

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

As from this hour
You use your power,
The world must fol-
low you.

Official Organ of the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council

MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE:
257 PLYMOUTH AVENUE NORTH

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

VOL. 2, NO. 41

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 28, 1937

PRICE 5 CENTS

NEGOTIATIONS END WITH VICTORY FOR DRUG WORKERS

END IS NEAR IN J. R. CLARK CONTROVERSY

End of Two - Months - Old
Strike Appears
Near

Wage Dispute Seems Only
Bar to a Final
Settlement

Tuesday it appeared that there was an excellent chance that the two month old strike at the J. R. Clark Company might be settled.

Throughout the entire two months period the management of the Clark Company has maintained that they would never deal with a union, that they would "move out of town," etc.

Numerous times the company gave out the news that they had secured a location elsewhere and that they were prepared to move their machinery and commence operations at some distant, secret place.

The union, Local 1859, Furniture Workers, kept steadily to their demands that there be an adjustment in the wage scale and discrimination against union men cease.

Dozens of meetings were held between the management and the union. At the meetings it developed that the real bone of contention of the Clark Company was their unwillingness to raise the minimum wage scale for the lowly paid, unskilled workers employed in the plant.

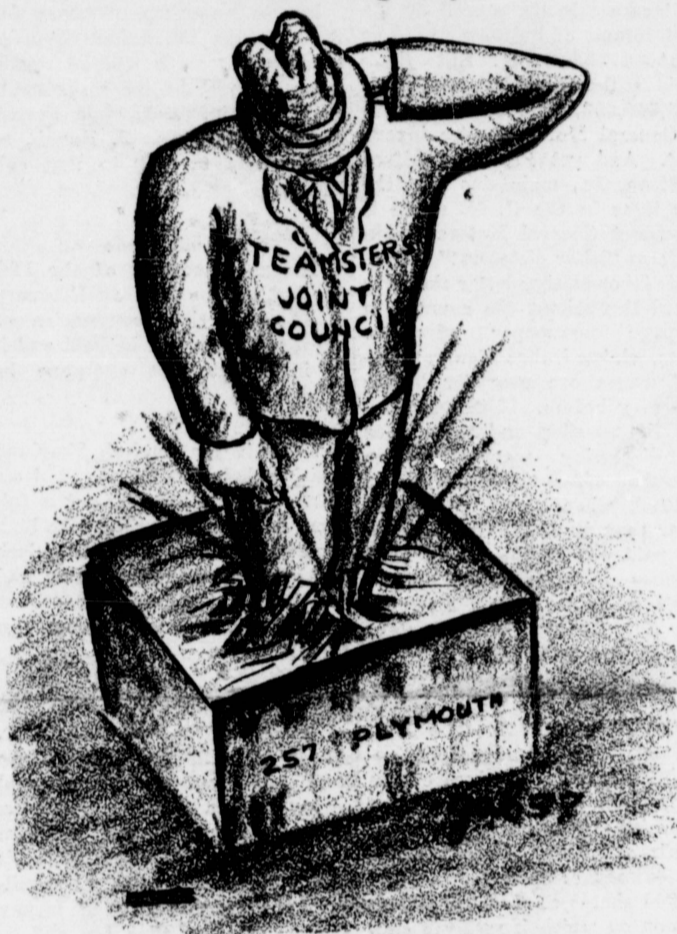
The new offer, through which peace may come, provides a blanket wage increase of 15 per cent and raises the minimum wage to a new level.

The officers and members of the union are to be congratulated for the fine fight they have made.

Notice to All 471 Members

Starting with the meeting of February 2nd, all meetings of Milk Drivers and Dairy Employees Union, after that date will be held at 257 Plymouth Ave. The office of the local Union will be moved to that address as soon as possible after February 1. The first meeting of the Union in February will be on the 2nd. The second on the 16th.

A Growing Boy



Truck Owners Win Important and Vital Concessions in Regard to Seniority on All W. P. A. Projects

Move Will Give Independents Security That Did Not Exist Before

The Committee from the Independent Truck Owners section, who have just returned from a pilgrimage to Washington, D. C., report that their trip to the Capitol was not made in vain.

The object of the visitation was to attempt to secure more job security for workers on WPA projects, particularly as it applies to the equipment division.

For some time it has been felt by members of the Independent Truck Owners section that the best interests of justice had not been served in laying off and rehiring trucks on WPA and PWA projects. Equipment was hired and laid off without regard to length of service and without taking into consideration Union seniority.

It was felt that inasmuch as almost all federal finance projects in this vicinity were organized, that some sort of regular procedure should be adopted when layoffs became necessary.

After conferring with Federal officials in Washington, and after meeting several times with the Minnesota delegation in the House and Senate, the committee was assured that orders would be issued to the Local Administrator that seniority would be put in to effect, and that regular Union procedure would be used in the fu-

(Continued on page 3)

Mystery Exploded Operative Reports

Despite all denials, claims and counter claims that are being made and notwithstanding the bland refusal, by the party in question, to talk, the fact has become established that Schultz, Tzar of Local 160, is now a married man.

