

# THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

Official Organ of the Northwest Labor Unity Conference

MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE: 257 PLYMOUTH AVE. N.

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. 2, NO. 14

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 1936

PRICE 5 CENTS

## DRIVERS UNION TO PICNIC AT WEBB'S PLACE SUNDAY

### JOINT COUNCIL HOLDS LARGE MEET JULY 23

Seven Delegates from 544  
Seated as Meeting  
Opens

Plans for Twin City Drive  
Are Outlined by  
F. Dobbs

The special meeting of the Teamsters Joint Council held Tuesday, July 23, was a historic one in the history of that organization. Not only were seven delegates from Local 544 seated at that time but it was the best attended meeting ever held by the Joint Council.

When the meeting opened, 46 delegates were in attendance. Seven driving Unions from Minneapolis and two from St. Paul were represented. The meeting was opened by Pat Corcoran, Secretary-Treasurer of the Council, who spoke of the great prospects in store for a unified drivers organization. The President of the Council, Harold Sunberg, introduced the new delegates to the rest of the members. As each was introduced they arose to be greeted with a storm of applause.

Corcoran stated that the purpose of this special meeting was to outline an organizational drive which would include Minneapolis, St. Paul as well as the rest of the state. Various delegates took the floor to give their whole-hearted endorsement to such a move and a number of very sound suggestions were made.

L. A. Murphy, Secretary-Treasurer of Local 544, pointed out the necessity for a Twin City Joint  
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### Greenhouse Drivers Will Be Organized

Greenhouse drivers, helpers and inside workers are busily engaged in organizing themselves into a section of Local 544. Several meetings have already been held and a union agreement is in process of formation.

Wages paid in this industry are extremely low and the work week often consists of as much as 70 hours. Top wages paid to experienced growers are \$24. Drivers receive as little as \$14 per week. The proposed union contract specifies a work week of not more than 48 hours. Minimum pay under the union agreement is set at 60c per hour. The next meeting of the group is set for Wednesday, August 5.

### The Union Parade



### Local 544 and Local 120 to Join Hands in Union Drive

One of the most encouraging results of the merger of Local 574 and Local 500 which resulted in the return of Minneapolis General Drivers Union to the ranks of the American Federation of Labor, is the fine spirit of co-operation that now exists between Local 120 of St. Paul and Local 544 of Minneapolis. Prior to the return of 574 to the Drivers International there existed a sort of a state of armed neutrality between the Minneapolis and St. Paul driving unions. While there never was an open break in the relationship of the two unions it was difficult to secure that co-operation that would make it possible to engage in a joint organizational campaign.

The situation that exists in the midway district in regard to union organization is testimony to the fact that the two unions could not work unitedly under conditions that prevailed in the past. As a result many drivers of midway firms remained entirely unorganized. Because neither Union wished to take an aggressive attitude on union organization in the midway district, that section of the cities has remained a "No Man's Land" as regards union organization. Many firms, employing large

numbers of drivers, quickly sensed the fact that here was a place where their employees would be least subject to a Union drive. As a result many firms have moved to the midway district during the past year from both cities. Truck transportation firms have established terminals there. Other companies who employ drivers also found this district to be a convenient location.

However, with the advent of the proposed Twin City Teamsters Joint Council the existing situation will be changed. A committee from the two locals is now making plans for a thorough going organization campaign directed at this non-union sector. The mass meeting planned for Thursday, August 13, will be the opening gun in the drive. Before many weeks are passed the co-operative efforts of the two Drivers Unions should show results.

### Teamsters Council

The next meeting of the Teamsters Joint Council will be held Friday, August 14, at 18 N. 8th St. All delegates are asked to be on hand promptly as business of unusual importance will come before the meeting.

### Pioneer Company Settles Strike After Two Days

Agreement With Union Gets  
Contract and Back  
Pay

The Pioneer Paper Stock Co., local paper salvage concern, was made the object of General Drivers attention last week. Mr. Noodleman, owner of the plant, had stubbornly refused to sign an agreement with General Drivers Union and had refused to adjust the pay of his drivers, helpers and inside workers to conform to the June 1st agreement. All peaceful attempts to secure a settlement of the controversy were unavailing.

Two months of attempts, on the part of the Union, to induce the owner of the paper company to grant employees their just dues resulted in a refusal on the part of the manager to make any adjustment. Finally on Thursday, July 30, the employees of the company walked out. They demanded that the management not only sign an agreement with General Drivers Union but that back pay due them from June 1 be forthcoming. After a strike lasting a day and a half, during which the plant of the Pioneer Paper Stock Co. was picketed by the employees, assisted by the Union organizers, Mr. Noodleman decided that discretion was the better part of valor and signed the Union agreement.

Under the terms of the settlement the employees of that firm will receive back pay totaling over \$150.

### Keeshin Transfer Drivers in Union

The Keeshin Transfer Co., huge Chicago transportation outfit, felt the weight of Local 544 Friday. This firm, which has over 450 units operating out of Chicago to all points south and west, has consistently refused to allow their drivers, who operate in and through the Twin Cities, to be unionized.

