

As from this hour you use your power, The World must follow You

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

University of Wisconsin
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Official Organ of the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council

MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE: 257 PLYMOUTH AVE. N.

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

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PRICE 5 CENTS

Impressive NCDDC Meeting Set For Week-end

The Report of the St. Paul Grand Jury

A Statement by Executive Board, General Drivers Local 544

It is a notorious fact that the anti-labor bosses' organization, the Citizens Alliance, now operating in St. Paul under the innocent title of "St. Paul Committee on Industrial Relations," was the direct inspirer of the present Grand Jury. For weeks this body has vainly sought to "get something" on the labor movement, but without success. Finally, in its impotent rage, it has issued this diatribe against the Drivers Locals 120 of St. Paul and 544 of Minneapolis.

More than in most cities, the drivers constitute the backbone of labor in the Twin Cities. Consequently, the growth of the drivers unions in the last three years has had as a direct result the building of the rest of the labor movement.

The bosses didn't of course like this development. The St. Paul bosses were particularly enraged when Local 120 joined with Local 544 in building the North Central District Drivers Council. The close collaboration of Minneapolis and St. Paul drivers has lost for the bosses such loopholes and methods of chiselling as still remained to them.

Inspired by Bosses

The language of the Grand Jury document reveals its anti-labor inspiration: its reference to "coercion", "intimidation", etc., are merely the boss's way of saying that he cannot abuse his men with impunity or prevent them from organizing. The pious hypocrisy which advises "that labor should exercise great care in the selection of their representatives" will not conceal from the workers that, baldly, the bosses are asking the workers not to pick militant leaders who will fight for their interests.

That this anti-labor document was signed not only by bosses but by one individual, C. J. McGlogan, a member of the A. F. of L. electrical workers, does not erase the fact that this job is a boss job. McGlogan's signature on it merely reveals the lengths to which some has-beens in the labor movement are ready to go in their hatred of militant leadership. These reactionary old-line fossils, trained in the school of fawning upon the bosses, fearing strikes as much or more than do the bosses, infinitely closer to the bosses than to the workers in their everyday life and habits, their living standards, their psychology, etc., have observed with alarm and fear the growth of the Twin Cities labor movement.

They themselves have benefited from this growth, for in spite of them, the general growth of the labor movement has brought members into their unions too. This very fact, however, alarms them as much as anything else; for it means a new breath of life in their organizations, the consequence of which may well mean new leadership challenging their long grip. Above all, the prestige and strategic role of the drivers' unions has wrested from these reactionaries the central place in the labor movement. To overturn this situation they are ready, as the Grand Jury document reveals, to join hands with the bosses in an attack upon the trade union movement. The glee with which the employers' press has played up this move reveals who benefits by this alliance.

But the impotent rage of the bosses and the labor reactionaries will not avail against the onward march of labor. Here is the test: do they dare debate this question before the masses of the labor movement, instead of accepting the forum of the employers? We shall speak in detail on these issues within the labor movement, where all labor issues properly belong.

Executive Board,
General Drivers Union Local 544

544 Members to the Polls January 7, 8 to Elect Officers

Balloting for officers of General Drivers Local 544 for the coming year will take place at the Union Headquarters from 7 a. m. to 9 p. m. on Friday and Saturday, Jan. 7 and 8. The only qualifications for voting is that a brother must be in good standing. Those members who cannot appear at the polls on the specified days for voting may cast an absentee ballot.

The Drivers movement in Minneapolis is under fire from the enemies of labor. The members have already given their blunt answer to the slanderous charges by nominating unopposed, with one exception, their present leaders. It is important that the membership "clinch" their demonstration of trust in the union by turning out in the overwhelming majority to vote on Friday and Saturday, Jan. 7 and 8.

Each member, if he has not already done so, should place himself in good standing so that he may participate in the election. All job stewards must do their part to see that the membership is made familiar with the importance of voting. All members should plan now to arrange to come to the union hall to vote on either Friday or Saturday—and, if they are unable to come, to ask for an absentee ballot.

Every last member of the General Drivers Union Local 544—out to the polls on Friday and Saturday, January 7 and 8.

Ward Strike Set Back by Lack of Union Endorsement

Court Decisions, Levying High Bail, Fines Help to Set Back Strike of Local 20297

Battling against stiff odds, the Montgomery-Ward strikers took two heavy jolts Monday, one from a committee representing a section of the St. Paul union movement, and the other from the decisions handed down by the municipal court.

At a meeting held in strike headquarters on Monday afternoon, the Montgomery-Ward section of Warehouse Employees Union Local 20297 heard Ray Wentz, organizer of the St. Paul Trades and Labor Assembly, and William Wright, State Federation of Labor representative, answer questions as to their refusal to endorse the Ward strike. The strikers fired a number of questions at Wentz and Wright, the answers to which were found entirely unsatisfactory. Both Wentz and Wright stated that they had no knowledge of the Montgomery-Ward strike until it was called. Weeks previous to the strike, the labor press in St. Paul and Minneapolis had carried news of the pending struggle.

As a result of the failure of the trade union committee to reach agreement with the Montgomery-Ward company looking towards settlement of the strike, the whole situation has been thrown back into the hands of Warehouse Employees Local 20297.

This trade union committee, consisting of representatives of the St. Paul Trades and Labor Assembly, the State Federation of Labor, the American Federation of Labor and the St. Paul Building Trades Council, stepped into the picture two weeks ago, and held several meetings with the Ward management, the results of which were negligible.

The St. Paul Trades and Labor Assembly, under the influence of conservative leaders, has consistently refused to endorse the Montgomery-Ward strike, thus greatly weakening the legitimate struggle of the Ward workers.

Judge Fines Pickets
On Monday in St. Paul Municipal court, Judge Finehout fined seven pickets charged with assault and battery, from \$15 to \$25. Charges against Ted Dostal were dismissed for lack of evidence. On Tuesday, even more bitterly hostile sentences were handed out. Eugene Mendenhall was found guilty of assault and battery and sentenced to 15 days in the workhouse. Wilbert Houchin, found guilty of disorderly conduct, was fined \$100. "Houchin committed the worst offense of all those before me," said the reactionary Finehout. "He was the ringleader; he encouraged violence during

(Continued on page 4)

Coroner's Inquest Adjourns Again, To Meet Jan. 18

After reconvening for a few minutes on Tuesday, January 4, the Hennepin County coroner's inquest into the slaying of Pat Corcoran adjourned almost immediately when it was seen that only four jurors were present. Several of the remaining members pleaded the necessity of business trips. The inquest will reconvene two weeks hence, on January 18, at 9 a. m.

Contradictions in testimony given by witnesses who testified both at the inquest and before the recent grand jury will probably be gone into at that time.

Local 471 Begins Organization of Female Workers

Milk Wagon and Dairy Employees Union Local 471 announced this week that female workers in the dairy industry are being organized. About 150 workers in those plants where the milk drivers are already working under contract, are eligible for this new section of the union which will take in all female dairy workers.

The new section will function under the supervision of the Executive Board of Local 471, under an arrangement similar to that under which the Milk Haulers' Association functions.

A special meeting for all female dairy workers has been called for Thursday evening, Jan. 6, at 7:30 p. m. at the Union headquarters, 257 Plymouth Avenue. Tom Ammerman is in charge of organizational work for these workers.

ALBERT LEA UNIONS PROTEST STALINIST CIO

Central Body, Miscellaneous Workers Pass Resolutions Condemning State CIO

Stiff protests against the monstrous actions of the Stalinist-controlled CIO movement in Minnesota for its vicious anti-labor stand in the Corcoran case rolled in this week from Albert Lea, in resolutions passed by the City Central Labor Assembly of that city, as well as by the Miscellaneous Workers Local Union. That the labor movement is entirely dissatisfied with the lack of progress made in the search for the murderers of Pat Corcoran, and that it bitterly condemns the so-called CIO for raising the cry of "gangsterism" in the labor movement and thus giving comfort to the enemies of organized labor is revealed by these resolutions.

Following is the resolution of the City Central Labor Assembly of Albert Lea, Minnesota. The resolution of the progressive Miscellaneous Workers Union is identical.

WHEREAS: the City Central Labor Assembly of Albert Lea, Minnesota is an organization of militant workers.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we call upon all true labor organizations to cease giving aid and comfort to the bosses.

