Packing House Workers Are for Industrial Union At Mason City Meeting

Wabasha Button Workers Get Help

The striking button workers at Wabasha, Minn., are receivmg aid from Minneapolis in the first organized workers meeting has been called at the city hall in Wabasha, Friday, Oct. 7, at which a speaker from Local 574 Wisconsin will install the manner in which assistance can be mobilized for this city. All Wabasha workers, employed and unemployed, are urged to attend the meeting.

Drivers Local No. 574 Shows Steady Growth

December, the month that usually finds the greatest test of organizational activity in a union, has had its ups in our union. The Christmas season, with its usual added expense, coupled with the圭fact that this month commonly finds the greatest unemployment of any time of the year, makes organizational efforts difficult. Does payments also fall behind during the holiday season.

Last year, however, in Local 574, does payments were very good. In the number of applications a slump was experienced. In November we had a total of 171 members join the union. In December, however, we had only 75 applications. In November the applications averaged four a day, whereas in December the average was one.

January promises to be tops for Local 574. In the month have seen almost 75 applications registered.

Tampa Outrage Condemned

Friday, January 5, the Milwaukee United Trades Council, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, went on record as declaring that the American Federation of Labor Convention should not be held in Tampa this year because of the horrible lynching of Joseph Shoemaker.

Machinists Call for Industrial Set-up

Note No. 459, International Association of Machinists, located in St. Paul, have just demanded the amalgamation of all metal trade workers international unions into one organization that would be covered by an A. F. of L. charter.

The committee reported approved by the local body as follows:

Lodge No. 459, through Herman Humann, 2205 University Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota.

The Yellow Is Union

Who sees cab drivers are not alert union men? Saturday, a union member, who has been picking the River Terminal Coal and Coke Co., was late for his shift. He was seen to be the only one of the drivers picking up the Yellow Cab to take him to the plant.

When he gave the driver the address, the cab said: "Are you a driver there or are you a picket?" The banner carrier told the cab driver that he was picking the place.

"O. K.," said the cab driver. "In that case I'll take you, but if you were driving there you could walk as far as I am concerned.

Local 160 Wants Written Agreement

The organized employees of the Northern States Power Co. through their union, Local 160, has forced important concessions from the management of the company.

The company, however, takes the position that it is not necessary to put the agreement on wages, working conditions and the right of union membership into writing. They contend that demonstration of the sincerity of the Union is sufficient evidence of sincerity.

As a matter of fact the company does not want to put the agreement in writing because they do not want to admit that it is the power of Local 160 which has won improved wages. They know that this will solidly establish the union with every employee a member.

Local 160 is the power which has produced results in this controversy. It must continue as a power if the gains made are to be preserved. To do this it must retain a solid membership. This can be accomplished only when the union has definitely guaranteed the continuance of the gains made.

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER
Official Organ of the Northwest Labor Unity Conference
MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE: 257 PLYMOUTH AVE. N.
GENERAL OFFICE: 805 7TH ST.
St. Paul, Minn.

VOLUME I, NO. 39
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 1926

STATE WPA MOVES STARTED
Against Wage Cuts and Speed-up

ORTONVILLE IS SCENE OF BIG LABOR MEETING

Plans Made at Conference Call for Wide-Gatherings

Minneapolis to Be Place of Enlarged Conference February 8-9

The Ortonville conference, which concluded its labors Sunday, January 3, at 2 o'clock, after a day and a half session, will be considered a milestone in the road to complete organization of all state WPA workers.

During a meeting over 30 WPA relief organizations and trade unions were present when the conference convened at noon on Saturday. E. C. Lasher, state president of the American Federation of Labor, called the conference to order.

William Felton of Montevideo, Minnesota was elected chairman of the conference. Ex-Governor Langer of North Dakota who had been kept to the principle speak- er failed to put in an appearance. Miles R. Dunn, Editor of The Northwest Organizer, took Langer's place and in a half hour's speech of approximately 20 minutes outlined a wide organization of all WPA and federal workers. In his opening talk, he declared the calling of a further state wide conference at a site to be determined in the absence of the location and urged that the conference follow this program to the end that a complete organization might be formed.