Operative No. 6 reported him in a Hennepin meat market purchasing two pork chops.

Local 544 Signs contract With Northwest, McKesson Walgreen Drug Companies

All Drivers, Helpers and Platform Men
Will Come Under Provisions
Of the Agreement

Wage Raises Provided in Pact Range from
50c Per Hour to 65c Per Hour. Boost
Affects 200 Men

Last week General Drivers Union, Local 544, scored a smashing victory when they signed to a Union Agreement all workers in local wholesale drug houses which come under the jurisdiction of the Drivers International.

Workers who are covered by this agreement are Drivers, Helpers and Platform Men. Approximately 150 hitherto unorganized workers will receive the benefits of the new agreement covering wages, hours and working conditions in the wholesale drug industry.

Corcoran, Dobbs Attend Meeting Of Wis. Drivers

Last week saw Pat Corcoran, Business Agent of the Teamsters Joint Council, and Farrell Dobbs, Secretary of General Drivers Union, attend a conference of Wisconsin driving unions at Green Bay.

The two Minneapolis representatives visited the Wisconsin meeting to lay before delegates of Wisconsin teaming crafts the plans of the North Central District Drivers Council.

Dobbs and Corcoran made a full report of the plans adopted by the North Central Council. It developed that there had been some misunderstanding, among Wisconsin delegates, as to the aims and objects of the recently formed northwest drivers organization.

After it had been explained that the only outlook of the North Central Council was to complete the union organization of truckers in this part of the country and to raise and level wage scales of the teaming crafts, delegates at the Green Bay meeting indicated that they were ready to become part of any movement that would help bring about the objectives that were outlined.

The organization of these workers has covered a period of approximately three months. Many obstacles presented themselves in the negotiations for a Union Agreement between General Drivers Union and Drug Wholesalers. It was apparent from the outset that the Wholesale Drug Employers would offer determined opposition to the Union organization of their workers. This fact was borne out when the organization drive was completed and negotiations for a Union contract began. After several weeks of intensive meetings between officials of Local 544 and representatives of Wholesale Drug Employers, an agreement was finally reached which resulted in a splendid Union Agreement covering these workers.

Highlights of the Union contract are the wage-scales which have been established for these hitherto lowly paid workers. The Drivers scale has been set at sixty-two and one-half cents per hour. Pricers, Receiving and Shipping Clerks under the contract will receive sixty-five cents per hour, while Order-Pickers and Packers will be paid at the rate of sixty cents per hour. All other employees covered by the agreement will receive a minimum of fifty cents per hour.

Other standard provisions that are always a part of General Drivers Union contracts are:

(Continued on page 2)

Flash! Strike at J. R. Clark Co. Settled

As the Organizer goes to press comes the news that the strike of the Furniture Workers Union at the J. R. Clark Company had been settled. While details are lacking, it is apparent that the union received a good settlement. As is stated elsewhere in this issue, the employer and the union were near accord. Some of the workers returned to work Wednesday, although full operation of the plant will not start until Monday.

Make Minneapolis a Union Town

Local 544 Signs Contract With Northwest, McKesson Walgreen Drug Companies

(Continued from page 1) ers contracts are present in this agreement. Seniority and non-discrimination are provided for and an arbitration board has been set up to adjust differences that may arise over interpretation of provisions of the pact. The agreement follows:

WORKING AGREEMENT

The Walgreen Company and General Drivers and Helpers Union, Local No. 544, agree to be bound by the following working conditions:

ARTICLE I

The General Drivers and Helpers Union, Local No. 544, is recognized as the collective bargaining agency for its members employed in the warehouse of the Walgreen Company, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

ARTICLE II

The Walgreen Company agrees not to enter into any agreement or contract with its employees individually or collectively which in any way conflicts with the terms and provisions of this agreement and further agrees not to discriminate against any employee because of his membership or non-membership in a labor union.

ARTICLE III

The regular work week shall be forty-six and on-half hours (46 1/2) except that the regular work week for truck drivers shall be forty-eight (48). There shall be no split shifts. Overtime shall be paid for at the rate of time and one-third for all hours in excess of the regular weekly hours; and time and one-half shall be paid for all work done on Sundays and legal holidays, to-wit: New Year's Day, Decoration Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day, with the exception however, of four or five men who are rotated on Sunday and these legal holidays to do watchman and other light work, shall work for the straight hourly rate, provided that they shall receive a rest day during the week; and if called back to work on the rest day, they shall receive time and one-half.

ARTICLE IV

The minimum rate of pay shall be as follows:

- Truck drivers, 62 1/2 cents per hour.
- Pricers, Receiving Clerks and Shipping Clerks, 65 cents per hour.
- Pickers and Packers, 60 cents per hour.
- All Other Employees, 50 cents per hour.

Employees receiving more than the minimum in any classification shall not have their pay reduced.

ARTICLE V

Employees who have been in the service of the Company for a period of one year or longer shall receive one (1) weeks' vacation with pay according to the rates set forth above for their classification of work.

