

BUILD A LABOR TEMPLE - A UNION RADIO STATION

As from this hour you use your power, The World must follow you

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

Official Organ of the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council
MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE: 257 PLYMOUTH AVE. N.

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

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On the National Picket Line

Ringling Brothers put that old adage "the show must go on" to nefarious use last week when the two hundred non-performing employees of the circus struck during an engagement at the Madison Square Gardens in New York City. Roustabouts, peanut vendors, animal keepers struck for higher pay. The strike was settled after two days, but the terms of the settlement were not made public.

"The Greatest Show on Earth" is now supposed to be 100% unionized. One wonders at the quality of that unionism when one considers that all performers turned to and did the rough work necessary to put on the show for the duration of the strike. The manager claims also that this is the first "real" strike under the Ringling family management. "From 1884 to 1933 there never was a strike... During the next five years while the show was under other management we occasionally had small demonstrations..." says Mr. Smith, veteran manager. This year marks the first under the return control of the Ringling family.

A graduating high school class in a small town in Montana chose as their class motto "WPA, here we come." However, the principal vetoed the idea.

While Stalinist leaders of the Fur Workers Union in New York City continue to use the offices of Mayor LaGuardia as a meeting place for their negotiations with the fur bosses, the honorable mayor continues to keep seventy-five police on constant guard duty in the fur industrial center of the city. The general strike of the fur workers against drastic wage cuts continues into its second week. The strikers are constantly harassed by police, many have been arrested, many clubbed. Scabs are being herded into the factories. When the strikers attempt to stop this strike-breaking they are arrested.

Mayor LaGuardia was supported during his election campaign by many who called him "Labor's Friend."

The heads of the twenty standard railway unions meeting in Washington flatly rejected a proposal for a voluntary wage cut for their memberships on April 15. The reduction had been asked by the Association of American Railroads. The next step, under the Railway Labor Act, will be a written demand from the bosses Association upon the union for an agreement upon a wage cut.

Under this ponderous Railway Labor Act will then come a decision. (Continued on page 4)



Who Killed Him?

Patrick J. Corcoran was murdered by unknown persons on the night of November 17, 1937. The Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council offers a reward of TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS for information leading to the apprehension and conviction of the murderers.

Welfare Body Drops Anti-Labor Budget

The Federal Workers Section, assisted by committees from the Central Labor Union and the Board of Business Agents, won a signal victory at the Welfare Board meeting Thursday, April 14. The combined pressure of employed and unemployed forced the Welfare Board to instructing acting relief superintendent Braider to discard the unauthorized "secret budget" being utilized by Ole Pearson to place workers in private industry on a relief basis.

Not satisfied with the constant attempts to chisel on the miserable dole of the unemployed, Pearson proposed to keep tabs on the earnings of employed workers. A budget to be put in effect April 1, set monthly and yearly earnings for employed workers. Those earning above the set amounts were expected upon becoming unemployed, to live on their supposed surplus funds and would not be eligible for relief until such funds had been properly expended.

What This Meant As explained in last week's issue of the Northwest Organizer, Pearson's policy applied concretely to a worker with a family of three earning \$25 a week for a period of a year would force this worker to wait two to two and one half months before he could receive relief.

Bulletin

Federal Workers Section officers met with Alderman Hoyer, chairman of the relief committee of the welfare board, to lay before him evidence that Ole Pearson, relief superintendent, is still applying his "secret budget," refusing relief until "surplus" earnings according to his arbitrary and reactionary estimate, are exhausted by applicants. Pearson has done this since the welfare board voted to discard the budget last week.

Besides the hardships and suffering Pearson's "secret budget" would have inflicted upon unemployed workers and their families, it also presented serious dangers to the organized labor movement. This policy applied in strike situations would deny relief to strikers for a period of several months and thus give employers an opportunity to break strikes. The budget could very well have been utilized by the relief department as a club to dictate to all workers what they could eat, what they should wear, what kind of homes to live in, and how to spend their money. In short, Pearson proposed to dictate the living standards of all Minneapolis workers irrespective of the conditions established by the trade union movement. It is a tribute to the militancy and wide-awake character of the Minneapolis labor movement that this insidious employers' scheme was defeated.

Role of F.W.S.

The value of an unemployed organization linked closely to the trade union movement, such as the Federal Workers Section of Local 544, was never more clearly shown than in this instance where the vigilance of the Federal Workers prevented the application of Pearson's budget. It was the Federal Workers that got hold of a copy of the "secret budget," aroused the labor movement to the danger facing it, and mobilized the forces that defeated this reactionary measure.

Organized Labor Speaks

A committee from the Central Labor Union and the Board of Business Agents appeared before the Welfare Board and vigorously voiced labor's opposition to Pearson's reactionary scheme to put Minneapolis workers on a relief basis. One by one as the committee members were introduced by the F.W.S. representative Max Goldman, they informed the board that labor stood united in opposition to the budget and was ready to take all necessary action against the "secret budget." Grant Dunne, (Continued on page 4)

Opening of Ward Store Big Flop

Austin, Minn.—The two-months strike against the scab Montgomery-Ward store took a new turn April 9, Saturday, when the store was suddenly reopened through a double-cross by the management of the union negotiating committee. Wards was closed February 21, pending negotiations.

The company has continued to stall off the union. At one time during the strike, the reactionary Austin Daily Herald attempted to recruit a vigilante army of farmers to break the strike. Union officials, knowing the tremendous amount of mass resentment against the labor-hating Ward store, appealed to various public officials to prevent its opening for business, but to no avail.

Saturday morning the store opened, but was so packed with trade unionists looking for "bargains" that there was no chance to do any business. On Monday the same situation obtained. Tuesday morning several militant trade unionists in Austin were arrested and charged "with destruction of property at the Ward store," with "inciting to riot," with "malicious mischief," etc.

Actually this is all a trumped-up charge of reactionary Austin business men, who are trying to put over mass arrests of well-known unionists, in order to break the morale of the rank-and-file. Among those arrested were Julius Shaden, John Winkel, and Hollis Johnson.

For the remainder of the week only pickets remained on duty at the Ward store. Almost no business was transacted.

A member of the State Industrial Commission has visited Austin and made a report to Governor Benson on the situation. The labor movement of Austin correctly sees in the Ward case a test of unionism, and is determined to bring the reactionary retail establishment to heel.

All Awning Firms Sign With Union

The two-weeks strike of Minneapolis tent and awning workers ended Friday morning, April 15, with a smashing victory for General Drivers Union Local 544. Hoi-gard, the Minneapolis Tent and Awning, Canvas Supply, Acme Awning, Home Awning, and Uptown Awning all signed on Friday, granting the demands of the union. On Tuesday the American Tent and Awning company signed. Previously, three other companies had granted demands of their workers.

The new working agreement is retroactive to October 9, 1937, and will run to June 1, 1939. Checks for back wages will be paid all eligible workers. The 8-hour day, 40-hour week, with time and one-half for overtime, is specified. From April 15 to July 15, however, the 44-hour week will be in effect. The closed shop is granted. Minimum wages will run from 60c to 75c hourly, the latter scale being for drivers and experienced awning hangers.

About 60 men will be covered by the new agreements, it was announced this week by Local 544. At one time during the strike Pete Warhol of the Upholsters Union attempted to weaken the strike by seeking to recruit awning men into the Upholsters Union. This foul trick failed miserably, however, and only earned Warhol the further contempt of the organized labor movement.

Warehouse Union Holds Dance This Friday Eve

Members of the trade union movement are cordially invited to attend the First Annual Spring Dance and Vaudeville Show, sponsored by Warehouse Workers Union Local 20316, to be held this Friday night, April 22, at the Plamor Ballroom, Fourth Avenue and Eighth Street South.

Local talent will be featured in the vaudeville show. Music will be provided by Joe Jung and his orchestra.

