VOL. 2, NO. 12
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, WEDNESDAY, JULY 8, 1936
PRICE 5 CENTS

POWER STRIKERS' VICTORY

WPA Worker VICTIM OF MAD RELIEF SETUP
Frank Ross, St. Louis Park Worker, Dies of Non-Support
Savage Persecution by Local Relief Officials Brings

The annals recording the brutal treatment of relief clients in Hennepin County could not be complete until the history of the Frank Ross case is written. Perhaps nowhere in the United States has there been a more savage persecution of an individual than that which was accorded this humble St. Louis Park worker.

Ross was a worker in all his life. Born of poor parents, given no chance to acquire an education, he became one of the millions who, unschooled, go through life helping build profits for whatever employer was willing to buy his service.

With the advent of the 1929 depression, which moved millions of American workers on the bread lines, Frank Ross was one of that huge army that found itself unable to sell the only commodity which it possessed, labor power. Ross went on the relief line in his native village, St. Louis Park. He worked willingly on the various alphabetical Federal projects, normally he was assigned to work on a job, perhaps building a bridge. While, working in the icy water at the spring Ross contracted pleureisy.

Upon recovery from the attack he was assigned to work on a job three miles from his home to the local park. When he complained to the foreman, A. H. Hairly, that he could no longer stand the long walk nor could he continue to do the arduous tasks that were assigned to him, he was fired. Hairly was not satisfied with removing Ross from the job but followed him to the Hopkins Relief Station with relentless persecution. He told the relief officials that Ross was a “slacker” and that he was not even deserving of relief.

When Ross finally applied for direct relief he was told he could have relief only on the condition that he work for the village of St. Louis Park. To fulfill his relief order was paid for. It must be understood that the phrase of relief in St. Louis Park was not offering Frank Ross a job. They demanded he work in the fields, on the roads, at the sawmill. Forced labor? Yes, or something worse, because in St. Louis Park, very properly refused to accede to their demands. He stood again and again that he was willing to work for wages in any place or on

Northwestern Power Co. Beaten by Local 160 in Five Day Strike
Two Departments Show Strength When Walkout Proves 100% Effective

The five day strike conducted by the organized workers in the Overhead and Underground Departments in opposition to the Northwestern Power Company was a successful conclusion Friday, July 3, at 10 p.m. The two unions, all members of Local 160, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, renewed their contract of Saturday morning.

Walking out on June 29, after over two months of unsuccessful attempts to adjust differences that existed between themselves and the company, the workers from the two departments gave the management of the Northwestern Power Company a thorough demonstration of their organized strength. Despite the statements of the management that only a small percentage of the workers would actually leave a strike total 100 per cent effective. Every worker in both departments joined the ranks of the strikers within half an hour after the strike order was given.

Project Workers Get Wage 'Raise'
WPA project workers in Minnesota have received a raise in pay. Such a startling announcement surely should merit headline treatment in the nation's press. That the Federal Government should find it possible now to raise the hourly pay rate of WPA workers is something that should teach the malcontents, grumblers, and scoffers at the paternalism of the great white father in Washington to listen.

But wait just a moment. There seems to be a little hitch in the works. Where do we hear someone exclaiming how much the raise will amount to a month? Well, that is a matter that requires a little explanation.

The monthly stipend will be just the same as it was before, $40,50 per month. Then what about the raise, do you ask? It turns out that this is a sort of Alice in Wonderland raise. The WPA workers get the raise and yet they don't. While they have been given a raise the monthly check will buy the same old amount of groceries as before.

Is this a riddle? No, just a WPA riddle. The hearty pay has been raised but the hours have been reduced to the extent that the same old pay check will be forthcoming next month.

One of the workers was scratch- ing their heads and asking themselves, "What is a raise if it is not a raise?"

Ball Game
A writers' amateur game was played between Local 574 diamond team and Fairview. The Local team won at the Fly towers to the tune of 10 to 1. Kremer brothers and Joe Novak was at the receiving end.

Material Drivers Receive Back Pay
A meeting was held Friday morning in the offices of the General Landscape Distributors of the building material manufacturers and the Union officials for the purpose of clarifying the dispute line between the sand and gravel industry and the building material group.

Local 3 had signed agreement covering the employees in both of these industries after several minor controversies had arisen in regard to the classification of some of the workers.

The meeting held resulted in a complete understanding and back pay was collected in the amount of $70 for workers involved.

Socialist Party to Hold a Banquet
The Minneapolis branch of the Socialist Party will sponsor a banquet and entertainment at the Labor Lyceum, Saturday, July 11th, in honor of George E. Nelson, President of the Socialist Party ticket.

The banquet will start promptly at 8 p.m. and will be featured by an interesting program of entertain ment, a spirited address of speakers. The feature of the evening will be the address of George E. Nelson.