ARTICLE VI

Disputes as to facts over the discharge of an employee or over compliance with any of the provisions contained herein which

cannot be settled between the aggrieved employee or his representative and the employer, shall be referred to an arbitration committee of three members composed as follows:

One member to be selected by the Union herein and one member to be selected by the employer herein, and the two so selected shall select a third member who shall be the chairman. The decision of the arbitration committee shall be final and binding upon both sides.

ARTICLE VIII

In the event that the employer becomes involved in a controversy with any other Union, it is agreed that the representatives of Local No. 544 will consult with the employer's committee and use every means to reach an amicable agreement before taking any action in aiding another Union on strike.

In a bona fide strike the drivers shall not be required to go through picket lines, but this shall not be the case if any strike not approved by this organization and not a bona fide strike.

There shall be no strike or lock-out or interference with the business of the employer so long as the terms and provisions of this agreement are complied with by it.

ARTICLE IX

This agreement shall be in full force and effect from January 2, 1937, up to and including December 21, 1937.

GENERAL DRIVERS AND HELPERS UNION LOCAL NO. 544, A. F. of L.

By C. Skoglund
By Jack Smith
THE WALGREEN COMPANY
By T. G. Crawford

Ski Workers Leave Jobs at Northern

Monday workers employed at the Northern Ski company went on strike to protect themselves against wholesale discrimination by the employer.

About fifteen union members had been laid off or discharged in the past week. The workers there are organized into Furniture Workers Union, Local 1859.

Yellow Notes

Ed Harlans little episode of dancing with his rubbers on sort of played havoc with his health. He developed a case of rheumatism in his legs and the doc put him on the wagon.

They say Mr. Dobbs has turned his office into a clinic. He has gone into the practice of extracting the "lead" from the drivers' gasoline foot.

Roosen and Turner pulled one of those "glad to meetcha" stunts at a loop intersection recently.

Did you ever hear of an economist who spent 15 cents trying to save a dime?

Roy Nelson made a very large dent in the day drivers' receipts one night last week. He cashed nine pay checks at one time.

A recent visit to Bill Sanders found him in an improved condition. His leg is still bad, but it is showing improvement as time goes on.

Bill Brown Says—

Last Friday the eyes of Chicago Power and Light bosses were opened when union power and light workers pulled the switches and shut off the power and light for four hours. The union had asked that the utility bosses meet with the union and discuss a new wage scale. The bosses refused. The workers countered with a display of their power. More power to the Chicago Power Workers Union.



BILL BROWN
President of 544

Survey of G. M. C. Finance Report Shows Low Wages, Huge Profits

If General Motors boosted wage rates by one-third and reduced working hours to 30 a week from the 1936 average of just over 40, the increase in its payroll on the 1936 volume of business would be about \$120,000,000. But there would still remain net profits of \$105,000,000, equivalent to 11% on General Motors' entire investment. And yet President Alfred P. Sloan, Jr., maintains that the only issue in the G. M. strike is to protect General Motors' workers from "labor dictators!" Sloan, in his labor-baiting letter that was spread throughout the country in full-page newspaper advertisements, claimed that General Motors' wages are now far higher than ever before. If this is true, then the speedup and the use of labor-displacing machinery has more than offset the increase. For in 1929, when sales were 7% larger than in 1936, General Motors paid out 25.9% of its sales revenues in payroll as against 25.8% in 1936. It is a different story for the stockholders. General Motors paid dividends of \$192,000,000 to its common stockholders in 1936, just double the amount paid in 1935. The 1936 payments were the largest in General Motors' history and were 23% larger than in 1929. The chief beneficiaries are the duPonts, of American Liberty League fame. The duPont company owns 10,000,000 shares of General Motors common on which it received cash dividends of \$45,000,000 in 1936. In addition, many of the duPonts individually own large amounts of General Motors stock.

out of work enlist your family to help write some letters. If you are working send a few telegrams.

Due to a shortage of money for the trip, the union had to make an advance which will be repaid when the rest of the assessments are taken in. Meanwhile Farrell has a mortgage on J. Hough, so don't delay turning in that collection.

Nominations

The next meeting of the ITO Section will be held on February 4. At this time nomination of section officers will be held and it is important that everyone be present.

While in the Capitol, Skoglund asked a haberdasher for a dress shirt. He was brought out a full dress affair, all starched with high wing collar. Carl asked the clerk if he looked like a Senator and grumbled that if they have to wear such things he would never run for Congress.

State highway work doesn't look so good for the coming year. About 15 million dollars will be used for construction work and seven million for maintenance. This is nearly 35 per cent less than was spent in 1936. Federal funds are expected to furnish seven million, the balance of the money coming from gasoline tax and license fees.

Tipsters

Lundholm, acting as treasurer, learned that when given change in the east it's necessary to grab both the folding money and the bending money off the tray in one fast swoop because those easterners have big ideas about the size of tips.

More union men could try the methods used by an Independent when he couldn't get a Local 160 meter reader. He went down to the main office and gave them a lecture on which side is up (with gestures). It gets results.