However, Friday Union organizers found two of these units on the streets in Minneapolis operating with non-union drivers. They were tied up and the local management was notified that the trucks would not be moved except by Union operators. In a short time both drivers were members of Local 544. A close watch is being kept for other trucks of this concern.

### BASS LAKE TO BE SCENE OF UNION RALLY

10,000 Expected to Be at  
Picnic Grounds for  
Outing

Free Transportation Will Be  
Furnished to the  
Grounds

Sunday will see the entire membership of General Drivers Union gathered at Webb's Place at Bass Lake. The occasion will be the first annual picnic of Local 544. No trouble and expense has been spared to make this affair the greatest outdoor labor celebration of the year. The committee in charge has worked diligently to see that nothing has been left undone that would add to the enjoyment of those who attend.

Members and their friends are urged to bring the entire family with them. There will be a special program for the children and splendid prizes have been provided for the various events in which only the kiddies will be allowed to participate. For the grownups the day will provide a continuous round of games, sports, contests, bathing, boating, fishing and will end up in the evening with a gala dance.

(Continued on page 3)

### Twin City Meeting For Truck Drivers

Thursday evening, August 13, there will be held a Twin City joint mass meeting for truck drivers, helpers and platform men in the midway district. The mass meeting is being arranged jointly by Local 544 of Minneapolis and Local 120 of St. Paul.

The scene of the gathering will be the Deutsches House, 344 Rice St., in St. Paul. The meeting will be the opening gun in the joint campaign of the two Drivers Unions to organize all drivers and helpers in the midway district. A committee, consisting of representatives of both Unions, is busy working out a program for the meeting and seeing that publicity is secured.

A handbill will be distributed informing all workers of the meeting and setting forth the necessity for Union organization. Union members of both locals should inform all non-union drivers and helpers of the meeting.

Remember the place and date. 8 p. m., Deutsches House, 344 Rice St., August 13. All workers, union and non-union, will be welcome.

## Make Minneapolis a Union Town



## JOINT COUNCIL HOLDS LARGE MEET JULY 23

(Continued from page 1)

Council of the teaming crafts and cited the excellent results that were obtained in Chicago through such an organization. Farrell Dobbs of 544 made a lengthy report in which he outlined a program for a statewide organizational campaign.

The matter of securing a central headquarters for all the Minneapolis teaming craft unions was discussed and a committee was set up to investigate the possibilities of securing a suitable building. Miles Dunne made a report on the Northwest Organizer, after which a motion was passed establishing the Organizer as the official organ of the Teamsters Joint Council. An editorial board was appointed consisting of the following: Jack Smith and Farrell Dobbs of Local 544 and P. J. Corcoran of Local 471.

Just prior to adjournment the meeting was addressed by Jack Smith, who had just arrived from Chicago.

### Independent Truck Chatter

Putting Curt Zander on the water wagon working nights has served as a boon to the independents. It has given him an opportunity to do a great deal of contact work during the day time.

But his girl friend complains.

Klein's signature has finally been put on a contract with the Union. It is said that this is the first time that he has ever signed an agreement with labor.

Anyone who thinks there is any money in hauling gravel should see Curt Zander.

B. G. Ambrose left town over the weekend.

The activity of some of the stewards on WPA projects is not what is expected from them by the Union. The laxity that they show is setting a bad example for members, and if this condition persists, it will be necessary to make a change or two.

On the other hand, we have some excellent stewards and the example they set is just the opposite of that which the bad ones set.

Louie Groth is spending a three weeks "vacation" at the city's palatial "rest home" on Parker's Lake.

Brother Lundholm urges that those who have not turned in their money on the baseball team collections do so at the earliest possible moment.

We want Joe Poirier to know that we all greatly appreciate and thank him for his efforts to increase the hourly pay for drivers.

Miles and Grant Dunne ran out of gas on a lonely highway, coming home from a fishing trip last week, when, from out of nowhere came a good old independent and pushed them to the nearest gas station.

Don't forget to impress upon non-members that starting August 15 there will be a sharp increase in the initiation fee to \$15.

Larry Hagen works nights for Curt Zander now and then.

## Power Co. Union Reports Progress

Local 160, Northern States Power Employees Union, reports that differences which led to a strike in two departments of the company during July are rapidly being adjusted. When the strike came to an end an agreement between the Union and the company provided that the disputed matters be referred to a Board of Arbitration for settlement. Since that time, however, after a series of conferences, the company has indicated its desire to settle the disputed points by direct meetings between the Union representatives and the company officials.

This would do away with the necessity of setting up an Arbitration Board and getting its somewhat cumbersome machinery into motion. At a meeting between Mr. Pack and representatives of the Union the company manager indicated that the differences between the Union and the company, which are principally in reference to wage rates, could be adjusted directly by the Union and the company. Meetings will be held during the coming week between the Union and various department heads.

## Hosiery Officials Jailed in South

Chattanooga, Tenn.—Presidents of two hosiery union locals were arrested on the picket line at the strike-closed Bennett - Hubbard Candy Co. when armed police broke into the orderly ranks of the marchers.

