

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

Official Organ of the Northwest Labor Unity Conference

GENERAL OFFICE: 286 E. 6TH ST.
St. Paul, Minn.
MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE: 225 S. 3RD ST.

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

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

VOL. 1, NO. 4

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 1935

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NEW FOUR BILLION DOLLAR RELIEF PROGRAM STARTS OUT IN REVERSE

Relief to Be Decreased and Investigation Will Be Increase

Criminal Prosecution to Be Attempted by Relief Authorities

For several weeks the community papers published in various neighborhoods in the large cities and throughout the rural press generally have been carrying on an intensive campaign against alleged relief "chiselers." Proof now comes that this was a curtain-raiser for another phase of the "New Deal."

Changes in the personnel of the relief administration have been rumored for the last six weeks. Today's press dispatches state that Walter Butler of St. Paul is to replace L. P. Zimmerman, the present relief head in Minnesota. Butler, president of the Butler Construction Co., was a member of the Democratic National Committee at their last convention.

Instructions have been sent out by Federal Relief Administrator Hopkins to remove all "border line" cases from the relief rolls immediately. He adds that these cases may be put back on relief only after a thorough checkup by specially appointed investigators.

Cases of alleged "chiseling" are to be placed before the grand juries for indictment and will be immediately brought to trial. On orders from Washington all livestock relief has been cut off. Washington officials state that they "do not know how much money this will save."

In an attempt to "save" an unknown amount of money, the administration is casting aside all human consideration and plunging into a blind program which will bring misery to thousands. Snooping by special investigators has been mild in the past as compared to what can now be expected. This is a direct challenge to the manhood of the American workers.

Into the unions! Into the unemployed sections!

Unfair Dairy Boss Resents Union Act

Albert Lea, Minn.—Because the Union exposed low wages and poor working conditions in his dairy, "Doc" Burns, president of the Albert Lea Chamber of Commerce, is suing the local and central bodies for \$5,750 worth of damages suffered by him through this exposure.

The suit immediately garnished the bank accounts of the Albert Lea Local and the Central Body, "tying up" about \$1,200 in funds. Probably the bosses thought that what is true of businesses which are not on a solid foundation

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Garagemen Organize To Defeat the Bosses

Austin, Minn.—One of the first formed units of the Austin Local IUAW and one of the strongest in membership is the garage and service station workers unit. A few weeks ago a committee from the unit started negotiations for a new contract with the employers (their old contract had run out). After the first two meetings at which admissions from the bosses showed that the agreement was fair, the bosses discontinued negotiations. It has been impossible to secure hearings with the bosses. Lately the unit voted to banner two of the places as unfair to organized labor. The reactionary press thought that the affair was something to be laughed at and that the union was unfair in bannering the places.

A special meeting for the unit is called at which a strike vote will be considered. Maybe the bosses can laugh that off too.

Wage Battle Looming At Thief River Falls

By Special Correspondent
Thief River Falls, Minn.—Labor in this town has one universal complaint, low wages. As the home of a fine bunch of chain stores and other outside owned enterprises this is to be expected. Several of the local banks are in receivership. This is a railroad town, and nearly everyone lived off the earnings of the "Rails" who were good spenders when they worked, but now they are walking the streets looking for janitor jobs which pay from \$20 to \$50 per month, provided some scab doesn't beat them to it.

Most of the population has given up the movies and now spends its time whacking up dad's last nickel which is not very far removed from his first. The local branch managers consider 19 to 20 cents per hour good wages, while the

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More Kangaroo Courts
In Gallup, New Mexico, a sheriff was killed by gunfire while trying to evict an unemployed miner from his home. On the pretext of searching for a gun lost by a deputy sheriff, the local officials, aided by the American Legion, ransacked the homes of the Gallup miners. Wherever radical literature was found an arrest was made. Thirty-eight men and ten women are on trial for murder in the first degree as a result of this "red hunt." A trial for radicalism with the penalty for murder hanging over their heads. Meantime, those who might serve as defense witnesses are being arrested and held for investigation in an effort to find some excuse to deport them from the country.

Nine Days of Battling Wins Increased Relief

Dallas, Texas.—The recent nine day demonstration here won a 50 per cent increase in relief. The relief had been cut in half and the authorities restored one-half of the cut.