A gala evening is anticipated. The membership of Local 20316 is made up largely of young men and women employed at such plants as Sears, Roebuck; Butler Bros.; Janney Semple Hill; etc. Admission is 35c.

471 Called to Capitol Dairy Strike Confab

Drivers Serve Demands on Boss A. T. A.

All Locals Notify Bosses Joint Committee Is Their Representative; A. T. A. Meets in St. Louis

The area negotiating committee representing eleven states, including Minnesota, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, South Dakota, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Illinois, Missouri and Indiana, have served demands for over-the-road drivers of the area on the American Trucking Associations and the committee will meet in Chicago on April 21-22 to await an answer from the bosses' organization.

On the same dates, the Board of Directors of the A. T. A. is meeting at St. Louis.

All locals in the 11-state area representing over-the-road drivers have sent formal notice to the St. Louis meeting of the A. T. A., informing the employers' representatives that the union committee in Chicago is their official committee. The committee will again inform the bosses from Chicago that they are ready and willing to meet to discuss an all-area contract for over-the-road drivers.

Pressure on the A. T. A. officials by the chiseling element in the industry who know that the uniform contract will put an end to unfair labor practices have resulted in stalling moves. On April 8, the Labor Relations Committee of the A. T. A. met in Washington, but took no action, passing the buck to the Board of Directors meeting now to take place at St. Louis.

The unions involved have exerted every possible effort to secure an intelligent understanding with the employers leading to a settlement. If the employers persist in ducking a settlement, they will bear the responsibility for the consequences.

Strike Machine Clamps Down — St. Paul Warehouse and Drivers Unions Help Pickets — Girl Strikers Active — Union Nails Company Lies

With the strike machine of Local 471 firmly clamped down on Land O' Lakes Company, Governor Benson initiated reopening of negotiations between the company's board of directors and the union.

At the governor's request, company officials and union representatives met with George B. Leonard and Charles Amoldt, representing the governor. One session lasted from 4 p. m. Tuesday until late in the evening, and another session started on Wednesday at 2 p. m. and was still going on as we went to press late Wednesday.

Local 292 Meets With NSP Officials

On Tuesday of this week representatives of Local 292 met with Messrs. Miller and Gleason of the Northern States Power Company. The meeting was devoted to going over the numerous letters the union has addressed to the company and to which the company has not yet replied.

The Utility Section Advisory Board at its meeting last week directed the union representatives to attempt to arrange a meeting with the company to ascertain why these communications had not been answered. The meeting was originally set by Mr. Miller for Friday of last week. However, before the time arrived Mr. Miller's office informed the union that he (Miller) was out of town and could not be back in time for the meeting. The union representatives then again contacted Mr. Miller and a meeting was arranged for Tuesday of this week.

Mr. Miller promised to immediately reply to the unanswered letters the union has sent the company. Included in the unanswered letters are requests by the union for arbitration proceedings to be immediately started on the Kelvinator Department matters, on the effective date for wage adjustments for the Riverside coal conveyor men, in the Overhead Dept. foremen's overtime, and on the John Williams case. Arrangements were also made to have a meeting Thursday of this week on matters relative to the rural patrolmen.

Operators Meeting Ordered The General Executive Board meeting on Monday this week ordered a special meeting of all members in the switchboard operating end of the Generation Department, and also authorized a resolution stating the union's position on the actions of a small clique of operators. The resolution is to be presented to the operators' meeting and to the general membership meeting of Thursday of this week.

This small clique of operators in recent days has taken unprincipled action. (Continued on page 4)

Girls Sign for Union Picnic Beauty Contest

The Picnic Committee of Local Committee of Local 544 has already received several entries in the bathing beauty contest to be held at the great Annual Picnic on June 12 at Webb's Place, at which Miss Organized Labor will be chosen. All girls who wish to enter the contest are urged to phone their names and addresses to the Northwest Organizer, Bridgeport 6966. The winner will receive a loving cup and a cash prize. To be eligible, you must be either a member of organized labor, or have a unionist in your immediate family.

The Picnic Committee will hold its next meeting this Friday, at which tickets will be distributed, and a sales campaign outlined.

First Brush With Police

A victory for the union resulted from the first brush with the police, in St. Paul, when Warehouse Workers Local 20297 backed the Land O'Lakes strikers and began to walk off the job at Central Warehouse as police squad cars attempted to drive off pickets. The warehouse is an important point for storage of the struck company's products and the pickets have successfully prevented moving in or out of Land O'Lakes goods. The warehouse workers returned to work when it was agreed that the police withdraw.

Local 120 Co-operates General Drivers Local 120 of St. Paul has placed a member on every picket car operating in that city, to aid in checking all trucks and warehouses to prevent movement of struck goods.

Most of the strikers were able to concentrate on patrolling the roads and terminals of the Twin Cities area, when the main burden of the picket line at the struck plant was taken over by the milk drivers.

An inspiring feature of the strike was the militancy and loyalty of the women strikers, most of whom had been unionized less than 30 days before the strike. They manned the commissary and took their turn on the picket lines.

Ninety per cent of the strikers are sons and daughters of farmers.

Nail Company Lie The union issued a statement to the press nailing the lie being spread by John Brandt, plant manager, that the union is demanding a closed shop for all Land O'Lakes plants. The union pointed out that it is merely representing its own actual union members, who are in the Minneapolis area, and is therefore making demands limited to the Minneapolis plant. The union's demand for a unionized shop has been formulated in the following terms submitted in negotiations:

"The Corporation may hire anyone of its own choosing when a vacancy arises, they to become members of Local 471 after 30 days employment, if assured of steady employment and their services acceptable to both parties."

Groff Strike Solid in Fourth Week

With the only issue that of decent wages, the strike of Pulp and Sulphite Workers Union Local 264 against the Groff Paper company in St. Paul went into its fourth week with the score of workers involved still determined to win a victory.

On Tuesday a meeting was held between the employers committee and a committee from the union and the St. Paul Trades and Labor Assembly, but the results were unsatisfactory, the company refusing to meet the wage demands of its employees.

The strike has the solid support of the St. Paul union movement. Picket lines continue to be maintained on a 24-hour basis.

CIO Plans To Set Up New Labor Federation; ILGWU Resists Move

Last week the Executive Council of the CIO announced that its next move would be the immediate formation of a new national federation of labor to rival the AFL. Present at the meeting whence came this announcement were the heads of the thirty-eight international unions comprising the CIO. A convention next fall is announced as the vehicle upon which the new federation will be launched. At this convention permanent officers will be elected, a constitution approved and the general policy outlined.

Up to this time the CIO has functioned as a committee. Originally ten international unions comprised the committee. This small group has been augmented by the entry of many other international unions and by the formation of new groups in the formerly unorganized field.

ILGWU May Balk It is considered likely that the CIO will lose one of its largest units because of Lewis' refusal to make peace with the AFL. The Dubinsky-led International Ladies' Garment Workers Union's Executive Board is split on the peace issue. The majority of this board is said to favor the

continuation of the peace efforts and authorities are of the opinion that the majority opinion will prevail.

Hit By Depression

The CIO claims four million workers are organized under its banners. Many thousands of these workers are organized under the various committees, the SWOC, the PWOC, and the TWOC. Contracts in existence have been and are being signed by these committees as such. However, the present business recession has dealt serious blows to the organization campaigns, and has made grave inroads into the membership of the CIO affiliates. It has been necessary for some of the largest organizing committees to dispense with the services of the majority of their organizers. At the present time all efforts are being made to retain what has already been gained.

Under the present set-up the CIO is topheavy with bureaucracy. Lewis has controlled the executive council. The Dubinsky break among the members of the council.