AND WHEREAS, we fully realized as class-conscious workers that Pat Corcoran was slain by the mortal enemies of organized labor and is a blow at our entire labor movement.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we protest against and deplore the erroneous action of the State C. I. O. Committee and the Hennepin County C. I. O. Council for their policy of interposing and injecting the issue and cry of "gangsterism" in the labor movement. We feel that such an act only gives aid and comfort to the bosses and should have no place in the labor movement.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that we call upon all true workers to unite and help bring to justice those responsible for the murder of Pat Corcoran.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we deplore the work of labor spies and splitters, that we condemn those who would divide or destroy us in our hours of need. We recommend that labor and our so-called Independent Press cease necking with political nit-wits and join in the battle for "unity."

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FREEBORN PATRIOT
NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

Drivers in Nebraska Attend; Wisconsin to be Represented

ST. PAUL GRAND JURY ENDS IN FARCE

Investigation Blames 544 for Recent Strikes; Fails to Find Enough Evidence for One Indictment

The much-ballyhooed St. Paul grand jury investigation of alleged labor gangsterism wound up in a farce late last week when the report of the jury indicated that, despite the "scareheads" in the press, not enough evidence was found for even one indictment.

The Citizens Alliance of St. Paul, now masquerading as the "Committee on Industrial Relations," was the power behind the investigation. The character of the report was such that it is probable that certain reactionary labor officials cooperated in the attempt to discredit the progressive section of the St. Paul union movement.

That the grand jury had as its chief aim the hope that it could influence the workers in St. Paul towards a "safe and sane" nothing policy is shown by the unusual fact that copies of the report were mailed out to all unions. This is the first time, so far as is known, that jury reports have ever gone to labor officials.

Without resting on any evidence, the report placed the blame for recent strikes on Miles, Vincent and Grant Dunne, and Farrell Dobbs, all leaders of General Drivers Local 544. It cautioned unions against using "new methods," and righteously advised all unions "to exercise great care in the selection of representatives in order to avail themselves of the highest type and most efficient officers." The Citizens Alliance idea of the right "type" of labor officials is well known.

Following the recent grand jury fiasco in Minneapolis, during which a "one-man" report was issued only to be promptly repudiated by the rest of the jury, the St. Paul report only further discredited the whole concept of grand juries in this section.

A statement by the Executive Board of General Drivers Local 544 on the St. Paul grand jury report appears elsewhere in this issue.

Housing Arrangements Announced By St. Paul General Drivers

With the announcement from Nebraska that the Drivers Unions from Omaha and Lincoln will each send representatives, the quarterly meeting of the North Central District Drivers Council to be held this week-end in St. Paul will have delegates from at least six states in attendance. From all reports coming into the Council offices, it is probable that many more than one hundred delegates will be present at a conference that promises to make labor history in this section. The organized Drivers' movement in the North Central states, achieving substantial gains with every week,

Sioux Falls Coal Drivers Call Truce In Strike

(Special to Northwest Organizer)

Sioux Falls, S. D.—Following weeks of negotiations, the Coal section of General Drivers Local 749 went out on strike last Thursday night for union recognition and seniority rights. On Friday noon a truce was agreed to, after the employers had agreed to recognize the union, grant other union demands, and arbitrate wage scales. The truce was proposed by a labor board which was set up by Mayor Graff.

Under the truce, all men went back to work until Tuesday, January 4. Progress in negotiations will determine whether or not the strike will be continued.

The newly elected officers of Local 749 were sworn in at the regular membership meeting held January 3.

A delegation from the Sioux Falls union will be in St. Paul this week-end for the quarterly meeting of the North Central District Drivers Council.

1937 Greatest Strike Period In History

Washington, D. C.—The National Labor Relations Board informed Congress a few days ago that the United States passed through the greatest strike period in history during 1937.

There were 4,017 strikes during the first ten months, more than ever recorded during any entire previous year. Fifty-six per cent of the strikes, another all-time peak, were caused through efforts by workers to organize for collective bargaining.

The 1937 strikes outstripped the former peak years of 1919 and 1920 which followed the first World War.

A five-year summary of strikes follows:
Year Disputes Workers Days Out
1933—1,562 812,137 14 million
1934—1,856 1,466,695 19 million
1935—2,014 1,117,213 15 million
1936—2,172 788,648 13 million
1937—4,017 1,768,791 26 million

Venetian Blind Co. Fires Union Man

After admitting firing a man for union activity and refusing to reinstate him, the J. K. Heymer company, venetian blind makers in the Terminal building, prepared to close down its plant this week. The owner, who is in poor health, gave that as his reason for liquidating his business.

On Thursday, December 30, a member of Local 1859 was fired from the plant. The union immediately went into action, and arrangements were made to reinstate the man on January 3. When he reported for work, this man was paid for the day and one-half he had been off. The company then sent him home again, saying he was all through. The sentiers of the handful of workers employed by the Heymer company is that if they can't pay union wages and give union conditions they should go out of business.



Who Killed Him?

Patrick J. Corcoran was murdered by unknown persons on the night of November 17, 1937. The Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council offers a reward of TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS for information leading to the apprehension and conviction of the murderers.

Paris Strike Called Off, Trade Unions Condemn Premier; Mexican Labor Stirs

The city-wide municipal workers' strike which held Paris in its grip for several days, was called off Thursday, December 30, upon the promise of three ministers of the government that the demands of the strikers would be met if they would return to work. Premier Camille, head of the People's Front government which called out the army against the strikers, denied this, stating that this assertion by union officials is merely a cover-up for their retreat.

Most of the workers returned to their jobs early Thursday morning, manning buses, subways, garbage trucks, street cleaners and gas workers resumed their tasks.

Soon after the strike was called off, the General Council of the Seine met and voted the municipal workers in the suburban areas a raise of 1,200 francs per year. The municipal council of urban Paris later granted a raise of 600 francs a year (about \$20).

The truck drivers and grocery workers of Paris continued their strike, negotiations to end this controversy having failed.

For the first time since the early 1920's, troops were called out against the strikers, and it was this overwhelming show of strike-breaking force, together with a lack of decision on the part of the top union leaders, that resulted in the calling off of the strike. The Communist Party greeted the settlement as a "brilliant victory."

The Central Labor Council of Paris trade unions, on the day following the strike, condemned Premier Chautemp's calling out of troops to break the walk-out of the 120,000 municipal workers. The Council declared that if the employers continue to disregard agreements with unions, an assembly of union secretaries will be called to look into the situation and take action.

Most observers felt that the period of truce following the calling off of the strike will be of short duration, and that a new strike wave throughout France, of the sort that swept that country in June, 1936, is inevitable. Causes lie in the chiseling by the employ-

ers, and in the catastrophic rise in prices.

On the very day the Paris strike was settled, 1,000 coal miners in the north of France went on strike in protest to the discharge of three workers. Government officials were working feverishly to settle the dispute and circumvent a possible sympathy strike of 16,000 miners who are employed by the giant Anzin company.

Mexican Workers Stir
Each day the possibilities of another nationwide strike of oil workers in Mexico grows. As the result of the strike late last spring, which was concluded only after government intervention, the workers employed by 16 foreign oil corporations were to receive the first installment of the money due them for back pay, on January first.

On December 18, the Mexican Labor Board handed down an award granting the employees of these corporations a wage increase of about one-third of their former salaries. The award also ordered the companies to improve working and living conditions on their

properties. On December 30, the companies wired their resident managers to inform all workers they could return to work on January 3, 1938, under the old wages, but that no increases would be granted, and that no other clauses of the award would be lived up to.

Among the companies involved are the Standard Oil of New Jersey, and the Standard Oil of California. Combined assets of the 16 companies in Mexico are valued at more than \$400,000,000. The Mexican Labor Board, after a four-months' investigation, has decided that the companies can afford the wage increases.

The refusal of the oil interests to comply with the award leaves the workers two avenues of redress. The Syndicate of Petroleum Workers of Mexico can demand of the government that it seize enough oil property of the involved companies, sell it and satisfy the installment due the workers. Or the union can strike, and refuse to go back until the companies have complied with its demands which the Labor Board has endorsed.

Make Minneapolis a Union Town

WHITHER OMAHA?

The History of the Open Shop Town of Omaha, Nebraska, and the Fight for Unionism Now Being Waged in this "Gate City of the West"

By Al Russell

Aside from its general interest to the organized labor movement, Omaha, Nebraska, appears of particular interest to readers of the Northwest Organizer at this time, in view of the announced intention of Drivers Local 544 of Omaha, to affiliate with the North Central District Drivers Council. We are therefore pleased to present a short series of articles picturing against the background of what has for long been known as a Scab Town the recent rise of the union movement.