Make Minneapolis a Union Town
Northern States Power Co. beaten by Local 160 Five Day Strike

Laundry Workers Union Growing

The Dry Cleaning and Laundry Workers Union Local 183, which has been conducting an intensive organizing campaign during the last two months, report that they have more than doubled their membership during that time.

A new agreement, being drawn by the rapidly growing Laundry Workers Union which employs 4,000 laundry workers in the city, provides for a higher hourly wage in order to attract the workers to the job.

The organizational committee in charge of the membership drive report that they are confident that the membership of the Union will again be doubled during the next 60 days.

The Laundry Workers Union wish to remind everyone not to work in the Union plants during the strike button. It is your protection against unjust dismissal and a wonderful aid in helping the Union attract the unemployed laundry workers.

Workers Alliance To Hold Meeting

The Workers Alliance of Minnesota which was formed for a mass assembly of Unsem and Workers, 9 a.m., Social Union Hall, 432 Social Union Hall, 432.

The program provides for a discussion on the management and the provisions of the original stipulation and the nonunion agreement bound to deal with grievances which may arise in the future.

The meeting will be open to two representatives of Local 119, Local 38 and the N. S. P. management and a fifth member to be selected by the first four. The greatest victory was won by Local 106 and is of such a nature that it definitely bans the possibility for settling grievances and determines exactly how and in what manner they are to be settled.

The settlement of the strike was made effective by Local 106, and that it last compels the Northern States Power Company to recognize Local 106 as the bargaining agent of the workers and the goal of the strike, all of which that recognition shall take place as a result of the strike, the health of the organization and the Local 106 almost doubled its membership during the controversy.

Jewelry Workers to Organize Union

Workers in Wholesale jewelry concerns met in 574 parlors last Friday afternoon to discuss the possibilities of forming a trade union. These highly exploited workers are employed by jewelers and are fighting not only for an organization and secure a charter from the A. F. of L. for Local 160.

Bill Brown Says—
A fish is r aging in the steel industry. Work- ers in the trade are fed up and do not want to work. The conditions under which the workers have been working has been tolerated by the trade and brought about this situation. The workmen are about to decide whether or not to organize as members of the steel industry or the steel institute. If they are successful, the workmen hope to have a vote of confidence and the active forces of the new organization will then be able to organize this industry and all other industries of this nature and should act the line taken at this very meeting.

New Sand and Gravel Agreement Covers All Wages and Conditions

A recently signed agreement between General Driv- er Operators who have employed both the sand and gravel industry marks the first time that the employees in this industry in the Twin Cities area to be selected by the employers for the renewal of hired trucks.

The agreement, signed at the City of Minneapolis:

That the salary and composition of the officers of the City of Minneapolis, effective July 1, 1936, and any further action by the City Council relating thereto, shall be fixed as follows:

1 ton trucks, 1/45 per hour
2 ton trucks, 1/50 per hour
3 ton trucks, 1/60 per hour
4 ton trucks, 1/80 per hour
5 ton trucks, 1/90 per hour
6 ton trucks, 1/100 per hour
7 ton trucks, 1/125 per hour

According to numerous selections, the maximum and the minimum rates to be paid to employees are practically the same. This is a decided plus for the organization of the automobile which is being sold.

There have been several recent meetings of the rank and file of the union, and it is proposed to have a meeting in the coming week. The union is well organized and the members are well represented.

Heard on the gravel job:
Rask, have you the checks?
Blackie: Good morning, Judge.

Violence Grows in Southern Cities

A wave of almost unprece-dented violence against labor organize-
sions is sweeping almost the entire South, from the states south of the Mason and Dixon line, reports indicate. In Galadon, Georgia, the state which was carved out of North Carolina, theater workers, Northern railroad union officials and others who protest with their lives from a mob by lynching, murder and robbery. In Chattanooga, Tennessee, the general labor union, which has been organized a number of times, was shut down by a strike of the strike-squad factory council. The pursuing war is being fought in the cotton towns of eastern Arkansas, where farm workers have been seeking $1.50 a day wage.

General Drivers Union Local 574 has a stewards system that is unique in the annals of the trade union movement in Minneapolis. The steward system has been effective and makes 150 active functioning stewards were listed on the rolls.

Wage Scale

The total wage scale for independent truck drivers is published in the Independent Truck Chatter this week.

Bills,References

Wednesday, July 3, 1936

Independent Truck Chatter

Do collectively what you cannot do individually and reap the benefits of organization. Below is a result of the committee meeting which was held on June 22. Good News! We received our wheel coupons on June 7 at which time we were asked for the payment of the renewal of hired trucks.

Supported by the General Union of the City of Minneapolis:

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Local 574 MEETING SCHEDULE

Friday, June 26, 1936—Independent Truck Chatter

American University, 1 p.m.