Authorities are in variance as to the causes and the ultimate results of the move to form a new

federation of labor. It is conceded by many that the move was absolutely necessary for the continued growth of the Lewis faction. Some semblance of a democratic control over the CIO policies must be established. Lewis will have two vice-chairmen to assist him and to share in the responsibility. It is considered likely that other officers will be named to the executive board in order to broaden the executive responsibility. A new organization drive in all of the basic industries is announced as the immediate task of the CIO.

To many the formation of a rival federation of labor deals a death blow to all possibility for peace within the labor movement. It is felt that Lewis has thus shut the door in the face of the AFL, that the future is to be full of bloody jurisdictional battles between the new federations.

Peace Still Possible

Still others feel that while peace between the Green-Lewis factions is not possible at the present moment, it is not an impossibility in the future. Louis Stark of the New York Times says, in the Sunday, April 17, issue of the Times: "Paradoxical as it may seem, however, an ultimate peace be-

tween the rival groups is not out of the question. What is discounted is an immediate peace. The paths of the two organizations will continue to diverge for some time until certain propitious signs appear to denote that peace negotiations may again be revived. Such hopes will be nurtured, as they have been, even in the darkest hours of dispute."

If the new Federation is to be one democratically controlled by its membership and the present bureaucratic control of the Lewis group broken it will be necessarily done by those international unions who have lately come into the CIO, and by the newly organized groups still operating under the banners of the various organizing committees. If these groups are to be organized into permanent bodies they must hold conventions prior to the fall meeting wherein the constitution of the Federation is to be drawn. The PWOC, the SWOC, and the TWOC must consolidate their forces if they are to have representation at this convention.

No indication has yet been given that such preparation for the establishment of democratic control is forthcoming.

Make Minneapolis a Union Town

Unemployment Compensation - - Told by An "Insider"

Compensation Payments a Means to Cut WPA Workers—Threatens Present Relief Standards—Payments Much Too Low—Social Security Numbers May Turn Into Fetters Under War-Time Dictatorship

Despite repeated statements of the Minnesota Industrial Commission that unemployment compensation payments would be made up to date, checks are still far behind. Some workers who applied two or three months ago, and who have reported weekly since, still have no information concerning the eligibility and amount of their claims.

Officials have stated that delay in issuing benefit checks was due in part to "the unanticipated volume of claims filed because of the abruptness of the business recession." But the "recession" started last August, and there were months of forewarning that increased unemployment would exist by the first of the year when the payment plan became operative. Perhaps administrative officials had their ears too close to business quarters who last fall were pooping the new slump as "a rest period in which we can spit on our hands before we go to work again."

Not Sure But Slow
It should be understood that even if the administrative machinery were not behind in making payments, workers would seldom receive their first check for six weeks or so after application had been made. During the first two weeks, no benefits are paid. Not until the end of the third week is the worker entitled to receive his first payment. But about this time he receives a statement informing him as to the amount he will receive. This statement is also sent to past employers. Then there is a twelve-day period in which the worker or employer may protest the amount if it is thought to be in error. After this period, if no protests are made, the first check will be issued.

What's In a Standard?
The payments made are far below the much advertised American standard of living. In fact, they are just one half the worker's ordinary wage, except that they can never be more than \$15 per week. And the number of weeks during which these payments are made is limited by the length of time worked during a previous year's period. Sixteen weeks is the maximum length of time during which these payments will be received.

Just Another Buck
If the worker has saved any money during his period of unemployment it is usually used up by the time he receives his first check. Then, the only way he can keep going on one half the amount he ordinarily earns is by getting supplementary relief. Essentially, unemployment compensation is another form of relief alongside direct relief, public works, and work projects. The net result is that

law would run around a million dollars in 1938; yet in the first three months, less than a million and a half (\$1,482,205.69 as of April 4) has been paid out to workers. Thus the cost of handling the red tape has so far cost about a sixth of the amount given out.

Boon to War-Makers
Tremendous work is entailed in keeping the tax records and accounts involved in the social security program. Workers are familiar with the fact that it is impossible to obtain most jobs without possessing a social security number. Few workers have realized the possible dangers in this national system of registration. In case of war, and the establishment of virtual dictatorship, these identification numbers could aid in setting up an internal passport system to restrict the movements and jobs of workers in line with the civilian mobilization plans of the war department.

Although social insurance plans had been operative in nearly all other modern countries for decades, the passage of the social security act in this country was ballyhooed as the final solution in abolishing the spectres of unemployment and penniless old age which haunt the workers throughout life. After only several months of operation, it can be seen that unemployment compensation is inadequate; further, that it even threatens the gains made by workers' organizations in establishing present standards of relief. Again we say to the will-o-the-wisp characters who put all their faith in "social legislation" that there is no substitute for the militant action of workers banded together in their own organizations.

With the Limousines

Received a card from Gordon Lawrence. If Carl Gustafson only knew what he wrote about him, he would go to Death Valley, Calif., and pull the other three hairs from Gordon's head.

We thank Bill Hines for the car he furnished for the funeral of David Evans. Thoughtful of you, Bill.

Sorry to hear one of our brother members, E. J. Ehlers, was injured Tuesday. He is at the Eitel hospital. Would like to have some of the members go up to see him.

Members please take notice: It pays to be paid up in dues, so you can get your benefits. Any member in arrears does not get the benefits.

There'll be a \$1 assessment on all members for the death of David Evans. This is to be paid in the month of May.

We had a new member in the club today. Did they take him—he had to get \$5 from me. Better luck next time.

Watson at Harry Smith's sure is a lady's man.

Next meeting May 3—don't forget.

Elk River Gets New Union Charter

On Thursday, April 21, Mr. Bert Mehaffey, international vice-president of the Building Laborers Union, will go to Elk River, Minn., to install the charter for a new union of common laborers which is being formed in that area. All workers interested in attending the installation and hearing of the program of the new union are urged to attend. The installation will take place at 8 p. m. in the Elk River courthouse.

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Bill Brown Says—

We're getting into good strike weather now.

Mankato Union Leader Tells Of Gains Made for Unionists

By O. E. Gundrum, President Drivers Union Local 487

Until a year ago, the working conditions and wages in the city of Mankato were very poor among the driving crafts. With the birth of the Drivers Union Local 487 these conditions and wages have been noticeably elevated to a much higher standard. In some cases, gains amounting to 50 per cent have been made.

Not only have wages and conditions been improved in those concerns with which Local 487 has won contracts, but the same is true in nearly every line of industry in the city.

In some cases company or independent unions have been formed to keep out the bona fide unions, and the employers have thrown a bone or two to their workers in the hope of keeping them from joining real unions.

The unions in Mankato are now united in the Central Labor Body for the purpose of more effectively fighting for the rights of labor.

God only created one thing that could ever get anywhere going backward, and that was the crawfish. The 23 unions affiliated to the Mankato Central Labor Body are not going to crawfish, but mean to continue their forward march until the whole town is solidly organized.

As an investment, there is no place in the world where a worker can place his money and win such large returns as will his union. Our contracts have won an average raise in wages for our members of \$25 monthly. Subtracting the \$2 monthly dues, the member thus can show a profit of \$23, or a dividend of approximately 1150 per cent. You can't point out another investment where the laboring man can get such a return for his money.

If ever the time was ripe for every worker in Mankato to build our labor movement, it is today. It is the announced intention of every union grouped under the banner of the Mankato Central Labor Body to make Mankato a 100 per cent union city before the two great labor conventions that are to be held here in September—those of the Minnesota State Federation of Labor, and the North Central District Drivers Council. Let's go, Mankato.

Labor School Party This Saturday Eve

With a \$10 grand prize, and the announcement that the Minneapolis Theater Union will present scenes from "Waiting for Lefty" and other plays, a large attendance is expected at the Labor School party to be held this Saturday evening, April 23, at the Transportation building.

Many local unions have purchased blocks of tickets. Jack Hughes will act as master of ceremonies. Games, side-shows, bunco, singing, dancing and refreshments will complete the list of amusements to be offered. The Labor School Students' Association, sponsor of the affair, urges all unionists to be in attendance Saturday night.

