

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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CASKET WORKERS ON STRIKE

DISPUTE OVER BACK PAY FOR COAL WORKERS

Locals 221 and 544 Reach
Agreement on Coal Yard
Jurisdiction

Both Unions to Engage in
Drive on Non-Union
Chiselers

The principal difference of opinion remaining between the coal employers and the union committee is the question of the retroactive date of the new contract. The union is demanding back pay to June 15. The committee will report in detail to the next meeting of the 544 coal section on Monday, November 16.

An agreement has been worked out between Local 544 and Local 221 on the question of jurisdiction in coal yards under which Local 221 will have jurisdiction over coal workers at Cedar Lake, Hy-Art, Northeast Fuel and the yards now operated by Kalkman and Hall. Wagon dealers from both unions will be permitted to haul out of the old Campbell yard in southwest Minneapolis. All other yards will be under the jurisdiction of Local 544.

At the membership meeting on Tuesday, November 10, Local 221 voted to immediately increase their initiation fee to \$15 and to again increase it to \$25 on January 1, at which time the initiation fee in Local 544 will also be increased to the same sum. Neither union will accept men from the other without an approved transfer card.

Both locals will co-operate in a drive to rid the industry of non-union chiselers.

Luger Signs Up After Walkout

The Luger Furniture Company thought that Local 544 was joking about their having to sign the furniture store contract. They attempted to lightly excuse themselves by mumbling excuses about not being able to get the board of directors together. Several weeks passed and nothing happened so Luger thought he was in the clear. What he didn't know was that Local 544 never forgets and that the full was only due to the grocery strike.

About two weeks ago DeBoer and Postal called on him to again press for the signing of the contract. After a week of stalling by the company, the men went on strike, and three days later the company signed up with back pay to August 1.

The Salisbury-Satterlee Co. is next on this list.



Flour and Cereal Mill Workers Settle Strike at Pillsbury's

Minneapolis Milling Co. Also
Signs Up With
Union

The Flour and Cereal Mill Workers at the Pillsbury Flour Mills returned to work today, Nov. 12. The strike which was called by the Flour and Cereal Mill Workers Union when the company attempted to lengthen the hours was settled by a signed agreement between the Pillsbury Flour Mills and the Union.

The agreement provides for union recognition, a 40 hour work week with not over two eight-hour days in a week. A special stipulation provides that there shall be no recognition of any "company union."

At the Minneapolis Milling Company the Flour and Cereal Mill Workers also came away victorious. The Minneapolis Milling Company voluntarily closed down its mill over a week ago. During the shutdown the company attempted to organize a company union to thwart the efforts of the Union. On three different occasions the company tried to get the men to-

RELIEF COAL

On Tuesday, November 5, the Minneapolis Welfare Board voted to allow one ton of fuel per month as supplementary relief to all family heads working on WPA. This allowance is to be made regardless of the size of the family. Spokesmen for the Federal Workers Section of Local 544 were at the meeting to speak in behalf of the WPA workers.

gether. On each occasion the Union stood solid and no attendance was the result. Finding all its efforts in vain the company abandoned its program and signed a Union agreement which includes the six hour day.

During the past week negotiations with the Northwestern Consolidated Milling Company, makers of Ceresota flour, have been in progress. All major points have been ironed out. The company has been withholding its signature awaiting the outcome at Pillsbury's. With the Pillsbury agreement signed the Northwestern Consolidated will be readily brought into line.

The Flour and Cereal Mill Workers report that the next item on the agenda is negotiations with the Terminal elevators to iron out the details not covered in the general terms of the strike settlement.

Grocery Men to Hear Union Report Sunday

After a month of negotiating with the employers committee, the union committee, representing the grocery workers, is prepared to submit a report to the membership of this section at a special meeting on Sunday, November 15, 10 a. m., at the union hall. Important decisions will be made at this meeting and all workers involved are urged to attend.

Since the termination of the strike the union has been making wonderful progress in this section. Much credit is due the stewards for their tireless work to solidify the union ranks.

Minneapolis Casket Company Surrounded With Union Pickets

Local No. 1859 Votes Strike When Company
Board of Directors "Leaves Town
Until Spring"

A strike was called at the Minneapolis Casket Co. on November 7 as the result of an attempt by the company to break up the union. Furniture Workers Union Local 1859 has been conducting a very effective organization campaign in this industry during the past three months. Meetings have been held under difficult circumstances with company superintendents lurking about the doors of the union hall on meeting nights in an attempt to frighten the workers away.

When the union presented its demands, the manager of the Minneapolis Casket Co. told the committee that the board of directors were out and would not return until spring, but with the calling of the strike they miraculously sprung up out of nowhere. The tieup is completely effective, and the spirit of the pickets is very good as they laugh at the com-

One Hour Strike Wins Back Pay

A one hour tieup of trucking at Ed Phillips and Sons, wholesale liquor dealers, settled a grievance of the truck drivers at that company. Prior to the signing of the liquor contract on September 15, these drivers got in a full quota of hours each week, doing fill-in work in the shipping room when driving was slack.

After the signing of the union contract, with the attendant wage increases, the company employed several new men for inside work and reduced the hours of the truck drivers—a flagrant and open violation of seniority.