The men, Floyd Buckner and Lloyd Campbell, have been on the picket line every day since the beginning of the strike late in May. Leading the line, which was under the surveillance of a large group of special police, was Pres. Joseph Dobbs of the Chattanooga Central Labor Union. Dobbs had spent several weeks in a local hospital after being shot by Jeff Mays, wealthy realtor and manufacturers' agent.

## Poirier to Be at Midway Meet

The Twin City drivers mass meeting, which will be held at the German House, Thursday evening, August 13, will be addressed by Joseph Poirier, Director of Personnel of the Minnesota State Highway Department, and Edward Cunningham, President of the Minnesota State Federation of Labor. Besides these speakers there will be representatives of Local 544 and Local 120 on the program. A huge turnout of drivers is expected to be present Thursday night.

## J. R. Clark Co. Boss Sends Phony Letter

The J. R. Clark Company has again begun a campaign of intimidation directed against the union of its employees, Furniture Workers Union, Local 1859. Monday the company mailed a letter to the home of each one of their workers. This letter contained anti-union propaganda and was couched in language whose meaning could not be mistaken. The missive attempts to say that the union shop committee has nothing to say in regard to the discharge of union workers in the Clark plant.

This attitude is clearly an attempt to evade and violate the provisions of the existing union agreement. Members of Furniture Workers Union are advised to disregard the letter and its contents. Officers of the union advise the membership to pay no attention to any communication, dealing with wages or working conditions, which is not signed by an officer of Local 1859.

## Bill Brown Says—

On Sunday, August 9th, the day of our picnic at Bass Lake, it will be almost three years since the start of our campaign to organize every driver in Minneapolis. Every man in the Union should be proud of the things that have been done in this short time and every member of our Union and members of the whole labor movement can come to the picnic and join the celebration with a feeling that to every worker in Minneapolis this will be a day of joy and fun—and a day of mourning for the Citizens Alliance.



BILL BROWN  
President of 574

## Federal Workers Section to Hold Open Meeting on New Applications

Federal Workers Section, Local 544, has called an open meeting to resist the new reapplication affidavit which the Minneapolis Welfare Board approved last week. The meeting will be Friday, August 7th, at 8 p. m. in the General Drivers Hall, Third Street and Plymouth Avenue N. Ole Pearson, Superintendent of Public Relief, and Wm. McLaughren, member of the Welfare Board who voted in favor of the affidavit, have been invited to attend the meeting to defend their position.

Congressman Ernest Lundeen, national authority on Social Security, will address the meeting and answer questions on means for protecting immediate interests of unemployed and relief workers. Alderman I. G. Scott has accepted an invitation to speak at the meeting and, as usual, will not be wearing kid gloves in handling the relief situation.

The meeting is to determine what resistance can be mobilized against the new affidavit. The F. W. S. committee in charge of the meeting believes the Welfare Board can be induced to abandon its attempt. The Board is already shaky and hesitant about putting its rotten decision into practice, because it is such a brazen example of the Board's policy of conniving continuously to reduce relief by harshness and intimidation against thousands of innocent clients and their defenseless families; because the cost of food, according to the U. S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, for an average workingman's family is \$67 per year higher now than it was in 1935—AND STILL RISING RAPIDLY. The Board tries to shirk its responsibility by means of the new affidavit, which the FWS committee believes is unlawful.

The fact that these families now receive relief is the Board's acknowledgment of client's need. For the Board to cut off such relief without definite proof that the need has ended, would be a plain flouting of law and decency.

It is therefore proposed that Federal Workers Section members flatly refuse to sign such affidavit, and instead, that they hold the Board responsible for the INCREASED RELIEF NOW NEEDED.

Friday's OPEN MEETING TO RESIST RELIEF AFFIDAVIT is to take action on that proposal.

## Union Party Is Aid To Fascist Hearst

Tacoma, Wash.—"The misnamed Union Party is a party of hypocrisy, intended to carry out the aims of Mr. Hearst and that, no doubt, is the inspiration of both Coughlin and Rev. Gerald K. Smith," asserts the Tacoma Labor Advocate, organ of the Tacoma Central Labor Council of the A. F. of L.

"For one who in the past stood for high progressive principles and who still affects to believe in them, Lemke is in very poor company."

**LOST**  
One crated Ford radiator on Como Ave. or East Hennepin. Finder please call General Drivers Union, Main 6328. This loss was sustained by a Union driver who will be compelled to pay for the radiator unless it is recovered.

## With the Laundry Workers Union

At a special meeting of the Executive Committee Saturday afternoon, August 1, an interesting and lively discussion took place relative to the advisability of seeking the restoration of the old 18005 charter of the Dry Cleaners which formerly was part of the joint Local with Local 183, Laundry Workers International. After a lengthy discussion in which Meyer Lewis took an active part, it was decided by unanimous consent to abandon the idea, in favor of the present policy of exclusive cleaners, cleaners in combination plants and laundry workers are under one charter.

This decision at this time, we hope, will be the means of clearing up many misunderstandings and at the same time serve to weld the Laundry Workers and Dry Cleaners into one solid fighting front all for one, one for all. A special committee was selected to attend the next meeting Wednesday, August 12, of Laundry Drivers Union No. 131 to follow up previous negotiations with this union. It is anticipated that no difficulty will be met either with the Teamsters Joint Council or No. 131 in coming to a working agreement.

