

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!

VOLUME 1, NO. 21

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1935

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RELIEF WORKERS DEMONSTRATION FRIDAY, 8 A. M.

To Assemble at Auditorium
and March to Court
House

Demand that Welfare Board
Restore 35% Relief
Increase

After almost two weeks of fruitless dickerings with the Farmer-Labor controlled Welfare Board in regard to the return of the 35% relief cut that was imposed on relief clients a short time ago, the Federal Workers Section of Local 574 has decided to move into action. Representatives of the Federal Workers have appeared before the Welfare Board no less than five times in the past two weeks urging the Farmer-Labor members of the Welfare Board to make good their campaign promises in regard to a raise in relief standards. Up to this time they have played with the question in the most cowardly fashion.

The workers of Minneapolis are finding out that the Farmer-Labor city administration, elected after promising the workers the world with a fence around it, is nobody's fairy godmother. They have behaved in as rotten a manner, in regard to the relief situation, as the most out and out representatives of the employers that were ever elected.

The workers voted for them and elected them because they thought that there was a new deal for labor in sight. Their campaign promises have been thrown into the discard. The workers and the relief clients are getting the same old run-around. Relief has been cut and strike-breaking is on their agenda.

The time has come to demonstrate to these people, elected by the votes of workers, that they are going to be held responsible for their actions. The Federal Workers Section of Local 574 has come to the realization that all efforts of their representatives to force a raise in relief standards have proven vain. Words have failed and the time for action has arrived.

The Federal Workers Section of Local 574, the only living, growing organization of the Minneapolis unemployed, has invited every other unemployed organization to join with it in a mass demonstration on Friday, Sept. 13, at 8 a. m. Every unemployed man or woman in Minneapolis is urged to take part in this meeting. We will meet at the Municipal Auditorium Friday morning at 8 o'clock. From there we will march to the Court House. And there by the force of our numbers we will demonstrate to Mayor Latimer and his Welfare

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Oil Men Demand 800 Men Get Jobs Back

The Station Operators Union Local 19802 has set September 15 as the deadline for strike action if the employers refuse to negotiate a satisfactory settlement before that date. Hopes of a previous settlement are slight as the companies refuse to discuss the question of hours and wages and have confined their remarks to objections over the scope of the union membership.

The employers object principally to the inclusion of employees whom they class as dealers. These men are forced to work under fraudulent leases on a commission basis and are subject to dismissal on very short notice. As long as this practice exists there is little use to establish a wage scale because the companies avoid compliance by placing the operators on this "lease" basis.

The demands of the union involve the return of 800 men to their jobs who lost employment because of the long hours worked under the present system or were starved out while trying to earn a living on commissions. In January 1935 one employee of the Shell Oil Co. received \$8.31 for 416 hours work. Although claiming that he was not an employee, the Texas Co. sent a letter to one of the operators informing him that if he did not attend company sales meetings he would be fired.

The Trackage Oil Co., employing a driver on the basis of half the profit for materials which he hauled and charging for half the expense on the truck, credited him with \$46.20 income for the month of July. He was charged \$13.09 for truck expense and actually received only \$33.11 for one month's work, putting in about 70 hours per week.

The union has affidavits and photostatic copies of letters and checks on file with which to prove these statements.

Boss Members of 'Labor' Board Have Anti-Union Record

The chairman and the employer representatives on the Latimer Employer-Employee Board are individuals who have a very unsavory record in their attitude toward labor. Here are a few of the facts:

Dr. C. A. Prosser
Director of the Dunwoody Institute which has for years turned out scabs to work in opposition to the building trades mechanics, the printers and the machinists. The struggle of the union movement against the practices of this school is a matter of long standing and has been given many hours' discussion in the Central Labor Union and the Building Trades Council. Dr. Prosser is credited with the authorship of the "Prosser Plan" which was a very intricate blacklist system to be used against union members and which is still in operation.

Mayor Latimer Attempts to Introduce Compulsory Arbitration in Local Labor Disputes—Reactionary Union Leaders Aid

Meeting Schedule Local 574

Monday, Sept. 16: Coal Workers.
Wednesday, Sept. 18: Ice Drivers.
Thursday, Sept. 19: Independent Truck Owners.
Friday, Sept. 20: Stewards; Federal Workers.
Monday, Sept. 23: Full Membership.
Tuesday, Sept. 24: Taxi Drivers; night drivers, 1 p. m.; day drivers, 7 p. m.
Wednesday, Sept. 25: Ice Drivers.
Friday, Sept. 27: Federal Workers.