The author of this series, Al Russell, is known to hundreds of workers through his arrest, conviction and jail sentence for participating as a picket in the 1935 Strutwear strike in Minneapolis.

"Its citizens are rolling in wealth and automobiles and general prosperity prevails." So said the historian of Omaha, Nebraska, in 1923. A survey of November, 1937, showed 4,800 able-bodied persons with neither jobs in private industry nor on WPA—they lacked even the mercy of relief. The wage earners of the Gate City are quite equally distributed between manufacturing and commercial enterprises, and the Chamber of Commerce points with pride, based upon statistical accuracy, to "low labor costs."

The Big Four packinghouses employ some six of the seventeen thousand workers used by industry. Next in line are the truck drivers, four thousand in number. Railroad shopmen, grain, seed, cereal and dairy workers are followed by employees of miscellaneous industries, including some steel fabrication and smelting. With the exception of the railroads, until 1937 these industries were not unionized. Omaha was, and is yet, Open Shop.

Half the size of Minneapolis, Omaha resembles the latter as a child its parent. Minneapolis has a history of lumber, Omaha, of railroads.

Both are situated in the heart of, and depend upon, a great grain and cattle area. Nebraska is the home of the Populist movement which swept into Minnesota and evolved into the hybrid Farmer-Labor Party. In Dan Butler, Omaha has its little LaGuardia of the West. In both cities, trucking is of immeasurable importance. But Omaha is well named the Gate

City of the West. Workers, labor leaders, even unions, seem to linger awhile and then head West. The city has not yet produced an outstanding leader of labor, nor can it boast of an abiding labor movement.

The Open Shoppers
Upon the Businessmen's Association rests the responsibility to keep Omaha Open Shop. This organization, founded in 1903, is committed in no indefinite terms to an anti-union policy which has borne fruit in the crushing of the streetcar strike in 1909, the railroad shopmen's strike in '22, and the streetcar strike in '35. The Association publishes a magazine, THE OPEN SHOP, and "is a very able and efficient body," according to Mr. Zschau of the Chamber of Commerce.

In 1929, 1931 and again in 1933 the truck drivers attempted to organize. An old charter dated September 1, 1933, reposes quite forgotten on top of an old dusty closet in the union office. The average wage of 25c hourly with a general 80-hour week prevailed up until June, 1937. Weekly wages ran from as low as \$12 to \$18, with some lucky ones proud of their \$22.50.

In April, 1937, sixteen men organized to beat the Open Shop. At their first meeting, they failed to collect enough money to print handbills, against the distribution of which there is a broadly restrictive ordinance. Yet their next meeting was an overflow affair. They marched in a body to the Labor Temple, where local labor leaders urged them "to stick together for once." Officers were elected, and soon negotiations were opened with the employers. On June 3, the transfer companies signified willingness to sign a closed shop contract. The union leaders were surprised.

Boss Boycott
Into the negotiations room there suddenly rushed an employer, red of face, winded from racing, convulsed with fear. "We can't sign a closed shop contract," he blurted out in the presence of all. "The Chamber of Commerce just called me. They'll boycott us."
"The Chamber of Commerce," said its industrial director, "does not interfere in labor problems. Some of our members are for unions, others against." Mr. Zschau did not recall the incident just related.

The turmoil in the negotiations room finally was resolved into a decision to grant the closed shop. "You bring up printed copies of the contract and we'll sign it tomorrow," promised the employers. The jubilation of the union committee was brief. Next day there was first a plea for time, then the statement that the closed shop was out of the question, and further, that no union activity would be permitted on company property.

All Out
Word leaked out to the rank and file. While the union leaders were busy trying to restore negotiations, a surging throng of teamsters poured from one terminal to another on June 4 and the strike was on.

In defiance of the Anti-picketing Law, the union tied up the trucking. On June 16 the first

major strike victory in the recollection of Omaha's oldest union worker was achieved. Union recognition, 45c hourly minimums, and overtime were won. The union had a solid base. But while the story of the victory roused the workers' neighborhoods, the whole town was suddenly shocked by the Yellow Cab lockout.
Concluded next week

Union Music at Benefit for Unemployed

Good news for theater goers and the labor movement came this week when the Minneapolis Musicians Association Local 73 announced that a bang-up stage show from Chicago will play at the Hennepin Orpheum theater the week of February 4th. In the pit will be an orchestra of Minneapolis musicians.

The local Musicians Association is calling upon all the members and friends of organized labor to support this stage show, and party the proceeds of which will go to unemployed members of the Association. A good attendance will not only help relieve the destitution of unemployed union musicians, but will demonstrate to the theater owners that the public likes real music instead of the inferior "canned" variety. By turning out to this show, organized labor can convince the theatres that stage shows should be brought back to Minneapolis.

The Musicians Association has for some time considered calling upon the labor movement to boycott all theatres for their use of "canned music," which has created great suffering and unemployment among musicians, and has cheated the public out of the enjoyment of their only "live" music brings. However, the Association has embarked upon its present course of encouraging public support for the return of stage shows.

Full details of ticket arrangements and other details for the Orpheum show to be given the week of February 4, will appear next week. Here is certainly one time when it will be a real pleasure for Minneapolis trade unionists to respond to the request of a sister union.

Dayton Workers Wait for Back Pay

Warehouse Workers Local 20316 announced early this week that it has been having trouble collecting back pay from the Dayton company for union members. Under the terms of a contract recently reached with this large loop store, Dayton's promised to deliver checks for back pay before Christmas to several hundred employees. So far the checks have not been forthcoming. The management has given no satisfactory explanation for its dilatory actions, and the union is demanding that all its members immediately receive the wages due them.

Clark Box Completely Closed

The only new development in the J. R. Clark woodenware company situation during the past week was that on Friday, December 31, the plant shut down completely. For the past few weeks, about thirty-five men had still been employed. On Friday even the non-union foremen were laid off, and given notices telling them the company would notify them when business was resumed.

Woodenware Workers Local 1859 is seeking a new contract with the J. R. Clark company. The former contract expired at the end of the year.

Austin Drivers to Elect 1938 Officers

Austin, Minn.—General Drivers Union Local 778 of Austin will elect officers for the coming year at the regular meeting on Thursday, January 6, at 7:30 p. m. in the Union Hall. In order to vote or stand for election, a member must be paid up. Pass books will be asked for at the opening of the meeting.

Local 131 Re-elects Burnham, Johnson

W. N. Burnham and L. Clair Johnson will continue as president and financial secretary and business agent, respectively, of the Laundry and Dry Cleaning Drivers Local 131 following the recent elections held by the organization. Others elected were Clarence

Bill Brown Says—

As candidate for president, I just want to say that I am a family man and a taxpayer I like flowers and little children. If elected, I promise a wholehearted fight in support of those eternal principles which you guys stand for.



BILL BROWN President of 544

Double-Dealing of Sidney Weinstock Is Exposed

The sensational exposure of a person claiming to represent "both employers and employees" was accomplished last Thursday night at a meeting of 150 members of the Minnesota Liquor Salesmen's Union. Salesmen from Duluth, St. Paul and Minneapolis here in attendance at the meeting, held in the Elks' Club at Minneapolis for the purpose of discussing the pending contract between the salesmen's union and the Minnesota Wine and Spirits Institute.

Mr. Sidney Weinstock of New York City, supposedly representing the salesmen, was the chief speaker at the meeting. Previously, he had claimed that General Drivers Local 544 and the Warehouse and Inside Workers Local 20316 were 100 percent behind his scheme to achieve a union contract for the liquor salesmen.

After Weinstock had concluded his talk, local labor leaders took the floor one after another to denounce his falsehoods. James Bartlett, president and business agent of Warehouse Workers Local 20316, opened his attack by pointing out that only two weeks ago, while his union was negotiating for the inside workers with the Wines and Spirit Institute, Weinstock had set it as a representative of the George Benz company of St. Paul. At that time, it was clearly shown that Weinstock was a shrewd and capable negotiator in the employer's interests.

Labor Support Vital
Bartlett pointed out that the success of a liquor salesmen's union depends principally upon the support given it by the rest of the labor movement, particularly the Drivers, the Inside Workers, and the Bartenders. He stated that Local 544 and Local 20316 would never support a movement that smacked of price fixing, and that any union supported by these organizations must be an honest bona fide union, with the interests of the union members and not of the employers at heart.

