Relief Committee Promises Quick Action

An increase of about 40 per cent to clients on the relief roll, was granted by action of the Relief Committee of the Welfare Bureau last Monday, July 28. Representatives from Local No. 574, other unions and workers organized locally, attended and debated the detailed and specific proposals.

The Committee from Local No. 574, stated that the immediate raise and August 1 was set to be a日の time for action. The hot weather will inevitably cause their supply of ice to be exhausted as soon as the order was given... The policy of the Relief Board. Pointing to the lamentably inadequate assistance that is given in the Federal Insurance, the union committee asked prompt action.

A motion was adopted by the Relief Committee instructing attendants at the various stations to include in their ice cost a card without reference to the day or date of last issue.

The Union Committee further recommended the following.

Sept. 1 Deadline On Reinstatement

During the past several months General Joseph T. 574 has been going through continuous strife. The situation workmen have necessitated a broad flexibility in the requirements for the payment of dues. The local has now reached a stage, however, where it is possible and necessary to consider its present sections as well organized and permanently established. This requires that the by-laws of the organization be definitely stated in printed form. A special committee has been appointed to draw up the by-laws for submission to the members.

The executive board will recommend to the union at the membership meeting on August 12 that the committee be instructed to rewrite the by-laws following the previous provisions on dues payments. The members are asked to review the by-laws to the above-mentioned article and to consider the methods of similar unions.

One of the workers, who is employed by a large company, has not received his pay for more than three months. He has been paid less than three months in arrears may rejoin by paying the $300 administrative fee and $50 in lieu of dues. He has been in arrears for three months, but who has more than three months in arrears may pay a reinstatement fee of $100. The union will not accept the $300 fee; those who have appeared on the union books since August 1, 1935, shall be subject to the $10 fee if over three months in arrears; the above to become effective September 1, 1935.

Tetzlaff, the Slave Driver

Vice President Tetzlaff of the Fleur City Ornamental Iron Works has published a report in the employers' press stating that the men, at his plant, are not receiving wages or pay. The report is now circulating in the Flor City plant. He has done this under the guise of philanthropy toward these workers, but in reality his object is to secure skilled mechanics, unable to support a family. The union's protest is still valid.

During the past 25 years Tetzlaff has made it a regular practice to bring work from Germany and Austria, mainly to the Fleur City plant. The union men have never been allowed to work more than 25 men, all artists, in their line. This number exceeded the immigration quota but he got around this by claiming that this was specially skilled help not available in America. He also brought over 60 trunks filled with equipment for the plant which was not importable. He must be paid for this. He got around this by bringing in each man claim one of the trunks at the U.S. customs, swearing that the contents were Red Cross gifts.

Tetzlaff paid the men's fare and put them to work in the Fleur City plant at 45 to 50 cents per hour when American mechanics were getting eight dollars per hour. Out of this low pay he deducted the fare which he had advanced, plus 6 per cent interest on it. In many instances skilled workers received less than their helpers.

One of the workers, who could speak a little English, soon learned of this and, having been a union member in Germany, went to Tetzlaff and asked his assistance. The union found work for him in Chicago. The union then went to Tetzlaff and immediately told the other German immigrants of this. and they began to save what they could so that they might attend night school to learn our tongue and thus obtain work in some other plant and escape the yoke of Tetzlaff.

Another of Tetzlaff's benevolent practices is the farming out of special jobs to the crews of his employees. This inspires the petty tyrants in the plant to chisel on the men for their own interest as well as for the interest of Tetzlaff. Most notorious of these is John Swoboda in the bronze department. Here is how he does it. If the man has a special job for Swoboda's department it is given to him at a price of $250. Swoboda changes the price figures on the job plans to read $135, telling the man how little margin there is on the job and then it is given to another man at a higher price. On the strength of this he will beg and plead with the men to help get it out in order to get this extra money. This means that they must work at a terrific pace and work extra hours without pay.