Latimer Opposed to Strike Endorsement

The Ornamental Metal Workers, Local 1313, appeared before the Hennepin County Central Committee of the Farmer-Labor Party at its last meeting to ask for the endorsement of their strike. The only opposition to the endorsement came from the office of the mayor. The spokesman, a functionary from the Mayor's office, objected to the endorsement on the grounds that such action would prove embarrassing to the mayor. The strike has been endorsed by the CLU, the State Federation of Labor and the Machinists International.

Several of the leading figures on the Farmer-Labor Central Committee spoke in favor of the endorsement and expressed disapproval of the fact that the leading committee of the party in power in the city government had to go to the newspapers to find out what the mayor was doing.

The strike was endorsed before the close of the meeting.

Pledges Use of Police Department Against Unions Which Fail to Submit to New Board

Latimer Breaks Up Picket Line

Using clubs, guns and tear gas, rioting police Tuesday night dispersed an assembly of 5,000 pickets, strike sympathizers and spectators at the Flour City Ornamental Iron Works. The police opened fire with tear gas, without warning, upon a group of strikers holding a meeting on a vacant lot across the street from the plant. The gas was fired from one of the armored cars which were purchased to protect banks. Following behind the armored cars, which were spewing forth gas in rapid and steady volleys, the police clubbed indiscriminately and fired volley after volley of revolver shots.

When the meeting had been broken up the gas, guns and clubs were turned on the spectators. Many were injured as the police swung their clubs viciously at men, women and children. At 26th Street and 27th Avenue the police charged a gathering of 300 spectators and clubbed them down in winrows as they clambored, panic-stricken, for escape from the attack of the police who had gone berserk at the first taste of blood.

Over one hundred police were used by Latimer to protect the scab Flour City plant which is housing a handful of professional strike-breakers and a covey of armed thugs.

The Latimer Employer-Employee Board was not present. The policy of using police violence against unions which fail to follow the dictates of the board was carried out thoroughly.

Prosser and Miller Direct Drive on Striking Unions

"Secret Six" Grows Into Full Blown Union-Busting Machine

The direction of trade union activities in Minneapolis has been transferred, on paper, from the union halls to the offices of the Citizens Alliance. The Employer-Employee Board appointed by Latimer is the proposed medium through which this change is to be made.

The mayor's proclamation appointing its members clearly outlines the board's functions and the intended scope of its powers. The mayor calls upon all striking workers to return to their jobs. Even the Roosevelt boards have not dared to take this open position of strike-breaking. After the strikers have returned to their jobs (if they can get back) without a settlement, the mayor would have the board "adjust the differences." And in the future all unions must "follow this same orderly procedure without interruption of operations." To the Employer-Employee Board and to the citizens of Minneapolis (the bosses) the mayor pledges the full support of "all the agencies at my command for the preservation of law and order."

This means that, under the Latimer conception, strikes are outlawed, all labor controversies are to be "adjusted" by the Employer-Employee Board, and any group of organized workers who refuse to submit to this program will have to face the clubs and guns of Latimer's police.

This board, which Latimer proposes to have rule the unions, will express at all times the policies of the Citizens Alliance. It will be run by Dr. C. A. Prosser, the chairman, and F. J. Miller, who is resigning from the Federal Labor Board to become secretary of the Latimer board. These men will carry out the program of the Citizens Alliance spokesmen on the board, R. F. Pack, D. D. Davis and S. V. Wood; the alleged labor representatives, T. E. Cunningham, J. B. Boscoe, and Guy Alexander, will not have the courage to raise their voices against this combine.

It has remained for a Farmer-Labor city administration to hand to the Citizens Alliance a company union program of which they have long dreamed but have never been able to successfully install. The

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ALL WORKERS INTO THE UNIONS ALL UNIONS INTO THE STRUGGLE

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

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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."

The Latimer Board

The most treacherous of all ground which the unions must traverse in their struggle for decent living conditions is the swamp of class-collaboration. Many labor leaders, after a few years in office, forget about the hardships which the workers are forced to endure, and so forgetting, succumb to the siren call of the clever overtures made by boss agents who receive high salaries to devote their entire energies toward the task of compromising the leaders of the unions and thus rendering the workers' organizations impotent.