Checks for back pay were signed by the company before the trucks moved this morning. Bill Brown led the charge.

Johnstad, steward at Ready Mix Concrete, reports they are now 100 per cent.

471 Gains Ground

Milk Drivers Union Local 471 reports that excellent progress is being made in the negotiations with the ice cream manufacturers. A special meeting of the men employed in this industry was held at the union hall on Thursday, November 12. P. J. Corcoran and William Sinnott are directing the campaign. Every union man and woman is urged to bring pressure on all local dealers to see that their ice cream is delivered by a union driver.

pany's ridiculous statements that they are going out of business. The workers know this is the already overdone statement of every employer, and that just like all other employers, this one will sooner or later come to terms.

Meantime the union is making last minute efforts to open negotiations with the Minnesota Casket Co., 5th St. and 1st Ave. N. E., and the Northwestern Casket Co., 17th and Jefferson Sts. N. E. If these companies refuse to negotiate the strike will be extended to include their plants.

The highest wage at the present in these plants is that of the skilled piece-rate workers who earn an average of 65 cents per hour under a vicious speedup system. The large majority of the employees receive less than 40 cents per hour.

The union is demanding the removal of the so-called efficiency experts who are the engineers of the speedup and the establishment of fixed wage rates of 80 cents per hour for skilled workers, 75 cents per hour for semi-skilled help with a minimum wage of 55 cents per hour. The demands also call for the 30 hour week with time and one-half for overtime. The workers want unqualified union recognition so that they may be properly represented and the provisions of the agreement enforced, and they also emphatically demand seniority rights so that they may properly protect their jobs.

The union has called a special meeting of the casket workers on Friday, November 13, at 257 Plymouth Avenue North, at which time reports will be heard from all plants and the future course of action decided upon.

Agreement Committee

The Local 1859 agreement committee at the J. R. Clark Co. is now meeting to draft proposals for a new contract with the company. The major change will be the complete rearrangement of job classifications with corresponding rate adjustments graduated upward. The committee report will soon be ready for approval by the membership.

Adjust Wage Scales

Organizer John Janasco of Furniture Workers Local 1859 reports that negotiations are now being carried on through C. L. Horn to properly adjust the wage scales for shipping and stock clerks at the Puffer-Hubbard Co. Satisfactory results are expected.

Make Minneapolis a Union Town

Big Five Raises Drivers Pay \$3

The organizational drive of Local 544 in the meat, sausage and produce industry is constantly gaining momentum. At a special meeting of this section on November 10 several stewards were appointed to facilitate the consolidation of the union membership in this section.

The companies involved, there are over thirty of them, have refused to deal as a group, notifying the union that negotiations will have to be conducted with the individual companies. The "Big Five" have increased their drivers' pay \$3 to \$31 per week in an effort to block unionization. Indications are that they will find this action to be a very unpleasant boomerang.

Jack Smith and Carl Skoglund, who earned their chevrons as "generals" during the grocery strike, are directing activities.

With the Laundry Workers Union

Flash

As we are about to go to press, word comes to our office informing us of the passing away of Evelyn Fay, member of Local 183, who was employed at the Radisson hotel. The union extends its sympathy to her family and host of friends in their bereavement.

The Wholesale Cleaners and Dyers "Association" which was organized for the definite purpose of crushing the Union failed at every turn to alter the policy of 183, namely a closed shop contract for all these concerns.

An attempt was made by court action to lay a basis whereby an injunction to stop picketing could be obtained. This attempt was perhaps the most dastardly effort ever put forth by any group of employers to discredit and smash a union. Not only did they attempt to involve the union in a legal quagmire, but it was alleged that a conspiracy existed between the Dry Cleaners Institute and Rubin Latz, business agent of the union, to force the members of the wholesale group out of business through price fixing. The fact that Judge Lars O. Rue dismissed the case was proof that no evidence existed to substantiate the charge.

Local 183, Cleaners and Laundry Workers Union has been and will always be an organization devoted to the policy of benefitting the workers in our industry. All concerns, whether large or small, will pay the union scale of wages and maintain the working condition called for in the contract. Any concern who thinks they can chisel on wages and hours and thereby profit at the expense of the workers and legitimate concerns had better now, like the Arabs, "Fold their tents and silently steal away."

Local 183 is jealous of its reputation as to its sincerity of pur-

NOVEMBER MEETING SCHEDULE
Local 160

Tuesday, Nov. 3—Executive Board and Stewards Meeting.

Wednesday, Nov. 4—General Membership Meeting.

Tuesday, Nov. 10—Executive Board Meeting.

Tuesday, Nov. 17—Executive Board and Stewards Meeting.

Wednesday, Nov. 18—General Membership Meeting.

Tuesday, Nov. 25—Executive Board Meeting.

pose and honesty in its policies and will brook with no obstacles, whether it be slander and libel of its officers by two-bit individual employers with their seedy looking mouth pieces, or any other forces that are designed to stop the steady march of the union in its aim to bring the workers a greater share of what they produce.

With the ending of strikes in many plants to get signatures on contracts, among them the famous "Injunction Shapiro Co." we are happy to say by the time this column is read we will be able to announce that we have 79 cleaning and laundry plants signed of which 33 are strictly closed shops.