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Strand Ski Workers Set For Battle

New Richmond, Wis.—The campaign of the Strand Ski company against the Furniture Workers Local 1703 reached a new stage last week when the management laid off all but eleven workers. Layoffs were so planned that not a single union official or committee-man is now working for the company.

Strand, in a display of crude gall which has seldom been equalled in this part of the country, is now claiming that only those at present employed can represent the union or sign a new contract.

In his propaganda he often warns against "outside Hitler," coming into Wisconsin to organize workers. Most people would be surprised to learn that Hitler ever went anywhere to organize workers. What Strand objects to is the help Local 1703 is receiving in its work from other progressive Woodenware Union workers in the Northwest.

On Saturday night, April 16, the workers of New Richmond held a mass meeting under the joint sponsorship of Local 1703 and the AFL Federal Union, at which plans for the future were discussed. The workers of New Richmond are solidly prepared for a showdown with the union-hating Strand management.

A committee from Local 1703 journeyed to Minneapolis Friday to meet with the executive board of Furniture Workers Union Local 1859 on the state of affairs in the Wisconsin town.

Indiana Drivers Union to Have Jobless Section

From various cities throughout the Middle West and the East, news of the collapse of the Workers Alliance due to the belly-crawling "People's Front" policies of the Communist Party, continues to come to the Federal Workers Section of Local 544.

Last week we published such a story from Rochester, New York. This week the secretary of the Drivers Union Local 86 of Sullivan, Indiana, writes in, inquiring as to the organizational set-up of the FWS.

"WPA workers in our locality have had no organization for the past six months since the Stalinists captured the state organization of the Indiana Workers Alliance. . . The Alliance local was reorganized in December, 1936, and operated fairly decently and attained a membership of nearly 200 before the Stalinists put their People's Front policies in effect. It drifted down until it finally collapsed in October, 1937, with few remaining members. . . At the present time, it would be next to impossible to reorganize WPA workers under the Alliance banner."

Full details of the organizational apparatus of Local 544's FWS are being sent Brother Herbert Kimmell, secretary of Local 86 of Sullivan, Indiana.

DEMAND UNION CLERKS

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DRINK **KATO BEER**

See **GUST JOHNSON TIRE COMPANY** For Selected Used Tires Rebuilt Batteries 724 N. 3rd St. GE. 6126

Clerks at Brown Store All Union

Following an organization drive by the Retail Clerks Union Local 1986, all sales people at Brown's Clothing store, 310 Nicollet Avenue, are now members of Local 1986. A closed shop agreement has been won which brings wage increases to each sales person. Workers can buy union-made clothes from union clerks at Brown's.

The union is carrying on a campaign to win a contract from the Napier Shoe store which will bring higher wages and better working conditions to the shoe salesmen. Up to now, Napier has refused to sign a contract. It is reliably reported he has told his shoe clerks that if the union calls a strike at the Napier store, he will commit suicide. While Local 1986 does not consider such threats even if carried out a substitute for higher wages and better working conditions, it has announced its willingness to negotiate with Napier at any time.

St. Paul Union Blocks Wage Cut

The progressive AFL Machinists Lodge No. 459 of St. Paul, which recently passed a strongly worded anti-war resolution demanding that American imperialists and American armed forces get out of the Far East, won a resounding victory this week over the boss Automobile Dealers, Inc., and the Twin City Garage association.

A short time ago the St. Paul employers demanded that Lodge 459 accept a wage cut. The union quickly mobilized its membership, explained the situation, and an overwhelming vote was registered to declare a strike in case the employers tried to institute a wage cut.

On Tuesday members of Lodge 459 were all working under terms of a new one-year contract. The agreement provides continuance of present wages and hours, and will run until April 1, 1939. A membership meeting will be held on Thursday to ratify formally the agreement.

Hornig is having competition. Ralph Mengelcock is running with boots in his tires now, too.

Some of the boys took advantage of a rainy day to thoroughly celebrate Bob Bove's birthday.

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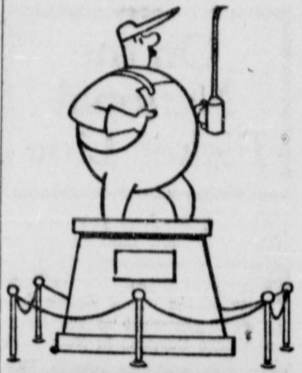
HOW ABOUT YOUR HEALTH? MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT For Complete Clinical Examination Complete and detailed physical study. Eye refraction and study. X-Ray examination, including heart, lungs, stomach, etc. Blood counts, including red and white count, differential, Wasserman and hemoglobin, urinalysis, together with other necessary laboratory tests. **\$8** **HENNEPIN CLINIC AT. 1367** 805 La Salle Avenue

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Building Service Union Dances Saturday, April 30

A dance and bazaar at the Minneapolis municipal auditorium on Saturday evening, April 30, is being sponsored by the Public Building Service Employees' Union Local 113. Gwen Cunningham, union business manager, will act as general chairman, assisted by the following committee chairmen: S. N. Johnson, M. W. Tanner, F. W. Peters, E. B. Larson, Fred Peterson, and Charles Morgan.



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The Great American Railway Strike - 1877

The great railroad strikes which broke out spontaneously in the summer of 1877 marked the first nationwide struggle of workers. It also marked the first time in American history that federal troops were called out to break strikes. More than one hundred workers were killed, and many more were wounded. The strike marked the birth of a nationwide labor movement.

Just as the depression of 1929 soon led to tremendous labor struggles, so the depression of 1873 cradled the coming railroad strike. During the middle 1870's, hundreds of thousands of workers were thrown out of jobs, and wages were cut nearly in half. The railroads, which had already forced through a number of cuts,

The Northwest Organizer initiates a series of articles depicting memorable struggles engaged in by American workers. A knowledge of the history and tradition of these struggles can help the trade unionist to a better understanding of the union movement of today. The present series will constitute the first section of a permanent department of articles dealing with the events and personalities of labor history.

prepared for still further wage reductions. With thousands unemployed, with but a weak union movement, the railroads felt safe, judging the men would be afraid to walk out.

Grievances
Aside from the wage cuts, the workers had other grievances against the railroads. Though working only three to five days a week, they were always subject to call. On the job they often toiled 15 to 18 hours per day. The companies, furthermore, displayed a hostile attitude towards the unions, blacklisted the active members and refused to meet with the union grievance committees.

There were only three Brotherhoods in existence at that time—the Brotherhood of Railway Conductors, formed in 1868; the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers, formed in 1873; and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers. Only the engineers followed a progressive policy. On June 1, 1877, the Pennsylvania Railroad announced a 10 per cent cut. During the next few days, the other large lines followed suit.

The Spark
The spark that set off the great strike was the announcement by the Baltimore and Ohio that

on July 16 all wages over \$1 per day would be cut over 10 per cent. On Monday morning, July 16, forty firemen and brakemen on the freight trains in Baltimore quit work. Finks were brought in to replace them. At Martinsburg, West Virginia, a like number of workers struck. When the mayor arrested their leaders, the crowd released them by force. As other workers joined the struggle, the governor called out two companies of militia.

They Fraternalize!
After a brief skirmish, the militia fraternized with the strikers, among whom were relatives and friends, and refused to fire upon them. Other companies of militia took similar action. The strike spread to other junctions until 500 men were out. With the default of the militia, the governor wired President Hayes for federal troops, the request was granted, and 400 U. S. troops converged on West Virginia.

Various division committees were set up by the strikers, and offered to negotiate with the company. The company refused, and used the troops to move 13 trains.