While the Dallas County Administrator insisted that they were completely out of funds and could get no more money, yet they dug up \$25,000 additional relief funds during the demonstration.

This is just one more concrete example of what happens through militant workers organization.

Work Harder Than Ever

The returns from the primaries of the Minneapolis city election bring tidings of a sweeping victory to the Farmer-Labor party. There are excellent prospects that the mayor's office and a majority of the seats on the city council will be captured in the final election, together with a number of minor offices. But to become over-confident is dangerous. Entrenched reaction does not give up easily. Only by redoubling their efforts during the next month can the workers guarantee the defeat of the Citizens Alliance. **Work harder than ever.**

Disturbing Report On Toledo Strike

In Toledo, Ohio, the automobile workers have been waging a fight against the Chevrolet plant of the General Motors Company. This strike struggle has been carried on in a manner which has written new pages in the history of American labor and has served as a beacon light for progressive union action. A quick change has suddenly come in this situation.

True to form, the kept press has given a very meager and much garbled account of the latest important developments. It is difficult to determine just what happened, but there is sufficient evidence to indicate that a splendid and heroic working class struggle has been turned into a precipitous retreat by Green's first string lieutenant, Dillon.

The agreement, according to reports, was accepted by a vote of 732 to 385 after Dillon had threatened to expel the Toledo local from the A. F. of L. if they voted to reject the proposal. This high-handed rape of union democracy should and will receive further attention in the columns of the Organizer.

The size of the opposing vote, together with the report that a picket line had been re-established about the plant indicates clearly that the settlement was crammed down the throats of the workers. James Roland, chairman of the strike committee, is quoted as characterizing the whole action as a "dirty deal."

Full and accurate information about the strike will be obtained directly from the Toledo strike committee by the Organizer and will appear in a special article

ORGANIZATION DRIVE ON ALL FRONTS BEGUN BY LOCAL 574

Campaign Opened to Settle Grievances and Complete Unionization of Trucking Industry

Minneapolis, Minn.—The committee which will go to Indianapolis to protest to D. J. Tobin, president of the Drivers International, against the revocation of the charter of Local 574, has been selected and is making preparations to go on its mission. Jean Spielman of the Bookbinders, Andrew Lief of the Carpenters, Sander Genis of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers and Pat Corcoran of the Milk Wagon Drivers are the members.

Meantime, the organization work of Local 574 goes forward with added impetus. An increase in building construction and road maintenance and repair work is bringing work to many members who have previously had little employment. Careful attention is being paid by the union to this section of the industry.

Drive on Discriminations

The executive board has announced that a special drive is to be conducted to clean up grievances and increase the union membership in the transfer and motor haulage section. There are a few firms in this section who have consistently tried to evade compliance with the terms of the strike settlement. These matters will be followed up until they are effectively settled. All members are called upon to co-operate with the field men by turning in prompt reports on all discriminations and helping to line up all delinquent members and non-members. As an example of discrimination against union members the executive board points to the case at the Skellet Transfer Company where the officials have ignored a Labor Board order to reinstate a driver discharged for union activity. This case is to receive prompt attention.

In the market area, despite the
(Continued on page 3, column 1)

Union Membership Endorses Voorhees

Austin, Minn.—In a special poll conducted by secret ballot over a two day period, the membership of Local No. 1 of the IUAW voted 422 to 187 to retain Joe Voorhees as their business agent. The election was held after the executive board had voted 7 to 2 to accept Voorhees' resignation.

The question arose from an ultimatum by Jay Hormel that Voorhees must be divorced from the union or the packing plant would be closed down. Voorhees has carried on a militant struggle against attempts by the company to violate seniority rights and speed up the pace of the workers.

In voting to reject his resignation the workers have indicated their approval of Voorhees' policy of defending the rights and privileges of the union membership.

Highway Employees Ask Better Conditions

St. Paul, Minn.—At a special conference of delegates from all units of the State Highway Department the Minnesota State Employees Association drew up tentative proposals for improved wages and working conditions for the employees in this department.