Local 183 will now be in a position to devote all its time and energy to the problem of solidifying its position and carrying on its organizational and educational program.

Let us proceed with the same undiminished vigor and zeal in organizing the open shops 100 per cent, and, to recall the statements of Marie Ebert, militant shop steward from Kronicks, in her talks from the platform at a meeting of 700 members when she said, "We will get out of the union just what we put into it." So let's go.

Local 160 News

At the last regular membership meeting of Local 160, I. B. E. W., (the Northern States Power employees union) the membership approved a permanent entertainment committee. The first act of the committee was to arrange for a special order of business at the next regular meeting. The warning is therefore being issued that all who do not attend the next meeting, Wednesday, November 18, will just be short a special treat. Everyone's curiosity should be all whetted up by now. Remember—Wednesday, November 18, 8 p. m., 257 Plymouth Ave. N.

The last holdover individual grievance in the Overhead was settled this week when Brother George Stonestrom received his long-earned boost in pay.

Two cable splicers in the Underground received an increase as of November 1. Their grievance has been a sore spot for a long time. Not entirely right yet but the raise helps some.

The bill passers are now getting three or four days notice of their day off which is some improvement over the old way of everyone reporting every morning and then some being told it was their day off. The number of bills per day still needs a lot of going over.

The Community Fund meeting held on the 12th floor again turned out to be the means of trying to inform the employees that Union organization is not needed. While the Community Fund (which, incidentally, is an unjust imposition on the workers) was mentioned in passing, the main talks were about working conditions. Did you note that the budget idea of donating to the Community Fund was—well, just scrapped? Isn't it funny that the good old substantial programs of the past just kind of wash up when the workers commence to think for themselves. The best thinking places yet found are also found in Union meetings. Think it over.

Local 160 meets the first and third Wednesdays of each month at 257 Plymouth Ave. N., 8 p. m.

Bill Brown Says—

Now that Minnesota has finally lost a game, about the only outfit left with a long winning streak is Local 544. We have met the Citizens Alliance 14 times, starting with the coal strike and they haven't scored on us yet. We attribute our spectacular run of victories to our solid front wall, that our opponents have never succeeded in making a dent in our field generalship and strategy that usually leaves them dizzy and wondering what is going to happen next. With new men enrolling every day, it looks like we will have a bigger and better squad next year.



BILL BROWN
President of 544

Retail Store Section Negotiating Contract

With all stores except Dayton's completely organized and that company well beyond the half-way mark, the General Drivers, Local 544, has opened negotiations with the representatives of the companies and some progress has been made, although there are still wide differences of opinion on several important points.

Working conditions in some of the places of employment have been unusually bad. In some stores a work week of 75 to 80 hours per week has been common, and in almost every case, the work day is very long. The union is fighting to reduce these excessive work hours and increase wages in all classifications.

Representatives from Donaldsons, the Leader and Young-Quinlan's were present at the meetings. The union is represented by Bill Brown and Grant Dunne.

A special union meeting for the department store men has been called for Thursday, November 12.

Ray Rainbolt Seeks Employer Mass Meet

The greenhouse industry with its myriad of growers, wholesalers and retailers presents a difficult problem to the Local 544 negotiators because of the difficulty of arranging meetings with the employers. Rainbolt and Wagner are nevertheless making headway and expect to bring matters to a head in the near future. The executive board has given them full power to act against the Rosacker greenhouse where attempts have been made to form a company union.

Independent Truck Chatter

Independents caused an ordinance to be passed that would give preference to individually owned and driven trucks. Still the problem wasn't solved. Meetings had been held with the City Dispatcher and the City Engineer since that time, but only met with evasions and buck-passing. Determined to get results, the Independent Truck Owners met with the Good Roads Committee on Feb. 19, 1936, explained the situation, made them admit that an ordinance existed that gave preference to individually owned and driven equipment, then proposed a revision of the city seniority list.

The City Engineer's office sent out new registration blanks in affidavit form requiring information that would help weed out ineligible. A city ordinance was passed that this reapplication must be made by May 1, 1936, otherwise the existing payroll number would be forfeited. This fact was well advertised in advance in the Northwest Organizer, at all the Independent meetings, and also in the Daily Star public notices. Application blanks were distributed at meetings, and great pains were taken to acquaint every one with the deadline. Close attention must

On WPA Projects

SUPPLEMENTAL RELIEF

The Welfare Board kicks this issue around. It sidesteps, procrastinates, kills time, bluffs and evades. Winter is here but no supplemental relief. We warned the Board that FWS members will quit working unless their families are provided for. They have nothing to lose by staying at home. The Board's latest threat to deny relief to anyone refusing a WPA job is empty intimidation. Not only would such an act be criminally illegal, but Organized Labor has repeatedly demonstrated that it will not tolerate this.

FORCED LABOR.

Single persons of 65 years or older who are not getting enough Old Age Assistance should demand the full \$30 a month. Otherwise OAA is a curse. It is being used to deny aged persons relief as well as WPA jobs. The so-called "Security Act" seems to produce more insecurity. Capitalism takes back double and treble for everything it hands the workers.

Single workers are due for a real pinch. It's Work Camps for them unless drastic organizational steps are taken at once. FWS members have a measure of protection against concentration camps, but woe to those who place full confidence only in public officials! The new unwritten law punishes men who are without wives or families.