Lacking a clear understanding of the supreme task of labor (to completely abolish a social system which leads to so many inequalities with the attendant hardships and suffering), not gifted with the courage to carry on the fight against the great odds marshalled against them, content to draw their weekly salary with a minimum amount of effort to earn it, yearning to be considered a good fellow by the boss (the boss considers a labor leader a good fellow only when he is giving something away which rightfully belongs to the workers), these leaders who call themselves "safe and sane" are constantly flirting with boards of one kind and another which would serve as substitutes for the union action which has been made legal only through long years of struggle and with the sacrifice of many lives.

On the political field the same process takes place. Men who have been elected to office on a platform which calls for them to use their powers principally in the interest of the workers find that they are confronted with circumstances which call for courageous men to steer a true course. Trying to administer the laws written by the boss and for the boss, they find themselves involved in a series of compromises which hopelessly trap and ensnare them.

It is out of such a combination of circumstances as this, and with such characters as Latimer, Cunningham, Boscoe, and Alexander that devices like the Minneapolis Employer-Employee Board grow. Having been born, it is necessary for the board to quickly establish a reputation. It is not impossible that such an effort to gain respect will be made by attempting to work out a settlement in the metal workers strike. However, no one should be deceived by this because it will be nothing more than a matter of pure expediency if it is done. In the end this board will completely betray the workers.

* * *

Stool Pigeon School

Mayor Latimer has asked the WPA to allot funds for a special traffic project under which he can deputize 1,200 relief workers as special traffic officers. On the surface it appears that this request is made in an effort to curb the heavy toll of traffic accidents in recent weeks. It is true that such an aim could thus be accomplished even with far fewer than 1,200 men.

Most important to labor are the other possibilities in such a deputized force. First of all, it would release the entire armed and well trained force of the police department to be free for duty in strikes. Judging by past performance, under both Bainbridge and Latimer, this would mean that the police would completely prohibit the workers from exercising their constitutional rights of assembly and peaceful picketing.

Secondly, this could well be the first step toward making stool-pigeons and informers out of the unemployed workers. The Civic and Commerce Association has offered to furnish "Sam Brown" belts as a badge of authority for these proposed "police." It only remains now, after the proper training and weeding out of those who cannot be counted as "reliable" for use against striking workers, for the Citizens Alliance to volunteer to furnish them with firearms and the bosses will have a Fascist band for use against the trade unions.

We call upon the men in the breadlines to denounce such degrading proposals.

"Secret Six" Blooms Into Union-Buster

(Continued from page 1)

"Prosser Plan," the "Committee of One Hundred," and similar attempts to sterilize the unions failed completely even with the support of the Cunninghams, the Boscoes and the Alexanders. Elected on a platform of helping the workers to build their unions and improve their living standards, Latimer has repudiated his party platform by lending the authority of his office to this plot against union action.

It is customary in reactionary city governments for the mayor to be used as a front man while the city is run by a Citizens Alliance clique. The workers expected and were entitled to something more than this from a Farmer-Labor mayor, but Latimer is acting as his labor-hating predecessor did: having turned one of his most important functions, that function which is most vital to labor, over to a Citizens Alliance controlled board, Latimer may be followed through the pages of the boss-controlled daily paper as he officiates at corn festivals, beard growing contests and baseball games.

Meantime, the Flour City Iron Works has sneaked scabs into its plant where it is housing them under the protection of armed thugs on the inside while Latimer's police stand vigil on the outside, and the police are clubbing pickets wherever there is a strike.

Boards such as the Latimer board are so vicious and so dangerous to the unions that even the reactionary George W. Lawson, secretary of the State Federation of Labor, was forced to warn the unions against turning their functions over to any board, government or otherwise. And yet Cunningham, Boscoe and Alexander have accepted appointment to such a board, thereby sanctioning the program of the Latimer proclamation, and by this action have loaned to this Citizens Alliance device the cloak of dignity of the labor movement.

This they have done without the approval of the unions, without so much as a discussion in the Central Labor Union.

It is the duty of every union man and woman, of every union, of the Central Labor Union, for their own protection, to repudiate and condemn this board and the rest of Latimer's strike-breaking program.