The proposals center upon three principal questions: a clear definition of emergency work, rates of pay, and hours of labor. The memorandum issued by the conference points out that a very loose definition of emergency work has led to the working of crews 10 to 12 hours per day as a common practice and frequently as much as 18 to 20 hours in one day. As a specific case the employees take issue with the department on the classification of snow storms as emergencies. They contend that snow is a long recognized part of Minnesota winters, and as such should not be considered an emergency.

Citing the fact that long hours are now being maintained on the basis of the amount of equipment available, the memorandum states emphatically that "shortage of equipment must not be used to the detriment of the employees."

The proposal calls for the highest prevailing union scale for skilled employees and insists upon the classification of specific duties to eliminate doing skilled work at

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Baseball Sunday

Local 574 will meet St. Helena in the first game of the season on Sunday, May 19, 3 P. M. on diamond number 6 at the Parade Grounds. EVERYBODY OUT.

ALL WORKERS INTO THE UNIONS ALL UNIONS INTO THE STRUGGLE

THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

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"When I ply my needle, trowel or pick,
I'm a decent Sheney, Wop or Mick,
But when I strike, I'm a Bolshevik
I'm labor."

Knitting, Not Splitting, Needed

True to their usual form we find the Communist Party bending over backward to execute another sudden right about face in their trade union policy. After more than six years of complete isolation from the A. F. of L., during which time they condemned everything that it stood for and made no distinction between its honest and dishonest leaders, they have reversed themselves so completely as to attempt a united front with the most reactionary forces within that body.

Feeding upon the wounds of a fighting progressive force, inflicted by a desperate bureaucracy while in its death struggle, they thus attempt to cloak themselves in a piety so great as to atone for their past sins against the movement. In their eager desire to rid themselves of a record of which they are now ashamed, they strive to pin it upon others.

Never was there a greater need for solidarity in the labor movement. A solidarity built upon truth, understanding, and militancy. Should the anti-union forces prevail in their attempts to split away the progressives from the main body of the organized workers there is no telling where the evil would end. What the labor movement needs is not a splitting up but a closer knitting together of all the unions to a point where differences can be ironed out in the spirit of the greatest good to all workers.

* * *

What About Emme?

It seems that there are some who would like to feel that the discharge of Julius F. Emme from the Minnesota State Industrial Commission is a settled matter. Some of those involved in the act against him have been heard to remark that they are laying low until the heat dies down. But the heat is not going to die down.

No amount of explaining can get around the fact that all evidence shows that Emme was discharged for speaking out in defense of a group of workers who were railroaded through a Minnesota court. This is the kind of conduct that the workers like to see on the part of their leaders, and they have no time for people who will penalize a man for standing by his brother unionists. Emme must receive a fair and impartial hearing; the wrong which has been done him must be righted.

This situation cannot be cleared up, and the heat will not die down until a hearing is granted him. It is to the best interests of the labor movement that this be done quickly.

* * *

The Railroad Pension Decision

Throughout the land there are over one million railroad workers, many of them now old and infirm, unable to adjust themselves to other work; men who gave the best years of their lives to the public through their service on the railroads.

Congress, reactionary as it is, finally decided that the railroad companies could not exploit these men until their vitality had been sapped and then throw them on the scrap heap as unemployed cast-offs to become public wards. But it remained for the United States Supreme Court, every member of which is a life pensioner himself, to rule that Congress has not the power to pass a railroad pension act.

Surely the Grim Reaper has been derelict in his duty in failing to remove from the bench some of these fossils who, appointed for life, have lived beyond their usefulness to modern society.

* * *

The Full Rights of Labor

The full rights of Labor, as stated by none other than Samuel Gompers, himself, are "an ever increasing share in industry;" a declaration with which we are in full accord. And perhaps due to the rapid advance in thought and policy during the last decade we might add, "until the worker receives the full social value of his toil."

Biographies Walfrid Engdahl

This week's subject for our biographer is or rather was a wood butcher, in the term of the craft, a carpenter. Walfrid Engdahl has been a respected member of the Minneapolis Carpenter's Union for so many years the date is almost forgotten by even the old timers.

He served this local in many capacities and always with a consistency of purpose; that of advancing the welfare of the workers in his craft. This brought about the demand that he be made the Twin City representative of the carpenters, a position that he filled for a number of years.

At the present time he is serving the state in a statistical capacity, where by his friendly smile and kindly disposition he has made a host of friends. His stand on both political and economic issues has always been that of a progressive. He is well versed in the labor movement and a student that is not afraid to embrace new ideas.

