

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

Official Organ of the Northwest Labor Unity Conference

MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE: 257 PLYMOUTH AVE. N.
GENERAL OFFICE: 286 E. 6TH ST.
St. Paul, Minn.

As from this hour
You use your power,
The world must fol-
low you.

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

VOL. 1, NO. 12

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 1935

PRICE 5 CENTS

LOCAL 574 DEMANDS CORCORAN CEASE ATTACKS

Memorial for Ness - Belor On July 20th

LABOR TO HONOR UNION MARTYRS

WILL PLACE WREATH WHERE HEROES FELL

July 20 will see the most significant gathering of labor in the entire history of the Minneapolis labor movement. On that day labor will gather to pay tribute to the memory of two valiant heroes who fell during the July strike of last year, victims to the brutality of a system that they were trying to reform. The Minneapolis labor movement owes a real duty to these martyrs. By their suffering and death, they have welded the ranks of labor more solidly than they have ever been before. The conditions that prevail in the driving industry today would not exist had not it been that there were those in labor's ranks who were ready and willing to lay down their lives in its cause.

To honor these two dead heroes, it is planned that Saturday, July 20, will be set aside as a day to do them special honors. Co-operating with the General Drivers' Union are Federal Union No. 19802 Filling Station Attendants Union and Machinists Union Local No. 382. These three organizations have formed a joint committee who are to lay the plans for this labor demonstration. As we go to press, tentative plans have been formulated which call for a mass meeting on the Parade Grounds, Saturday afternoon. Attempts are being made to secure some nationally known labor leader as the principal speaker. In addition, the demonstration will be addressed by representatives of the Minneapolis labor movement.

From the Parade Grounds, a march will be made to Third Avenue North and Sixth Street where these two heroes received the wounds that resulted fatally. A brief service will be held at this point and wreaths will be laid on the crosses that mark the place of their dead. A Color Guard will be maintained on Sixth Street and Third Avenue North during the entire day.

Every member of the Minneapolis labor movement, organized and unorganized, should turn out on this day to help make the demonstration in honor of these martyrs a red letter day in the history of the Minneapolis labor movement. There is not one single individual in Minneapolis or the northwest that has not directly benefited from the sacrifice these heroes made. By their martyrdom they have raised the spirit of the workers to a new level. Their actions

Driver of Plumbing Firm Reinstated by Officers of Union

Once again Local 574 has demonstrated that they have the power and ability to compel Minneapolis employers to live up to the terms of the agreement that ended the strike of last summer. The D. M. Gilmore Company, 513 South Third Street, a wholesale plumbing and heating concern, during the last week attempted to discharge one of their faithful employees who had been on the payroll of the Gilmore Company for 15 years.

It is a significant fact that Arnold Johnson, the man in question, a truck driver employer by this company, had been an active and militant supporter of the Drivers' Union. O. S. Burman, General Manager and principal owner of the D. M. Gilmore Company, was formerly a plumbing and heating contractor in Minneapolis. He has been in conflict with the Pipe Trade Unions on several occasions.

The excuse given for discharging Arnold Johnson was that a more efficient man was to be hired. It is almost past belief that Johnson's inefficiency was only discovered at the end of 15 years of service with the company. It was a clear case of discrimination against the Drivers' Union. The matter was reported to the officials of Local 574 and immediate steps were taken to contact the management of the Gilmore Company. When it was pointed out to Mr. Burman that such a flimsy excuse would not satisfy the Union

Labor Progress Exposition

The Labor Progress Exposition which is being promoted jointly by the General Drivers Union and the Laundry Workers Union is getting under way in fine style. This affair will be held at 29th and Nicollet from July 27th to August 4th and deserves the support and co-operation of every member of both organizations. The profits from this labor carnival will be divided between the Drivers and Laundry Workers. An automobile will be raffled off during the exposition. Every member of the Drivers Union will receive a book containing chances on this car. Sell them to your friends. By doing so you will help to build the organization of which you are a member.

was a concrete demonstration that men are willing to fight and die for a principle.

The joint committee in charge of the Memorial meeting invite the Minneapolis working class to this demonstration. They urge that you turn out on that day to honor Minneapolis labor martyrs. More complete details will be found in the following issues of the Organizer.

Meeting Schedule Local 574

Friday, July 12: Federal Workers Unit.
Wednesday, July 17: Ice Drivers.
Thursday, July 18: Independent Truck Owners and Construction Haulers.
Friday, July 19: Stewards, and Federal Workers Unit.
Monday, July 22: Full membership.
Tuesday, July 23: Taxi Drivers; night drivers, 1 p. m.; day drivers, 7 p. m.
Friday, July 26: Federal Workers Unit.

and it was further pointed out that unless Arnold Johnson was returned to his job with full seniority, the Drivers would be compelled to put the D. M. Gilmore Company on the unfair list and proceed accordingly. After thinking the matter over for some time, Mr. Burman decided that discretion was the better part of valor and agreed to return Johnson to his former position.