Whether it be a merger of the two unions or a coordination of strength and solidarity at a time when we intend to present demands to the employers the results will be identical. It is needless to point out that with the aid and cooperation of the Teamsters Joint Council and the Laundry Drivers Union No. 131 together with the Laundry Workers and Cleaners Inside Workers. That this union will be in a position to do more for the workers at this time than at any time in the history of the organization.

It is expected that within the next two weeks this union will witness the greatest influx of workers into the union ranks it has yet experienced within that given time. As the union grows and demonstrates power and gains recognition from the employer, the lessening of wear of discrimination on the part of the timid, unorganized workers becomes ever more noticeable. It has now reached a point where the unorganized worker has come to the realization that he can gain more, be more secure in his job inside the organization, than out. Let's build the greatest laundry workers and cleaners union of any city in the country. Attend meetings—Wear your button — Buy union — Be union.

## Pearson Sand Co. Struck by Union Over Wage Rates

The Pearson Sand and Gravel Co., which has been struck by Local 544, is tied up and its operations at a standstill because of its refusal to comply with the terms and provisions of the Union agreement covering wages and conditions in the sand and gravel industry. This firm, which has stubbornly refused to pay Union wages and adjust its working conditions to Union standards, has been unable to operate for almost a week.

One of the company's shovels is located on Stinson Blvd. and Broadway. Friday morning the rumor spread that this shovel was operating despite the strike. When this news reached Project 1733, 34th and Pierce St. N. E., it called for action. When 11 a. m., quitting time on the job, was reached, 80 independent truck owners led by Axel Soderberg formed a caravan and descended on the Stinson Blvd. job.

They made an impressive sight as the long line of Union trucks surrounded the Pearson shovel. The rumor of the shovel's operation proved to be false, however, but once started the truck owners started to do some missionary work on the Stinson project truck owners. As a result 17 new members were signed up in short order. Nice work, Axel.

## Austin Union Holds Annual Convention

The third annual convention of the Independent Union of All Workers concluded its business and adjourned one of the most successful conventions in the organization's history. The convention elected Frank Ellis as its president for the next 12 months and demanded his immediate release from the framed-up criminal charge pending against him. Joe Vorhees, who was also a candidate for the office of president, was defeated by four votes. Ray Hemmingway was re-elected vice-president. He was opposed by Dave Peterson and Peter Lauritzen. Mary O'Shaughnessy, financial secretary, and Beatrice Chase, recording secretary, were re-elected to office unopposed. The following were elected representatives on the new Central Board:

Austin—Joe Ollman, John Winkle, Ray Hubbard, Fred Godfredson, Eva Sauer, Ardele Nimitz.  
Albert Lea—Dave Peterson, Peter Lauritzen, Gilbert Nelson.  
Faribault—Steve Benjamin.  
South St. Paul—Jack Carlson.

## Fences Moved, Road Paved for Picnic

The Labor Review stated last week that it was rumored that the fences at Webb's Place at Bass Lake had been moved back to make room for the enormous throng that is expected at the General Drivers Picnic, Sunday, August 9. That rumor has been confirmed and it is an established fact that workmen are busily engaged in leveling all restricting fences at this popular picnic resort.

But that is not all. The Minnesota State Highway Department, taking recognition of the fact that a huge volume of traffic would flow to Webb's Place Sunday, has paved the Bass Lake road from Jefferson Highway to the lake. Very thoughtful of them, says we.

"We Are Proud of Our Coffee"  
**S & S CAFE**  
633 THIRD AVE. S.  
We feature Home Cooking  
Try Our Sunday Chicken  
Dinners, They Are Delicious  
35c up



# BASS LAKE TO BE SCENE OF UNION RALLY

(Continued from page 1)

Dick Abbott and his orchestra will provide the music. Anyone who has ever danced to the music of Dick's band knows that no better dance music can be had. The committee in charge of securing prizes for the various events state that they have a list of gifts that will make it worth while for anyone to take part in every contest.

To reach Webb's Place at Bass Lake, the scene of the picnic, by automobile, take West Broadway to the Jefferson Highway, through Robbinsdale to the Eagle Lake Road, left on the Eagle Lake Road to Bass Lake. Signs will mark the route. For those who are not provided a means for them to reach the scene of the picnic, take any Chicago Avenue streetcar to Broadway and Lowry. There you will be met by Yellow Cabs which will drive you directly to the picnic grounds. There is no charge for this service. Cabs will meet all streetcars starting at 12 m. Sunday.

When returning the cabs will provide transportation from the grounds to the streetcar line.

Let's all turn out and make General Drivers picnic an event to be long remembered.

## Yellow Notes

**ALL ABOARD! LET'S GO! WHERE TO? TO THE GENERAL DRIVERS PICNIC, OF COURSE!**

**THE DATE: SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 1936.**

**THE PLACE: WEBB'S PLACE AT BASS LAKE.**

Bring the wife and kids. If you haven't a wife, borrow one. If you haven't the kids, find some. But go to the picnic and make it the largest picnic that has ever been held in the Northwest by a Union organization.

