

THE ORGANIZER



TWO TWENTY-FIVE

SOUTH THIRD STREET

UNITED LABOR ACTION

SMASH THE CITIZENS ALLIANCE

No. 8

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, FRIDAY, JULY 20, 1934

Price one cent

Johannes Rolls One Truck

Labor Review's Workers Back Strike

Minneapolis labor stands on... The Minneapolis Labor Review... The Minneapolis Labor Review on its front page gives the following views: must be plain to every member... In their desperation, the employers are now playing their last card. It is a despicable one, smelling of the swamp out of which it comes. It raises the "red scare" to a new pitch and calls upon the "respectable citizens" (How well we know them!) to lynch the leaders of Fighting 574.

Citizens Alliance Cut-Throats Threaten Violence— Let Them Try It!

Every contemptible and malicious trick known to union-busting employers has already been employed to disrupt and smash Drivers Local 574. The sewers of misrepresentation, falsehood and slander have been opened up and spewed against our organization. Thousands of dollars have been spent in employers' publicity against the Union in the press they control. Not only in the "respectable" papers, but in the weekly scandal rag which pollutes the atmosphere, the truckers and their leaders have been subjected to a running fire from the very beginning of the dispute. But all these battering rams of the employers have been unavailing against the powerful structure of our Union, held together by the solidarity of its members, by their contempt for backbiters and windjammers, by their determination to let nothing stand in the way of their righteous fight to gain conditions that will permit them to live like human beings. The employers said that the Union does not represent the men. Thereby they provoked the two strikes—in May and the present one—in which the thousands who responded to the strike call gave conclusive proof that the Union DID represent the men. The employers then tried to disrupt the Union from within, by the efforts of concealed agents or unconscious tools. They claimed that the majority of the men did not support the policy or leadership of the Union. They organized separate meetings to plan the disruption of the Union. Thereupon, the vast bulk of the membership rose to demonstrate its unanimity and to reveal that the disrupters represented an insignificant handful of uninfluential individuals. The meetings of the demoralizers were turned into magnificent demonstrations for the Union. The employers tried to drive a wedge between the rank and file and the leaders. They wanted these leaders out because they couldn't bribe them or frighten them. They launched a vicious "red scare" campaign against the leaders of 574, under the impression that the union members were four-year-old children who could be scared with a bogeyman. Thereupon, the membership replied by giving their officers a unanimous vote of confidence. The employers finally tried the claim that the members really didn't want to strike, that they were really anxious to accept the miserable terms of the bosses. Thereupon, the membership replied on two occasions with a rousing, enthusiastic and determined unanimous vote FOR the strike which was launched Monday midnight. And they did strike. And what is more, they have succeeded in bottling up the market so firmly that not a single truck has been able to roll.

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150 Cops Convoy 150 Pounds of Freight in a Five-Ton Truck

Provocative Bluff of Police Chief Only Shows How Completely Truck Traffic Is Tied Up

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proach the line of cops "guarding" the decoy truck. A sergeant ordered him back in the car, whereupon Dunne informed him of the reason for his presence. The cop said: "I don't give a God Damn what you want, get back in the car." When Dunne repeated his message, the cop stuck a shotgun in his ribs and ordered him back in the car, calling him various insulting names. The incident was wholly cooked up. Newspaper extras were on the street before it was over. This, and the presence of camera men at the starting point make it clear that this was a carefully laid plot. It was hoped in the first place to make people think hospital deliveries had been interfered they moved trucks as they had aimed been thanked repeatedly by the director of the Hospital Council for making possible full and regular delivery service to all hospitals. The boss press has itself admitted the truth of this. Secondly, the plot was to save the bosses faces by making people think they moved trucks as they had aimed to do yesterday—but did not. They moved a decoy truck around under the (Continued on page two)