While this case is perhaps relatively unimportant in that it concerned only one member of the union who was employed in one of the smaller concerns, it should demonstrate to every union man the value of being a member in good standing of an organization that is prepared to fight for the rights of its members. Today Arnold Johnson is back to work and able to earn a living for himself and his family. Without the organization of which he is a member Johnson would have been just another sacrifice to the employers' greed for profit.

Union Notes

The Triangle Transfer Company which was a sore spot in the union during and after the May strike of last year is about to become kosher. The boys there have decided that due bills and promises don't pay grocery bills and rent.

The club rooms of the Union in their new headquarters are proving to be a popular place for the members to spend their leisure time.

The Plymouth Ave. headquarters of the Drivers Union are, without a doubt, the finest home of any union in the Northwest.

One of the transfer organizers is head-over-heels in a bowl of spaghetti.

Too much cannot be said of the working conditions at the Yellow Cab Company. The conditions are good because they have been made good.

Don't forget the regular weekly dances of Local 574. They are held every Saturday night in the new headquarters, 257 Plymouth avenue.

Industrial vs. Craft Union Fight Shakes Federation Leaders

Under a Washington date line of July 8, we see the following significant news in relation to the controversy between craft and industrial forms of union organization.

"Labor leaders view with apprehension signs of a threatened rift in the American Federation of Labor. The controversy is raging between industrial and craft unionists over whether workers should be organized by industry or by craft. Bitterness between the two groups has reached the point where some labor authorities contend a drastic change in the federation's policy may be necessary to preserve harmony."

This news, while coming into the open now for the first time is an issue that will vitally concern the future growth of the American labor movement. Snowed under and submerged for a long time by the reactionary leadership, this fight is a subject that cannot be buried. The leaders of the old obsolete craft internationals are fighting a desperate battle to preserve their prestige and influence in the A. F. of L. At the present time, they have the power, money, and more or less, the leadership of the movement.

Opposed to them, however, are the new forces, unorganized up until now, who have come to the realization that their only salvation lies in a form of organization which will be better and more secure than craft unions can offer them. The two conflicting interests are waging a fight that will not be ended until the newer form of workers organization gains control and leadership in the American labor movement.

The craft form of organization has proven, in the past period, that it was absolutely unable to cope with the organizations of the employers. Craft form of unionism, as exemplified in the building trades department has proved its many weaknesses since 1928. These old craft unions are only empty shells of their once powerful selves. The new deal, the new and powerful organizations of employers, and the fast changing economic conditions have bled these craft unions white. Many of them are represented only by a bureaucratic leadership. Their members have gone elsewhere.

In the coal fields, in the automobile industry, in rubber and elsewhere, where vast sections of the American working class are yet unorganized new forms of organization must be erected to solve the problems that confront these workers. Broad industrial unions, democratically controlled, are the only weapons that will

(Continued on page 2)

Traitor Corcoran Continues Union Busting Attempt

HIS DEALS WITH THE EMPLOYERS REVEALED

LOCAL 574 WARNS MILK DRIVERS

In the fight that is being waged against Local 574, since the revocation of their charter by the Drivers International, one factor has entered the situation that is bound to have a profound effect on the whole Minneapolis labor movement. There can be no disputing the fact that Local 574 is the most militant, alive and progressive section of the Northwest labor movement.

The revocation of the charter of Local 574 affected the local labor leaders in two different ways. The majority of them, while submitting to the dictates of the Central Labor Union and of their various Internationals, in regard to formally severing connections with Local 574, have, nevertheless, continued to support the Drivers Union. This is the natural reaction of the honest Trade Unionist. No formal condemnation of Local 574 by the A. F. of L. can wipe out the memory of the great service that was rendered the labor movement by the courageous strike actions of this fighting union.

Some of them, however, have played, and are continuing to play, the role of traitor. Among the latter are some whose organizations gained strength and inspiration from the struggles of the General Drivers Union. To those leaders who are playing a passive role in the fight on the Drivers Local, we say, that is the least that you can do. But to the active enemies of Local 574 we say, beware. Local 574 desires peace. We want peace with the rest of the labor movement. We want the opportunity to continue to serve the members of our organization in their struggles with the employers.

We are going to continue to fight to maintain the wages and working conditions that were established in the strikes of last summer. Those who stand in the way of our accomplishing that end will have short shrift. We can be good and faithful friends, but we can also be implacable enemies of those who stand in the way of our fulfilling our obligations to those who fought and bled in the July days of last summer.