Coal Workers to Get Uniform Wage Scales

With the coming of the cold weather and the resultant revival of the coal industry it is time for every worker in the coal yard to see to it that he is in good standing in the union and also to make it his business to insist that his fellow workers join Local 574.

The situation in the coal yards is better than ever before for those who work in the coal industry. The agreement of last year, which was a Labor Board stipulation, has been superseded by a contract directly between the coal operators and Local 574. This contract has been signed by almost every coal company in Minneapolis. Those coal dealers who have not signed the agreement will be compelled by the union to live up to all the labor clauses in the contract that relate to wages and hours of work.

For the first time in the history of the coal business in Minneapolis a uniform scale of wages will cover every worker in that industry. How well this contract will be enforced will depend upon how

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solid the union organization can be made in every coal yard in the city. Last year it was almost 100 per cent. This year it must be 100 per cent. Every driver, yardman, helper and carryman must become a member of Local 574.

When you report for work either see your steward on the job or come to the union office. If your funds are low do not let that keep you away from the union. Arrangements can be made through your steward or at the union office at 257 Plymouth Ave. Every coal worker into the union!

Publish Pamphlet on Sacramento Case

"Union-Smashing in Sacramento—The Truth About the Criminal Syndicalism Trial," a 36-page pamphlet selling for five cents, has just been published by the National Sacramento Appeal Committee. This thorough-going analysis of the origins, course and results of the trial is simultaneously an absorbing, dramatic story of the class struggle in California and of the role of capitalist courts in that struggle.

The pamphlet is written by Herbert Solow, well-known journalist who spent four months in California last winter directing the Sacramento work of the Non-Partisan Labor Defense. Solow is now secretary of the National Sacramento Appeal Committee.

Copies of the pamphlet, which contains prefaces by Sam S. White of the San Francisco I.L.G.W.U. and Travers Clements, well-known author, may be obtained at Local 574 Headquarters, 257 Plymouth Ave. N.

If I wanted to keep me money so that me gran'-childher might get it f'r their ol' age, I'd appeal it to th' supreme coort."

'Tis sthrange that what's a big thin to a man in Wash'nton, Hin-nissy, don't seem much account to me. What we want to know is, ar-re we goin' to have coal enough in the hod whin th' cold snap comes; will th' plumbin hold out, an' will th' job last.

Union Notes

For the benefit of those people who think they are going to break Local 574 we would remind them of the story of the boastful Lord Algy who went to Alaska to hunt bear. A few days later the natives carved the following few simple lines on Lord Algy's tombstone:

Algy met a bear
The bear was bulgy
The bulge was Algy

The football team of Local 574 is having its benefit dance Saturday night, Sept. 14. All of the funds raised at this affair will go to help equip the team with suits. The boys are out practicing hard and should have the support of every member of the union.

Who was that well-known heavy hauler who hooked his tractor onto an empty trailer and hauled it over to St. Paul under the impression that it was loaded?

Now that the summer is over, those members who have been neglecting their union meetings should resolve to be on hand for them regularly. Important business is transacted at these meetings. Decisions are made that affect every member of the union. Be there and take part in running your union.

Now that our stenographers are back from their vacations, tanned, happy, and broke, office affairs will no doubt return to normal.

Relief Workers to Demonstrate Friday

(Continued from page 1)
Board that the Minneapolis workers demand that promises made before election be fulfilled.

Every indication given by the so-called workers government, now in power in the Court House, is that they intend to keep the relief clients on the same old starvation basis. Now is the time to show them that we do not intend to stand for such treatment. Every relief worker out for the demonstration Friday! All out for a better relief standard! Demonstrate against starvation!

Sober Thought

The Nation for July 24 calls attention to the fact that: "Twenty-two obscure Americans were killed in the first six months of 1935 in the course of that ceaseless battle between the haves and the have-nots which at any moment may cause some quiet American street to bloom with tear gas and bring armed men running to factory gates."

As rega-ards Cuba, she's like a woman that th' whole neighborhood helps to divorce fr'm a crool husband, but nivertheless a husband, an' a miserable home but a home, an' a small credit at th' grocery but a credit, an thin' whin she goes into th' dressmakin' business, rayfuse to buy annything fr'm her because she's a divorced woman.

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