Walfrid Engdahl is an outstanding example of the European labor movement, of a culture native to his people, and so often undervalued in our American labor movement. It is this splendid background that makes him quick to understand the most progressive principles of economics and politics where many of our native born wander around with no proper evaluation of the class struggle that is everywhere going on around them.

Men of Engdahl's type are a distinct asset to our labor movement in its present crisis, when we are lacking in unselfish progressive leadership. His motive is not that of an immediate personal gain at the cost of his fellow workers but a consistent urge to build a movement that will promote the welfare of all workers, not only now but for all time to come.

An example of this was clearly demonstrated when Walfrid Engdahl refused to become a tool to serve the connivings of certain labor fakery who desired to lend respectability to their dirty tactics by having him take the place of another labor man whose dismissal they had plotted. This he refused to do even though it would have been a distinct money benefit to him.

Were we to offer any criticism on this fine character it would be that in the labor movement he has permitted himself to be pushed aside by men with little or no scruples and far less intelligence than he possesses; this because his cultural nature would not permit him to stoop to the methods they used. We predict that the labor movement will find a place and service for this man fitting to his worth.

LETTERS to the EDITOR

To the Editor:

Eli Weston, the honorable attorney of the Associated Industries, has given a series of addresses at luncheons featured by the Kiwanis, the Lions, and the Rotary clubs. The burden of these addresses was Communism and its relation to the Fargo-Moorhead Drivers' strike. One day Mr. Weston overstepped his bounds by branding some of the N. D. A. C. professors as Communists. When one of these men asked him to define Communism, Mr. Weston replied, "You've got me there; I can't do it."

A wise, discreet man refrains from using a term which he does not understand, but Eli Weston had his mission to perform, as he

Reading Between the Lines

Reading from between the lines of the daily press, the things that are not printed, or at least not meant to be understood by the workers, is an interesting and most of the time an instructive occupation.

Financial Dictatorship

There are 15,834 banks in this country, as stated in the *Financial Age*, having deposits to the amount of forty billion dollars. But a small group of 177 out of the approximately sixteen thousand banks holds almost twenty-five of this forty billion dollars. That is, 177 or about one per cent

A Glance at the Early Days in the A. F. of L.

By the Old Timer

The American Federation of Labor studiously avoided mass political action. The old timers associated with Samuel Gompers were all agreed that the rank and file membership must not be taught the effective use of the ballot as a weapon of class defense. Class consciousness was one thing the old timers could not admit if their theory of class collaboration was to stand as their program of action.

In the early days of the A. F. of L. and up to the World war Gompers never visioned the possibility of organizing the American working class as a body. His own statements made at various times show that the thought in his mind was at best a balance of power scheme.

Gompers hoped to organize sufficient of the skilled handy-craftsmen that he might so hamper production by a strike or other concerted action as to compel condition for the trade or calling involved. This, in conjunction with his development of the union label to stimulate the sale of merchandise of friendly employers, made up the program and tactics of the A. F. of L.

While mass political action was eschewed, this did not mean that the leaders took no part in politics; quite the contrary, they were head over heels in politics, trading wherever there was a chance for a trade. This is one of the strange inconsistencies of the American labor movement; it spoke in terms of economic action but developed no weapons with which to carry out that line of action. True, it borrowed the strike as a weapon with the rest of its imported background but with the single exception of the union label we find no American tool of defense ever fashioned.

To the casual student of the labor movement this at first seems strikingly odd, but when we examine the background we soon see the reason. Almost without exception the founders of the A. F. of L. were men who like Samuel Gompers came from callings that depended upon the development of a distinct skill of the hands of the worker, and with this group, the product of these hands became a symbol of art. They eulogized the product of the worker and forgot the creator thereof.

The result of all this, plus the fact that the control of the leadership never changed but stayed in the hands of the original group was that they were quite unconscious of the changes going on around them, and so long as there was enough employment to go around no one bothered much about it.

When the machine invaded the industry and displaced men it happened that the trades of the leaders were the last to be affected. Such trades as the machine invaded became radical, while the old school of hand workers still were satisfied and conservative. When at last the pressure from the bottom became strong enough to move the leaders, they had no plan to offer but turned to politicians for remedial measures to relieve the distress of their membership. This turn to legislation for benefits to organizations that were built for economic action marks the bankruptcy of the old leadership.