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In a special statement given to The Organizer this morning, Wm. S. Brown, President of Local 574, announced a monster trade union mass meeting to be held tonight in a vacant lot at Fourth Ave. South and Seventh St. at 8 p.m. All trade unionists and friends are invited to attend. The meeting will be addressed by members and officials of Local 574 and its Strike Committee of 100. Other labor leaders from other crafts will also be present and speak. Important questions will be taken up concerning the interests and fate of the general union movement in the Twin Cities, as well as Local 574. Robert Fleming, President of the St. Paul truck drivers local, is expected to be among the speakers. In announcing this meeting, Brother Brown informed The Organizer that picketing continues to work out perfectly. "The bosses valued yesterday to be the good they threat to start trucks rolling," said Brown, "and they will still any time they try. On behalf of Local 574, I want to say this: We would rather wait than strike any time, but if we do not get recognition and decent conditions we will strike until we get them. No more stop 574. The membership and officers are solid on this. The bosses may not think we are able to split our own ranks as we are solid we are going to win." Asked to comment on the editorial in yesterday's Journal, Brother Brown characterized it as "responsible." "When we want advice as to how to run our affairs, we won't ask the Journal. We workers will handle our own strategy and our own fate. A strike is nobody else's interference. The cops have no respect to our membership. Johannes is going to lead us to a victory or himself. That's final!"



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## "Labor Review" Calls Workers to Back Strike

Official Union Organ Strvs Fight Concerns All

How Minneapolis labor stands on the question of 574's strike is plainly evidenced by an editor in today's issue of **The Minneapolis Labor Review**, the only official organ of the Central Labor Union of Minneapolis and Hennepin County, of the Minneapolis Building Trades Council, the United Card and Label Council, and the Minnesota Pipe Trades Assn. The **Labor Review** on its front page gives notice to the following views:

"It must be plain to every member of organized labor and it should be to every worker that the strike of General Drivers is not a matter that concerns General Drivers alone.

"It is a matter that concerns every man, woman and child of the workers. And it concerns those concerns with which the workers spend their hard earned money.

"During the present strike, men and women must be fed and cared for.

"Already the Commissary has been established at the Drivers' Union headquarters, at 225 S. Third St. It is in charge of the Women's Auxiliary of the General Drivers and the Hotel and Restaurant Employees union.

"During the last strike the Hotel and Restaurant Employees' union and the Auxiliary did wonderful work in the operation of the Commissary.

"This is an appeal to those who can give and to give as liberally as they can to the feeding of the strikers and their courageous wives at the strike Commissary.

"If you can give money, give money. If you can give food of any description, including fresh vegetables, give that. Food and money are needed and needed now.

"Make contributions either at the Union headquarters, 225 Third St. S., or at the Picket Headquarters, 215 Eighth St. S.

"It is not for themselves alone but for organized labor, for all workers of the city, that the Truck Drivers are now struggling.

"Workers of Minneapolis cannot afford to permit the Truck Drivers to be defeated.

"Defeat of the Truck Drivers would mean for Minneapolis Labor general wage reductions and increased hours.

"It is not necessary to recite here the valor and determination of the Truck Drivers and their wives. The story of the last strike is the story of that.

"But they must have food and support during this strike and it is up to us of the labor movement to see that they receive sufficient to eat and all possible support in all possible ways.

"Workers are urged also to report at the Picket Headquarters to render whatever assistance they can. Those who will report there will find that there is plenty for everyone to do.

"Think together, work together, act together to win this strike, and banish the specter of hunger and despair that the Citizens Alliance has kept over the workers of Minneapolis for the past several years."

## Citizens Alliance Cut-Throats Threaten Violence—Let Them Try It!

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But all these battering rams of the employers have been unavailing against the powerful structure of our Union, held together by the solidarity of its members, by their contempt for backbiters and windjammers, by their determination to let nothing stand in the way of their righteous fight to gain conditions that will permit them to live like human beings.

The employers said that the Union does not represent the men. Thereby they provoked the two strikes—in May and the present one—in which the thousands who responded to the strike call gave conclusive proof that the Union DID represent the men.

The employers then tried to disrupt the Union from within, by the efforts of concealed agents or unconscious tools. They claimed that the majority of the men did not support the policy or leadership of the Union. They organized separate meetings to plan the disruption of the Union. Thereupon, the vast bulk of the membership rose to demonstrate its unanimity and to reveal that the disrupters represented an insignificant handful of uninfluential individuals. The meetings of the demoralizers were turned into magnificent demonstrations for the Union.