New F. W. S. Local Formed in Hopkins

A new local of the FWS was organized at Hopkins. It has 80 paid up members. Officers elected are: Chairman, Alfred O'Brien; Vice Chairman, Carl Bennett; Financial Secretary, Carl Burtch; Recording Secretary, L. W. Alberg; Stewards, B. C. Langstrom, Douglas Wade and Oscar Carlson. Organization of Rural Hennepin is rapidly approaching completion. Another local of the FWS was established at Long Lake. These workers have real grievances which now will receive proper attention.

The Road to Peace, by James E. Van Zandt, Legion-air: We veterans are ready to fight, if necessary, to convince other nations that our demands for peace must be respected.

N. S. P. WORKERS HIT OUT AT FAKE UNION

Union Calls Upon Every Worker to Join Local 160

A week ago another attempt towards company unionism was encountered by Local 160. An employees' meeting was held in the Riverside plant to try to decide what the Riverside men wanted to do about organization.

The fact that the meeting was held in the plant to say nothing of the assistant engineer standing guard at the gates to be sure no "outsider" got in, proves the meeting was at least sanctioned by the company.

Some 50 or 60 men attended the meeting which was called, as explained by the chairman, "to discuss whether or not the men would join Local 160."

The meeting continued for about an hour but came to no conclusion. The reason for no conclusion, we think, is very plain. Local 160 had been conducting an intensive organization drive for 10 days prior. Most Riverside men were contacted, several score who have not heretofore belonged, joined up. The Riverside men are becoming better informed and are viewing their relationship to the employees of other departments in a new light.

It is only the few, who have been the recipients of special favors, who are confusing the issues. They wish to protect both their special favors and also be in the good graces of the rest of the employees. As unionization spreads this "double role" becomes ever more difficult.

Local 160 says to all the employees of the Riverside plant or any other group: Certainly, call a meeting to discuss affiliation to Local 160. But call the meeting open and free. Ask everyone to attend. Call on the employees of other departments to meet with you and tell of their problems. Ask everyone to speak out. Local 160 will make clear its record and its program. We have no fear of the decision of every honest worker. Only in this way can a conclusion be reached.

Local 160 will call such meetings and will arrange for the facilities. Local 160 not only asks to be allowed to present its case, but demands as its right to be heard. It is only when all the facts are known that the correct decision can be made.

MEETING SCHEDULE Local 544

The membership meeting on Monday, January 11, voted to alter the meeting schedule on the following basis:

(1) There shall be only one full membership meeting per month, to be held on the second Monday.

(2) There shall be two job steward meetings per month, to be held on the first and third Fridays. (The next job steward meeting will be held on Friday, February 5.)

(3) There shall be not more than one regularly scheduled meeting per month in any section. The schedule to be arranged by the Executive Board. Wednesday, Jan. 13—Market. Tuesday, Jan. 26—Taxi drivers; night drivers, 1 p. m.; day drivers, 7 p. m.

Note: Schedules for other section meetings are now being arranged. Grievance Committee — Meets each Tuesday at 7 p. m. Executive Board—meets each Wednesday at 9 a. m.

Local 1859 Meeting Schedule

January, 1937

- Sat., Jan. 2—Executive Board.
- Wed., Jan. 6—General Membership.
- Sat., Jan. 9—Executive Board.
- Sat., Jan. 16—Executive Board.
- Tues., Jan. 19—Box Section.
- Wed., Jan. 20—J. R. Clark Section.
- Fri., Jan. 22—Puffer Hubbard Section.
- Sat., Jan. 23—Executive Board.
- Sat., Jan. 30—Executive Board.
- Wed., Feb. 3—General Membership.

With the Laundry Workers Union

The former writer of this column, who predicted that our election will be a hot one, missed his guess. He might be classed with the fortune tellers promising their followers they will receive a fortune from some foreign land which only turns out to be a pipe dream.

Our next union meeting Wednesday, February 3, will be of great interest to all of our members as Rabbi Albert I. Gordon, our impartial chairman of the Arbitration Board, and Ray Dunn, a prominent labor leader, have accepted our invitation to speak and discuss the subject of arbitration in labor disputes. A ten minute period of questions, pertaining to the subject, from the floor will be arranged. This meeting will start promptly at 8 p. m. Admission will be free and everybody is invited.

It is really too bad that larger numbers of our members do not avail themselves of the opportunity to listen to our business agent's report of the accomplishments and benefits our union is furnishing to our members. Only since January 1 we have collected hundreds of dollars in back pay from bosses who were caught chiseling on minimum wages and none payment of overtime. Also, the enforcement of seniority rights in matters of laid-off and discharged workers who were discharged for no cause whatsoever. In several cases, the employers were forced to reinstate them without loss of time. Many unemployed workers, through the office, received part time and also permanent jobs. If these facts were known to the rank and file of our membership, there would be more activity and more militancy thus giving more strength to our organization. Let's make our next meeting 100 per cent attendance.

We are especially proud of the recent demonstration and expression of confidence shown by decisive majorities given to our present leadership by the well informed and intelligent membership. Only through co-operative effort and understanding, will we be able to accomplish and obtain the benefits so necessary and desired by our members. We invite and encourage the full hearted support and co-operation of everybody in our union to put their shoulder to the wheel and make it a bigger and better union.