A creditable committee was elected which consisted of Harry Stanley, Columbus Heights, W. T. Berg, Willmar, and H. Witt, Minneapolis.

A resolutions committee was elected who were Dunn and Bean of Minneapolis, Peterson of Will- mar, Blanders of Anoka, Hague of Appleton and Wacht of St. Paul, Minnesota.

A great number of resolutions were received by the committee and they immediately went into session.

During the afternoon and evening session, speeches and discussions by the delegates indicated that the majority of these present were for taking immediate action on a state wide level.

Several delegates pointed out that elsewhere in the United States WPA organizations had, through united action, been able to red reference from state WPA administrations.

Following the adjournment of the evening session a dance was held in the Armory which had also been reserved for the exclusive use of the hall. Good music had been pro-

Make Minneapolis a Union Town
Bill Brown Says—
Mayer Thomas E. Latimer is now No. 2 organizer for Local 590, Meyer Lewis is No. 1. Mayer doesn't know what he is doing when he was elected there was no such thing as his being elected. He never held any regular meetings for an elected official that has not held a regular meeting.

Now to show how he has been deserted and asks members to break their contracts with him. Mayer Latimer explains to the next election how it All Happened.

Yellow Drivers Alter Organizational Set-up

The Taxibär section of Local 574 has just finished getting over the hump. That is the way it has been definitively established that paid and unpaid members of the City Wide Drivers International have been busy for the past sixty days attempting to disrupt and bring to an end the splendid organization of Yellow cab drivers.

So serious had the trouble become that it became necessary for the executive board of the union to take the situation seriously and take action.

The trouble began early in the spring. It was growing, it has been growing, all the way to the present. Mr. Latimer has repeatedly tried to bring the problem to the attention of the union executive board. The union executive board has taken the initiative of stopping almost everything of the union.

The cab drivers, who have been organized in their own right, have now been taken in by the union constitution, and any attempt on their part to take action against the drivers of the company will be difficult. A checkoff system has been introduced, all of which will be brought to the attention of the union.

As a result of this move, there has been a split among the drivers. Some drivers are refusing to join the union because they believe that the union is not working for their benefit.

The council of the union has agreed to hold a meeting on April 15th, to discuss the situation. It is hoped that a solution can be reached at that time.

Organizer Grees
New Publication

Saturday, January 15th, saw the first issue of "The Progressive", a new monthly publication with a Minnesota audience and a wide interest in progressive issues.

Printed in Minneapolis, the publication will carry essays on current events, articles on domestic and international politics, and interviews with prominent political figures.

The Progressive is published by the Minnesota Progressive League, a group of progressive intellectuals and activists who are working to build a more democratic and equitable society.

The first issue features articles on social justice, economic inequality, and the role of government in society. The publication aims to engage its readership in thoughtful and informed discussions about the issues of the day.

The Progressive is available for free online and through subscriptions. To learn more about the publication and its mission, visit the website at minnesotaprotgressive.org.
Overheard at a Party

"This guy who was employed in a certain garment factory one woman was used to work for was fired. He had been employed there for 10 years, but they decided he was too old to do the job and they brought in a younger worker."

"They were at the request of the management, who wanted someone who was younger and more energetic."

"It is a sad situation, but it is the way business is conducted."

"I feel bad for the older worker who was fired."

Fascist Rule Hits German Workers

Any worker who imagines that the Fascist regime in Germany, under Adolf Hitler, has brought security and good wages to the German working class only has to read the copy of a German newspaper reproduced here. The copy of the German paper and the article that accompanies it is reprinted from the Reichspresse, a government-run news sheet published by and in the interest of large employers and labor. In a lengthy article it lauds by implication, at least, the supposed "merits" of German industrialists and employers in dealing with their workers, particular with the Fascist countries where Fascism holds power.