The employers tried to drive a wedge between the rank and file and the leaders. They wanted these leaders out because they couldn't bribe them or frighten them. They launched a vicious "red scare" campaign against the leaders of 574, under the impression that the union members were four-year-old children who could be scared with a bogeyman. Thereupon, the membership replied by giving their officers a unanimous vote of confidence.

The employers finally tried the claim that the members really didn't want to strike, that they were really anxious to accept the miserable terms of the bosses. Thereupon, the membership replied on two occasions with a rousing, enthusiastic and determined unanimous vote FOR the strike which was launched Monday midnight.

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"The Communists in Minneapolis have thus far succeeded in keeping their control of the Truck Drivers Union, in preventing a secret ballot on the renewal of the strike, and in dominating the labor side of the controversy. BUT LET THEM BEWARE LEST AN AROUSED CITIZENRY HERE TAKE VIGOROUS MEASURES AGAINST THEM."

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Asked to comment on the editorial in yesterday's **Journal**, Brother Brown characterized it as "sniping." "When we want advice as to how to run our affairs, we won't ask the **Journal**. We workers will decide our own strategy and our own fate without anybody else's interference. The same goes with respect to our membership books. Nobody is going to look at them but the union itself. That's final."



# LATEST NEWS FROM THE STRIKE FRONT

## U. S. Strike Wave Still Rising

The militancy and the determination with which large sections of the nation's working class has downed its tools and gone to battle these last few weeks betokens deep-seated dissatisfaction over intolerable conditions of the workers, both employed and unemployed, under the so-called New Deal. Not since 1919 have so many workers been in motion as are now on strike.

The tremendous pickets lines surrounding the Kohler plant in Wisconsin were 100 per cent effective yesterday. No one was permitted to enter the plant. Carloads of coal consigned to the power plant were turned back. Strikers, impatient at delay in mediation conferences, say they will keep right on picketing.

In Decatur, Alabama, two men believed to be strikers were beaten and one man was shot in the leg. The striking textile and rubber workers are standing firm.

In Portland the workers have yet to decide on the general strike. Conditions are very tense. Pickets regained one pier after having been driven away early in the day by "special guards" using gas.

In Seattle, the same: everything is tense; anything may happen.

Cleveland's striking taxicab drivers went back to work yesterday after having forced the bosses to capitulate. Recognition of the union and a weekly minimum of \$12.00 were won.

As to Frisco—the general strike committee has recommended that the united action be called off; this passed by the close vote of 191 for, 174 against. Each individual union will have to ratify this recommendation by ballot of the members. The proposal to call off the general strike was bitterly opposed by the leaders of the longshoremen.

Reconciling themselves to the withdrawal of other unions from sympathetic action, blaming conservative labor leaders for mismanagement of the general strike, delegates from the maritime unions stated that their men would fight on until their demands are won.

Up to Thursday noon, 30,000 of the 100,000 workers on strike had signified their intention of going back to work. Newspaper dispatches pointed out that the three-day strike had cost business houses millions of dollars. Especially hard hit were the newspapers, movie houses, oil companies, department stores and banks.

## Johannes' Truck Move a Fake

(Continued from page one)

shelter of just about one-half of the Minneapolis Police Department.

Thirdly, the plan was to provoke a riot so that the cops could shoot down pickets and Mayor Bainbridge and the bosses could howl for the militia to be brought out to move trucks.

Quickly recognizing the nature of the plot, the Union refused to fall in the trap. As announced by President Wm. S. Brown of Local 574 last night, however, no change in Union orders respecting hospital deliveries is to be made. Trucks cannot move for this or any other purpose without a Union driver and this means a permit from Local 574's Strike Committee.

The names of the finks who loaded the fake cargo at Jordan-Stevens have been turned in to the Union by a J-S employee, along with the name of the scab driver of Johannes' circus car.