Because Wednesday is Armistice Day, the next stewards' meeting is Friday the Thirteenth. They asked for it.

be paid to this fact because many of the truckers lost their previous payroll number through neglect of submitting the reapplication before May 1, 1936. There will possibly be a better attendance at meetings and a more careful reading of the Organizer hereafter by those that were burnt this time. Independents are beginning to learn that this indifferent reading of the union paper and avoidance of meetings will cost them more than they can afford. Those that come out with loud protests about being put to the bottom of the seniority list have no one but themselves to blame, sad as it may seem.

The City Dispatcher and Mr. Snyder, City Paymaster, have gone through the records at the courthouse, made a list of all drivers that have been on the payroll from 1929 up to the present time. If these drivers made a renewal application before May 1, they are put on the proper place in the new list.

Thus if an application had been put into the City Engineer's office in 1930, but hadn't actually started work until 1933, the payroll seniority would begin in 1933. Those that have applications in, but haven't worked, still establish seniority among others that haven't worked, and will be called as the need arises for additional equipment.

New Contracts for Transfer Section

If the busy hum of meetings and the ponderous preparations by the union negotiators means anything at all, it means that the transfer workers are going to have a first class job done on the next contract with the employers. The 544 committee is meeting with four subcommittees of employers representing the commercial hauling, long distance furniture hauling, heavy hauling and regulated motor carriers divisions of the industry. Group meetings of the men from the above divisions have also been held.

The next meeting will be that of the long distance drivers, helpers and dock men employed by the regulated motor carriers. It will be held on Sunday, November 15, 10 a. m. at 257 Plymouth Ave. N.

Rose Bros. Have Not Signed With Union

Negotiations have been completed in the wrecking industry, with the new contract providing a scale of 65 cents per hour for drivers and 50 cents for yard help. Other provisions of the agreement are in conformity with the standard union clauses. All major companies except Rose Bros. have signed. In view of the past labor record of this company, the union has decided that a determined fight must be made immediately to settle their chiseling tactics for all time.

Yellow Notes

The party or parties who stole the jackpot board off the bulletin board sure ought to feel proud of themselves for pulling such a lousy stunt. If proof can be obtained and the guilty party or parties apprehended, they will find that the majority of the members of this section will not tolerate actions of this nature.

"Red" Nelson had a stroke of good luck on the Northwestern game and Oscar "The Finn" really had a rabbit's foot in his pocket on the homecoming game. Surprising as it may seem, both of these boys won on jackpots away from the garage.

Homecoming this year gave us the best night and day we have had in three or four years. Most of us haven't fully recovered from the driving strain yet.

Consideration is being given to a proposed request for warming pads for a certain piece of equipment installed in the annexation to the drivers' room.

The so-called "strategy board" (or tragedy board as it has been nicknamed) met for the first time Monday p. m.

Fay Cipperly's condition hasn't shown much improvement at this writing.

"Andrews Hotel" Max is receiving medical treatment at the Vets hospital.

Local 1859 Meeting Schedule

Nov. 14 — Executive Board Committee Men

Nov. 17 — Box Industry

Nov. 18 — J. R. Clark

Nov. 20 — Puffer-Hubbard

Nov. 21 — Executive Board

Nov. 28 — Executive Board and Committee Men

Dec. 2 — General Membership Meeting

New Perspective in Education is Urged

Rockwell Urges Facts of Life Be Given Recognition in Class Room

The following is the speech of Dr. John Rockwell, Commissioner of the State Department of Education, at the convention of the Minnesota Educational Association, held in St. Paul last week.

I suppose on an occasion like this when a great body of teachers assemble, I should review the last hundred years of achievement in our field. At such a time it would be fitting to trace the growth and development of this great institution which we call education, to call attention to the great decrease in illiteracy, the great expansion in reading on the part of our public, the accessibility of libraries, books, and reading materials of all sorts. One could point out our fine school buildings, our extensive educational and research programs, and our beginnings in the field of guidance. Such are very real and tangible achievements and justify, in part at least, the faith and support which the great mass of the American public has always given to education. But were I to do only this I would be overlooking one constant, unifying factor, a factor which functioned very decidedly in the original establishment of public education and which functions today as much as ever before.

I refer to the phenomenal capacity on the part of people to hope and to externalize their hopes in concrete tangible forms of social planning. It is truly typical of human beings, in contrast to other life forms, to survey themselves and their problems. Out of their realistic facing of facts there somehow emerges that admirable trait, hope, which is more than wishful thinking. Call it imagination, call it ability to project the needs of the present into the future, call it what you will, in substance it is a fairly simple thing. It is the refusal or inability on the part of people to accept in passive form a cruel, terrifying, painful world. People are so made that they cannot accept life in unimaginative terms. They must be forever trying to reshape themselves and their world so that it more nearly conforms to an ideal.

There are certain people who become alarmed at this insurgent tendency on the part of men. Why, they ask, are they not satisfied with their lot? Why must they be forever creating new problems, modifying and reshaping the good old values of the past, upsetting the present?