There will be contests of all descriptions and plenty of prizes for each contest. Let's see a good representation of Yellow Drivers at the picnic.

Remember Yellow Cabs have been chartered to furnish the transportation from LOWRY AND BROADWAY NORTH to the picnic grounds.

Strange as it may seem, the last regular meeting of the Yellow Taxi Drivers Unit was attended by almost 50 per cent of the membership of this unit. Keep up the good work, fellows.

Harvey Ellingboe has returned from his "vacation" at the "City's Rest Home."

"Lead Foot" Swanson really did a good job of "spouting" according to the testimonials of Ole and "The Chief." He event went so far as to take a shower with his clothes on.

"Senator" Cipperly has been contacted regarding making an acceptance speech at the picnic.

The "epidemic" of vacations is almost over now and most of the boys are back on the job again.

**Nelson Welding Co.**  
E. C. NELSON, Prop.  
A Specialty of Truck Body Building  
Present Location, 2520 Nicollet  
Moving Soon—Watch for New Address

# How to Destroy A Trade Union

1. Don't attend meetings.
2. If you do, be sure to come late and then get mad when the other members have already started.
3. If the weather isn't just to your liking, don't even think of coming.
4. If you do attend meetings, find fault with the officers and the other members. And if things are not run your way be sure to get sore.
5. Never accept an office. It is easier to criticize than to do things.
6. Get sore if you are not appointed on committees. But if you are, don't go to committee meetings.
7. If asked by the chairman to voice your opinion, tell him you have nothing to say. Then, after the meeting, tell all the others how things should have been done.
8. Hold back your dues as long as possible—still better, don't pay at all.
9. Don't bother about getting new members—let the organizers do that.
10. Do nothing but what is absolutely necessary. But when the other members unselfishly and willingly roll up their sleeves and go to work for the same of the organization—for you—go and howl that the Union is being run by a clique.

## Union Barbers

It has repeatedly been called to the attention of the Union office that many members of Local 544 are patronizing non-union barber shops. This should not be the actions of Union members.

Union conditions, in the driving industry, built up and maintained by General Drivers Union, can best be safeguarded by patronizing other Union men. Give your patronage to Union barber shops and tell them why you are doing it.

## On WPA Projects

The Welfare Board's new role as an employment agency should please the Citizens Alliance, but the Board is warned by the Federal Workers Section, Local 544, that there'll be no chiseling on wages nor scabbing on the Unions.

Who knows why Ole Pearson got \$5,000 a year?

Stewards give excellent reports from many WPA projects. The movement of WPA workers into the Federal Workers Section is on in earnest.

"Belt Line" members got plenty of hell from the FWS Organizer for being so easily fooled by the officials. Another "Belt Line" meeting is set, but this time the officials have a surprise coming.

A special committee of Robbinsdale stewards is empowered to try to get pay for time unnecessarily lost in transferring from one project to another. Members are warned not to leave their jobs with a signed transfer slip in their hands.

Because WPA has laid the groundwork for transferring workers to projects outside the county as part of its slimy intent to prevent organization of the workers, the stewards voted last Wednesday "that we refuse to accept any transfer outside the county without first taking it up with the Union."

A. Anderson was laid off from his WPA job without any good

# Gamble-Robinson Company Evades Overtime Provision of Agreement

The Gamble-Robinson Company is having a recurrence of the old trouble which finally led up to the strike action that was taken by General Drivers Union. Despite the fact that this company is a party to a signed agreement with Local 544 which specifically covers hours, wages and conditions of employment, it has become apparent in the last few weeks that at least one provision of the contract is being evaded by the employer.

The overtime agreement between Gamble-Robinson and General Drivers Union clearly states that time and one-third shall be paid for all time worked in excess of 48 hours in any one week, the Gamble Company is adjusting its overtime pay over a pay day period which encompasses 104 hours. This results in a loss to the employee of a considerable amount of his overtime.

There is a vast difference in adjusting the overtime over a 48 hour period and a 104 hour period. The latter operates to the disadvantage of the worker and to the advantage of the employer. The Union will insist that the Gamble-Robinson Company as well as every other employer adhere strictly to the terms of the Union agreement.

## Milk Wagon Drivers Frolic at Bass Lake

Wednesday, July 29, saw the Milk Wagon Drivers and Dairy Employees Union Local 471 gathered at their annual picnic at Webb's Place at Bass Lake. Ideal picnic weather was on tap and a fine program of entertainment and athletic events had been arranged. Splendid prizes were provided by the committee and the winners of the various events received very handsome rewards. A dance was held at the pavilion in the evening. Free ice cream and other delicacies were made available for all the children.

Just prior to the starting of the dance a speaking program was held and several Farmer-Labor candidates addressed the crowd. P. J. Corcoran, secretary-treasurer of Local 471, acted as master of ceremonies.

reason at all. After he was given the old run-around from boss to boss he finally tumbled to the fact that he'd better join the Federal Workers Section. Watch this column for still better news about Anderson.