New strikes broke out in Ohio and Maryland. When a regiment of the Maryland militia was called out in Baltimore, a crowd of 2,000 gathered to prevent their departure. A pitched battle took place, resulting in the death by shooting of ten workers. The fury of the masses was so great that President Hayes sent two companies of artillery and a company of infantry. Fighting continued for three days.

Every striker found around the railroads was arrested. The troops often fired into the crowds of strikers and sympathizers.

The strike spread into Pennsylvania, when wages were lowered to 75c daily on June 1, and double-headed were put on, meaning harder labor, extra danger, and indirect wage cut and the laying off of nearly half the brakemen and flagmen. The company refused to bargain. Five hundred workers struck in Pittsburgh on July 19. Here too the governor ordered out the militia and the militia sympathized with the strikers. A thousand troops were imported from Philadelphia to break the strike. The troops immediately began firing into the crowd, killing 20 persons.

Civil War
Twenty thousand people gathered to stop the murderous troops, took the offensive against the troops, and took control of the city. Arms and ammunition

shops were raided. The troops were driven from the city.

Other cities became affected by strikes—Altoona, Easton, Harrisburg, Reading, Johnstown, Bethlehem, Philadelphia. The private bosses' Coal and Iron Police were brought into action. President Hayes sent 3,000 U. S. Regulars. For two weeks, Governor Hartranft traveled from city to city in Pennsylvania "restoring order," that is, breaking the strike. More than 10,000 troops were concentrated along the 60 miles of road around Pittsburgh. Division by division, the road was gradually opened by force.

New York Times Comments
On July 20, the strike spread to New York State, on the Erie Railroad. In a single issue, July 26, 1877, the New York Times referred to the railroad strikers as disaffected elements, roughs, hoodlums, rioters, suspicious-looking individuals, bad characters, thieves, looters, communists, rabble, labor agitators, dangerous class of people, gangs, tramps, drunks, law-breakers, ruffians, loafers, bullies, vagabonds, cowards, worthless fellows, incendiaries, enemies of society, malcontents, wretches, loud-mouthed orators, rascals, brigands, robbers, ruffians, felons and idiots. Not even the Minneapolis papers have achieved such sublime invective against recent strikes here.

Strike leaders in New York were arrested, held incommunicado, troops were called out, U. S. postal cars were attached to scab freight trains so that the strikers, in stopping the scabs, could be accused of interfering with the mails.

Spreading the Strike
From New York the strike rolled westward—to Buffalo, Chicago, St. Louis, and San Francisco. For more than a week President Hayes conferred daily with his cabinet about military measures to break the strike. Troops and warships were ordered to Washington to safeguard public buildings. As the strike moved westward, it extended to other industries and assumed the proportions of a general strike. The New York Times announced that Chicago was "in possession of communists," and indeed the strike in that city took on the proportions of civil war. Even the sailors walked off the ships. The city was patrolled by numerous regiments of infantry, and a battery of artillery, cavalry, 5,000 special deputies, 500 war veterans, and members of various patriotic organizations, plus the police.

In St. Louis, under the leadership of the Workingmen's Party, the strike was carried on longest and most successfully. With the defeat of the strikes elsewhere, however, the workers of St. Louis finally found themselves isolated, and the strike was gradually broken with the help of militiamen and federal soldiers, assisted by the courts who arrested strike leaders and set exorbitant bail.

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Friends Give Rally, Dance For I. G. Scott

A testimonial rally and dance in honor of County Commissioner I. G. Scott will be held at the Drivers Hall, 257 Plymouth Avenue, Friday night, April 29.

Sponsored by a large group of the Commissioner's friends in all three wards which comprise his district, the affair promises to be the largest of its kind ever held on the North Side.

Everything will be free. Enough beer and hot dogs and other refreshments have been procured to handle an overflow crowd, and Tommy Thompson's orchestra will take the stand at ten o'clock and play until closing.

Through the courtesy of the Teamsters' Joint Council, the General Arrangements Committee, headed by John Simcoe, chairman of the Third Ward Farmer-Labor club, were not only able to secure the hall free of charge, but also the services of the Warehouse Workers' Band.

In addition to I. G. Scott, honored guests and speakers will also include S. H. Bellman and W. F. Bennett, state representatives from this district.

The doors will open at seven o'clock, and the band will play for early comers until the program starts at eight. Interspersed between introductions, several outstanding radio and vaudeville stars have been engaged to put on a real show.

Sioux City Union Adds 2 Organizers

Sioux City, Iowa—Having added two organizers to the staff in the past month Drivers Local 383 of Sioux City, Iowa, is progressing in good shape. Local 383 reports all terminals of the Brady Transfer company back to normal again following a brief shut-down in service due to discrimination against union men in Fort Dodge. Through cooperation of the unions in the North Central area, a victory was achieved.

Splendid crowds attended the labor exposition held in the Sioux City auditorium on April 7-9. The Teamsters booth drew large crowds, one of the attractions being a pair of bulldogs belonging to Brother Omar Foster.

BUY UNION LABEL GOODS

The following patents were issued April 12, 1938, to Minnesota and Dakota inventors, as reported by WILLIAMSON & WILLIAMSON, Patent Attorneys, 925 Metropolitan Life Building, Minneapolis, Minnesota:
Ernest, Minneapolis, Minn., inventor for use in renovating shoes.
Davy, Harry G., Minneapolis, Minn., mixing machine.
Euse, Albert O., Crookston, Minn., disk harrow.
Johnston, Reynold B., Minneapolis, Minn., examination paper grading device (electrical).
Knifon, Roy S., Duluth, Minn., railway tie cutting machine.
Kunkel, Gregory J., Adrian, Minn., automatic tractor steering mechanism.
Mevius, John W., Lidgerwood, N. D., marker.

Practically all the strikes had been broken by August 16—but, says Samuel Yellen, in his book, *American Labor Struggles*, "not before society saw plainly that the land of opportunity . . . had been converted into the battleground for a bitter war between two essentially hostile economic classes . . . The moral effect of the strikes upon the working class was invigorating. A new spirit of labor solidarity was born and made national . . . Trades councils, unions, and assemblies came into existence and multiplied rapidly in the principal cities . . . The wars had only begun."
Next week: Read about the Eight-hour Movement and the Haymarket Massacre.

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Yellow Notes

By Curly and Lunde
Cedric Adams got a scoop on us in his column in the Minneapolis Star in regard to Reverend Bjere and George Taylor. A number of us have heard the Reverend preach a good sermon.

Much ado about nothing: The early morning shift jockeying for starting position as if they were driving for the king's cup race.

Remember when the teacher told us to mind our studies or we would end up as a square peg trying to fit a round hole? Well, boys, take a "gander" at the switchboard system; your number is on a peg and it fits the hole too.

One of life's little ironies: Hailing a taxi to take the little lady home after a big nite and finding you are riding in the back seat of the one you push around all day.

"Frog" Cloutier is in the market for a self-adjusting alarm. He spent good time and money selecting a new clock and now forgets to set it. Until you get a permanent solution to your problem, "Ernie," why not have someone on the graveyard shift throw some "Irish confetti" through your window?

C. S. M. said that he couldn't go for that "old man" stuff in the last issue. Says those gray hairs are from worry and not old age. Well, with that contract in the company safe and everyone out there pitching, it seems that his worries should be about over.

The manager of Local 544's baseball team must have been scouting the sand lots around Sixth avenue north for talent as he signed Tony Mantis as coach.

The guy must have been a lame-duck politician or just a natural sour puss. He climbed in the cab of Brother Blad the day after the strike was settled and burst out with, "What was the idea of the strike anyway, the company sure charges enough to ride in this coupe to pay a good salary, and I suppose you birds steal it all anyway so why do you need a salary? He did not ride far enough or wait for Blad to answer."

This sounds like a terminological inexactitude but a fella in the Local 1859 claims the fog was so thick out Hopkins way a pike was making strikes at his radiator ornament while driving through Saturday night.