If, however, one scrutinizes these alarmists, one becomes def-

initely aware of the fact that in the first place such spokesmen are often those who somehow have found comparatively soft places for themselves in life—not infrequently at the expense of other people. What is more important, one can always detect in such critics their insensibility to the universality of pain.

There is in life a real democracy of pain, which is all the more terrible because it is incapable of statement in a large percentage of the human race. Life at best to the individual is a terrifying thing. He fears hunger, illness, dependency. But he loves his children and his neighbor's children and he wants them to experience more and better things than have fallen to his lot. He accepts, in truly humble fashion, the accidents which fate brings him. He asks only that needless pain and suffering be not perpetuated. And in his groping way he dares to hope that he and other fellow-sufferers may somehow manipulate and change life so that instead of being passive agents in a staggering drama of tragedy they may become active participants in human planning—the end to be the decrease of needless human suffering.

Such is the genesis of all human institutions. The law, the church, the school are merely instrumentalities created in the imagination of men to alleviate the conditions which they are experiencing. And if such institutions survive and are perpetuated, generation after generation, it is because people feel that either they are, or can, serve in the solution of vital human problems.

Occasionally it happens in history that the institutional leaders forget, or are diverted from, this bone and blood substance responsible for their institutional origin. Such was the case with the members of the Sanhedrin at the time of Christ. Christ appeared in a suffering world, inadequately faced by the institutional leaders of the church. The world, the same world which confronted Christ and his Sanhedrin opponents, was a world naked in its harshness and cruelty—much of it created by men. With magnificent personal indifference to comfort and security, Christ protested. His eyes were fastened upon the misery of men. He knew that men had within themselves the capacity to shape their world more kindly and agreeably, and, as a consequence he bitterly fought the wordy, verbose apologists of a social world in which inarticulate, helpless people were called upon to offer up needless sacrifices.

The lean, blue spark of his idealism caught the imagination of men and has held it ever since. True, some of the practitioners of that ideal sometimes misuse it, or forget it. They did it in pre-civil war days when they became the apologists for the infamous institution of human slavery. They did it in the last war when they acquiesced in sending men out to kill each other in the name of democracy, which instead of being saved has been jeopardized in all the western world. And they do it every day when they remain silent in the presence of the harsh realities of modern life.

In education likewise it can in justice be said that we educators also have drifted far from the original source of our institutional origin and have lost ourselves in the maze of a sterile intellectual-

ism. The mental gymnastics of millions of teachers, research workers and students have somehow failed to bring to people the means for meeting their problems which was the hope of the founders and supporters of the institution of public education.

Let us take a few concrete examples. Economic theory developed within our universities has described with great precision the processes of economic operation within our social organization. The economists have done more than that. They have even invaded the field of motives, a territory in which the psychologist is perhaps more competent to speak.

Among such economists the individualist-acquisitive motive is given high value among the different motives and drives of men. It is assumed to be the one single, dominant drive in human conduct. Such thinking implies that to it, or else satisfied through it, are the various other urges or needs of men. The need for food, for shelter, for protection against dependency in old age, health protection and legitimate and worthwhile, leisure-time interests are assumed to be subsidiary to the single drive of acquisitiveness. Or rather, it is assumed that, if one is properly acquisitive, one can satisfy all these other needs. Competition, instead of co-operation, becomes the basic organizing force of social organization.

Has such economic teaching worked? Granting that processes can be detected which predict depressions and periods of prosperity and some of their underlying causes; does this solve the problems of men? The detection of economic trends and their description are, of course, of enormous importance. But it is a fatal error to assume that such trends are inextricably bound up with a single motive, which in the minds of many competent workers in other territories of human behavior is neither dominant nor native.

If one examines the cultural patterns of primitive people, there is found good evidence to indicate that the individualist-acquisitive motive is a very weak one. Its strength is a strength cultivated through generations of careful training. It works well for a few—a very few. Millions of unemployed people, lacking the basic securities of life, the presence in our midst of child labor, a population lacking the means to provide adequate medical attention are but a few of those factors which eloquently proclaim the disjointed emphasis of modern education and educational analysis.

In education we clamor for facts, ever more facts! Of this I thoroughly approve. The pursuit of truth needs no defense. Humanity throughout time has prized knowledge and always will. But the working man sometimes pulls us down to earth in a brutal fashion.

Of what use, he says, are these facts when they don't put food in our stomachs, when we have to send our children at an early age into industry, often into hazardous occupations, in order that the rest of the family can exist? Does the education which you dispense guarantee us protection in our civil liberties, the right for freedom of speech, freedom of religion and freedom to sell our labor on a collective basis? Does it protect our sons against war, ourselves against the futile sacrifice and farve of war as a satisfactory instrument in the settlement of international disputes? Does competitive individualism, which makes a virtue of human exploita-

tion ennoble the human character and make us love our fellow men more?

Minnesota within the past few years has offered the spectacle not only of really far-reaching dramatic issues at stake, but it has extended the rare opportunity for teachers to think through their fields of knowledge in relation to crucial human problems. I want to deal briefly with three of these issues.