Barring the unfortunate accident at our recent dance, it was a financial success. All members are requested to assist our Secretary-Treasurer by returning the unsold dance books as soon as possible in order to enable her to complete her records.

Alvina Baldwin, Harry Brown and Rubin Latz were elected on the Publicity and Propaganda committee. In order to make our column in the Organizer successful and of interest to our workers, we invite you to inform the office of all social activities and happenings in their respective plants. Comments, remarks or criticism on articles in this column are encouraged.

MEETINGS FEDERAL WORKERS SECTION
 FWS membership meetings, first Friday of each month, 8 p. m.
 FWS Leadership class No. 1, each Tuesday, 7:30 p. m.
 Direct relief grievance hours, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 to 12 a. m.
 Federal Workers Stewards Meetings—Each Wednesday at 8 p. m.

Truck Owners Win Important and Vital Concessions in Regard to Seniority on All W. P. A. Projects

(Continued from page 1)
 ture when laying off and rehiring became necessary

Although the order has not yet become official, there seemed little doubt in the mind of the committee that such an order would be issued. If such an order is put into effect in Minnesota this will be the first state in the Union to adopt anything even remotely resembling seniority.

The seniority rule as it will apply in regard to equipment hiring on Federal projects, means that the oldest driver in point of service will be the last laid off when it becomes necessary to reduce the personnel on the project. When rehiring takes place, the last man laid off shall be the first returned to work.

If the Committee accomplishes nothing else from their Washington pilgrimage, the establishment of seniority on Federal projects would be well worth while. In the meantime, pressure will be put on local administrators to see that the order is carried out.

Bakery Drivers Have Huge Meet

Tuesday night saw a rousing meeting of bakery drivers in General Drivers hall. Over 300 attended the meeting which saw dozens of bakery workers sign application blanks and become members of the newly formed Bakery Drivers Union.

Pat Corocotan, organizer of the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council, who was in charge of the meeting, explained to the members that splendid progress was being made in the organization campaign among the bakery drivers. He cited the fact that the union now had members in every bakery in the city.

It was reported that a union agreement was in the process of formation and that it was important that all members attend meetings in order that each might have a voice drawing up the wage scale and formulating the provisions covering working conditions.

It is expected that the contract will be ready for presentation to bakery employers within a week or ten days.

On WPA Projects

WPA's dirty work is done by local relief officials who, under various pretexts give out "602's" terminating WPA work assignments and causing numerous workers' families to suffer from loss of wages. Many grievances on this score have come to the FWS. The flimsiest of excuses is given by the relief investigators. In one case the reason for the 602 was given as "Cannot be found" although the worker had lived in one place for the last 12 years. The "social welfare" workers thus show that they are still dominated by the private "charity trust" despite the liberal talk of the social workers organizations. The FWS says: Full responsibility upon the Relief Department for every 602 issued and full relief for all time lost through 602's.

Mothers' Pension blessings and Social Security bla hit women on WPA sewing projects right square in the family. A new WPA field letter cuts off every WPA worker in Minneapolis, St. Paul and Du-

Office Workers to Stage Dance

The Stenographers and Office Workers Union will hold a Valentine Dance in the Franklin Co-Op Auditorium, Saturday, February 13. The music will be furnished by Wally Hagen's union band. Tickets are now on sale at 18 N. Eighth St.

Laundry Drivers to Make a Move

Claire Johnson, Business Agent of Local 131, Laundry Drivers Union, reports that his organization is making steady progress and growth.

The Laundry Drivers, which was re-chartered less than a year ago, has grown to a union of several hundred members and has become a real factor in the Minneapolis labor movement.

Local 131 will soon transfer its headquarters to 257 Plymouth, new home of the Teamsters Joint Council.

luth who is entitled to Mothers' Pension benefits whether getting them or not. Scores of women are laid off. But this is only the beginning, because federal, state and local relief authorities find this an expedient way to reduce relief costs at the expense of needy women and children. This is the way it works: A mother with two children under 16 gets \$60.50 on WPA, at least \$50 on direct relief, but only about \$40 on Mothers' Pension. This WPA field letter shows that President Roosevelt meant just what he said in telling the present Congress that he'd use as little of the Deficiency Relief Appropriation as possible. That means he'll cut off every WPA worker who'll stand for it.

Orville Olson, new WPA Fifth District Director, answered a list of question put to him by FWS job stewards at a FWS mass meeting on January 8. Olson gave good answers but the workers plainly told him that their experiences on the jobs don't jibe with Olson's statements. Olson promised to send FWS a written reply to each of the questions, but this has not yet been received. That will tell the story of Olson's position.

"Soft Jobs"—WPA workers rise in the deep of night, leave home before radio WPA weather announcements, get to projects before 8 a. m., often only to find there'll be no work (nor wages) for that day, work in water or sub-zero winds without proper clothing and with dangerously inadequate tools, take the guff from snarling foremen, all for the privilege of working—while they and their families go without the recognized necessities of life.