Yellow Journalism
of the country's banks control sixty per cent of all deposits. Twenty-six banks in New York City have ten and one-half billions of these deposits. One may easily guess that these 26 banks which control more than one-fourth of all the deposits of the country are what is known as Wall Street. It is not hard to imagine what influence such concentrated banking enterprises exercise over our economic life.

Speaking about concentration, one may remember the source from which comes the news for the greater part of the reading public. In seventeen of the biggest cities there are about 25 million readers; two-fifths of them get the news ready made by William Randolph Hearst, the man who made yellow journalism into a great business. It is hard not to know Hearst with his sensational headlines, with his war propaganda. Hearst is the man about whom Professor Charles A. Beard said that "there is no cesspool of crime and vice in which Hearst has not raked and exploited for his own profits." Hearst, who had more than his share in bringing about the war with Cuba, who almost succeeded in embroiling us in a war with Mexico, is the man who owns and controls the greatest newspaper chain in this country and for that matter, in the world.

How the Hearst newspapers handle labor news can be easily determined by the knowledge that he was and is the owner of the famous Homestead Mining Company of Lead City, South Dakota. Here he so brutally broke the strike of his gold miners that the *Harpers Weekly*, not very friendly to labor, wrote that "No human being in Lead City has any civil, religious, industrial, or political rights except by the consent of the Hearst interests."

Knowing something about Hearst, a worker is apt to read less his news and editorials, and more "between the lines."

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Property Before Humans

In the tenement district of Poughkeepsie, N. Y., a fire started by the explosion of a gasoline can resulted in the burning to death of a family of five. One of the children was a babe of three, and the others were twin girls aged seven. A volunteer fireman said officials ignored his admonition that a family remained in one of the buildings and ordered him to assist in attempts to save a second-hand furniture store.

—Fargo Worker.

Local 574 Opens Big Drive On All Fronts

(Continued from page 1)

optimistic report of the Citizens Alliance auditing committee, several discriminations have been attempted by individual employers. Special forces have been assigned to see that these are straightened out at once. At the American Fruit Company almost a hundred dollars in back pay due one employee was overlooked by the auditing committee. The union will see that this matter is taken care of. All market workers are urged to report all violations of the agreement promptly to the union office.

New Initiation Fee June 1

Favorable progress is reported in the negotiations for renewal of agreements with the coal and taxi employers. Agreements with individual employers, most of which expire during the month of May, are being promptly renewed.

At the membership meeting on April 29 a motion was passed to continue the \$3 initiation and reinstatement fee until June 1, at which time a raise to 55 cents per hour is to be given the drivers and a raise to 45 cents per hour to the helpers and inside workers. At the meeting preceding June 1 the amount of increase in these fees to be put in effect on that date will be determined by the membership.

Unemployed Dance May 17

The membership of the unemployed section of the union is growing rapidly. It has more than tripled in thirty days. Concrete results have already been obtained by this group in battles to prevent discrimination against workers who are on the city relief. A dance will be given by the unemployed section at the union hall, 225 South 3rd Street, Friday, May 17, at 8 p. m. The admission price is 15 cents. The proceeds will be used to further organization work in this section.

Plan Added Facilities

Plans are being laid to provide additional facilities for the benefit and entertainment of the members. As quickly as circumstances will permit a club room and library will be installed together with gymnasium facilities. A special employment service is to be set up for the benefit of the union members.

With activities and projects for expansion such as these the union cannot help but drive ahead to greater accomplishments. The large attendance at recent meetings again bears out the statement that "Local 574 thrives on attacks against it." **Minneapolis is going to be a union town.**

Highway Employees Ask Better Conditions

(Continued from page 1)

helper's pay. Eighty cents per hour is asked for truck drivers, grademen and plowmen with a minimum of 65 cents per hour for common labor.

The 30 hour week is asked for hourly employees with a maximum of eight hours in any one day. Pointing out that the tendency has been to increase the hours for monthly employees, the proposal calls for an immediate reduction to not more than 40 hours per week and the eight hour day maximum.