First, let me mention the question of taxation. It seems to be thought in many quarters that an educator has no business to soil himself with controversial issues. Frankly, I don't know what the business of education is if it isn't to concern itself with the problems of people. And taxation is a problem of vital importance. Two years ago people commenced to seriously scrutinize the sources of the tax revenue in this state and they came to the recognition that our system of taxation falls too heavily upon the small property owner. There was much talk about the replacement taxes, if education were to be preserved. Even many of the educators honestly believed that the only alternative available to raise the needed school revenues was a sales tax. Many educators were open supporters of the Omnibus Tax bill passed by the 1935 legislature but vetoed by Governor Olson.

Governor Olson vetoed that bill because of its sales tax component. He saw, and saw clearly, the fact that a sales tax is a tax upon the poor. I suspect also that he saw, more clearly than many of us educators just what a precarious position education would be in were it ever to be put in the position of being financed by the blood-money of the poor. It has happened many times in history when agencies consented to become the recipients of tax donations from people who cannot afford to pay that those agencies in the end were destroyed. Witness the French aristocracy, the Russian aristocracy, and the Spanish and Mexican landlords. All have reaped their expected rewards.

Were education to be financed through a long period of time by a sales tax—blood money of the poor—it might come to be looked upon not as a needed social service but as an instrument of affliction. To say the least, is there not something incongruous in demanding of people that they lower their standard of living in one direction in order to furnish the means for increasing it in another direction? How can we educators defend an institution, potentially so vibrant in its possibilities for serving people, if it must be maintained through a lowering of the standard of living for a large part of our population? And this to be added to the already downward drift in the standard of living!

In the sales tax issue which confronts the people of this state, we educators must brood over what its effect upon education may be. Here is an instance in which, not merely as educators, but as people interested in our fellow men and

anxious to serve them, we might well go down into the market place and take our stand by the side of all those other people in conflict with forces now operating to lower the American standard of living. Where the primary rights of man are involved there is, and can be, no loss in professional dignity through such action.

Let me deal briefly with two phases of Minnesota labor. Just what has been happening to our farmers? In former years they cleared their land and improved their farms. But since 1920 they have been losing these farms at an alarming rate. The independent American farmer of the Middle West has been drifting toward that state of dependency long current in the South. The percentage of land tenants has been steadily increasing in America. Let us consider the history of land tenantry as it concerns people. Is there a single instance in all history in which tenants have prospered under the long continued practices of absentee landlordism? Witness France before the Revolution, Russia under the Tsars, Ireland under the infamous English landlord-system of the last century, Denmark before 1864 and Spain and Mexico under their grandees. In every single instance—and one could cite others—the tenant system resulted in work-weary, degraded people. Tenantry never encourages education; instead it fosters ignorance. It results in a high infant mortality; it cultivates malnutrition, disease and superstition; it deadens the sensibilities of people and makes them lose hope in their ability to ever create a better life for themselves and their children. Yet in spite of the fact that the teaching of history is so clear in this territory, I fear only too many of us educators have been willing to spend our time in discussing the facts of supervision, techniques and curriculum construction instead of these other equally authentic facts which bear so directly upon the well-being of our farmers.

Much the same thing is true of labor. The working man has nothing to sell but his labor. Daily he witnesses, in concrete and tangible form, the effect of his wages upon the well-being of his wife and children. He knows that unemployment or a low wage for a long week reflects itself in no desirable manner upon himself and family. The haunting fear of unemployment takes yearly a terrific toll. Driven to think realistically in the presence of these

(Continued on page 4)

"We Are Proud of Our Coffee"
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Nelson Welding Co.
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New Address

As a wage earner you cannot bargain ALONE successfully.
As a consumer you cannot share in the profits you create with your purchasing power unless you too buy CO-OPERATIVELY.

THE DIFFERENCE

Private business exists solely for the profit it can take from the consumers.
Co-operative business exists to relieve people from the necessity of paying tribute, in profits, to private business for the right to exist.

The CO-OP COAL ASSOCIATION operates not for profit but for service to its members. Profits return to members on the basis of patronage.

CO-OP COAL ASSOCIATION, 739 Johnson St. N. E.
COAL - COKE - WOOD - STOKERS
GR. 4394

Meeting Schedule
Local 544
Monday, Nov. 2—Coal Workers.
Tuesday, Nov. 3—Block Men.
Thursday, Nov. 5—Independent Truck Owners.
Friday, Nov. 6—Job Stewards.
Monday, Nov. 9—General Membership.
Wednesday, Nov. 11—Market Workers.
Monday, Nov. 16—Coal Workers.
Thursday, Nov. 19—Independent Truck Owners.
Friday, Nov. 20—Job Stewards.
Monday, Nov. 23—General Membership.
Tuesday, Nov. 24—Taxi Drivers; night drivers, 1 p. m.; day drivers, 7 p. m.
GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE—Meets every Tuesday at 8 p. m.
EXECUTIVE BOARD—Meets every Wednesday at 9 a. m.

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

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"When I ply my needle, trowel or pick,
I'm a decent Sheehey, Wop or Mick,
But when I strike, I'm a Bolshevik
I'm labor."

Drivers Unions

The necessity for setting up truck drivers' locals in various small communities in this part of the country becomes more apparent every day. Many localities such as St. Cloud, Winona, Fargo and elsewhere are the homes of large numbers of truck drivers employed there. It is almost impossible to organize these drivers into local unions located in Minneapolis and St. Paul. To do so would necessitate keeping Union representatives constantly in these places. This would obviously be an impossibility. Wage scales must be set and secured for these drivers, grievances and discriminations must be settled and to do that efficiently calls for some form of union organization located in the vicinity.