Allen Sollie, head of the City and County Foremen Union, took the floor to show that the position of Weinstock was contradictory, to say the least, and that ultimately it could only work against the salesmen's interests. He also pointed out that the contract drawn up by Weinstock clearly smacked of price fixing. He announced the union movement refused to participate in any scheme that might link them up with the liquor interests.

Almost For Workers
When confronted with these charges, Mr. Weinstock carried on Emerson, vice-president; Donald Blanche, recording secretary; and Howard Peck, trustee.

ELECTION BOARD 544 PREPARES FOR BALLOTING

Election by Secret Ballot January 7, 8; Large Poll Expected

An Election Board, consisting of George Williams, Vern Bennyhoff, Charles Quick, Sr., Harold Beal, and Chris Moe, chosen at the general membership meeting December 13, will supervise the balloting for officers of General Drivers Local 544 for the coming year.

The election will be conducted by secret ballot at the Union Hall on Friday and Saturday, Jan. 7 to 9 p. m. on both days. The Election Board will furnish absentee ballots for the convenience of members who cannot be present on the days designated for balloting. All members in good standing will be permitted to vote.

Though only one of the officers contested (Bill Brown and Lee Gardner fighting it out for the post of president), the election has aroused considerable interest because of the attacks against the General Drivers Union by the enemies of labor. From observations made with several hundred drivers, it is probable that a remarkably heavy vote will be polled. A large turn-out for the balloting would mark both a demonstration of confidence in the union, and a stiff answer to all those who have sought to slander the organization and its leaders.

The election results will be announced and the officers installed at the general membership meeting on Monday, January 10.

On the Route With the Milk Man

The installation of officers took place Tuesday night.

Our old friend, Brother John Geary, was present to preside at the installation.

There's been a hospital full of illness in our ranks these past few weeks.

Brother Ralph Anderson is still in the hospital. We all pull for his speedy recovery.

T. Ammerman leaves Friday for St. Cloud to assist in organizing the ice cream workers in that city and to help them carry on negotiations.

"LEST YOU FORGET"
Must you be reminded, brother, That milkmen in days long gone Were at the plant in the wee small hours

Delivering milk long before the dawn?
If so I would remind you, Lest you forget, Lest you forget.

Must you be reminded, brother, When you get your weekly pay That in days gone by, you and I Would not have found things that way?

If so I would remind you, Lest you forget, Lest you forget.

Must you be reminded, brother, That your union through the years Lessened many a widow's worries, And dried many an orphan's tears?

If so I would remind you, Lest you forget, Lest you forget.

Must you be reminded, brother, That if you've money in the banks You owe it to the old time milkmen

Who don't want a lot of thanks? Only ask that you remember, Lest you forget, Lest you forget.

—Neil Ogg
The following patents were issued December 21, 1937, to Minnesota Inventors as reported by WILLIAMSON & WILLIAMSON, Patent Attorneys, 215 Metropolitan Life Building, Minneapolis, Minnesota:

Gray, Russell J., Minneapolis, Minn., oil drain and supply system; Naus, Edward P., Minneapolis, Minn., preparation for treating plants.
The following patents were issued December 28, 1937, to Minnesota and Dakota Inventors, as reported by WILLIAMSON & WILLIAMSON, Patent Attorneys, 215 Metropolitan Life Building, Minneapolis, Minnesota:

Bailey, Archie S., Albert Lea, Minn., animal poking implement; Castledine, Charles O., Windom, Minn., gasoline tank for motor vehicles; Hansen, Lorrin L., Rapid City, S. D., indicator for multiple lock sets; Hanson, Casper F., Albert Lea, Minn., window; Hanson, Hans C. and Olson, W., Albert Lea, Minn., fueling system with thermostatic air control; Morton, Harold S., St. Paul, Minn., stoker control and maintaining desired fuel bed resistance.

Local 1859, Casket Bosses Deadlocked In Negotiations

Negotiations between Woodworkers Local 1859 and the local casket industry are at a standstill for the moment, following a meeting held Tuesday afternoon between a committee from the union and representatives of the three Minneapolis casket companies. Mr. Burns of the National Casket Manufacturers Association was also present, and spoke for three hours, after which the meeting broke up. Burns wept over the union demands, and quoted several rods of statistics to show that what was required was a ten percent cut in wages.

The present contract expires January 9, 1938. Probably negotiations will be resumed before that date.

Independent Truck Chatter

By R. F. Hornig
The Committee will recommend that an open meeting be called immediately for all WPA truck operators, to consider means of forestalling issuance of many more contracts.

Layoffs
Those boys on the state payroll are playing "After you, my dear Alphonse." 'S'awful how quick the money goes.

In Case You Don't Know
It has been kept from this column for three weeks that Edward J. Touhy has joined the ranks of the Benedictines.

Teamwork
By reason of a neat double play, Local 544 to Local 221, ice hauling is in the bag this year. Here are your rates:

Dump box, 5 ft. 6 in. x 9 ft with tailgate, \$1.50 hour.
Dump box, 5 ft. 6 in. x 10 ft. 6 in. with tailgate, \$1.85 hour.
Flat rack, 8 ft. x 9 ft., \$2.
Flat rack, 8 ft. x 12 ft., \$2.50.
This is for the nine-hour day.

A Word to the Wise
Those who left their stake bodies on from the postoffice job will have continuous employment through January. It was a hard day's work to scare up 20 ITO men with flat racks. It might be well for some more to acquire a good-sized flat rack. Some of these short jobs go far to fatten up for the poor months.

Off Winchell's Wire: Some of our boys got their feelings hurt lately... Checkup shows about 75 ITO operating in coal yards... We had some office boys check the WPA contract truck register... Couple of Local 120 men been

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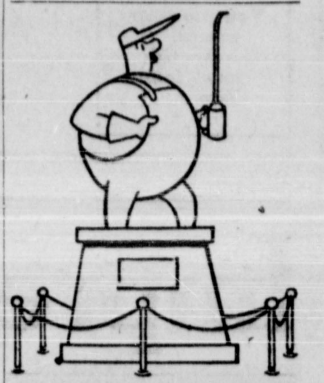
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getting free rent lately... Paul Hesch worked out the dope for the ice contract.



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The Labor Movement in Minnesota and the First World War

III.—From the Labor Peace Meeting in the Minneapolis Auditorium to the Campaign of the Jingos—Lundeens' Ballot on War and Peace—Labor Indorses Gompers' Stand

By Carlos Hudson

On January 31, 1917, Germany announced a policy of unrestricted submarine warfare, claiming it was necessary because of England's attempt to starve out the Central Powers and her rejection of all peace overtures.

On February 3, Wilson severed diplomatic relations with Germany. Though only one American vessel was sunk during the next two weeks, the fear of attack on the part of the ship-owners kept most ships in their home ports. American manufacturers and merchants were seething at the prospect of losing the juicy war profits. In the early days of March the president sought to get a bill passed by Congress authorizing the arming of merchant ships. The bill passed the House but, with LaFollette leading the opposition in the Senate, Congress adjourned on March 4 without passing the bill.

But war is a serious matter with those who profit from war. Wilson went right ahead and armed the merchant vessels without Congressional sanction. The daily press frenziedly worked up hostility towards Germany, and towards all those unwilling to concede that war was inescapable.

By February 5, the Minnesota legislature had passed with but one dissenting vote a resolution

attributing the loftiest motive to Wilson and announcing that the state of Minnesota stood ready "to answer any call made by the leader of a united nation, following him gladly with consecrated patriotism, without any division of race or creed or color, or party, forgetting everything save Our Country, Our President, Our Loyal Citizenship." Hundreds of city and town councils, bodies of educators, fraternal societies, church organizations, followed the example of the legislature. Patriotic mass meetings were widely held.

Van Lear Meeting
However, a substantial portion of the state's population still revealed an unqualified opposition to war. On February 10, 1917, a week after the termination of diplomatic relations with Germany, Thomas Van Lear, Socialist mayor of Minneapolis, called a peace meeting at the auditorium. The auditorium was packed, several thousand persons were turned away. Principal speakers were Van Lear and Scott Nearing. Earlier in the day, the Socialists held two well-attended meetings, one in the Minneapolis courthouse, the other in Minnehaha Hall, St. Paul.