THREE PROJECT MEETINGS are scheduled as part of the organization drive, as this goes to press. One is Thursday, August 6, at 12 noon for Project No. 1733 at 34th and Pierce St. N. E. Another is Friday, August 7, at 12 noon for the MORNING SHIFT on that part of Park Board Project No. 90 which is near Broadway and Stinson Blvd. at which place the meeting will be held. On the same day (Aug. 7) at the same place (Broadway and Stinson), but at 5 p. m., there will be a meeting for the AFTER-NOON SHIFT of Project 90.

If Mayor Latimer would save his face (which he can't) or IF he valued the unemployed vote that elected him (which he doesn't) he'd reappoint Mrs. Seestrom to the Welfare Board. And IF he used effective means (which he knows) to raise funds for relief (which he neglects) he'd encourage and support such pressure by unemployed and Organized Labor that Old Moneybags would loosen up in a hurry,

## Strike Settled

As we go to press comes the news of the settlement of the existing strike at the Century Sand and Gravel Co. This firm, which was struck by General Drivers Union July 26, has been completely tied up since that date. The strike was caused by the failure of the management to sign a sand and gravel agreement with Local 544 and by the refusal of the company to pay the back salary due their drivers.

Sunday, August 2, Mr. Pearson, owner of the plant, indicated that he was willing to sign the agreement and grant back pay. A check for \$150 was placed in the hands of the Union organizers as a guarantee that the back pay would be forthcoming. About \$250 is the total amount of the back pay involved. The company resumed operations Monday, August 3.

## Seestrom Meeting Draws Big Crowd

The mass meeting held to protest Latimer's failure to reappoint Mrs. Selma Seestrom to the Welfare Board attracted a crowd of about 800 to the parking lot on the east end of the Municipal Auditorium Thursday evening, July 30. It was held under the joint auspices of the Minneapolis Central Labor Union, Workers Alliance of Hennepin County and the Farmer-Labor Women's Federation. Speakers included R. D. Cramer, Editor of the Labor Review; Harold Bean, secretary of the Minnesota Workers Alliance and Miles Dunne, editor of the Northwest Organizer.

Speakers denounced the so-called "new registration" of relief clients and pointed out that this was a club that was being held over the head of the unemployed to keep them from making legitimate demands upon the relief department. Mayor Latimer was condemned for his failure to reappoint Mrs. Seestrom and the meeting went on record as demanding of the Mayor that he reappoint the former Welfare Board member.

During the day Mayor Latimer announced that he had withdrawn Mrs. Sundby's name as an appointee of the Board.

## General Drivers Has New Members

Proof that General Drivers Union Local 544 has continued to forge ahead since its formal reinstatement in the Drivers International is found in an analysis of the figures on applications and reinstatements. Two hundred ninety-seven new members joined the Union in the period from July 1 to July 30. During that same period 30 former members reinstated themselves in the organization.

Thus we find the Union's ranks swelled by the addition of 327 members during the month of July. This is encouraging in view of the fact that there is generally a dropping off in membership during the summer months.

## Dairy Farmers Are Asking Rate Raise

New Orleans—Two thousand Louisiana dairy farmers struck after their demands for 5 cents a quart for their milk and were refused by New Orleans distributors. The embattled farmers set up picket lines on roads leading to the city, tied up at least 60 per cent of the supply, and dumped milk in cooling plants that refused to co-operate.

# Kline-Wonder Co. Sign Agreement With Local 544

Thursday, July 30, saw Local 544 achieve an objective that it has long sought. At 3 p. m. Thursday the Kline-Wonder-Donohue Co., producers of sand and building material, signed the union agreement with General Drivers Union which covers the wages and working conditions of all of its employees. The Kline Co. is the largest single producer of sand, gravel and aggregate in this part of the country.

Negotiations have been carried on with this company for a period of over three months. At times it appeared doubtful that the matter could be adjusted amiably. Several times the employees of this company, despairing of the peaceful settlement, were on the verge of strike.

It is a tribute to those who carried on the negotiations that the trouble has been finally settled by a signed Union contract. Skoglund and Rainbolt dealt for the Union.

## Truck Owners Set to Hit Jobs

The Independent Truck Owners Section of Local 544 are continuing their scuffle with the State WPA Administration. The trouble arose over the cutting of WPA hours from 130 to 110 per month. This action on the part of State WPA officials resulted in a \$30 a month wage cut for independent truck owners and a similar wage reduction of \$13.50 for hired drivers.

A series of conferences with the State WPA officials resulted in an advance of 15c per hour in the truck hire rate. A 5c an hour increase was also made in the differential between hand and machine loading. The hitch in the settlement is now due to the fact that the WPA Administration has failed to raise the hourly rate for drivers and seems to have taken no recognition of the fact that these workers are also being penalized by the cut in hours.

Drivers are demanding 10c per hour additional which would make the hourly rate for WPA drivers 75c instead of 65c. At a specially called meeting of the Independent Truck Owners Section, held Sunday afternoon, August 2, it was voted to strike all WPA projects Thursday unless the wage demands were granted. The matter is now before the State WPA Administration.