Non-union drivers employed by transfer companies and distributing houses located elsewhere in Minnesota, North Dakota and Wisconsin make regular trips into Minneapolis and St. Paul. Representatives of Drivers Unions in Minneapolis and St. Paul must make the choice of taking these workers into Unions located here or allowing them to continue to operate non-union. Securing charters for Drivers Unions in other localities in this part of the country should prove to be no problem. The solid organization of truck drivers in Minneapolis and St. Paul could lend splendid organization assistance to such local unions. When non-union drivers from these communities can no longer operate non-union on the streets of Minneapolis and St. Paul building solid organizations of truckers in smaller communities would be a simple matter.

Until some action is taken to secure charters and set up unions in small northwest localities solidly organizing northwest truck drivers will be difficult. The slogan of northwest drivers union representatives should be, "Wherever truck drivers are employed a Drivers Union should exist."

The Seamen's Strike

The unfair and biased press reports and the vicious commentaries over the radio by such worthies as Boake Carter seek to give the impression that the seamen's strike which is now roaring at full speed around the entire American coastline is an abortive and unwarranted affair doomed to failure. On the contrary the very fact that the enemies of the strikers are howling for federal intervention is clear proof that the strike is completely effective.

What American labor is really witnessing is a magnificent struggle which is the herald of what is shortly to come in the big basic industries. A militant struggle by fighting workers who are determined to unite themselves despite all artificial attempts at division and who are likewise determined to use this unity to sweep aside those traitors in leading union circles who are trying to keep them divided.

More power to the seamen.

Rockwell Urges Facts of Life Be Given Recognition in Class Room

Continued from page 3
stark facts the laboring man has learned the advantage of organized effort in the sale of the only commodity he has to offer—his labor.

As professional people, how sympathetic have we been with this point of view of labor? Here again, under the guise of a meaningless professionalism, we have kept ourselves above the affairs of this world so poignantly real to a large proportion of our people.

The day has passed, or is rapidly passing, when labor through the apprenticeship system, trains within its own ranks its replacements or additions. And the day is approaching when the schools of this land will be required to offer to young people a training consistent with their later life needs in vocational as well as avocational territories.

If one examines critically the philosophy underlying these educational creations, the Danish Folk school and Workers Education, certain conclusions are forced and both are frankly orientated in reference to workers' needs. Here it

can be said truly that there has been magnificent educational achievement.

If one compares the state of Denmark in 1864 at the close of the Slesvig-Holstein War with the state of well-being of her people today, certain changes stand out with remarkable clarity. The standard of living has risen with extraordinary rapidity. The good things in life have been cultivated and extended to all people. Art, education, health protection, unemployment insurance, and old-age pensions are but a few of these modern blessings which this little country has somehow managed to extend to her people.

The Danes have discovered, perhaps more completely than any other people, a primary truth of the universe, namely, that there is within every individual an innate dignity which must not be violated. In conformance with that discovery they have created not only the instrumentalities, without which human worth would undergo degradation, but they have done more; they have experimented in demo-

cratic principles and idealism.

No other countries offer more real guarantee for the preservation of our civil liberties than do the Scandinavian countries. This is creative democracy in practice, and to a world harassed over the fear of dictatorship the Scandinavian countries stand as supreme illustrations of what men can do for themselves through orderly, well-intentioned action.

It is to the eternal credit of Danish educators, one of the greatest of whom was Bishop Grundtvig, that they did not hesitate to face the stark realities before them and in recompense Denmark today prizes its teachers as no other nation! They have security of tenure, freedom of thought and action, and all those materials necessary to the performance of a highly complex social function. Facts are prized for themselves and for the significance they have for all mankind. In Denmark, perhaps, more than in other countries, there is little tendency to practice the technique of exclusion of facts.

I have tried today to answer no problems; rather, I have hoped to be able to bring you to the point where you are willing to brood seriously upon certain problems. All that any one asks of the teacher

Keeping Step With 544

By Mickey Duane

With all these request for leaves of absence to go deer hunting, we wish to serve notice here and now that somebody had better show up at the union office with some venison. Do you follow me, Larry?

It's open season on O'Malley, too.

Murphy said he didn't think an old shoe could smell so unless it had a sock and a foot in it. Guy Gale was credited with the find.

Chester Sands is making a game fight at the General hospital. The doctors say he has about a 30-70 chance.

Rumor has it that DeBoer is arguing with the Minneapolis Fruit company again.

That was quite a grand stand play the boss at Luger's made. He loudly ordered a delivery away from the dock, saying, "Don't you know there is a strike here?" With this build-up he came back a little later to make the men a left-handed proposition. It didn't work.

Charlie Quick and Roy Yeager from the airport job made a good report to the executive board Wednesday.

Jim (\$50) Fowler is at it again.

Fred Arduser is back in the harness.

Pat Corcoran got a turkey in the tenth frame, but the umpire said he started too late.

Consolidated Delivery Service got straightened up with the union last week

THINGS WE WANT TO KNOW DEPT.

Why doesn't Bill Sinnott answer Jack Smith's letter?