Some of the bachelor members of this unit are light housekeeping, which doesn't mean they are employed at guiding the merchant marine through troubled waters.

Well, we've hung up the mittens and bennies for the summer and the next week or so we'll be howling for the mechanics to open the Aero-lites and get them ready for action. If old "Juke Pluvius" will give us a good rain storm once a week we'll all be satisfied.

They don't dare call us sissies for carrying out lunch buckets now, there's too many of us.

'Waiting for Lefty' At Labor Lyceum May 6 to 8

All Minneapolitans who have heard with interest of the current Broadway smash hit, "Pins and Needles," put on by the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, will be glad to learn they have a chance to hear locally some of the famous hit tunes, such as "Doing the Reactionary," "One Big Union for Two," and "Sing Me a Song of Social Significance."
The Twin Cities Joint Board of the ILGWU will present a 40-minute one act musical comedy using the above song hits, in conjunction with the Theatre Union's production of "Waiting for Lefty," at the Labor Lyceum on May 6-8.

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The Union Gallery



John Schiel

A union man for 25 years, Schiel joined the Federal Workers Section of Local 544 in 1935. Today he is the FWS office steward; besides, he is the official visitor to union members who are ill.

"Big John" is a loyal and devoted FWS steward, and thinks Local 544's unemployed section is the finest unemployed movement in America—as indeed it is.

For years Schiel was an oiler and fireman, and a member of the Boilermakers Lodge No. 11. Before that he carried a card in the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers.

Schiel was active in the 1934 drivers' strike, and participated in the first great battle in the market. He's lived in Minneapolis since 1923, is married and has six children.

Pulp Unions Pledge Solidarity vs. Bosses

A militant resolution of solidarity with the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council against those who are attacking the Council has just been received from the International North Central District Council of Pulp, Sulphite and Paper Industries through its secretary, Elmer P. Meinz.

The resolution points out that "Whereas, the employers, newspapers and the labor-hating organizations in the Twin Cities have been directing remarks against your organizations and your officers in regard to your effort towards organizing the unorganized workers, and Whereas, these remarks are untrue and their only purpose is to weaken the ranks of labor, Be It Resolved, We . . . wish to offer our support to your organizations."

ITO Benefit Dance This Saturday Eve

A benefit dance, with entertainment, door prizes and refreshments for the guests, will be given this Saturday night, April 23, at the Teamsters Joint Council's hall on Plymouth Avenue. This dance is sponsored by the Independent Truck Owners Section of Local 544 to raise funds to assist the family of the late Brother Les Turnham. Tickets are 25c and all friends of labor are urged to attend.

Elect **Dr. Russell R. HEIM**
Henn. County Coroner
Prepared, circulated and paid for by Dr. Russell R. Heim Volunteer Committee

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The 289 Blab

By A. M. Ogren
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING—THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 7:30 p. m. Very important. Popcorn Jobbers—Monday, April 25, 7:30 p. m.

Thirty-five men showed up for the wholesale bakery drivers meeting on April 14. Thirty-five out of a membership of approximately 250. You figure the percentage on that. I've got a headache.

The Easter Parade. Harry De Boer popped out in a brand new suit while Joe O'Hare had his shoes shined and the laces pressed.

E. Brown, Purity North Plant, is going to be married soon.

Somebody tried to slip gin in Frenchy Bistodeau's Coca Cola at the pistol shoot, and him on the wagon. Tsk, tsk. Oh yah. Frenchy's hatter, he tells us, is the janitor over at Chrisanos. Only sometimes he doesn't get quite the right size.

I suppose some of you have heard of Dave Mitchell's misfortune. His children were left home alone and somehow contrived to start a fire and burned up most of Mitchell's clothes.

Harold Simons, formerly with Independent, is now peddling the gay red wrapper. Fooie!

The boys at Zinsmasters are champing at the bit waiting for the opening of the fishing season.

Diamondball games are being scheduled right and left. Here's an idea. If you get the scores in to me by Monday of each week, we'll run the standings in the league.

A last reminder. GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, April 28, 7:30 p. m.

Trade union politics seeks to secure from the government measures for the alleviation of the workers' distress, but which do not altogether change that position, that is, do not remove the subjection of labor to capital.

Trade unions, to achieve their ends, must unite all who have attained at least the elementary understanding of the need to fight against the employers and the government.

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We sent telegrams galore. Instead of a lot of topcoats, in came a lot of promises . . .

Finally we cancelled the order. Immediately the manufacturer phoned long distance. "Sorry," he said, "just a slip on our part. Tell you what. Rather than try to resell those coats at this late date, we'll knock 20% off the price if you'll accept them!"

This was last week. Today the topcoats are on our racks. They're priced at \$14.85—but the most casual glance will tell you they're worth a lot more. The fabrics, the workmanship, the hand finishing, the fine trim speak for themselves.

So if you're in the market for a good topcoat, hurry down here today or tomorrow and save yourself a nice piece of change. The store: **BROWN CLOTHING COMPANY**. The address: 306-14 NICOLLET AVENUE. The policy: **MONEY BACK PLUS 6% IF YOU EVER MATCH OUR VALUES!**

Northwest Organizer

Published every Thursday under the auspices of the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council

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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 Northwest Organizer—Four Years

With this issue—Vol. 4, No. 1—the Northwest Organizer begins its fourth year of publication under this name, and the fifth year if one takes into account that first little dodger called *The Organizer* issued back in the memorable spring of 1934.

As is usual on our anniversaries, we offer an accounting to our readers of the growth and progress of unionism in this area during the past twelve months. Such progress was made possible by the sweat and action and planning of those who are untiringly devoting themselves to the cause of progressive unionism in the Northwest.

Growth of Unionism in the Teaming Crafts

Undoubtedly the most significant gains have been those made by the drivers unions throughout the North Central area. The past year has coincided with the birth and development of the Drivers Council which has organized and welded together tens of thousands of drivers in this area. In Minnesota today there are thirty drivers unions; in Iowa, ten; in North Dakota, five; in South Dakota, two; in Wisconsin, sixteen, etc. Many of these unions were born, organized thousands of members, and secured contracts during the past twelve months. Weekly, the Northwest Organizer has carried all the important news of unionism in the driving industry in this area.

A Calendar of Victories

As to unionism in Minneapolis, the Northwest Organizer did all that a progressive labor paper could do to assist in the many union victories won in the past fifty-two weeks. To list but a few of the union achievements: On April 23, 1937, the Warehouse Union Local 20316 signed its first contract with Butler Brothers; on May 17, the Sears, Roebuck workers won their first strike; on May 27, the Gas Workers Union Local 20490 signed its first contract with the Minneapolis Gas Light company, bringing a closed shop and wage increases. In June, our paper played a leading role in defeating Amendment No. 9, put forward by labor's enemies to place a Man on Horseback in the police chief's chair.

On July 1, the transfer strike of St. Paul's General Drivers Union Local 120 ended in a great victory. On August 17, the Electrical Workers Local 292 won its 25-day strike against Station W.D.G.Y.

On November 17, the day that Minneapolis labor lost Patrick J. Corcoran through a foul assassination by assailants still unknown, the Laundry Drivers Union Local 131 signed a contract with the Dry Cleaners Institute for six hundred workers. During the next two months the Northwest Organizer was able to expose throughout the United States, and thus render harmless, the attempts of the Communist Party and the employers to smear the Minneapolis unions for the Corcoran murder.

On December 13, Local 544 won its four-day grocery strike. A week later, the Dayton store signed a contract with the Warehouse Union.

On January 26, the Minneapolis Central Labor Union held its annual election and cleaned house on all who, during the past year, had sought to shield those who systematically were raiding established AFL unions. On February 28 the three-months J. R. Clark strike was won. On March 11 the Gamble-Skogmo strike was won. On March 22, the Northern States Power company had to resume relations with Local 292. On March 30 the six-weeks cab strike was won.