## Power Strikers in Mexico Make Gains

Mexico City—Lights turned on again in Mexico City after a week of darkness, and factories resumed operations as electric workers ended a week's strike at the Mexico Light & Power Co. with practically all demands granted.

### Local 544 Meeting Schedule

- Thursday, Aug. 6—Independent Truck Owners.
  - Friday, Aug. 7—544 Job Stewards; Federal Workers.
  - Monday, Aug. 10—General Membership.
  - Wednesday, Aug. 12—Market Workers.
  - Thursday, Aug. 20—Independent Truck Owners.
  - Friday, Aug. 21—544 Job Stewards; Federal Workers.
  - Monday, Aug. 24—General Membership.
  - Tuesday, Aug. 25—Taxi Drivers, 1 p. m.; day drivers, 7 p. m.
- NOTE: Federal Workers Job Stewards meet each Wednesday.



# THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

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Entered as second class matter May 1st, 1935, at the Postoffice at Minneapolis, Minnesota, under act of March 3, 1879.

"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."

## "Wall Street"

The section of the Central Market commonly known as "Wall Street" contains more chiselers to the square inch than any other part of the industrial section of the city. Most of the fruit and produce firms operating there are small. A number of them employ only one or two people. It is apparent that the close relationship that exists between employer and employee in this sector of the market, permits the boss to make deals with the workers that are contrary to the existing Union agreement which is supposed to cover all workers on the Central Market.

In spite of the fact these firms are small ones and employ only a few people, General Drivers Union Local 544 is going to insist that these companies comply, to the letter, with the agreement they entered into with this Union. On the other hand, Union employees who are convicted of entering into separate agreements with employers which in any way conflict with the existing Union agreement will be subject to disciplinary action. Every worker who enters into any sort of a "special agreement" which is not in accordance with the provisions of the Union contract is striking a blow at the organization of which the worker himself is a part. There is no excuse for such conduct.

It is not surprising that a non-union worker can be induced to make deals with the boss but it is a shameful thing when a Union man betrays his own organization to the extent of being a party to any action which is not in conformity with principles of trade union conduct. A sweeping investigation will be conducted on the market in the near future and violators of the Union agreement, be they employer or employee, will be dealt with summarily by the Union Executive Board.

## Coal Yard Drivers Will Soon Be Back

Despite the blazing sun and the torrid temperature that has prevailed for the last few weeks, thoughts of the Union organizers are turning towards the coal industry. With the advent of August time will not be long until the coal workers will be returning to the yards and trucks.

It will be remembered that with the expiration of the coal agreement in May of this year, General Drivers Union was unable to secure a renewal of that pact with the coal employers. It is almost certain that the coal yard workers will be forced to return to the yards this fall before a renewal of the Union agreement can be secured.

It behooves every coal yard worker and driver to make certain that he is in good standing with the Union before returning to employment. It will be only by holding the ranks of the Union solid in the coal yards that a renewal of the contract will be possible.

Hundreds of coal workers are now out on withdrawal cards. These cards must be turned into the Union office promptly when going back on the job. Those on

withdrawal will become members in good standing by the payment of one month's dues.

## Ohio Truck Owners Organize on WPA

Toledo—About 160 owners of trucks, who had been taken off relief rolls and given jobs on the WPA with their trucks, now find themselves unemployed again. They proposed to do something about and have held several meetings under the name of the Independent Truck Owners Association. They were let out lately because the WPA has turned its work to operators of big fleets of trucks.

## Steel Committee Making Headway

Chicago—The Steel Workers Organizing Committee is making rapid headway in the Great Lakes area. Additional organizers are being sent into the district, in which some 200,000 steel workers are employed, Director Van A. Bittner announces. At the same time the S. W. O. C. reports increasing sentiment for industrial unionism and against a split in the American Federation of Labor.

# Keeping Step With 574

By Mickey Dunne

Jack Smith has become a Minnetonka resident — look out, fish!

The C. Thomas drivers and helpers are all Union men now.

ORGANIZER ADS PAY  
Our stenographer got to the Milk Wagon Drivers picnic.

The Teamsters Joint Council meeting was attended by 46 delegates.

A huge Truck Drivers Rally will be held in midway around the middle of the month.

Looks like the Independent Truck Owners' troubles with WPA officials are over—for the time being at least.

Bill Brown's new car has been baptized—it's a rear fender.

The Pioneer Paper Stock scuffle ended with a win for the Union.

TIP TO THE THRIFTY  
How to save \$12. Join the Union before August 15th.

The Minneapolis Terminal Warehouse is kosher now.

THINKS EVERY TRUCK DRIVER SHOULD KNOW  
The Union gets you more money, a better job, less hours and a feeling of security that a non-union worker never knows.

Grievances are being settled more rapidly than ever before.

A big downtown department store just cracked.

The State Federation of Labor convention will be held in Cloquet this fall.

Unorganized glove workers called on 544 for help last week.

Jewelry workers just secured a Federal charter.

Don't be surprised if the Street Car Union moves from its 8th St. location.

Local 544 delegates were greeted with a burst of applause as they were seated in the Joint Council meeting.