When the Minnesota State Office Building was under construction the Fleur City Ornamental Iron Works had a contract to supply twisted brass rods for the building. We do not know whether these were supposed to be solid brass rods or not, but the crew had hollow brass tubing was used and an iron rod shoved inside the tube for a core. What aroused the suspicions of the workers was that an inspection of the State Office Building job came through the plant, and the men happened to be working on rod shapes destined to hold the rods under the work bench so as to put them out of sight.

With the workers anxious to organize into the Ornamental Iron Workers, Local 1513, Tetzlaff began to discriminate against them. He would not hire the men for the job, and whenever there was a lull in the work, the union men were invariably the ones laid off, many of them after working for the company from 12 to 27 years. Tetzlaff would pick and choose among the workers who were required but were replaced by non-union men. Even this did not stop organization. Tetzlaff never acted as long as his plant, so Tetzlaff returned to more drastic measures. At the first stock period available he laid off half the crew, putting the remainder of the men on a 60 hour week, an open violation of the NRA code. This is a company where three-fourths of the work was on government jobs. The union filed a complaint with the Labor Board, and in the hearings before the Fleur City officials admitted that the crew had worked as much as 8,500 hours overtime in a period of one month.

The great patriot, Mr. Tetzlaff, also give and sells stock to his employees. It seems he has no idea that the men are not interested in this type to fit each occasion. Along with this are the prices he demands for the work. Instead of the union, he gave stock, absolutely free, to the non-union employees. This stock is paid for with pay to dividends and has no maturity date. Much earlier in his career he sold stock to his employees, making it compulsory to pay for it and the men draw money from their pay checks. Shortly after the sale he lost control of this stock issue to an eastern holding company. He regained the control at a later date, but to the dismay of the workers, their certificates had become practically valueless in the process.

During the process of organization and negotiations prior to the strike, the Fleur City workers sent word that they were with the union men but could not come out openly for fear of being fired. Even during the strike the men have made it plain to the public that they fight the strike but are still fearful of Tetzlaff.

Furthermore, in examining the list of those who are in the ad ready to strike, the Fleur City workers work on strike report that only 16 of the 62 can be classed as old employees of the firm, and making that of the 16 are the Swoboda men of the plant.

In the face of all this it is evident that the struggle at the Fleur City Ornamental Iron Works is not only for wages and working conditions, but also for the right of the workers to organize for their own mutual benefit, a right that Tetzlaff has bitingly fought against. Only the Fleur City plant has been in existence.
Union Has Closed All City Plants

(Continued from page 1)  
A struggle occurred at the Flour City Iron Works, and in mid-June, Local 265 had a strike of 68 workers with Maylands Steel Company. This strike was terminated, having ended about 30 days into the plant.  

News of this act flashed quickly across the area, and when the time the plant was ready to close for the day, a thousand union men and women came to the plant ready to meet the scabs when they came out. Support came quickly to the strikers from the structure ironworkers, upholsterers, machinists, and the unemployed organizations.

When the scabs came out, they were met by a riot. Later a lesson in union principles, despite the presence of a strong police detail which attempted to protect them. Since that time the plant has been completely shut down.

After obtaining an injunction, the company reported to the city the fact of paid advertisements in which they were going to be a riotous mob, declared that there was no cause for the strike, and demanded that the police protect them. In answer to this the strike committee, which had been formed, called for a meeting at the home of the Mayor Latimer to discuss the situation. The meeting was attended by Mayor Latimer publicly declared that the plant closed as a matter of public propriety to inquire thoroughly working conditions under the plant's public and private statement regarding its finding.

The strike was called after fruitless attempts to negotiate an agreement with the employer in the plant, under the conditions for the workers have been agreed to. With the coming of the NRA, the employers, as did all the other bosses, paid their maximum wages for the industry. Forty cents per hour became too wages for these highly skilled mechanics who had at one time earned $10 per week. As a result the worker organized.

In June 1934, Local 1513 asked for a conference with the employers in the industry for the purpose of eliminating the wages and working conditions for all. This the employers refused to do, and the second request was issued, backing up the first one. The employers refused to meet, but at the last minute gave the request to be made known, and the term of getting their raise.