We charge at this time that P. J. Corcoran, of the Milk Wagon Drivers Union, has acted in such a manner that he must be put down as an active and dangerous enemy of Local 574. We cannot conceive that the membership of Local 471 knowingly condone the

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ALL WORKERS INTO THE UNIONS ALL UNIONS INTO THE STRUGGLE

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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."

Lewis - Heywood

The game of fox and geese being played between John L. Lewis, the administration and the mine operators would be amusing if the price were not so dear to the mine workers. Threats and counter-threats, ultimatums followed by immediate truces, endless postponements and "gentlemen's" agreements, such are the tactics employed by the bureaucracy of the United Mine Workers in their grandstand gestures at doing something for the miners.

While the workers live in poverty and suffering, and the mine owners rush the production of coal, at the same time making preparations for the brutal suppression of the strike, if it should materialize, the UMW bureaucrats flit about on their trapeze watching eagerly for the arrival of the inevitable board with which the administration always makes possible the stalling off of the workers.

The membership of the UMW would do well to study the history of the old Western Federation of Miners and follow their tactics.

The French Worker

The Labor movement in France, and the working class in general, of that republic, are facing a real crisis. The question of Fascist or Workers rule is sharply posed. Anyone who has been following the history of developments in France in the last period knows that the conditions there are such that a test of strength between the forces of Fascist reaction and the working class is inevitable. A real Fascist movement has sprung up there in the past two years, calling itself the "Cross of Fire." It is as real and a dangerous force as were the followers of Hitler and Mussolini prior to their taking power. Colonel Francois de la Rocque has, in the last few days, issued orders to his followers to hold himself in readiness to accomplish a coup d'etat. Colonel Francois de la Rocque, like Hitler and Mussolini, has the active support and co-operation of the French bankers and industrialists. He is being financed directly by the French imperialist bankers. It should be a significant fact to the American veterans of the World War that the forces of Fascist reaction in France are recruited almost entirely from the French World War veterans. From the outside the "Cross of Fire" is built on similar lines as is the familiar American Legion, and is based upon the false premise that the World War veterans can solve their problems by the means of a veterans' organization. Like the American Legion the "Cross of Fire," Fascist organization, raises the usual slogan of "patriotism, duty to the country, etc., etc.," and behind it, like the American Legion, can be seen the hands of the bankers and industrialists who are maneuvering it, so that they will be able to use it to suppress the French working class. Those deluded American workers who are members of the American Legion should take warning from the orientation that has been taken by the Veterans organization in France. The workers will find here, as well as in France, that the guns, bombs, and terror of these peaceful looking organizations will one day be used against them.

POPULAR GIRL CONTEST

Age 16 to 60

First Annual Labor Progress Outdoor Exposition

You nominate the winner and receive \$5.00
Please enter my candidate as:

Name

Address..... Tel. No.....

First Prize, Diamond Ring
Second Prize, Wrist Watch
Third Prize, \$25.00

Name of Sponsor.....

Address.....

Fill out and bring or send to the Labor Progress Exposition Committee at 257 Plymouth Avenue North.

Traitor Corcoran Continues Union Busting Attempt

(Continued from page 1)
anti-labor actions of their Business Agent. He is playing a role that is opposed to the best interests of the General Drivers Union and a role that constitutes a real danger to the Milk Wagon Drivers Union. No one in their right mind can believe that Local 574 will calmly submit to the union-busting activities of Corcoran. He has gone out of his way to antagonize the membership of the Drivers Union and has done his best to assist the setting up of a dual organization in the driving industry that will only end in bringing chaos in that industry where the conditions have, for the first time, been stabilized. The role that is being played by Corcoran cannot be laid to lack of knowledge. He is an officer of an organization that was brought into being in a fierce struggle with the employers.

It may be that some of the members of that union have forgotten the history of the birth of the Milk Wagon Drivers Union. They came into being and established the conditions they now enjoy in a strike that was as fiercely fought as was the General Drivers strike of last summer. By the militancy and fighting spirit that was displayed in their struggle they won the confidence and respect of the rest of the labor movement. To that alone do they owe the excellent wages and working conditions they have today.

The General Drivers Union are at this time consolidating the gains that they won in the struggles of last summer. Local 574 refuses to believe that the members of the Milk Wagon Drivers Union have given Corcoran authority to carry on his vicious and baseless campaign directed against the Drivers Union. We have proof that he has connived with the employers, who are under contract to Local 574, to break such contracts. He has attempted to bribe officers of the Drivers Union to leave the organization and to become organizers of a dual union. He has appeared before organizations of employers to ask their help in setting up a dual union in the driving industry.