The Milk Drivers picnic was really a dandy affair—good program, swell prizes, nice dance and s-u-c-h nice-looking women.

HUNTING NOTICE  
Non-union truck drivers are beginning to be hard to find.

Phil Gagnon's wife is still in the hospital.

The C. L. U. picnic will be held at Powderhorn Park.

A Twin City Teaming Craft Council is in the making.

The Milk Drivers Union can't get all their membership in the largest hall at 18 N. 8th St.

The ice box that was offered in this column last week brought a storm of answers from those who wished to get it. Pete Scott of the Great Lakes got under the wire first.

The Petroleum Workers Union is campaigning on the non-union oil companies. Five of the large

plants are already 100 per cent Union.

### FOUND

Minnesota chauffeur's license No. 57209. Owner can have same by calling at Union Noffice.

### LOST

Chauffeur's license No. 24682. See Stanley Florell, 4114 Colfax North.

### FOR SALE

Four cylinder Chev. truck with hydraulic hoist. Herbert Box, 114 E. 15th St.

## Overland Drivers To Join Local 544

One of the large long-distance outfits, pulling west out of Minneapolis, will be union before the week is out. All of the drivers are prepared to join General Drivers Union in a body.

## Slim Gardner

"Slim" Gardner, Pratt steward, has some real competition in the Union now. An independent owner, Albert Bergeron, joined the Union the other day. He weighs something over 350.

## Ed Clarence

Ed Clarence, independent truck owner and a long time member of General Drivers Union, has opened a 3.2 spot and eating place at 1804 Washington Ave. N. Members of the Union wish Ed the best of luck in his new venture.

## Bill Sherner

Bill Sherner was a fire victim Saturday morning. It was only a hip pocket affair and was extinguished by friends.

## LABOR... Looks at the Press

Peabody, Mass.—After police officers yesterday found a human leg and pelvis which had been brutally torn from the body of a young girl, Police Chief Pierce stated today that "a murder had been committed, without question."—Springfield Republican.

Ya can't put anything over on these flatfeet.

Merle Thorpe, editor of Nation's Business: I have often been asked what in America exemplifies most nearly my impression of American life and spirit. I have often thought of it. I answer unhesitatingly: insurance.

The America of the early pioneers, of Lincoln, of Walt Whitman, of Eugene Debs, doesn't exist for that pot-belly—nor for any of the bosses.

Editor and Publisher: Services of noted radio news commentators may be employed by the Republican National Committee in the presidential campaign. Presumably the Democrats will also marshal a squad of soothsayers... The dear public, which believes that radio news commentators perform the purely editorial function of interpreting the day's news, won't receive any engraved notice on the changed status.

File that one in the Pot & Kettle Dept.

Bishop E. Freeman: We will have no permanent recovery in this country, no matter what laws are passed, until we experience from coast to coast a sweeping religious revival.

## 'Keeping the Peace' Is Help to Scabs

Oakland, Calif.—The Alameda County Central and Building Trades Councils disagree with Sheriff M. B. Driver over what constitutes "keeping the peace." The sheriff claims he was doing just that when he cleared the streets around the Hudson Lumber Co. in San Leandro and escorted scabs into the strike-closed plant. The union bodies say it was aiding strike-breaking.

There's an arch pessimist for you.

Henry Ford: There are only two classes: men who will work and men who will not.

That's right, Hank—the workers and the coupon clippers.

Well—Haile Selassie can always saw wood with the ex-Kaiser; or attend the horse races with Alphonse.

Mrs. Louise Watkins, Los Angeles Republican Study Club: The trend on the part of both the old and young to want security is un-American and not normal.

Looks like most of us are abnormal aliens, Mrs. W.

Dr. Burton French, of the Republican National Committee: There is an elemental factor that separates the human-kind from the brute. This elemental factor is what I have chosen to call the "profit motive" urge.

Hell, if that were the difference, we'd be better off in the jungle.

Senator Vandenberg: It will simplify our thinking if we realize that when an act of Congress is rejected by the Supreme Court, it is the Constitution that is speaking. That means, in turn, that it is the people speaking.

It will simplify our thinking if we realize that Senator Vandenberg is a reactionary old ass.

Colonel W. Chevalier: There is no unemployment problem in America. It is merely a re-employment problem.

O. K., Butch—but there's still ten million of us.

Mrs. Ellis: The communists are responsible for stocking magazine counters with indecent literature which breaks down family relationships and the morale of youth. This is the way Communists got started in Russia.—Quoted in the New Republic.

Can't you just see Lenin stealing around hawking copies of TRUE STORY and Captain Billy's WHIZ BANG?

Art Weast announces that he has an ice box which is for sale at a low price. It is a 100 pound side door icer. It can be seen at 823 12th Ave. N.

### Local 160 Meeting Schedule

- June 30—Regular Stewards meeting
  - July 1—Regular membership meeting
  - July 7—Executive Board meeting
  - July 14—Executive Board meeting
  - July 14—Regular Stewards meeting
  - July 15—Regular Membership meeting
  - July 21—Executive Board meeting
  - July 28—Executive Board meeting
- \*Note the changes of Executive Board meetings and the new setup for stewards meetings.

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