Tuesday, Sept. 1: Block Men.
Thursday, Sept. 3: Independent Truck Owners
Friday, Sept. 4: Federal Workers.
Wednesday, Sept. 9: Market
Friday, Sept. 11: Local 544 Job Stewards
Monday, Sept. 14: Full Membership
Thursday, Sept. 17: Independent Truck Owners
Friday, Sept. 18: Federal Workers
Monday, Sept. 21: Coal Workers
Friday, Sept. 25: Local 544 Job Stewards
Monday, Sept. 28: Full Membership
Tuesday, Sept. 29: Taxi Drivers; Night Drivers, 1 p. m.; Day Drivers, 7 p. m.

NOTES:
Local 544 Grievance Committee meets each Tuesday at 8 p. m.
Local 544 Executive Board meets each Wednesday at 9 a. m.
Federal Workers Job Stewards meet each Wednesday at 8 p. m.

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."

The Grocery Strike

Last week saw employers of Minneapolis wholesale grocery firms, in conjunction with the Citizens Alliance, Civic and Commerce Association and other so-called "business men's organizations" make a desperate drive to attempt to break the existing strike of wholesale grocery drivers, helpers and platform men. Showing a startling disregard for costs, which contrast strangely with their unwillingness to pay decent wages to their workers, the wholesale grocery employers bought full-page ads in all three metropolitan daily newspapers. These advertisements, filled with lies, misstatements and false propaganda in regard to the strike of the wholesale grocery workers, cost the wholesale grocers and the Citizens Alliance a sum of money that is important even in banking circles. A full-page advertisement in one issue of a Minneapolis daily newspaper costs approximately \$700. Multiply this by three and we get \$2,100. That is not all, however, a second ad appeared two days later in the same papers which would bring the total sum of money expended in buying newspaper space to \$4,200. Besides this, they engaged space in the Shopping News and other publications and it is safe to say that the employers' total advertising expenditure for the week was approximately \$5,000. The subject matter in the ads would be a matter for laughter if it was not on a serious matter. The employers, through the Citizens Alliance, attempted to tell citizens and housewives of Minneapolis that a food shortage existed. They said the cause of this shortage could be directly attributed to Local 544, General Drivers Union. The ads called upon civic clubs and social organizations to protest to the Mayor, the City Council and the Governor. They spoke of a "lawless choking off of food supplies," "unlawful picketing" and "threats of violence." It is a well-known and established fact that there is no food shortage in Minneapolis at the present time. Food of every kind is available in abundance for those who have money to buy. The strike is directed against wholesale grocery houses and not against RETAIL FOOD STORES. The cause of the strike is the refusal of the employers in the wholesale grocery industry to recognize the Union organization of their employees. Demand for recognition of a Union is a legal and lawful demand. Strike is a lawfully established right of labor unions. The employers say that they are paying Union wages and working their employees under Union conditions. Local 544 says if that is true then why do you object to signing an agreement with the Union organization of your employees guaranteeing that these conditions will be maintained. What device the employers will use next to attempt to break the ranks of the strikers and to falsify their position before the public we have no way of knowing. But one thing is sure, the strike will continue until such time as the wholesale grocery employers agree to recognize and deal with the Union organization of their workers.

The Boss Press

The consistent anti-union stand taken by the capitalist daily press in Minneapolis can best be illustrated by the attitude taken by these publications during the last ten days. Since the beginning of the existing strike on the wholesale grocers, called by Local 544, the employers have issued innumerable statements all putting forward their side of the controversy and all attempting to put the Union in the worst possible light. Without exception, these statements were printed in full in the news columns of the three metropolitan daily papers. The news of the various meetings called by the employers received the widest front page publicity. General Drivers and Helpers Union, through its Executive Board, from time to time issued public statements answering the false and vicious propaganda released by the bosses. In all the Union issued 12 statements. All of these were given to the daily papers with the request that they be published. Of the 12, one was printed and that only in part.

The public mass meeting called by the Union, which was addressed by the Governor of the state, and which was attended by over two thousand people, was given two inches in an obscure section of the papers. On the other hand, meetings called by the employers, which were attended by only a few bosses, were given an unlimited amount of front-page space. For workers to expect justice for their cause from the capitalist press is futile. The only answer that can be made by workers to discrimination practice by the boss-owned newspapers is to give the labor press and organs of the trade union movement unlimited and unstinting support.

Keeping Step With 544

By Mickey Dunne

The manager of C. Thomas store, West Broadway and Penn, made the statement to pickets that he could prove in court that representatives of General Drivers Union had extorted money from employers. He will probably be given an opportunity to do that very thing.

Raymond Bros. drivers are almost all in the Union.

THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT

The Latimer Employer-Employee Board may dissolve.

A serious rift has developed in Farmer-Labor ranks which will break into the open inside of ten days.

ARE YOU THERE, JAKE?

Union agreements were presented to several scrap iron companies by Local 544 last week.

Speaking of intimidation, one of the managers of the C. Thomas store struck a Union picket without any apparent reason.

Sanitary Coil Cleaning Co. is now a 10 per cent Union concern. All of their drivers are in the Union.

The wholesale grocery strike is now in its third week. The boys are more determined to win now than ever before.

Pack, Northern States Power tycoon, has just about said no to arbitration. The boys are looking around for a good place to dig trenches.

Over on University Ave. a gas station is being bannered by the Petroleum Workers Union. That's not much of a story, but wait. The proprietor of the station is being hired by the Union to do the bannering and he knocks off once in a while to wait on customers who happen to drive in.