The reactionaries were thoroughly alarmed, fearing that the disaffection might seize a substantial portion of the state's population.

The following day the newly organized Loyalty League held a mass meeting at the Minneapolis auditorium. According to the history of this period, "Minnesota in the War with Germany": "Seven thousand persons, it was estimated, gathered at the Auditorium and in two churches nearby to hear the stirring addresses of the venerable Cyrus Northrup, the beloved Maria Sanford, and George E. Vincent; Judge Ell Torrance; and other prominent Minnesotans. The keynote of the program was an appeal to 'stand by President Wilson.'"

It is worth while quoting from the speech of the venerable Cyrus Northrup, for his talk teaches us how the pacifists justify, at the crucial moment, their support of war.

"We all want peace," said the venerable Cyrus Northrup, "But a crisis has come when the event of any hour may make war inevitable. The president desires to maintain peace. He will do everything he can to avert war. It is to be hoped that Congress will be equally cautious."

Nothing I am sure will induce our government to resort to war except a condition which would stamp us as a nation of degenerates and cowards if we refused to fight for our rights. . . . We all want peace—but peace without dishonor. Stand by the President. He is our leader. Let him lead," etc., etc.

A few days later a loyalty petition signed by 37,000 persons was forwarded to the president by the Minneapolis Civic and Commerce Association.

Unions Resist War
During the critical weeks of February and March, however, both the trade union movement and the Socialist Party in Minnesota carried on a driving campaign against war. The Trades and Labor Assembly of Minneapolis, numbering at that time 18,000 members in 100 unions, appealed to Wilson to avert war, and indorsed the Van Lear peace meeting. The Building Trades Council did the same. The St. Paul Trades and Labor Assembly early in February notified Minnesota congressmen of its desire for a popular referendum on the question of war, the entire burden of which, it stated, was borne by the workers. The Federated Trades Assembly of Duluth, and gatherings of Socialists and trade unions in many smaller towns, followed suit.

Quite a stir was caused when 87 students at Macalester College sent a circular letter to the Minnesota congressional representatives, denouncing the jingo press and the spread of militarism. The scathing denunciation of this act by prominent government and business leaders was a foretaste of what the opponents of war were to be up against. College authorities quickly acted to remove the "odium of disloyalty" from Macalester. Fifteen of the eighteen faculty members sent Wilson a message urging that the "United States owes it to the cause of democracy, the rights of humanity and to its own good name to engage actively in war. . . . Students circulated loyalty resolutions, held patriotic meetings.

Still for Peace
A revealing insight into the true sentiment for peace in Minnesota was given when Congressman Ernest Lundeen mailed to each of 54,000 voters in his district a ballot on war and peace. By April 5, he had received 8,000 protests against, and less than 800 votes in favor of, a declaration of war.

There are still a few chauffeurs that promised to join before the first of the year. I haven't seen them as yet. It's gonna cost \$25.

Received a few cards from Gordon Lawrence from Texas. On one picture is a buffalo looking for a fink. If Gordon will send the buffalo to Minneapolis, I can show it a few finks that drive big swell cars.

It is important that all members attend all meetings.

Local 1859 Receives First Union Label Issued Here
Woodenware Workers Local 1859 of Minneapolis reported early this week it had received the first label to be issued to a non-beneficiary local of the International Brotherhood of Carpenters in this section of the country. The label, Number 1, Local 1859, District of Minneapolis, will be used by the Glazer Box company of Minneapolis, which has signed a closed shop contract with Local 1859.

Local 125, Phillips Liquor Lead Bowlers
The timber fell in all directions Monday night at the Lincoln alleys as the union bowling league went into its weekly session. Local 125 and Phillips Liquor still remain one-two, as each team won two games, the cabbies beating the Ice Drivers, and the Phillips boys taking a pair from the Meat Drivers.

The Warehousemen went after the wood in serious fashion by blanketing the Consolidated. A new high of 2,739 for three games was set by Local 20316. The Soft Drinks took two games from the Teamsters Joint Council, which showed again that it can "take" it.

Team	Won	Lost
Local 125	30	12
Phillips	27	15
Meat Drivers	23	19
Ice Drivers	22	20
Local 20316	22	20
Soft Drinks	20	22
T. J. C.	14	28
Consolidated	10	32

Entertains Employees
Refreshments were served to all employees of the Fisher Paper Box company, 221 North First, Minneapolis, at a Christmas party held in the plant on Thursday during the noon hour. The company sponsored the party. Fisher's workers are organized in Pulp and Sulphite Workers Local 259.

More Back Pay Won For Road Drivers

Back pay for several more over-the-road drivers was collected this week by the organizers working on this problem, Harold Midlicott of Local 120 and George Froisig of Minneapolis announce. Two drivers of the Union Transfer company, both members of Local 544, received checks for \$39 back wages due them, and the company agrees it will pay all over-the-road drivers the 75 cents hourly scale from now on. The two drivers are Roy Jennings and Charles Stuart. With this settlement, the Union Transfer is now a 100 per cent union concern.

Local 664 Accepts Park Board Offer

By a very close margin, the membership of City and Sanitary Drivers Local 664 voted last Thursday night to accept the proposal made to the union a few days previously by the board of park commissioners. Considerable opposition developed to the smallness of the wage increases for certain classifications of drivers and laborers. After lively discussion, however, the majority of the membership voted to accept the upward wage adjustments conceded by the board.

The proposal voted upon was submitted to the union two weeks ago by the board of park commissioners. Local 664 has been seeking upward wage adjustments for some time. Miles Dunne, secretary-treasurer of the Teamsters Joint Council, represented the Council in the meeting with the park board at which the proposal was finally made.

Local 664 will swear in its officers for the coming year, at the membership meeting to be held this Friday, January 7.

With the Limousines

We are having a good start in the New Year, as members continue to join.

Some of the boys that have been slow with their dues are not going to be caught with the five dollar fine.

We hope to see our field 100 per cent union by spring and an outfit we will all be proud of. Yes, even the boss.

Brother Karl Hoffman of Wayzata has his wife in Northwestern hospital convalescing from a very serious operation. We extend our sincere hopes for a speedy recovery.

Mayor Leach's chauffeur has signed up. We hope to see Governor Benson soon.

The boys at 510 Groveland are seeing the light. You won't regret it, fellows.

There are still a few chauffeurs that promised to join before the first of the year. I haven't seen them as yet. It's gonna cost \$25.

Received a few cards from Gordon Lawrence from Texas. On one picture is a buffalo looking for a fink. If Gordon will send the buffalo to Minneapolis, I can show it a few finks that drive big swell cars.

It is important that all members attend all meetings.

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- Milk Drivers and Dairy Employees Local 471
- General Drivers Local 544
- City and Sanitary Drivers Local 664
- Ice Wagon Drivers Local 221
- Tea and Coffee Drivers Local 275
- Laundry and Dry Cleaning Drivers Local 131
- Bakery Drivers Local 289
- Electrical Workers Union Local 292
- Warehouse and Inside Workers Local 20316
- Retail Clerks Union Local 1086
- Gas Workers Union Local 20490
- Minnesota Milk Haulers Association
- Pulp and Sulphite Workers Local 259
- Woodenware Workers Local 20481
- Machinists Lodge 382
- Machinists Lodge 1313
- Machinists Lodge 1037
- Private Chauffeurs Union Local 912
- Federal Workers Section, Local 544
- Minot Drivers Local 74
- Grocery Clerks Local 804
- Mankato Drivers Local 487
- Faribault Drivers Local 458
- St. Cloud Drivers Local 329
- Pulp and Sulphite Workers Local 264
- BBB Distributors
- Taxicab Drivers Local 125

544 SIGNS FIVE WHOLESALE COFFEE FIRMS

New Contract Like Wholesale Grocery Pact; Drivers to Receive 70 cents Hourly

On Tuesday afternoon General Drivers Local 544 signed a working agreement with five wholesale coffee companies. About 75 workers are involved. The new contract is almost identical with the wholesale grocery contract. Coffee drivers will receive 70c hourly; coffee roasters, 70c; grinders, 67½c; miscellaneous warehousemen, 60c. All workers will get one week's vacation with pay.

Other stipulated working conditions are similar to those won by workers in the wholesale grocery industry. Jack Smith handled negotiations for the General Drivers Union.