The men worked on patience through the summer, and, in the spring of 1935, were forced to economic necessity to again ask for the raise. The conference was asked but refused by the bosses. Some of them made the pretense at negotiating with the union individually, but nothing constructive could be accomplished.

With no other favorable response open, the union was forced to go on strike for its demands.

These demands are very modest—class A members, 67 cents per hour; class B, 52 cents per hour; others, 65 cents per hour; common labor, 45 cents per hour; 40 hours per week; and one-half for over-time; seniority rights; union recognition; and the right to work on the Farmer-Labor platform on which he was elected. Vindication of this act is impossible.

It is possible, however, for the mayor to make partial restitution to the workers by complying with the demands of the committee. The Mayor Latimer, by appearing personally at the Flour City Ornamental Iron Works, issuing an immediate statement to the public that he is doing this because the company has proven itself to be incapable of conducting a business without disturbing the peace; question each of the employers individually, including those who were discharged for union activity before the strike was called, to ascertain the facts surrounding the controversy; issue a public statement on the basis of this investigation, this statement to be prepared in the spirit of union principles. This is the very least which Mayor Latimer can do.

Bannquet Tables and Picket Lines

It is not a coincidence that the progressive labor leaders who bitterly opposed the Minneapolis Committee of One Hundred, when the question of Labor's approval that Citizens Alliance brain child was before the Central Labor Union, are the only leaders of other unions who are to be seen actively supporting the strike of Local 1513 and fighting shoulder to shoulder with them on the picket line at the Flour City Ornamental Iron plant. Nor is it a coincidence that the organization, who supported the Committee of One Hundred and attempted to substitute it for union action, are not to be seen on the strike front.

In defending the Committee of One Hundred the conservatives contended that they were showing their bravery by going right into the lair of the Citizens Alliance and debating with them. The workers rightfully believe that it is the duty of their leaders to demonstrate to the bosses that they are just as tough on the picket line as they are at a banquet table.

Sabotage, But Not a Split

There has been a malicious rumor afloat recently that there is a split in the ranks of General Drivers Local 574. This is a vicious lie and a deliberate attempt to sabotage the union. There is no split. Dan Tobin and his colleagues, Corcoran, Hall and Co., would like the workers to believe so, but the facts are that Local 574 is holding its ranks solidly despite the vicious, underhanded attacks of the Tobin tribe.

Local 574 has lost only 19 of its members to the Tobin bunch in the last two years. This is not a bad ratio when turned in a very pentiment mood. The remaining 16 are deserters, not by choice, but because of pressure brought on them through their employer as a result of a series of underhanded moves on the part of the double play trio, Spellman to Corcoran to Hall. If this represents a split, Daniel Webster didn't understand his own dictionary.

Voorhees Elected President IUAW

The convention of the Independent Union of All Workers at Albert Lea on July 27 and 28 was a meeting of the educational and inspiring spirit generally in southern Minnesota. Joseph Voorhees of the Minneapolis Local 828 was elected president of the Central Union, the first man from the general membership to be a fitting reward to a capable and vigorous young man who by his splendid services has earned the support of the workers. Complete details of the convention procedure have not yet been released.

Union Notes

The workers at the LaBelle Transfer and Storage Company, who last summer voted against the union, are now 169 per cent organized in Local 574. They have now demanded a collective contract with the company in order to keep the wage conditions.

The D. M. Gilmore Company, dealers in flour have seen fit to deny Local 574 in a case of rank disruption at that company. The D. M. Gilmore Company has been struck by the Drivers Union. There will be no settle men.

Big Plant Signed Up by Local 382

(Continued from page 1)

The agreement are met by the company.

The union negotiating commit tee held meetings with the com pany officials. Pleasing poor ty, the company offered only the union a chance for a meeting, and it appeared that a strike was necessary. The committee continued the meeting with the com pany, and as the deadline for the company approached, the com pany suddenly began to show gains which the committee consid ered in the meeting as important conces sions. The proposed settlement was presented to the membership and the demands made at meetings were noted. The agreement represents an important step forward toward the complete unionization of the local, and it marks another important step in the complete unionization of the local, and it marks another important step in the complete unionization of the local.