"Stability"—WPA workers, manual and white-collar alike, require a form of organization whose stability continues regardless of project terminations, transfers and lay-offs. Real gains to Minneapolis unemployed are due to the union steward system on WPA projects and a single-unit city-wide membership organization. These together with material backing from Trade Unions, led to the growth, stability and power of the FWS.

There's always more to learn about those overworked twins, "labor solidarity" and "unity." Odd

Council Team Leaves Cellar

The J. C. took one game from Con. No. 2 to come out of the cellar. FWS went into a tie for second place as they won three from the meats. That's six straight for the Federals. The Ind. took fourth place as they drubbed the Nat. for the leaders first whitewash of the year. Iserman led with 572. Con. No. 1 went into last place as they dropped three to "544" office team.

Nat. 810 825 802—2437
 Ind. 931 980 1009—2920

F. W. S. 880 947 799—2626
 Meats 870 858 789—2517

Con. No. 2 800 911 872—2583
 Joints 841 854 811—2506

Con. No. 1 809 814 825—2453
 "544" 918 913 937—2768

NOTES

Since we lost our check room girl, Ray Allard doesn't come to the alleys so early.

T. Nelson some day will slide all the way down to the pins. F. Eheim has the toughest luck of any of us. We have a newly married man, Zimmerman, and a couple of new fathers, Thoreson and Anacher, but it doesn't help their bowling. Ebert better get well soon, as his team has hit the skids.

things are done in their name. For instance, a "Co-ordinating Committee" and an Organizer for Hennepin County were set up by the State Executive Committee of the Workers Alliance of Minnesota. We saw it only in the daily papers. Just how this is to promote "solidarity" and "unity" remains for the unity experts, Watson, Mayville and Bean, to explain.

MEETING SCHEDULE LOCAL 160

Jan. 5—Stewards and Executive Board.
 Jan. 6—General Membership.
 Jan. 12—Executive Board
 Jan. 19—General Membership.
 Jan. 26—Executive Board.

Notice to All Local 544 Men

JOB GRIEVANCES
 Effective immediately job grievances from members will be received by the Union during the following hours only:

7 a. m. to 9 a. m. except Sunday.

7 p. m. to 8:30 p. m. except Saturday and Sunday.

2 p. m. to 4 p. m. Saturday only.

Grievances will not be accepted at any other time except by special appointment. All grievances must be submitted in writing on the standard Union report form. Grievances will not be accepted over the telephone.

SPECIAL MEETINGS

Any group of members in a company or section desiring a special meeting may obtain a meeting hall and the assistance of a Union official by contacting the Secretary of the Union.

Meeting facilities cannot be guaranteed unless arrangements are made through the Secretary.

EXECUTIVE BOARD LOCAL 544

Relief Set-Up Bad in Rural Henn. County

Public relief conditions in Rural Hennepin and other rural counties in Minnesota are deplorable and need correction. They are immeasurable worse than in Minneapolis and no right-minded person contends that Minnesota relief and WPA workers are "in clover." Many townships have washed their hands of all relief responsibility and refuse to carry out their relief obligations under the law. In other townships tight-fisted local boards have kept or forced relief standards down far below the minimum of human needs. Extensive actual want and suffering runs rampant in the rural districts.

The want and suffering had been accentuated by the discontinuance of WPA Drouth Relief. Those who operate farms can get a Resettlement pittance for feeding cattle, but the children and families remain wholly ignored and neglected. Needy unemployed obtain either inhumanly low hand-outs or no relief at all; in either case they are reduced to begging or starving.

The largest amounts given Rural Hennepin relief families of four for groceries is \$18 per month. The same sized family in Minneapolis gets \$28.50 for four weeks. Essential food costs in Rural Hennepin are higher than in Minneapolis. Thus relief conditions are even worse than the figures would indicate.

There is urgent need for a state wide standardization of at least a reasonable minimum of relief given to families of varying size. How this can be done is the immediate concern of the Legislature now in session, of those in need and of the general labor movement.

A good beginning was made when the Hennepin County F.L. Convention adopted the Federal Workers Section's resolution for immediate needs of Rural Hennepin unemployed.

1. 20 per cent increase in direct relief.
 2. Supplementing of WPA wages.
 3. Jurisdiction over townships by County Relief Boards.

But in order to deal openly and adequately with the deplorable rural relief conditions it is necessary to go further. Every Board of County Commissioners must be required to file with the State Relief Agency in advance each month its schedule of minimum relief and supplemental allowances.

By this means it will become possible for the workers to cut through the red tape of the relief buck-passing system and break the strangle-hold of public "social workers" who are trained by and still give allegiance to the reactionary private "charity trust." Only then can the workers begin to hold public relief officials to their legal and social responsibilities.

The Federal Workers Section of Local 544 asks for the active assistance and co-operation of the Labor and the Farmer-Labor movements to bring pressure on the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners to put this program into effect locally, and also that the Legislature be asked to make this a state wide practice.

NOTICE TO LOCAL 131 MEMBERS

Any member of Laundry Drivers Union who has not paid his dues for the month of January will not receive a button for the current month. This means that your book must be stamped for the month of January in order to get the latest union button.