What Will the New Year Bring?

Such a record of solid achievement can hardly be matched by any other section of the American labor movement. A bare listing of part of the victories should be enough to fill every reader with renewed faith in the ability of the working-class to cope with and solve the heavy problems which capitalism places ever before us.

The coming year will be a period of Herculean struggle for labor in Minneapolis as well as throughout America. Besides the general problems of unemployment, inadequate relief, approaching war, here in Minneapolis we are facing a showdown with the organized bosses, who are even now raising a huge war chest to finance their plots against unionism.

Basing ourselves upon and drawing power and confidence from the achievements of the past, we believe that the section of labor for whom the Northwest Organizer is spokesman, will look back one year from now and behold a union movement more powerful, more united, more advanced in ideas, than the movement we now know. For this, determination and struggle are necessary.

As last year, the Northwest Organizer pledges itself anew to assist in the work to MAKE MINNEAPOLIS A UNION TOWN! AND KEEP IT UNION! AND CARRY ITS MESSAGE TO EVERY SECTION OF THIS REGION WHERE WORKING MEN AND WOMEN TOIL FOR WAGS!

The Workers and the Sales Tax

Inasmuch as the sales tax issue has been introduced as a subject of public discussion by Mayor George Leach, aspirant to the governorship, it is timely to once again present the fundamental objection of the workers to such forms of taxation.

Either direct or indirect taxation imposed on the commodities consumed by the masses is extremely unfair, because the brunt of such taxation falls upon the shoulders of the poor and exempts the rich. The poorer a man is the larger is the share of income he gives to the state in the form of taxes on commodities. The poor and the very poor represent nine-tenths of the whole population, consume nine-tenths of the commodities that are taxed, and pay nine-tenths of the total sum of such taxes, whereas they receive much less than one-half of the total national income.

The family receiving \$2,500 or less yearly has to spend its entire income for living expenses. The sales tax on commodities would raise the price of practically everything such a family purchased.

The rich, on the other hand—and especially those who holler loudest about the "crushing tax burden"—

Don't Tread on Me

(Slogan and Banner of American Revolutionists, 1776)



Labor Demands Increased Relief from Welfare Board

Labor's demands for increased relief allowances were served on the Minneapolis Welfare Board in written form by the Federal Workers Section on April 13.

The letter embodying the demands, and the proposed schedule, follow in full:

PROPOSED BUDGET FOR SUPPLEMENTING WPA AND PART TIME WORKERS
Proposed by Federal Workers Section, 544, April 13, 1938

Size	Fam.	Groc.	Milk	Rent	Elec.	and Ice	Gas and Fuel	Inc.	Total
1	11.50	1.40	12.00	2.75	9.00	3.00	4.50	45.15	
2	18.40	2.20	20.00	3.9	9.00	6.00	5.00	4.20	
3	24.30	2.90	22.50	3.60	9.00	9.00	5.50	76.80	
4	30.90	3.70	25.00	4.80	9.00	12.00	6.00	91.40	
5	38.00	4.60	27.50	6.00	9.00	15.00	6.50	106.60	
6	44.10	5.30	30.00	7.20	9.00	18.00	7.00	120.50	
7	49.60	6.00	32.50	7.20	9.00	21.00	7.50	133.80	
8	57.50	7.00	35.00	7.20	13.50	24.00	8.00	152.20	
9	66.90	8.00	35.00	7.20	13.50	27.00	8.50	166.10	
10	74.30	8.90	35.00	8.00	13.50	30.00	9.00	178.70	
11	77.80	9.40	35.00	8.00	13.50	33.00	9.50	186.20	
12	86.60	10.40	35.00	8.00	13.50	36.00	10.00	199.50	
13	94.20	11.30	35.00	8.00	13.50	39.00	10.50	211.50	

April 13, 1938

Minneapolis Welfare Board
Court House
Minneapolis, Minn.
Gentlemen:

Since the present supplementary budget for WPA workers and part time workers ends May 1 we herewith are submitting a new budget upon which further supplementing should be based.

We want to call your attention to the gas, electric and rental allowances which our organization believes are entirely inadequate and were not adequately calculated in the budget accepted by the Board on November 15, 1937. Prior to the adoption of the November 15 budget an increase of twenty per cent was granted by the Board upon Alderman Hoyer's motion. This increase was never put into effect but rather gas and electric allowances were cut. Our organization has, therefore, included the increases in gas and electricity in our proposed budget which was voted by the Board on November 15.

We also call your attention to the absolutely inadequate rent allowances now being paid by the Relief Department. On the basis of these rentals relief clients and WPA workers are forced to live in sub-standard homes with resultant jeopardy to health and decency. We therefore are proposing that rent allowances be paid to allow decent housing facilities for relief clients. Furthermore, the increased rent allowances will permit landlords to remodel the present slum dwellings now being occupied by relief clients. We also wish to call your attention to the fact that the St. Paul Relief Department is now paying rent, electric and gas allowance comparable to those in our new proposed budget.

We further demand that a special meeting of the Welfare Board be called to consider the enclosed budget on or before April 22.

We also wish to inform you that the proposed budget we are submitting has the backing and support of the following organizations: the Minneapolis Central Labor Union, the Teamsters Joint Council, the Board of Business Agents, the Allied Printing Trades, the Building Trades Council and the April 11 Mass Meeting at the Auditorium.

GRANT DUNNE
Chairman, Federal Workers Section
ED PALMQUIST, Vice-Chairman, FWS

Warren Shade Co. Closed Down

A plantwide shutdown at the Warren Shade company was brought about last Wednesday noon, following the bad faith of the employer in negotiating a new union contract with Furniture Workers Union Local 1859. While the union was in negotiations with the management early last week, the boss hired a non-union truck driver to load some of the plant

machinery and cart it out of town. The removal of this machinery meant that half of the Warren employees would lose their jobs.

During the negotiations the company has repeatedly refused to grant the closed shop or strict seniority, etc.

Local 1859 announced this week its members will not return to work until the machinery is brought back and a closed shop contract with the union is granted, guaranteeing a 5c hourly wage increase, strict seniority, etc.

still receive such large incomes that they cannot possibly spend them. The sales tax affects them scarcely at all.

Not the sales tax, but Federal and State taxes, raised by taxing industry and finance—that is the unalterable position of the masses of America on the tax question.

Board Forced to Back Down On Budget

(Continued from page 1)

Bob Cramer, Walter Frank, W. Smedburg, and other members of the committee bluntly told the board that unless definite action was taken against the unauthorized budget labor stood ready to put on a demonstration around the courthouse that would equal in size the attendance at the April 11 mass meeting. The presence of representatives of the trade union movement and the organized unemployed standing shoulder to shoulder in behalf of the unemployed was a splendid demonstration of the solidarity that has been such an important factor in the great advances made by the labor movement in Minneapolis.

Grant Dunne, speaking for General Drivers, Local 544, demanded to know why the Welfare Board permitted the application of unauthorized relief schedules. No one on the board seemed to know anything about the budget despite the fact that it had been printed by Pearson's office and distributed to all relief investigators. One board member, McLaughren, attempted to side-step the issue by declaring that the policy applied by the budget had been in effect since 1931. His blustering efforts however, were promptly called to order by the union committee as an attempt to whitewash Pearson's illegal and unauthorized actions. I. S. Joseph pleaded ignorance of the budget but asserted that Alderman Hoyer, chairman of the relief committee, must have authorized it. Hoyer promptly denied having given any such authorization.

Grant Dunne, analyzing the budget, informed Joseph that on the basis of his (Joseph's) earnings of \$95,000 a year it would probably be a long time before he could apply for relief. Joseph voted against Alderman Kauth's motion to discard Pearson's budget.