The memorandum containing the conference proposals has been sent to all units of the Minnesota State Employees Association for discussion and amendment. After this action is completed a second conference will be called and a uniform state-wide program adopted which will bring better wages and working conditions to the highway employees.

Meeting Schedule Local 574

Wednesday, May 22: Ice Drivers.
Thursday, May 23: Independent Truck Owners and Construction Haulers.
Friday, May 24: Stewards.
Monday, May 27: Full membership.
Tuesday, May 28: Taxi Drivers, night drivers, 1 p. m.; day drivers, 7 p. m.
Friday, May 31: Unemployed Section.

Unfair Dairy Boss Resents Union Act

(Continued from page 1)

should be true of a labor union, that is, if they should get at their funds you will "break" the concern. Not so with the Union. While the suit and the consequent tying up of funds have made it mean, the Union has grown stronger under the action. Delinquent members have come back in. A struggle at Potters Foundry was engaged in with the usual wholeheartedness that has characterized the Independent Union of All Workers.

The trial is set for May 27 at Albert Lea and it is going to be interesting to hear how concerted action by a union in exposing someone unfair to union labor and paying low wages can be handled by a union. It is going to be interesting, too, when Doc Burns tells what he is paying his help and what he has paid.

Wage Battle Looming At Thief River Falls

(Continued from page 1)

trucking companies pay only \$5 for a round trip to Minneapolis, a distance of 350 miles. Among the outside firms are listed Montgomery-Ward, each strike is in Owl, Gamble-Robinson and the Land O' Lakes Creamery.

Janitors in banks and office buildings are required to obtain a license as a plumber, steamfitter and engineer. They work 14 to 16 hours per day and seldom receive more than \$40 per month for all this. In the Calder Building a misguided worker took a job at \$20 per month. Later he was discharged because a fire broke out in the building. Now he wants to join the union, but the boys can't forget that he scabbed on one of the union members.

The master stroke of chiseling is accomplished by the Addison & Miller Company of Minneapolis, which has contracted to do all such service as a railroad company usually does for itself; ice cars, re-coal engines, re-gravel cattle-cars, etc. The workers engaged in this occupation receive far below the standard wage scale. Cases reported total several hundred dollars in back pay which can be collected. This matter will be referred to the legal staff of the Northwest Labor Unity Conference for investigation and action.

Organized into a union known as the Wokman's Protective Association the workers are preparing to battle for higher wages for the employed, increased relief allowances for the unemployed and allotments for public works projects. At an overflow meeting in the courthouse on Monday, May 6, the union listened to addresses by J. F. Emme of St. Paul, Frank Ellis of Austin, and several local speakers.

The work of the union has gone forward vigorously as a result of this meeting, and President W. J. Douville has announced that a second meeting will be held immediately at the Auditorium where a crowd of at least 1,200 is expected to attend.

A Glance at the Early Days in the A. F. of L.

(Continued from page 2, column 5)

By 1914 the markets of the world were flooded with machine-made products. In their desire to expand the outlet for their commodities, the European industrialists precipitated the World War, "a war to make the world safe for democracy." Because of Germany's ability to control the sea, foreign trade came to a standstill. This aroused the American manufacturers. The blockade had to be broken.

Gompers, with his pro-British background, and Wilson, Wall Street controlled, came to an understanding. The Lusitania was sunk (as now charged, by a British torpedo) and America was in the war.

The American liberals, who looked upon Wilson as a modern Moses, sold him an idea. Wilson had Gompers call the officials of the 110 Internationals into conference; they agreed to stand behind the president. What the terms of the agreement were to be, we have never heard. Wilson, the great grammarian, gave out a lot of fine verbiage, and in return the leaders of the A. F. of L. gave up every right gained by labor in America.

One of the strange things that came about on our entering the war was the plea of Woodrow Wilson for mass organization. He urged the workers to join the unions that he could deal with them collectively. This was unquestionably due to the influence of the group then known as the American Intelligentsia who flirted with the president and were the factor that caused much of his pseudo-liberalism.

This call to mass organization led to a great influx of membership and required a complete re-setting of the plans of the old guard leadership. They could no longer depend upon small balance of power plans of action. In the absence of a program, they surrendered the A. F. of L. to the American politicians who in exchange gave promises of legislation favorable to labor; as yet nothing has been noticed. It is difficult to tell an outsider just what the program of the American labor movement is because the leaders, if they have such a thing, have never explained to their membership. The movement is adrift with no port of destination.