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Blackie: Good morning, Judge.

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Wednesday, July 8, 1956

WPA WORKER
VICTIM OF MUD
RELIEF SETUP

(Continued from page 1)

any program considered preferable, with his physical condition. Fox found his food could not be thrown and his family in a desperate dieting condition.

Quoting, the worker was served with a warrant to buy 49 cents worth of food, a charge made by Mrs. Davis of the Welfare Department, which of course, Fox was unable to support. No groceries (worth of any value) were ever received. He was branded.

Fox had always worked hard. He had supported his family to the best of his ability. Now after his lifetime of toil and after an honest attempt to compete for a chance, he found himself in the county jail, fingerprinted and photographed like a felon.

When the case came to trial in Juvenile Court, most of the testimony introduced about the epidemic of poverty and crime convulsed even before he was committed to jail. The savage and vicious attack on the wretched, defenseless Fox was made by Mrs. Davis of the Welfare Department, intent on the degradation of a civilization which Fox helped to build.

Rene's wife told Justice Mercker that Frank had been a good man, that he had been sober and industrious, that a whole family of people supported him and their children to the best of his ability. Despite the fact that she had never heard of the man before, that Fox was innocent, he was sentenced to 30 days in the HennePIN County Jail.

It is now there, a living monument to the power of a system that demands laborers labor a lifetime and the Wisconsin Labor Defense has already appealed his case in an attempt to secure his freedom.

In the meantime Rene looks through the prison bars and wonders about the freedom and justice of which he has heard so much.

Yellow Notes

Our old friend Tom Jenkins is back with us again. Welcome back, Tom.

The next request the drivers will have to make of the company is that they put some "out barrelers" in the new cars. A Thistle bath is a cold place compared to the front seat of the new cabs on a hot day.

Bill Sorrenson, who ran the Ritz Louie cab room on 6th St. and 4th Ave. for so many years, reports he is going to open a new cab service that will have a door in a short time. He also reports it will be 108 Union lunch room.

The hot part of the last week has really brought out the fishing fever among the boys and just try to keep on the job.

It is very evident from the amount of "beer" the editor of this paper has drunk that we are not making a contribution to last week's issue, that the Watres have not been having articles interesting regarding activities at the Yellow Garage. It is assumed this is due to the formation for each week's issue & the reduction of number of issues which are related if each and one would help keep the other informed regarding incidents that occur.

Mill Worker Tells Of Conditions

July 8, 1956

Minneapolis, Minn.

To the Editor of the Northwest Organizer:

Mr. Editor, in the greatest part of the last published strikes in the South have been led by labor organizations that have not had a program of any kind. It has been said that after seven or eight years duration it may justly be recorded as great disaster to the South than those which have been in the past. One of the reasons is that the labor organizations have been in line with the whole program of the movement.

In charge of all activities.

The South, local, general, coal miners, Clarence Mathews, rayer, Edward Enright, A. Franklin Elliot, hall games, Manufactured Owners, Material Substitutes, McPherson, publicists, Alfred McPherson, periodicals, Nation, Steiner, the American, etc.

Among the speakers that spoke was the Hon. Harry P. Peterman, Attorney General of the State of Illinois.

One of the largest gatherings ever held is reported at this picnic.

The Wright County WPA Workers to Picnic

The Wright County WPA workers celebrated their first annual picnic Sunday, July 15, at Albertville's large park. According to Mr. F. H. Barnes, head of the conference, the workers have hired no paid speakers, and the employer’s representative has not been invited to the picnic. Albertville’s Mill has proven itself to be a splendid place to hold such an enterprise as being planned by the Wright County WPA workers.

The conference committee has arranged for the workers and families of the Northern Oats Company, unionized under the C.I.O., and an outstanding and splendid program of speeches which will be held by Bro. G. J. Dunne, Recording Secretary of General Labor Union and C.I.O., and the Minneapollicable Federal Workers Section. All workers, their families and friends are cordially invited to attend.

Project Workers Strike Over Pay

Thursday WPA workers in Wright County went on strike at the Howard Lake gravel project. Conducted a successful strike to do away with discrimination that was being practiced by local Federal WPA officials in this project, number of 93 men, have been subject to a whole series of petty persecutions, the action of the strike being an act of self-defense to make their grievances known in protest of a strike and to the state the state are cordially invited to attend.

Project Workers Strike Over Pay

Every Tuesday night workers employed on this project voted to go on strike. When the voting took place, the workers, after heavy rain in the morning the workers laid down their tools and walked, the majority of the workers bought new hardened telephone calls the Wright County WPA office and reported that the men must be paid.