Pulp Workers, Local 259, Meets Jan. 10

The Pulp and Sulphite Workers Union Local 259 will hold its next regular meeting on Monday night, January 10, at 257 Plymouth avenue in Hall 4. Eight workers from the Minnesota Filler company have joined the union, and more workers from this company are coming in. New members will be initiated at the January 10th meeting.

BAKERY BLAB

Inside Bakery Workers of Local 289 will hold a special meeting Saturday morning, January 8, at 10 a. m. at 257 Plymouth avenue.

The Wholesale bread men will meet Thursday evening, January 6, at 7:30 p. m.

Frank Stanley of Purity Cake is the proud father of a ten-pound baby boy.

Fyold Burbank, Independent, is the father of a girl.

Clifford News of the Independent Bakery has fully recovered from his toothache of a couple of weeks ago.

Lost and Found: Cliff Ash, Purity South plant, lost his wallet with \$30 in it the day after Christmas. So far it is still lost. The mystery is, how a bread man could have that much money.

Funny that a lot of people who wouldn't even talk back to the boss are ready to fight the whole Japanese army for the greater glory of America and the Standard Oil company.

Harvey Zimmerman, Regans, is back on the job again. He must like the bread business.

Loren Johnson, Zinsmasters, spent New Year's Eve in bed with a boil on his—cheek. Most of us New Year's day in bed with a headache.

The following rule was ratified at the last general meeting: Any member who doesn't pay his dues by the 10th of each month will be fined 50c, and any steward who doesn't turn his report in on time will be fined \$1.

The Union Gallery 13.



L. CLAIR JOHNSON
L. C. Johnson, business agent of Laundry Drivers and Helpers Local 131, is charter member Number One of his union. He has held his present post since October, 1936. Johnson is just now getting over that sleepy feeling, caused by weeks of day-and-night sessions this fall, during which the new laundry drivers' contract was negotiated.

Clair lived in Michigan and North Dakota before coming to this city fourteen years ago. He is married. The summer months find him giving every spare moment to his chief sport, fishing.

The Gas Log

By Bill O'Donnell
Our union will meet regularly on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month at the De Soto Hall, 307 Third avenue south, until further notice.

The boys in the Service Dept. welcomed back Brother Bud McGaughey who has been away because of a broken arm.

Brother Dale Becker has won his spurs as a member of the Cowboy Department. The Cow Punchers will hold a party in the near future at which time they will present Brother Becker with a pair of chaps.

Fighting Robert "Bob" Fitzsimmons has moved from the 9th to the 10th ward. We congratulate the 10th ward, and at the same time send our condolences to Aldermen Miller and Anderson.

An investigation is being demanded by the financial backers of the turkey raffle to determine what happened to the pigeons on the holder about Thanksgiving Day.

If Brother Joe Kelly, veteran collector with over 30 years seniority rights, can gain the consent of the Missus, our basketball team will have a new forward.

We hear on good authority that the ever alert steward of the meter readers is thinking seriously of joining the Benedictines.

A new contract is in the making, and all members should interest themselves in its terms and give to the others the value of their suggestions. This can be done by your regular attendance at meetings.

Remember the next meeting is Wednesday, January 12, at 8 p. m.

From now on at general meetings no complaints will be handled unless of general interest. They should be brought up at your regular meeting.

Things to remember: All meetings will start promptly at 7:30, unless otherwise specified.

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Rough Cuts and Mike Measurements

Despite the general dampening effect of the holiday season which is to be expected, Lodge 382 held a most interesting meeting last Thursday. There was serious discussion of problems confronting the labor movement generally, especially the unemployment problem, and activation of the membership generally. The organization is really going to work with renewed determination.

O'Brien and Wold say they received threats over the telephone at the Moline plant in Hopkins, warning them that they had better get out of town. They may have come from some of their own CIO buddies. Anything for effect, you know. These men are not important enough for anybody to take too seriously.

The agreement with the Eagle Iron Works was renewed for six months, extending to June 11. In accordance with sound practice, a clause was added providing that the hours per week be reduced from the regular 40 to 32 in case of lack of work, before any layoffs may be made.

"... the sober and conscientious leadership of Bill Mauseh" says the latest peep in the "Peoples Press." While in the I. A. of M. he was anything but sober and conscientious in his activity. Was his "Educational Committee" to which he turned over the funds of Lodge 382 and later turned them back, conscientious? Was he conscientious when he signed the pledge in Washington to refrain from advocating dual unions? Was he conscientious while gaining his title of Whispering Bill in the government? To those who really know him he is anything but conscientious.

Workers want unity in the labor movement, but not the kind of "unity" you hear so much about. They want the kind that will make for more pay, shorter hours, and more job security.

The Mauseh mimeograph is turning out gems of "unity" again. First he wanted the highway employees to split their unions and join the UE and RW. Next he wanted them to flop into the SC and MW. The other day there appeared on the bulletin board at the Hopkins highway shop a sheet stating that the highway workers are joining the UE and RW, local 1149, and inviting them to attend an open meeting.

Seems the wreckers cannot just

make up their minds (if any) about anything except the one decision to split the solid trade union movement. The highway workers will not follow fanatics. They are interested only in preventing union busting. They will have unity but they will achieve it in their established organizations.

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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.

A Reaction of Genuine Unionism

The prompt action of the West Coast Firemen, weekly organ of the progressive sea-going firemen on the Pacific Coast, in sharply and vigorously calling to heel those elements in the labor movement who dared to call upon the United States Government to pry into the internal affairs of workers' organizations, is a truly intelligent display of the attitude with which all progressive unions regard government investigations of labor bodies.

Harry Bridges and the current he represents in the West Coast labor movement, actually had the gall to ask the government to investigate the situation in the Maritime Unions, claiming they had "evidence to point that our ranks are infested with industrial spies in provocateurs."

The progressive firemen have termed this move "one of the most mistaken, insulting and dangerous actions taken by any maritime union in all the history of labor on the Pacific Coast." The reasons given by the firemen for condemning government investigation are of timely interest in Minneapolis, inasmuch as the CIO which the Communist Party controls and discredits in this area has had the gall to call for similar investigations, not for the purpose of finding the murderers of Pat Corcoran, but for the purpose of calling forth a flood of slander and misrepresentation of the local union movement.

The West Coast Firemen correctly points out that if Bridges has the evidence he claims he has, that the place to present it is to the union movement, and NOT "to the United States Government which is not in any sense a labor organization and which has over and over again acted with the shipowners against the interests of maritime workers!"

This paper further points out that the West Coast workers have time and again proved "their ability to deal with phoney, finks, fakers, spies and provocateurs," while the Government has done nothing about the horrible conditions existing at sea.

In weighing the role of the LaFollette Committee, the West Coast Firemen states what is indubitably correct: "The LaFollette Committee was created to investigate employer spying and stool-pigeoning. It has no authority nor place in the internal affairs of workers' organizations. As a matter of fact this is, to our knowledge, the first request that the time of this committee be taken from such boss-exposure as it is capable of, and diverted and misused in prying into labor's own affairs."

Those alleged friends of labor who go out of their way to invite government investigation of labor's house have got to be condemned in the sharpest possible manner by all those who have the welfare of the union movement at heart. We congratulate the West Coast Firemen on its progressive and clear-cut attitude on this serious question. Only the union movement can settle its own problems. If its problems are settled for it, the settlement will only play into the hands of the employers, every time. Labor must resist to the very end the slightest interference in its affairs by all non-labor, outside agencies.

"The Poor Innocent Victims"

Thanks to that well-known "friend" of the labor movement, Judge John W. Finehout of St. Paul, labor in Minnesota can start the new year right, with a great deep belly laugh. Judge Finehout's contribution to the meritment of the state lay in his statement in court on Monday when, after showing his friendship for labor by handing down disproportionately large fines to seven Montgomery-Ward pickets, he spoke of "these poor innocent victims" who are being "misled by radical leaders."

"This not only refers to St. Paul," said the venerable judge, "but to Minneapolis and the state as a whole."

That the workers of Minnesota are victims, nobody will deny. Yes, they are victims—victims of the labor-hating bosses and their tools. Victims of the exploiters, of those who consume but do not produce, victims of all those who live on the profits extracted from labor.

Judge Finehout insults the labor movement when he calls those workers "poor innocent victims" simply because they have shown the intelligence to organize into unions and choose men from their ranks with courage to lead them in battle against the bosses.