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 Supreme Court Puzzle

Something is going to happen to the Supreme Court if the cards fall the way they are now stacked. Just what that something is does not yet appear but action will rapidly materialize when the court throws out the Wagner labor relations act. Antagonism to the court was made plain as soon as Congress convened. Even old hardshells such as Joe Robinson, floor leader in the Senate, permitted himself to be harried into a declaration in favor of altering our judicial process to some degree. The hue and cry became louder as Senator Ashurst, chairman of the power Senate judicial committee, took up the cudgels. In the House numerous persons asked for the privilege of ripping from the court the autocratic cloak in which it has clothed itself. Now it is learned President Roosevelt will hold a conference on the problem of what's to be done with the Supreme Court in which members of the Attorney-General's office as well as legislators will participate. Date of the conference has not yet been set but presumably it will be called as soon as the White House satisfies itself that responses to its recent trial balloons indicate that the way is clear. AS YET, however, there is nothing to indicate that any fundamental change will be sought in the judicial process which permits industry to hide behind the skirts of legality. The whole federal hierarchy of judges, maintaining their positions and salaries for life, "during good behavior," constitutes as great an obstacle in the path of labor as the Supreme Court. There have been some suggestions regarding the problem of federal district and circuit court judges but they have come mostly from sources outside the group in power. None of those in the verbal firing line against the Supreme Court have yet ventured to aim their words at the thousands of federal judges who enjoin the government's power program in the Tennessee Valley, or who uphold criminal syndicalism laws, or who issue writs allowing strikebound companies to move property and then find strikers for "contempt" when they picket to prevent such removal, or who perform the thousand and one other acts which enable masters of industry to wield the power of government unrestrained.

Provisions of Security Act Made Plain to All Organizer Readers

Participation in Old-Age Benefit System Compulsory

Participation in the old-age benefit system is not a matter of choice. The Social Security Act provides that after January 1, 1937, all employees under 65 years of age, who earn wages in employments not excepted by the Act, are included as potential beneficiaries. No provision is made for permitting employees to participate voluntarily.

Citizenship Not Required for Participation

Citizenship is not an eligibility requirement for Federal old-age benefits. Any employee in industry and commerce should apply for an old age benefit account number regardless of whether he is a citizen or not.

Each Employee to Have Only One Old-Age Benefit Account Number

Each employee can have only one old-age benefit account number. In some cases, individuals who work for two or more employers at the same time have attempted to file these application cards with respect to their work for each employer. The number of the employees' old-age benefit account is permanent and is not affected by number of jobs engaged in or by changes in employment.

Application Information Is Confidential

The Social Security Board will, at all times, regard the information received from an employee as confidential. The files will be open only to those who have a legitimate interest in the administration of the Social Security Act.

Employers Responsible for Filing Applications for Old-Age Benefit Account Numbers on Behalf of Employees

Under Treasury Department regulations, employers of one or more persons coming under Federal old-age retirement benefits provisions of the Social Security Act are responsible for the filing of applications for an old-age benefit account number on behalf of their employees.

Under certain circumstances, employers are required to fill out and file applications for employees. These circumstances are defined by Treasury Decision 4,704 as follows:

"If an individual who is an employee on the last day of the period covered by an information return (see articles 402 to 405, inclusive of Regulation 91) has failed to file an application for an account number on Form SS-5, the employer shall file an application for the employee on or before the tenth day after such last day. If an employee has failed to file an application on Form SS-5, prior to the date he attains age 65, or the date he died before attaining age 65, or the date he leaves the service of the employer, the employer shall file an application for the individual on or before the tenth day after such date."

An employee, according to the Treasury Department Decision, must advise his employer as to the number of his account as soon as he receives it.

Records of Employers

According to Treasury regulations, all employers liable for

Keeping Step With 544

By Mickey Dunne

P. Corcoran and F. Dobbs were Green Bay visitors last Sunday. . . . A Wisconsin Drivers Conference.

G. Dunne's son, Jack, took over a paper-route for a weekly advertising publication. . . . The number of the route is 544.

Bill Sinnott turned preacher last Sunday. He did his stuff at the Lake Harriet M. E. church. His subject was "The Attitude of Labor in the Present Crisis."

Local 1859, Furniture Worker's Union, had a scuffle at the J. R. Clark Company last week.

Pack doesn't know the bad news yet.

Did you see what the Organized Power Workers did in Chicago last week? . . . They just turned off the light and power for four hours.

taxes under Title VIII of the Social Security Act are required to keep accurate records, in any form convenient to them, of all remuneration paid to employees after December 31, 1936, for services performed after that date.

According to the regulations, these records must include and show for each employee the name, address, and Social Security Account Number; occupation; total amount and date of each remuneration payment and the period of services covered by the payment; the amount of the remuneration subject to tax; and the amount of employees' tax withheld or collected on each payment, and—if collected at a time other than the time of payment—the date collected.

All this information, the Social Security Board emphasized, may be kept in whatever record form is most convenient to each employer.

The Board explained that the information will be requested from employers on forms designated by the Treasury Department as SS-1, SS-2, SS-2a and SS-3. All of these forms are available at the offices of Collectors of Internal Revenue, or will be immediately upon their issuance.