In comparing labor relations in Germany and the United States it is found that the Fascist right wing and the political left in Germany, such disturbances, and Fascism, the Fascist regime, are unknown.

A comparison of the weekly labor market in the U.S. after deducting union activity after deductions have been made for the "economic depression," wages in the Fascist countries, are unknown.

The only place where a central labor market exists is in the executive branch of government, where there are nine, namely, workers to be elected.

The present board of trustees were seized, however, in a vote of the present board of trustees.

The Minnesota union made the trip to Kansas Thursday night to present a memorial to the local workers in setting up their organization. Anyone who looks at the Minnesota membership at the round table and sits across the table from a local worker, it must be read in the house of labor, three hours a day, three days a week for 10 years."

Mankato Drivers Form 574 Branch

Thursday night, January 5, saw the first organization meeting of the Minnesota Employees Union held. The meeting was attended by 149 workers, composed principally of truck drivers and WPA workers.

Out of the Minnesota employees union made the trip to Kansas Thursday night to meet with the local workers in setting up their organization. Anyone who looks at the Minnesota membership at the round table and sits across the table from a local worker, it must be read in the house of labor, three hours a day, three days a week for 10 years.

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Until Further Notice

The official publication of the Minneapolis trade union movement last week carried a news item, boxed in bold face type, on the front page, announcing that the American Federation of Labor was going on record in the National Building, 6th Street and 2nd Avenue South, Minneapolis, as having stated that until further notice Meyer Lewis would be in charge. We have no personal quarrel with Meyer Lewis. Whether he remains here or not is a matter of complete indifference. As long as he ceases his unprincipled and vicious attack upon our organization, there is plenty of work for an A. F. of L. organizer in Minneapolis, and in the northwest, doing the kind of work we are doing to make the labor movement strong in the Northwest. There is no room here for one who advocates the policy of destruction to the trade union movement that Meyer Lewis represents.

We say to Meyer Lewis: "By your actions and by your statements you have made to the press and before various audiences, you have become the representative of Local 574, as a factor in the local labor movement."

So, until further notice, we are forced to conclude that the organization of which we are members, the United States Industrial Union, and until further notice, we will take such steps as will protect our union against the head of the new Minneapolis A. F. of L. office.

Until further notice we will continue to do, in the future, what we have done in the past, fight in the interest of the organized workers.

The Ortonville Conference

The recent conference held in Ortonville, Minnesota, accomplished something that was really worth while. Like the conference held in Minneapolis last week, the Ortonville meeting turned out to be a rallying force for a still larger conference which will be held shortly.

It was a conference for workers who felt, because some drastic, definite action was not taken at Minneapolis, that the record of that conference was no more than a pretense, that a splendid accomplishment could be recorded for this meeting.

But the conference definitely placed itself on record for the calling of a state-wide conference of all WPA organizations, relief groups and trade unions in the near future.

The conference has also gone on record for the forming of a state federation of all such organizations.

A state-wide meeting is the step, for the well being of all WPA workers, that has ever been taken in this part of the country in the past. The only other thing we know to know that the reverse is true. Without organization no successful action can be taken.

While the abuses that exist on WPA are a national question they can be solved on a state-wide, organized, and coördinated basis. The Ortonville conference has laid the basis of providing the vehicle by which WPA workers can secure the reforms that are so sorely needed.

Central Labor Union Passes Resolution

The last meeting of the Central Labor Union passed a resolution condemning the activities of a group of officers of the organization, which took part in various meetings where plans for reviving the closed local have been discussed.

Believing in the recent meeting at the Radisson hotel as a mob whose function was to usurp authority of the official representatives of the organization, the resolution condemned all such activities.

The resolution in full follows:

WHEREAS, there has been a strike in progress at the Strutewear Knitting Company since August 24, 1936, of which company we have refused to meet with representatives of the strikers.