Sad Day for Leach

On the whole it was a sad day for Mayor Leach's boys on the Welfare Board. Not only were they forced to retreat on Pearson's budget but Joseph's much-heralded reactionary scheme to deprive married women of their jobs went down to defeat. The presence of the labor delegation contributed in no small manner to preventing Joseph from introducing into Minneapolis, Hitler's policies of keeping women out of industry. Joseph, as well as the fascist dictators, knows very well that depriving women of their jobs offers no solution to the problem of unemployment. But since neither Joseph nor Hitler have any solution to the problem of unemployment, they trot out the economically unsound and culturally reactionary scheme of depriving women of their jobs.

The victory at the Welfare Board coming as it did right after the April 11 mass meeting, demonstrated clearly that Minneapolis labor stands united and ready to resist all attempts of the bosses to reduce living standards.

Local 292 Meets With NSP Officials

(Continued from page 1)
ciple liberties with their union membership and has attempted to deal with the company for their personal benefit and in opposition to the general welfare of the union. This clique has also sponsored a petition which calls for the switchboard operating members to take a scissorbill anti-union stand to attempt to force the union to accede to their so-called "fair demands."

Local 292 Meets With NSP Officials

A full report of the entire matter will be made to both the operators meeting and the general membership meeting.

Local 20316 Seeks New Buzza Pact

The Warehouse Workers Union Local 20316 announced this week it was carrying on negotiations with the Buzza company looking towards a new working agreement. Readers will recall that Local 20316 carried on a strike against Buzza's about one year ago, which resulted in a signed union contract with considerable wage increases. The union is asking further wage increases this year, improvements in working conditions, and a seniority provision similar to that standard in the industry in Minneapolis.

Wholesale Paper Drivers!

A special meeting of all wholesale paper drivers will be held Friday evening, April 22, 7 o'clock, at Hall No. 3, 257 Plymouth Avenue North. All eligible drivers are urged to attend this meeting.

BUY UNION LABEL GOODS

Some union leaders throw the blame for their own backwardness upon the workers, and justify their own lack of energy by the alleged lack of energy of the workers.

On the NATIONAL PICKET LINE

(Continued from page 1)

mand by the Association upon the Railway Labor Executives Association for conferences upon the wage question. The bosses must give the unions thirty days notice for such a conference which will, in their turn, last several weeks.

When these conferences break down the National Mediation Board will then offer to mediate, or its services may be invoked by either party. With the failure of mediation the Board will suggest arbitration. Should either party refuse this step then the Railroads can post notices of wage reductions effective on a certain date. Whereupon the union may take a strike vote. Should the membership vote for a strike and against the cuts the next step in this slow and wearisome process is the establishment of a Presidential Factfinding Commission.

After the Presidential Factfinding Commission has had thirty days to study the situation and has submitted its recommendation to the president another thirty days must elapse before either side can take any further steps.

The above described machinery of law necessary to make any changes in a railroad worker's pay envelope, either up or down, takes several months. Such legislation as the Railway Labor Act is an effective weapon for hamstringing the militancy of organized labor. They are created for this purpose and for this purpose alone.

A strike of 1,000 truck drivers in Rochester, N. Y., has tied up traffic for three days. Shipments of fruit and vegetables are mainly effected. Milk and meat shipments are not being stopped as they are not involved in the strike.

Trouble seems to be brewing swiftly in the leadership of the United Auto Workers Union. There are two factions, the "unity" and the "progressives," these latter led by Martin and the former by vice-presidents Ed Hall and Mortimer. The trouble

is of long standing. Martin is under fire from the opposition because of the stand he took on the war question, his support of the Ludlow Amendment. Both factions have appealed to John L. Lewis to settle the inner-union controversy.

Martin charges that Hall and Mortimer are under the control of the Communist Party and that it is this influence which is causing all of the sudden, unprepared sit-down strikes which have hit the industry during the past period.

A one hour sit-down strike in the Briggs Manufacturing Plant at Detroit was ended Monday when the president of the local ordered the men back to work. Cause of the trouble and the ultimate settlement were not made public.

It is considered likely that the trouble within the UAWA will be settled by the calling of a special convention where the delegate will be asked to replace Martin. What Lewis' attitude to this will be has not as yet been disclosed.

Great labor leaders devote not only their spare evenings but the whole of their lives to the movement.

FOUND—On the McGinty road, a wallet with \$1. Finder can claim at Northwest Organizer office. Picked up by 544 member.

Today Makes 8,038 Days . . .



UNION MEETING SCHEDULE

LOCAL 471 The Milk Wagon Drivers and Dairy Employees Union Local 471 meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7 p. m.	LOCAL 292 Inside Section—First Tuesday Radio Section—Second Tuesday Shopmen's Section—Second Wednesday Utility Section—First Thursday General Membership—Third Thursday Seniority Board—Every Monday Utility Advisory Board—Every Tuesday General Executive Board—Mondays preceding first and third Thursdays Inside Advisory Board—Alternate Mondays from G. E. B. Examining Board—Second Wednesday Utility Stewards—Wednesdays preceding first and third Thursdays
LOCAL 131 The Laundry and Dry Cleaning Drivers Local 131 meets the first and third Wednesdays of each month.	LOCAL 125 The Taxi Drivers Local 125 meets on the first Tuesday at 4 a. m., and on the third Tuesday at 7:30 p. m.
LOCAL 664 The City and Sanitary Drivers Local 664 will meet the first and third Fridays of each month.	PRIVATE CHAUFFEURS The Private Chauffeurs and Helpers Local 912 meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month.
LOCAL 1086 The Retail Clerks Local 1086 will meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month.	LOCAL 544 MEETING SCHEDULE APRIL, 1938 Friday, April 1—Job Stewards Monday, April 4—Package Delivery; Department Store; Coal Wednesday, April 6—Sausage; Petroleum Thursday, April 7—Greenhouse; Independent Truck Owners Sunday, April 10—Wholesale Grocery, 10 A. M. Monday, April 11—General Membership Wednesday, April 13—Market; Wholesale Liquor Friday, April 15—Job Stewards Sunday, April 17—Over-the-Road, 10 A. M. Monday, April 17—Building Material; Furniture Stores Thursday, April 21—Tent and Awning; Printing; Newspaper 10 A. M. Monday, April 25—Spring Water Tuesday, April 26—Taxi Drivers. Night drivers, 1 P. M., Day Drivers, 7 P. M. Thursday, April 28—Transfer and Warehouse; Wholesale Drug; Excavating and Sand and Gravel Seniority Committee meets each Tuesday at 7 P. M. in Hall No. 1 Grievance Committee meets each Tuesday and Friday at 7 P. M. in Hall No. 2 Executive Board meets each Wednesday at 9 A. M. in Staff Room
PETROLEUM DRIVERS Regular Membership Meeting—First Wednesday each month.	LOCAL 1859, 20481 General Membership, Local 1859—April 6 Casket Section—April 2 General Membership, Local 20481—April 15 Clark Section—April 20 Puffer-Hubbard Section—April 21
FEDERAL WORKERS Regular Membership Meeting—Second Friday each month. Stewards' Meeting—Every Wednesday, 8 p. m.	LOCAL 20316 Stewards—First and third Tuesday Regular Membership Meeting—Fourth Tuesday Executive Board—Regularly every Monday
LOCAL 289 Retail Drivers—First Thursday. Wholesale Drivers—Second Thursday. Yeast Drivers—Third Tuesday. Cake and Pie—Third Thursday. General Membership—Fourth Thursday.	ICE, COAL DRIVERS MEETING SCHEDULE Local 221, Ice and Coal Drivers Union, will hereafter hold all of its regular meetings at the new headquarters of the Teamsters Joint Council, 257 Plymouth Ave. N. Regular Union meetings will be held on the second and fourth Tuesdays. Executive Board meetings are subject to call. The Union office is now located at the above address.