L. A. Murphy, disguised as an honest business man, attended the "mass meeting" Monday called by the City—, beg pardon, the Minneapolis Business Men's Committee.

Thirteenth Ward Farmer-Labor Club sent a delegation to the Mayor's office to protest against the Employer-Employee Board.

Bill Suits, Gamble driver, fathered a seven pound baby girl August 30.

The Yellow Cab ball team won another easy victory over Local 544 team Sunday at the Parade. The team representing the local failed to show. There was great indignation.

The full-page ad of the Minneapolis wholesale grocery employers which appeared in the Tribune last week cost only \$689.92. That's a few potatoes in any country.

OH, MR. FABER

The Union met with the committee of the Market Gardeners Association Thursday afternoon in the Mayor's reception room. An agreement was reached which was satisfactory to both organizations.

All members of the Milk Wagon Drivers and Dairy Employees Union Local 471 received the Northwest Organizer for the first time last week. It is now the official organ of the Teamsters Joint Council.

Last Wednesday was a hectic day for the editor. Besides the regular edition of the Organizer which was published on that day a special edition of ten thousand copies was also set up and printed.

The American Railway Express is playing a rather sorry role in the current strike. Plenty of groceries are being shipped locally by the Express Company and delivered by Union drivers.

The employers even inserted full-page ads in the Shopping News.

Casket workers are organizing. It will soon be possible to be buried Union.

Raymond Bros. Co. employs 200 workers.

The strike of the elevator workers, who are organized into Flour, Feed and Elevator Workers Union Local 19152, are presenting a solid front to the bosses.

Both the third floor hall and the conference room can now be reached by phone.

Smith, Brown, Corcoran and Skoglund met with the new Governor Thursday.

The Friday night mass meeting jammed the large hall to capacity. Fully 2,000 were present.

Checks received by some grocery workers Tuesday revealed that as little as 23c an hour was being paid by some firms.

Wash apparently is all washed up. He was removed Tuesday as chairman of the wholesale employers committee.

Independent Truck Chatter

A new telephone system has been installed in the union office which greatly increases the efficiency of the office. Two new lines have been added and several outlets have been put in various places in the halls.

To date, no word has been received regarding 130 hours per month for those working for the State Highway Department in St. Louis Park. All of the boys feel that they are entitled to that, inasmuch as they are working under mechanically loaded equipment at all times.

Lester Baumgartner is still working for \$1.50 an hour. It seems that ing on the Belt Line with his two and one-half ton Studebaker truck for \$1.50 an hour. It seems that something should be done about it.

All those independents who are working for the Highway Department in St. Louis Park are requested to contact Art Harlen, their steward, in the event that grievances or eventualities arise at any time. Also, Art will accept your dues.

It has been reported that 10 or 12 trucks from other projects have been sent out to the Belt Line to work lately.

For the benefit of those who do not as yet know it, dues payments are now \$2 monthly instead of \$1.60 as heretofore.

Lawrence Hailey is having trouble with his hoist again.

Socialist Party to Hold Open Meeting

The Socialist Party of Minneapolis will hold an open meeting Friday, September 4, at 8 p. m., at their headquarters, 681 3rd Ave. S. Vincent Dunne, organizer for the party, will discuss the executions of the old Bolsheviks, Kamenev and Zinoviev. These Bolsheviks, close to Lenin in the Revolutionary days of 1917, were charged by the Stalin supporters with trying to set up a Fascist regime in Russia, acting in close concert with agents of Nazi Germany. To those who have studied the Russian Revolution such a charge is inconceivable, for Zinoviev and Kamenev were bitter enemies of everything capitalistic, and were too good Marxists to practice or advocate individualistic terroristic acts.

An overflow crowd is expected at the meeting, due to the interest of the subject and the ability of the speaker. Vincent Dunne is well known to Socialist and labor circles for his knowledge and understanding of sociology, economics and history. Admission will be 15 cents.

LABOR... Looks at the Press

Father Coughlin sez: I believe in production-for-use—at a fair profit of course.

I bet he believes in socialism too—just so long as the bosses still own the factories.

Headline from the Springfield Republican: Politicians to Concentrate in Drouth Area.

Sure—anything that's all wet goes over there.

Garet Garrett, Saturday Evening Post economist: To talk of hunger in America is absurd. We do not know what hunger is.

Upson Sinclair: It is a part of the thesis of every Saturday Evening Post article that in all other countries they have starvation and misery, while we in the U. S. A. have security, abundance and peace.

Boast of the Scripps-Howard newspapers: For over half a century we have fought for the right of labor to organize and choose its own representatives and to bargain collectively.

And then the American Newspaper Guild asked the World-Telegram to recognize them. But that's something else again.

Don't you love these bosses who are all for fair play — until it comes their time to play?

Who is that unknown hero who rescued that child from certain death from the path of a speeding truck Tuesday morn'?

About 75 men were looking for jobs down at Jordan-Stevens Tuesday morning. Wonder why no one was hired?

Many of the boys from one of the gravel jobs have donated \$5 apiece as their share of contributions to the Farmer-Labor Party campaign fund. In the next week or so, you may be approached to do what little you can. It does not necessarily have to be \$5. Just contribute what you can afford, but help.

We would like to hear from some of the boys from other projects in the county. How about jotting down occurrences on your job and turning them in to Gene Lundholm?

Doris Hough, daughter of Johnny Hough, well-known member of this section, is recuperating at the Deaconess hospital from an appendix operation.