Nick Wagner walks from the Francis Drake to the union hall every morning. Spectators must fall in along the line of march not later than 6 a. m.

The Northwest Metal Mfg. Co. just raised their drivers 20 cents an hour. The union made the suggestion.

The non-union independents had company at the parade last Wednesday at 6 a. m., but they

failed to keep the date. An investigation disclosed that the union staff had forgotten about Armistice day being a WPA holiday. Oh well, Bruce, an early sprint helps to reduce. You can afford to lose a pound or so yourself, Joe.

Rommerdahl wants it clearly understood that he lost those teeth in a dentist's chair, Gardner.

The generals of the FWS now operate out of their luxurious office in hall No. 1.

Business Agent Johnson of Local 131 was initiated in last Thursday's fink drive.

Airport Trucks Get Cabs Back

The independent truckers working on the airport have won out on a very much justified grievance. A safety rule passed by the local WPA officials required all trucks working under the muckers to be denuded of their cabs. With the arrival of cold weather this meant that the drivers, sitting right out in the open, amid a storm of constantly swirling dirt, were subjected to a dangerous health hazard, to say nothing of the possibility of getting a chunk of frozen dirt between the ears.

When the union spokesman, Rainbolt, backed by the executive board, made a determined stand on this question, the officials agreed to let the drivers replace their cabs.

Negotiations are also being conducted with 23 contracting companies for a rider to the present union agreement with these companies which will establish definite wage schedules for hauling with independent trucks. The committee reports progress.

Bowling News

The Teamsters Joint Council's new team lost 3 to the National Teas. Holt rolled a new high score, 562, but F. W. S. took the odd game from Mill Wheels.

Con. No. 2	811 884 853--2548
Con. No. 1	803 935 812--2550
Mill Wheels	826 865 868--2560
F. W. S.	885 870 805--2560
Meats	756 799 740--2281
544	742 799 740--2281
Nat. Tea.	673 691 668--2032
T. J. C.	503 659 616--1778

is that he be faithful to truth—that all true facts be made accessible to people. It is emphatically expected that there be practiced no technique of exclusion of facts. Facts have an immediate and important bearing upon the welfare of men. I, for one, believe, and believe very firmly, that there is within people an innate dignity, characterized by fair play and love of one's neighbor, which can be trusted to run true to form, if not confused and interfered with through this falacious propaganda and the cultivation of jingoistic fears.

Today I have not talked about challenges. Rather, I have been emphasizing the attribute of duty. The final evaluation which society puts upon teachers depends upon us. No teacher need fear that verdict if he stays close to that universal attribute of man—pain. There is a real universality of pain; there is a real democracy of suffering. Jesus Christ, St. Francis of Assisi, Abraham Lincoln, and all the other truly great throughout history have known this fact. They successfully stayed close to it and governed their lives in reference to it. That, I think, is the reason that mankind remembers them with great affection.

Bill Passers Demand Change

That the demand for readjustment of the bill passers work allotment is just is shown by the amount of work turned out by one of the Union members in the bill passing department over a six months period.

The number of bills taken out by this individual over this period was 71,056. The amount returned to the office because of wrong address, change of address or insufficient address was 1,806. The total amount delivered in the six months time was 60,250. The wages of this bill passer during this time (based on \$105 per month, present salary) was \$840.

The saving made by this employee for the company over what it would have cost the firm to mail the same amount of bills was \$545. It can be seen by these figures that the profit returned to the Northern States Power Co., over and above the worker's wages, was almost \$100 per month. Surely a portion of this \$100 could be returned to the employee in the form of a wage raise.

LABOR... Looks at the Press

The Goal

Let Socialism be the lever
That men use in all endeavor,
Where each shall give unto his power,
And necessity shall guide the dower;
Wherein for all one serves with zeal
To thus advance the commonweal:
Then Lenin's peers the onetime clods,
And mankind's best shall be as gods.

—Arthur Hopkins

An Investors Syndicate report states: The average American in September was 9 cents on the dollar better off than in September, 1935.

And 9 cents ain't to be sneezed at—it'll almost buy a pack of cigarets.

Washington news item: The national labor relations board asserted today that federal intervention is the only way to protect the constitutional rights of steel workers.

You can take federal intervention—I'll take a good strong pick-et line.

Because look what federal intervention looks like. Here is Edward F. McGrady, the government's No. 1 strikebreaker, talking: "The maritime strike is a challenge to the welfare of the nation. It may be necessary to call in the U. S. navy to man the struck ships."

From an editorial in the Christian Science Monitor: In the turning of unemployment relief back to local resources, the possibilities of community gardens, sewing rooms and the like should not be overlooked.

Nor should the possibility that the local unemployed could then quietly starve to death.

CORRECT SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FEDERAL WORKERS SECTION

FWS Stewards, each Wed 7 p. m.
FWS membership meetings, first and third Friday of each month, 8 p. m.
FWS Leadership class No. 1, each Friday 2 p. m.
FWS Leadership, class No. 2, each Saturday 10 a. m.
Direct relief grievance hours, Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10 to 12 a. m.
Federal Workers Stewards Meetings—Each Wednesday at 7 p. m.
Federal Workers Membership Meetings—First and third Fridays of each month, at 8 p. m.