Vincent R. Dunne and Farrell Dobbs of Local 574, who had an appointment scheduled with Federal mediator Rev. F. J. Haas, to provide him with data as to working conditions in the Minneapolis transport industry, notified him that they would not keep their appointment as long as Johannes was sending cops on the streets to provoke strikers. Later in the day they delivered the desired information and entered a vigorous protest against the Police Chief's malicious but unsuccessful scheme.

The boss press, incidentally, unanimously reports the whole incident as a serious break in the strike front. This is an attempt to save something out of the failure of the plot. Happily, **The Organizer** can get the truth to the worker of Minneapolis. The picket lines are unbroken! The fight goes on! Local 574 will not be provoked by Johannes or anyone else.

No trucks are going to be moved! By nobody!

## Ladies Auxiliary Notes

All wives, sisters and lady friends of members of Local 574 are asked to register at Headquarters immediately for two purposes. In the first place, we want collectors to help us at tonight's mass meeting. Secondly, we want ladies to help distribute **The Organizer**, a job we have promised to do for 574. This fine paper ought to get around more. Please bring with you any empty coffee cans or other clean cans which can be used for collections. Register at once and join us in the fight for recognition and decent living conditions!

## letters to dere emily

dere emily,

well kid, we still got the bosses sewed up tighter than your old man's winter underwear. by the way emily is he still wearing that suit your ma sewed him up in last September?

nothing moved today, nothing moved yesterday, nothing is EVER goin to move until we get what's comin to us.

i dont feel much like wise cracking today though emily. you no me kid, usually the life of the party, always gettin off smart ones that makes all the fellas laugh. somehow im kinda changing durin these last few months down here. dont get me rong kid i am still for you 100 per cent. and i aint discouraged by no means.

no i sorta feel calm and peaceful now—and strong and determined somehow to. i feel like i could fight on for ever, you probly dont like so much to hear only about the strike and our Union all the time. but to tell the truth kid that seems to be about the biggest thing in my life right now, you probly cant see how a union means so much to a fella. but old 574. well, i guess we all feel that its the only thing now thats ever goin to do us any good. to get enough dough each week so as to live like human beings ought to live.

why last week the fourman comes up to me as i was checkin out at night and says kinda kiddin, "Ryan, you oughta get your suit cleaned, what you been doin, diving in garbage cans." i should get my suit cleaned, sure emily, i should look like a London letter in that Vanity Fare magazine which your cousin Herbert brot up from Chicago that time. i was wearin my lite pants that day, kid, and they was all covered with spots and stains. my other pants was bein soed up by the landlady where i ripped them on a crate the other day.

and so it goes emily. you no how i was always spick and span up at Turtle Creek. well i aint mebbe so clean these days. the swimmin beech is 3 miles out from where i stay and thats to far to walk after working like a Nailer all day long. i went one Sunday tho and it was kinda nice, youngsters playin in the sand and running round splashin and laffin.

the bathtub at the joint where i stay is always dirty and full of bugs and theres never any warm water and someone is always washing dirty dishes in it. so you see emily, why i dont stay as clean as maybe i oughta.

and my stummick hurts sometimes now from the punk food i have to eat, and my feet burn like blazes from walkin to and from work with souls so thin i could stand on a poker chip and say what colour it is.

but emily, i aint tellin you all this to beef. maybe youll understand now a little why im so strong for the Union. cause thats whats going to get me a decent wage so i can change all this. a fella cant fite the bosses alone emily; there to well organized. shoulder to shoulder, thats the way us working stiff has got to face em from now on emily. God, when i think of the way the guys at the Union stand by me and all, i get a lump in my throat. the other day V E, thats one of the Dunne brothers, comes up to me and asks in the kindest way that i shouldnt drink now while the strike is on. we got to be sober so we can fite harder and think faster he says, and so none of us are getting drunk now while the strike is on. honest, emily, i could crawl 5 miles on my belly thru broken glass for guys like we got in our Union. and all the rest feels the same way to.

so this aint beefin, emily. just to explain how i feel now. i feel like i could fite on and on forever, through Hell and Brimstone, until the strike is one for good and all. and when thats done, im coming up some weekend to see you.

still savin that sweet spot on your cheek for me kid?

yours,

Mike.