WHEREAS, every legitimate effort has been made by the officers to effect a settlement favorable to both parties to the dispute and the company has resisted all such efforts; and

WHEREAS, a group of employees under the guise of low-lying citizens have charged the mayor of Minneapolis and the governor of Minnesota with failure to provide proper police protection for the execution of the plant, while they are at the same time denying the workers the right to organized defense; and

WHEREAS, this group of employees has attempted to force the workers into the ranks of the Minneapolis and the governor of Minnesota, a situation at meeting at the Radisson hotel on January 7, 1936; and

WHEREAS, there has been no evidence whatever in the document of the doctrine of American trusteeship, that workers must usurp the functions of duly elected government officials by the action of the people without carrying the duties of their office, and

"THEY THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Minneapolis Central Labor Union that the meeting of January 7, 1936, in meeting anywhere, in this state, and that the public be denouncing this un-American policy as one which is calculated to destroy our democratic institutions and to hinder the daily electors of officials of our government in the performance of their duties, and

national stability."

So what does that make Mister Pack?

Life used Hitler, as portrayed by the voice of America, "on a soap-box tour in Germany today discharged their Gentile mob under 35, who are hungry to work. They say that they will promptly be sent back home. Others are likely to be placed in open school `or school camps' at their own expense, unless they ask for work."

"-Christie Sevee Monitor.

Life tde Munson, as portrayed in a new mobil test: "On a soap-box tour."

"A grand total of 261 members came to our meeting in that typical Scandinavian manner.

Ortonville Notes

The Minnesota Labor association deserves a world of credit for the smooth staging of the National Labor Unions' conference last Sunday.

Bill Feltom, editor of The Progress, was chairman of the conference.

Local 574 delegates met many of the organizers of the conference and made many and new moves.

The Ortonville Armory provided a splendid meeting place for the conference.

Stanley, of Anoka, was the aggressive of the two who addressed the conference in a power speech.

The Saturday night dance proved to be a real raucy fur all the delegates, male and female.

From the information gathered in Ortonville we conclude that the Lac Qui Parle project will be a success to the state and that the whole country if it ever becomes an accomplished fact.

The delegates from Local 574 are expected to meet in an intelligence aggressive group.

Tom Robinson, the champion organizer-subject of western Minnesota, was one of the delegates.

Some union members said the other night that he could understand what made Washington block the industrial bill. He said that the initials of W. S. Brown contained a secret that made free speech possible.

The Monday night meeting was poorly attended.

Saturday afternoon, Local 665 Building Union, met. It was for drivers who they organize. Fourteen men attended the meeting. Seven were members of the Minnesota Industrial Relations Council. Four were 574 members seeking information. Three were up in the air as to what happened to be passing by. So goes it.

The new Minneapolis local has 101 members.

If a federation of all WPA and project organizations can be set up in Minneapolis, there are reds who had better better be fore the next election.

The River Terminal Coal and Co. are on the unfair list of the A. F. of L. Union men, take notice!

The election turned out disappointingly small vote.

The last meeting of the Central Labor Union was an executive session. Who the hell have they got to hide?

Local No. 665, Building Service Union, have issued a call for a progressive trade union conference which will be held Sunday, January 10, at 5:30 p.m. at 520 Hew- len Avenue.

Al Russell, Strutewear picket, who is now serving time in the state pen, has been unable to raise bail pending his appeal.

The Executive Board is safe for the time being.

"Honest!" John Williams, of Local 160, is back on the job.

How soon, Mrs. Strutter's.

Don't forget the Federal Work Project Administration, meeting on Thursday night, January 18th.

CARD OF THANKS

Dear Sirs: We want to thank all of you and the men who have helped us. We appreciate every single thing you have done for us. We express our heartful thanks to you all.

Sincerely, Mrs. Anna S. Taft, 1930 W. 30th St., Minneapolis, Minn.