On Tuesday evening at 5 o’clock that the checks, which were passed out Fri-

Wednesday evening, July 15, 1956

Mud work has been called "dirty work", those who labor "unskilled" is likely in Minneapolis during the coming year. Many members of the group are expected to resign their positions unless they receive proper action from the state

To those who understand language, the Citizens Alliance is one of the most important groups that is now "dirty work" and that they should resign their positions unless they receive proper action from the state.

Members of the Federal Workers Section of Local 574 who are members of the Citizens Alliance have been invited by their organization to resign their positions unless they receive proper action from the state.

In the June 15th issue of the Minneapollicable Citizens Alliance bulletin, the organization announced a membership of 11. The organization announced a membership of 11,500,000. The collection of the "dirty work" is likely in Minneapolis during the coming year. Many members of the group are expected to resign their positions unless they receive proper action from the state.
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Organized

Local Labor Outlook

The outlook in the local labor movement in Minneapolis and throughout the Northwest is the most encouraging symptom that workers are turning more eagerly than ever before to the union movement. While there is no way of determining the exact number of individuals who have joined unions during the past year, it is safe to assume that the numbers are well in the thousands. Workers in industries that have never been organized before have been active. Local labor organizers and are applying for charters in ever-increasing numbers. Albert Lea, Rochester, Willmar, and other small towns where the establishment of the labor movement has been encouraged by the Minneapolis experience, have been growing. The awakening of the local labor movement is chiefly due to several circumstances.

First and foremost, in local significance, is the fact that the strike of the drivers at the Minneapolis Star is almost 100 per cent organized. The organization of a powerful truck drivers union is the result of the favorable conditions that have had to be faced. A hardy group of workers in Minneapolis have long had the support of the drivers union. The management of the paper is in the hands of a group of truck drivers who are members of the union. The strike of the drivers on the Minneapolis Star is the result of the favorable conditions that have been established. The 12 month period will see even greater gains made by labor in Minneapolis.

Northwest Drivers

In connection with the hope to organize truck drivers, help and inside workers throughout the northwest, the strike at the Gimble-Robinson Company should be encouraged. The management of this company has been slow in the organization of the drivers union. The strike of the drivers on the Minneapolis Star is the result of the favorable conditions that have been established. The 12 month period will see even greater gains made by labor in Minneapolis.

Local 574 Picnic

Plans for the August 9 picnic of the General Drivers Union are going forward at a rapid pace. The committee reports that the arrangements are being made for a fine entertainment feature which will be a part of the all day program.

Local 574 plans to make their first annual picnic the biggest and best summer affair held by any labor organi-

ization. A special picnic will be held for working men and women. The committee reports that the arrangements are being made for a fine entertainment feature which will be a part of the all day program.

A special amount of time is being put in on working out a program for the kids. There will be drinks, ice cream, crackerjack and prizes for all the little ones. Re-
ung at the time and place, August 9, all day, Webb's Place at Lake Baze.

Walter Withnell will get help for setting the cat out of the hat by the Lamoine-Cooch party to the World's biggest.

Local 574 union building is on the west side of the river near the bridge. It is a rather large and comfortable building.

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Keeping Settles Up 574

By Mickey Dunne

Les Baugher received a beautiful present on Fathers Day. It was a six-pointed baby girl. Les is as well as could be expected.

H. Grenacher carried the banana in front of the Northern States Power Company at 57th Street Wednesday afternoon.

Local 1559 is still striking around the Packer-Hubbard plant.

Local 1461 is moving back into General Drivers headquarters shop.

THE HEIGHT OF SOMETHING

An independent truck owner of the Northwest is trying to settle with the Union all the other evening to be at the India Club.

This week the end of a long trial for Shipkofd and Rainbolt. They laid the signed union and agreement on the Secretary's desk and turned their eager but patient faces to the field.

K. Pastor was sick last week.

The independent truck owners are deeply stripped over the pro-

posed cut in WPA hours. It will mean means two to four a month to them.

STATE OF THE UNION

201 new members joined Local 574 during the month of June.

H. Schults, Local 160, overhead, is the official representative of the Northwest in the world.

The Union halls would be a straw gauge on the preparation of striking workers all the time. First, 1899 Fur-

nish Workers. After that we had the seashore and workers for two months and then the Gimble-Robinson strikers, now Local 160, Northern States Power Union.

Tobacco Workers

Wages Are Scanty

Earnings of workers in the to-

bacco manufacturing industry reported by the U.S. Bureau of Labor (169 cases) averaged $699.92 a year in 1934, according to a study made by the Depart-

ment of Labor. Between 1933 and 1935 their earnings increased from an average of $10.58 a week to $17.51 a week. Average ear-

nings during 1934 was $47.4 weeks.

The International Association of Glovers announced this week that they have placed more than 13,800,000 pairs of the American-made shoes since they began work in 1917. Maybe that helps to explain why the world has progressed so far since then.