The Board explained that Form SS-1 is the monthly tax return and must be filed for each month after January 1, 1937. Forms SS-2 and SS-3 are information returns and must be filed initially for the period of January 1, 1937, to June 30, 1937. Thereafter, they are to be filed quarterly. These three forms must be filed on or before the last day of the first month following the period for which they were made.

Form SS-3 is the information return for employees who attain age 65 or who die before reaching age 65.

All the forms are to be filed with the Collector of Internal Revenue for the district where the employer's principal place of business is located.

Treasury Regulations 91, explaining wage records to be maintained by employers and giving information in regard to the forms, are available now at offices of local Collectors of Internal Revenue and at the Bureau of Internal Revenue, Washington, D. C.

All questions regarding tax payments, tax liability and tax forms should be directed to the nearest Collector of Internal Revenue and not to offices of the Social Security Board, since the administration of the tax provisions of the Social Security Act is under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Internal Revenue.

"Just by way of warning," said one of them.

Central Labor Union's Election Wednesday night.

The Regulated Carriers are meeting with Local 544 officials on the proposed agreement. G. Dunne and W. Brown are in charge.

Smith and Skogland deserve the nod for their work on the Wholesale Drug Agreement.

The Musicians Union are bantering non-union Loop joints right and left.

Want to see something startling? Take a look at Knapp, manager of the Dyckman hotel, three-quarter view, and you will swear you are looking at Floyd B. Olson.

Murph is in Chicago.

While in Washington, D. C., with the Independent Truck Owners recently, Skogland went into an exclusive men's furnishing store and asked for a dress shirt. The clerk showed him the white, stiff shirt belonging to a full dress suit. Skogland said, "No, I want a shirt, not a shroud."

The offices on the ground floor of 257 will be honeys when finished.

Al Hanson will file for Mayor.

The boys at Northland Ski company are Flirting with the Idea again.

Plenty of grievances at department stores were settled last week.

Bowling observers say that Dick Wilson, Local 221, bowls the steadiest game of anyone in the league.

Bakery drivers are rolling into the new union at a rapid rate.

Look for real trouble in the auto strike before another week is over.

Local 160 got a dandy decision from the Arbitration Board.

Lumber-jacks are still champing on the bit in Duluth.

Plans are still under way to open a gay spot in the basement of Drivers Headquarters.

Workers in wholesale fish houses are now covered by a Union Agreement which was signed between the Employers and the Union last week.

Ask your Laundry Driver for a Local 131 button.

When you drive your truck into a garage, ask the mechanic if he belongs to the Union.

A hot fight is in prospect over the State Liquor Bill.

Let's see your card!

LABOR... Looks at the Press

By Carl O'Shea

LABOR'S DAY

We drop our tools and people want, Yet we who feed are starved and quant.

Electrical Workers Dance Is Jan. 30th

Electrical Workers Union, Local 292, will hold their annual ball Saturday, January 30, at the East Side Eagles' hall, 117 S. E. 4th St. Music will be played by the seven piece band of Johnny Beardsteys. Tickets are now on sale and a splendid time is promised to all that attend.

When we but once perceive our power
No Bosses' might shall stay our hour.

Ye Bosses of the world, take fright;
When workers of the world unite
And mass themselves in grim array
Preparing for their coming day.

For every tear we've shed in vain;
For every bead of sweating pain;
For every drop of blood we've shed
We shall demand a boss's head.

—ARTHUR HOPKINS

Simile—as sincere as a German diplomat saying, "The rumor is too ridiculous for comment."

Daily Doubt, from Mr. Austin Lewis, lecturer: What would be considered "Left" in Mississippi or Arkansas would be regarded as far below the necessary human standard in California.

Don't tell me California is back on the Human Standard again.

Soothing thought from the Christian Science Monitor: But, though bombing planes roar overhead, in much of Spain the cows still go to pasture, the peasants still pray, the fires of home still draw the circle closer at eventide.

The whole trouble is that poor Mr. Franco simply doesn't know the Truth; he must be holding the wrong thought.

From the National Republic: We must remember that many Communists vote for "liberal" candidates on other party tickets, believing that by so doing they can disrupt the legislatures.

At that, it's a sounder theory than Popular Frontism.

New York headline: Hog Caller Performs for Elite of Gotham.

No doubt, such an audience could inspire a hog-caller.

News item, from the Atlanta Constitution: C. Stuart Boreman, prominent Georgian, outstanding business executive, and recently appointed lieutenant colonel, was born with the Sun in the zodiacal sign Sagittarius.

So was I—and look where it got me. I'm getting to the point where I even doubt the sun and the stars.

Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler permits this to drip from his ruby lips: Religious faith is once more returning as the ruling basis of life.

That's the best explanation yet of the wars in China, Abyssinia and Spain.

New York news item: General Foods Corporation will syndicate a cartoon series featuring "Wars" staged by the Joys and Glooms, with the Joys always routing their adversaries with the help of Postum.

What an idea—we can buy Postum for our army, and have a million dollars a year more for the unemployed.