Let's all take our hair down and weep for the "poor innocent victims" who have organized by the tens of thousands into unions in this state during the past few years.

Let's pity the "victims" who have been forced to accept the higher wages which their unions have won for them in struggle!

Let's pity the "victims" whose hours have been shortened!

Let's pity the "victims" who, thanks to the growth and strength of the union movement, know for the first time in their lives what real job security is!

The only victims to be really pitied are those unorganized workers who fall for the hypocritical anti-union agitation of the bosses and the friends of the bosses, people like Judge Finehout. The workers who have stood up like true men and organized to fight for a better life are still victims of capitalism, but they are not to be pitied. Instead, they are to be hailed as molders of a new world, encouraged and supported as the only force capable of resisting the anti-social practices of the employers and leading all humanity into a new society where justice and truth shall prevail.

Private Chauffeurs Elect Officers

On Tuesday the Private Chauffeurs and Helpers Union Local 912 balloted for officers for 1938 at the union hall, 257 Plymouth Avenue. The voting took place during the day. Election judges counted the ballots just prior to the evening meeting and announced the successful candidates.

They are: Joe Lear, president and business agent; John Anderson, vice-president; Ted Gardner, recording secretary.

Trustees were also chosen. The three-year trustee is Bill Hines. Carl Gustafson will serve for two years, and Ernest Johnson for one year. Clarence Kartes will be sergeant-at-arms. All officers were sworn in at the regular meeting of Local 912, held Tuesday night.

I'm a Poor Little Sheep
With No Place to Sleep,
Won't You Let Me In?



Keeping Step With 544

By Micky Dunne

Local 544 goes to the polls the 7th and 8th. There is only one contest. That is for Head Man.

The North Central District Drivers' Council meets Saturday and Sunday of this week. It will convene in Local 129's headquarters in St. Paul.

There are new faces on the Seniority Board. Now is the time to make a New Year's resolution to attend all union meetings during 1938.

There was a recount in the Milk Drivers' election.

The Laundry Drivers had a little scuffle this week.

DO YOU KNOW?
That Local 120 in St. Paul owns the building it occupies?

Private Chauffeurs elect Tuesday.

Seniority trouble at Colonial. The 1938 agreement is still pending at Yellow Cab.

The drivers headquarters at 257 Plymouth Ave., which once seemed too large now seems small and cramped. The building has not shrunk, but the organizations have grown.

To Settle a Question. Union stewards are elected by the men, subject to approval of the Executive Board.

The coroner's inquest in the death of Pat Corcoran reconvenes on January 4.

That St. Paul Grand Jury report was a honey. But how come no indictments, Mc?

The Montgomery-Ward strike received a terrible kick from some of the so-called "safe and sane" St. Paul leaders. All out for the election!

On the NATIONAL PICKET LINE

As the result of the recent unemployed census conducted by the government the national unemployed army now has 10,309,000 in its ranks. What's the difference between a depression and a recession?

General Motors Corporation announced last week, through its vice-president Knudsen, that 30,000 workers employed in the manufacture of automobiles will be dropped from the company pay-roll. Mr. Knudsen gave as his reason for the mass lay-off the overcrowding of the market with used cars. Those employees remaining at work will be employed only twenty-four hours a week, on an average scale of 95c per hour. Mr. Knudsen stressed the fact that the laying-off of employees will be strictly in accordance with their agreement with the United Auto Workers. Those men who are married or who have dependents will be retained in favor of single men or those whose wives are also employed.

The effects of the boycott instituted by the American Federation of Labor at its Denver convention, against the products of Japan has made itself felt in a very effectual manner. Four of the large variety-chain corporations have publicly announced that they are making no purchases from Japan during the coming year. Germany as a mart with these companies is also out. The Kresge, the Woolworth, the S. H. Kress, and the McCrory corporations are the companies involved. Some years ago the American people began a boycott against products from Hitler-Germany. Czechoslovakia has been considered. England, France and several other countries have also indicated that they would welcome the business. In the meantime contracts for knick-knacks, china and miscellaneous objects have been let to several American firms.

When is a strike not a strike? When the employer has replaced all of the striking workers and his business is being conducted on a "normal basis," "except for interference with workers in ingress and egress to the place of business." Such a decision was handed down by Vice Chancellor Maja Leon Berry in Trenton, N. J. The decision was rendered in favor of a company which was seeking an injunction against a CIO Miscellaneous Products Workers Union to stop strikers from picketing. "Justice" Berry "justified" his decision by citing three other cases wherein similar judgments were rendered and upheld by state supreme courts. What the justice failed to define was the difference between workers and strikebreakers. For many years large detective agencies have grown wealthy supplying these "workers" to industry.

Officials of the Ford Motor Company have hired the lawyer who helped killed the NRA to assist them in their fight against the NLRB. Attorney Frederick H. Wood, who argued the case in the Supreme Court which resulted in the NRA being declared unconstitutional, has agreed to join the staff of Ford legal talent to defeat the NLRB order of last week, ordering the Ford company to stop its anti-union activity, and to reinstate 29 union men fired for their union activities. The case will come before the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals meeting at Covington, Ky., this month. Mr. Ford, through his personnel director, Harry Bennett, has announced flatly that he will not comply with the Labor Board's decision that he must cease and desist from anti-union activity.

Meanwhile in Kansas City picketing has been resumed at the Ford assembly plant. On the 28th of December fifty strikers parading before the gates of the plant were arrested. Those picketing on the walks between the gates will not be molested in the future, according to the police, but no one must block ingress to or egress from the plant. More than two hundred strikers have

Job Stewards and Grievances

By Executive Board, Local 544

In the course of day by day work in General Drivers Local No. 544 misunderstandings occasionally arise between the Job Steward and the members on the job. In many cases these misunderstandings are carried to the Executive Board and the staff of the Union in a manner which tends to further confuse the issues and make a proper settlement of the matter more difficult.

For example, in a given controversy the Job Steward may contact the Union Headquarters and secure an interpretation on a Union rule or a contract clause and inform the men on the job of this interpretation. If one or more members on the job happen to be dissatisfied with this interpretation they sometimes on their own initiative immediately make a trip to the Union Hall, present the matter in a different light and naturally secure a different interpretation. The sum total of this is that in such a controversy the Union gives two interpretations on the same question, due to diametrically opposed reports of the facts, and this in turn tends to make the Steward's job more difficult for him and creates a certain amount of friction among the members on the job. This is one specific example of many administrative problems which arise daily in the Union.

To find a practical solution for this it is necessary for every member of the Local to understand first of all the vast amount of work done for the members by the Executive Board, the staff and the Job Stewards of Local No. 544. With thousands of members and hundreds of contracts with employers it is only natural that the volume of grievances will be large. This problem is further complicated by the fact that the membership of the Union is going through a gradual process of trade union education and that still we can record with deep satisfaction that the membership of the Union as a whole represents a comparatively high level of Union consciousness.

It must also be recognized that there is much yet to be learned by the Union as a whole. Most of the existing machinery of the Union has been created through the process of experience with all its bitter lessons and it must be admitted that the history of the last four years is one of continuous improvement in the performance and accomplishments of the Local. We cannot use the proof of the existence of these complications as an excuse for the inefficiency and procrastination. We must strive always to improve our performance but we must at the same time maintain a reasonable degree of tolerance among ourselves in carrying out the Union work.

The Grievance Committee and the Seniority Committee were created for the express purpose of increasing the efficiency of the Union in settling grievances and establishing seniority ratings and at the same time eliminating such contradictory conditions as the one described above. Insofar as it is possible to do so all matters relating to these subjects should clear through the proper committee and should not be taken up with individual officers or staff members. The membership always has the right to appeal to the Executive Board from any decision of the Grievance Committee or Seniority Committee and if they are still dissatisfied with the decision they have the right to appeal to the general membership meeting, the supreme authority of the Union. In the event that the nature of a particular grievance is such that it cannot wait for the regular meeting of the proper committee for settlement, then the matter when taken to an officer or a staff member should be presented in its true light.

Let us return to the above example. After the Job Steward had secured a ruling from the Union Headquarters and it was found that the interpretation did not seem correct to a part of the members involved, these members in coming to the Union Headquarters should have stated frankly and fairly the name of the official from whom the Steward had secured the interpretation and the exact nature of the interpretation given by this official together with information as to the manner in which the Steward had presented the case. To this of course would be added the ideas of these members on the controversy. We wish to again emphasize that insofar as it is at all possible these controversies should be taken to the proper official Union committee rather than to an individual officer or staff member of the Union.