We accuse Corcoran of acting in a manner that can leave no doubt as to where his interests lie. The charges that we lay at Corcoran's door are not idle assertions on our part. We have proofs that cannot be doubted. In the next issue of the **Organizer** we will submit those proofs.

In the meantime we wish to remind the members of the Milk Wagon Drivers Union that the members of Local 574 are a powerful force in the labor movement. We will continue to fight for them and support the aims of their organization, until by their actions, they convince us that they support and condone the anti-union actions of their business agent.

The members of Local 574 who have loyally supported and assisted the Milk Wagon Drivers' union won't go for the anti-labor course that is being pursued by P. J. Corcoran.

Boutell Furniture Company will find that it is easier to get along if they are friendly to Local 574.

The ball team that represents Local 574 has settled down and now are playing a brand of ball that is a credit to the organization. They should have the support of the entire membership.

I believe what I see an' some iv th' things I'm told, if they've been told often enough.

Labor Looks at the Press

Headline: John L. Lewis Calls Off Coal Strike for Third Time.

That's what we call rotten leadership. Lewis, one of the prime A. F. of L. fakers, knows that more than anything else, indecisiveness in their leaders exhausts the nerves of the masses.

Liberty Enlightening the World
Scientists gathered in Minneapolis for the American Association for the Advancement of Science, said Saturday: "Economic pressure is the principal cause of radicalism."

Gawd! There's a discovery that ranks right alongside anything Tommy Edison ever put out.

Well, Whose Government Is It?
David Lasser, chairman of Workers Alliance: "In the eyes of millions of unemployed, the United States has become wage chiseler No. 1."

A Sad Case
Upton Sinclair: "I oppose a third-party movement . . . I believe President Roosevelt can be induced to accept production-for-use as the leading feature of the new deal."

When a Socialist goes haywire, he goes all the way.

Why the Wealthy Want War
Edward A. Filene, rich Boston merchant said last week: "War is the only escape from revolution unless a way is found to distribute wealth to the masses."

The masses will find the way when they get a bit hungrier.

Week's Funniest Headline
"U. S. Sends Message to Abyssinia, Urging Observance of Kellogg Pact."

That's like a preacher telling a man condemned to be electrocuted that there'll be pie in the sky. But the point is, the man wants to be told he won't be electrocuted.

Industrial vs. Craft Union Fight Shakes Federation Leaders

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bring these workers conditions that they must have. Many who look upon the A. F. of L. in a superficial way cannot see the turmoil that is shaking that ancient organization to its very roots, but those on the inside know that underneath the calm and placid exterior, there is a seething cauldron of discontent and revolt. There can be no doubt that this fight long stifled, submerged, and hidden within the ranks of the upper bureaucracy will soon break into the open.

Contradiction that faces the American labor movement will only be solved when new progressive forces assert their right to erect a new structure on the out-moded foundation of the old labor movement.

Says the Capitalist: "My class takes all the risk, doesn't it?" and then

Austin, Minn., news item: "Rosalia Tovar was decapitated when struck by an Illinois Central freight train at Lyle, Minn. Tovar was a member of an Illinois Central crew."

General Johnson's latest: "Wherever a worker gets a chance to take a private job, even if it pays less than he is getting on relief, he should be made to take the private job."

Which will leave wages at around zero—which in turn will suit the General and his boss friends right down to the ground.

News from Fascist Germany
Minister Julius Streicher: "Jesus Christ was the greatest Anti-Semite."

Our Beters
N. Y. World Telegram news item: "Charles Sabin, Jr., is forming a committee of wealthy persons to lobby for lower income tax rates, a federal sales tax, and drastic cuts in governmental expenditures. The organization is called the Committee of Americans."

In 1919 the Socialists seized the tremendous Hapsburg wealth and turned it over to the people. Today the Austrian fascists are "sharing the wealth" in a new direction.

CORCORAN TO SPIELMAN TO HALL

Where the fighting's the hardest
On labor's wide front.

Where by battle men stand or they fall,

There's a double-play trio
Who star for the boss,
Corcoran to Spielman to Hall.

Where the workers are making
A desperate stand,
And Victory's important
To all.

These double-cross champs
Try to break up the game,
Corcoran to Spielman to Hall.

Well versed in the ways
That are dark and complex,
Overflowing with crass
Brazen gall,
Are the pets of the team
That play for the boss,
Corcoran to Spielman to Hall.

They play by no rules
That are decent or right,
They are lost beyond
Hope of recall.
They perform for the guy
With the biggest bankroll
Corcoran to Spielman to Hall.

When their days on this earth
Are finished and done
And they answer Satan's
Last call,
They'll be tossing brimstone
Blithely about
Corcoran to Spielman to Hall.

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