## How to Get Kicked Out of Your Wages by the Boss

The Journal runs a "column" called "Off a Reporter's Cuff" which contained an interesting item yesterday. In it is exposed exactly how through trickery the employer manipulates, exploits, pushes, forces and salves his slaves into position. I quote the Minneapolis **Journal**, reading you the article first and then interpreting it as any intelligent child or person would. Also proving to you conclusively what we have told you right along that it is a matter of sparring for time, vacillating, procrastinating, anything to smash the worker. It starts out with—"Don is the best salesman in that sales organization in the Plymouth Building."

They conceded him to be a producer, they conceded him to be a hard worker and a high class man. So much for that. To continue quoting the Journal—"That the Sales Manager is one of those high-pressure gentlemen who come barging into the office and open up the morning each day by blasting the side off everyone in the office—manager to office boy." (Haven't we preached this to you boys, day in and day out? It's nothing new, we know the bosses always take it out on the worker.) But the article continues, that this Don, this high class salesman and producer they are referring to, "has devised a system to escape the periodical tongue-lashings the rest of the force get." In that respect, Don is a little smarter, a little sharper, than the other boys in the office or on the sales force. But as I continue with the article, quoting the Journal, you

will see where Don, too, becomes a victim of exploitation through manipulation and boss tactics.

Continuing, it quotes,—“At intervals Don strikes into the Sales Manager's office and demands a raise in salary.”

Well, Don, old boy, old kid, old sock, old pal, that's one thing we give you credit for having that much guts at least. It's too bad though, as we quote the rest of the article we find how cheaply they buy you off.

“He is thereupon invited out to lunch, then for a swim in the M.A.C. (the Minneapolis Athletic Club, one of our neighbours), then for bridge at the Sales Manager's home.” This entire piece of salving costs the employer about sixty cents.

He concludes this article, adding, “But the psychological effect of the salary request wears off in from twelve to seventeen days, after which the treatment must be repeated.” That concludes their article and its conclusion is a truthful one. It's a treatment that has been applied in various ways, and has even been tried on good old 574, but it didn't work.

All I can say for the Journal and their reporter is, Don't forget the newsboy's strike, when you hired gunmen and thugs to club the kids, when you had your tinhat soldiers pointing bayonets at kids throats and stomachs. We were then the newsies, that was back in 1916. We struck back then, and we'll strike back now, whether it's endorsed by you or not.

## Duluth Business Agent Arrives

F. R. Martin, business agent of the Duluth drivers union, arrived in town yesterday to confer with N.R.A. officials. Duluth drivers, helpers and platform men are fed up with rotten conditions and are considering strike action. In a statement to the press Brother Martin said the Duluth local is ready to arbitrate everything but union recognition.

He brought with him a petition to the Labor Board to act. Local 574 can tell the Duluth brothers that our experience shows that all you get out of the Labor Board, you can put in your eye. If they want to safeguard their union and get conditions they will have to organize and fight as we are doing. Every move they make along this line will have 574's hearty backing.

## Auto Men Support 574

The Automotive Mechanics Union No. 382 gave an enthusiastic reception to a representative of the Strike Committee of 100 last night when he addressed the Union on behalf of Local 574. The auto mechanics voiced unanimous approval of 574's fight, and expressed their willingness to give support.

## "Organizer" Wows Town

"Daily Strike Bulletin! Daily Strike Bulletin!"

The city is dotted with members of the Ladies Auxiliary, Local 574, distributing **The Organizer**. Ten thousand copies of the first daily strike paper in the history of American labor were distributed yesterday. Between \$15 and \$20 was realized in sales.

Beer parlor owners buy them by the dozen to give their customers. One member sold eight to a cop! Another went into beauty parlors and sold a stack. Several newsstands are displaying **The Organizer** prominently. Today ladies will distribute them at all factory gates.