There have also been a few occasions on which a group of members has attempted to call a meeting of the members at a given company over the head of the Job Steward and without the knowledge of the Job Steward. It must be recognized that the membership has the full right to appeal to the Union over the head of the Job Steward but it must also be recognized that the Job Steward is entitled to know that such an appeal is being made so that he may have a fair and reasonable opportunity to defend his position. We can condense the definition of the solution of this problem in a very few words. The membership, the Job Stewards, the staff men and the Union officers must at all times remember that all grievances are legitimate. Every individual is entitled to his opinion and is entitled to have his opinion heard. No problem can be settled permanently by a one-sided presentation of the facts. Every grievance will actually remain unsettled until such time as a decision has been made based upon a fair and reasonable consideration of the opinions of all parties to the controversy. The better we are able to recognize this principle of fair play, the better will be our Union, and the more it will accomplish.

EXECUTIVE BOARD
LOCAL 544

been arrested since the beginning of the strike—many of them women.

A jurisdictional battle between the National Maritime Union (CIO) and the Seamen's Union (A. F. of L.) continues to tie up shipping activities of the Eastern Steamship Lines, operating out of New York Harbor. The N. M. U. has again appealed to the NLRB to declare void an election held among the employees of this line recently. The A. F. of L. won the election.

The CIO Association of Marine Workers, tow-boat workers—has asked the NLRB to conduct a port-wide election in New York Harbor, to determine whether the AMW of the A. F. of L. Tugboat Workers Union shall represent the workers. Last summer the two unions joined forces to obtain a contract from the owners. A split occurred. The A. F. of L. union officials had signed the agreement and insist upon the owners living up to it. The CIO union wants this agreement invalidated and a new one, naming them representatives drawn up. Several tugboats are already tied up as the result of the controversy.

Ward Strike Set Back by Lack of Union Endorsement

(Continued from page 1)

the strike. He struck an employe from behind, which started the trouble at the plant December 11. It might easily have turned into a riot.

The situation on Dec. 11 as pictured by Judge Finehout had little to do with the actual facts. A few pickets were present. Scabs going to work were protected by scores and scores of cops and company police. Plainclothesmen mingled among the pickets, arresting anyone who even looked resentful at the finks and scabs. There was nothing in the scene that even resembled a riot; only cops out to bear down on the picket line and help break the strike.

Strike Still On

If the strike at Montgomery-Ward's is lost, chief responsibility must be placed squarely on the shoulders of those St. Paul labor leaders who held back the Trades and Labor Assembly from endorsing the strike. With such an endorsement, the Ward workers could in all likelihood have brought the struggle to a victorious conclusion within a few days. Many individual unions heartily endorsed and supported the Ward strike, but the fact that the Trades and Labor Assembly withheld its stamp of approval told heavily against the battle. In the early days of the strike, the Minneapolis Board of Union Business Agents and the Minneapolis Central Labor Union had endorsed the strike against Montgomery-Ward's.

On Tuesday the sentiment of the Ward workers was that the strike should still continue. In order to raise funds, Local 20297 will hold a benefit dance at the St. Paul Coliseum on Saturday evening, January 15. Admission is 25c, and all friends of organized labor are urged to purchase tickets before January 15.

Brown, Wagner Arrested; Freed On \$200 Bail

In an attempt to discredit General Drivers Union Local 544, which is carrying on an organizational campaign against the Standard Oil company in this city, William Brown and Nick Wagner were arrested last Friday and charged with "threatening breach of peace."

The two voluntarily surrendered to police. Both pleaded not guilty. Trials were set for January 14. Bail of \$200 each was posted by the union.

A fink Standard Oil truck driver, Ralph Lawrence, has charged that Brown and Wagner threatened him. There is not a whit of truth in the charge.

The Standard Oil company continues to be unfair to the General Drivers Union Local 544. Local 544 calls upon the labor movement to remember this when purchasing gas and oil. The union is banner-ing a number of Standard Oil stations throughout the city. There is little doubt but that the charges against Brown and Wagner were inspired by the company.

Unemployed of Local 20316—Note!

Any member of Warehouse Workers Local 20316 who is unemployed and in need of aid and relief should immediately get in touch with officials of the Warehouse Workers Union in the office of the union at 257 Plymouth Avenue.

Throughout the month of December the 8,000 members of the Sailors Union of the Pacific, militant independent West-Coast Seamen's Union, voted in a referendum on the future course of the organization. A choice is being made as to whether the SUP will affiliate with the AFL, with the CIO, or will remain independent. Results of the balloting are not yet known.

About 15,000 taxi drivers benefited from the new working agreement signed in New York City between the Transport Workers Union and the five largest operators in the city, following settlement of the two-weeks' strike. Improved working conditions, higher wages (\$18 weekly for night drivers, \$15 for day drivers), the closed shop, the six-day week, eight-hour day, and the establishment of hiring halls were included in the contracts.

UNION MEETING SCHEDULE

LODGE 382
Lodge 382, I. A. of M., meets the second and fourth Fridays at 8 p. m., at 501 East Hennepin.

LODGE 1313
Lodge 1313, I. A. of M., meets the second and fourth Thursdays, at 501 East Hennepin.

LODGE 1037
Lodge 1037, I. A. of M., meets the first and third Thursdays at Olson's Hall, Hopkins.

LOCAL 664
The City and Sanitary Drivers Local 664 will meet the first and third Fridays of each month.

LOCAL 1086
The Retail Clerks Local 1086 will meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month.

PETROLEUM DRIVERS
Regular Membership Meeting—First Wednesday each month.

FEDERAL WORKERS
Regular Membership Meeting—Second Friday each month. Stewards' Meeting—Every Wednesday, 8 p. m.

LOCAL 289
Retail Drivers—First Thursday. Wholesale Drivers—Second Thursday.

LOCAL 1859
Casket Section—Jan. 11
J. R. Clark Section—Jan. 19
Exec. Board, 1859—Every Friday, 8 p. m.
Exec. Board, 20481—Jan. 17
General Membership, 1859—Feb. 2
General Membership, 20481—Jan. 21
Twin City Stewards—Jan. 10, 24

LOCAL 20316
Stewards—First and third Tuesday
Regular Membership Meeting—Fourth Tuesday
Executive Board—Regularly every Monday

ICE, COAL DRIVERS MEETING SCHEDULE
Local 251, Ice and Coal Drivers Local 251, will hereafter hold all of its regular meetings at the new headquarters of the Teamsters Joint Council, 257 Plymouth Ave. N. Regular Union meetings will be held on the second and fourth Tuesdays.

Executive Board meetings are subject to call. The Union office is now located at the above address.

PRIVATE CHAUFFEURS
The Private Chauffeurs will meet the first and third Tuesdays of each month.

LOCAL 471
The Milk Wagon Drivers and Dairy Employees Union Local 471 meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month at 7 p. m.

LOCAL 292
Inside Section—First Tuesday
Radio Section—Second Tuesday
Shoppers' Section—Second Wednesday

LOCAL 292
Utility Section—First Thursday
General Membership—Third Thursday
Seniority Board—Every Monday

LOCAL 131
Utility Advisory Board—Every Tuesday
General Executive Board—Mondays preceding first and third Thursdays

LOCAL 125
The Laundry and Dry Cleaning Drivers Local 125 meets the first and third Wednesdays of each month.

LOCAL 125
The Taxi Drivers Local 125 meets on the first Tuesday at 4 a. m., and on the third Tuesday at 7:30 p. m.

SIoux CITY DRIVERS
Grievance Committee—Each Tuesday, Friday night
Stewards Meeting—Each Friday night

PRIVATE CHAUFFEURS
The Private Chauffeurs and Helpers Local 912 meets the first and third Tuesdays of each month.

MEETING SCHEDULE JANUARY, 1938
Local 544—Job Stewards
Sunday, January 9—Wholesale Grocery, 10 a. m.
Monday, January 10—General Membership.
Wednesday, January 12—Market, Liquor.
Sunday, January 16—Over-the-Road, 11 a. m.
Monday, January 17—Furniture/Building Material.
Seniority Committee meets each Friday at 7 p. m. in hall No. 1.
Grievance Committee meets each Tuesday and Friday at 7 p. m. in Hall No. 2.
Executive Board meets each Wednesday at 9 a. m. in Staff Room.