There is universal interest. The workers of course are delighted. Other people are curious or half-sympathetic. Only one report of unfriendliness so far: Mrs. I. B., one of **The Organizer's** best boosters, reports that she offered a copy to a swell lady on Nicollet. The upper-class parasite barked at her: "Where do you think you are, Russia?"

The answer is that we are in Minneapolis where the workers are so sick and tired of being exploited that they are glad to have their own paper to express their own views.

## News from Nowhere

A copy of the July 18th issue of a newspaper calling itself the **Daily Worker** has come to our attention, containing an item which sure makes fascinating reading in these hot dog-days. Under a Minneapolis date line, it reports the following interesting information:

"National Guardsmen with bayonets drawn were already marching through the city. The streets were lined with determined strikers and workers in sympathy with the strike. They jeered and booed the guardsmen."

Now we don't want to appear to be too particular but a few slight corrections ought to be made: (1) The bayonets of the guardsmen were not drawn; (2) they didn't march through the city; (3) the workers did not jeer and boo; because (4) the streets were not lined with workers.

Outside of these few points, the report in the **Daily Worker** is as truthful and accurate as the rest of the paper, if you get what we mean. Which reminds us of a story.

A friend of Mickey Dunne stopped him on the street and said: "I heard your brother made \$5,000 in the trapeze business in New York." Whereupon Mickey replied: "In the first place, it wasn't New York, it was St. Paul. In the second place, it wasn't my brother, but my uncle's cousin. In the third place, it wasn't in trapezes, but in real estate. In the fourth place, it wasn't \$5,000 but \$9,000. And in the fifth place, he didn't make it—he lost it."

MORAL: For Minneapolis strike news, read **The Organizer**.

## Note: Strike Orders!

According to decision of the Strike Committee of 100 made yesterday, no moving of meats, fish, fruit or vegetables from the City Market by private cars will be permitted any longer. The Emergency Market at 8th and Hawthorne remains open for business. There is to be no change in policy respecting moving of hospital supplies; a permit and a Union driver are required.

## Phoney Telegrams

(Never Received . . . and Never Sent)

"Strike Committee of 100: "Just as in the last strike, my police have been instructed never to lay a finger on a striking picket. You know me, boys, I'm One Hundred Percent for Labor and Local 574. The worst part of it is that nobody believes me. (Signed)

"POLICE CHIEF JOHANNES."

## 574 Treats Victim of Auto Accident

Five hours after Police Chief Johannes pulled his phony truck-moving act, trying to make people think the strikers are depriving hospital patients of necessities, Local 574 gave a practical answer to all slanders and provocateurs.

Shortly after 8 p.m. Eugene Smith, 16 years old, a Western Union messenger boy living at 1530 Adams St. N. E., was knocked down off his bicycle at the corner of Eighth St. and 3rd Ave. near Strike Headquarters by a reckless driver. Young Smith was carried bleeding and bruised into Strike Headquarters where he was treated by the Union's doctor and nurse in the Union's Emergency Hospital.

The working class can give lessons to Johannes and his bosses in the ABC of humanitarianism as well as in somewhat more strenuous subjects.

## Attempted Frame-Up Flops

Brothers John Lindahl and George O'Brien were arrested yesterday while peacefully picketing. The Union sent Brother H. A. Schultz to the police station to look after the arrested pickets. When he got there, Police Inspector Brunskill threatened to arrest him, apparently just for the fun of it. The whole thing was too raw, however, and the three brothers were soon free and back on the line.

## Miners Send Greetings

Following is the text of a telegram received at Strike Headquarters yesterday:

"Workers of Alabama, Minnesota, San Francisco and vicinity, Greetings: Be advised you have our moral, financial and economic support. Commend your use of general strike. Only intelligent and effective weapon at our command.

(Signed) Jas. Campbell, Secy. Progressive Miners of America, Local 1, Gillespie, Ill."

## Register for Picketing

All trade unionists belonging to locals other than 574 are urged to come on the picket line. They can get identification cards from the business agents of their own locals. This also applies to withdrawal men.

All 574 men not over three months in arrears can get July buttons at Strike Headquarters, 215 Eighth St. S., to identify them for picketing. They are urged to report at once.