The war ended, the raw recruits taken as members of unions found no plan or purpose. They had learned nothing and gained little by their membership so they dropped out almost as fast as they had come in. The troops were brought back slowly, yes, very slowly, and were demobilized even more slowly. While the war was on and labor had been flattered, the industrialists were alert. They knew that under the proper leadership the returning soldiers, now disillusioned, could make a combination with the workers that would threaten the entire political government. Only one side could win. Labor must take control at the expense of the industrialists or be driven back into its former wage levels.

This was the battle that waged from the close of the war and labor lost because its leaders had no economic program and depended altogether on the promises made to it by the Democratic and Republican parties. Floundering in this quagmire of class-collaboration labor came to the crisis of 1929 and the depression.

"Law grinds the poor, and the rich men rule the law."—Oliver Goldsmith.

PETITION ASKING REMOVAL OF FRANK T. STARKEY CIRCULATED

St. Paul, Minn.—For a long time there have been rumblings of dissatisfaction over the administration of the affairs of the Industrial Commission. This has culminated in the circulation of a petition calling upon Governor Olson to remove Commissioner Frank T. Starkey from office on the charge that he "neglects his office." A facsimile of the petition appears below.

The Honorable Floyd B. Olson:

Governor of Minnesota

Your Excellency:

Come Now the people, all persons who have affixed their names hereto, and do hereby exercise their sovereign right as granted by the Constitution of these United States of America, which reads as follows:

"Section 1. Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridge the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, or to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

and further pursuant to the Constitution of the State of Minnesota, which reads as follows:

"Section 8. Every person is entitled to a certain remedy in the laws for all injuries or wrongs which he may receive in his person, property or character; he ought to obtain justice freely and without purchase; completely and without denial; promptly and without delay, conformable to the laws."

Now Therefore do we the signers of this petition demand redress from the wrongs complained of herein and do as a part of that redress ask the removal from his office of Industrial Commissioner, Frank T. Starkey, for the reasons herein set forth and in conformity with the power vested in your office by section 4035 Mason Statute of 1927 which reads in part as follows:

"Section 4035. The Governor may at any time remove a commissioner for inefficiency, neglect of duty, or malfeasance in office."

We Further specifically charge Frank T. Starkey is guilty of inefficiency and thereby jeopardizing the welfare of injured workmen under the compensation act.

That he neglects his office in most serious manner as is shown by the minutes of the commission as well as being a matter of common knowledge.

That he has drawn salary and traveling expense money from the state for which he can make no service accounting.

That he is not fair and impartial to workers of this state but has expressed most bitter partisanship.

That his moral delinquency is a reflection on the commission on which he serves and is not such as will create confidence in the commission or its functions in behalf of the workers.

That his actions and words are a violation of his oath of office.

All The Foregoing, in conformity with said section 4035 make it incumbent upon you to protect the workers and tax paying citizens of the state by the prompt removal from office of Frank T. Starkey.

Fargo Bakery Gyps Drivers

Fargo, N. D.—Some time ago, the drivers for the Fargo-Moorhead Regan Bakery bought their own trucks and were put on a commission basis. The earnings of some of these men ran as high as \$60 per week.

A few weeks ago, this bakery bought the trucks from their men for less than half of the cost, thus forcing a big loss upon their driv-

ers. Some of the employes were laid off. Those who were retained were taken off the commission basis and are now paid a straight weekly wage of \$22.50.

Last fall the drivers for Regan's Bakery were asked to join Local 173. Did they join? No, they were enjoying a period of "prosperity" and could see no need of organization. Now they see the matter differently.

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193.....

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Straws in the Wind

With a new presidential campaign just around the corner, the managers of the two old parties have already begun training for their traditional scrap, with the public press co-operating by playing up at great length the preliminary shadow-boxing. The whole business is a put-up fight in which the bone of contention is the right to exploit the workers. This fiasco has about as much relation to the struggle for the real welfare of labor as the St. Vitus dance has to a May day celebration.

The promises of either party have never meant much for the workers, and such promises as have been made have not been kept. That's why a great big belly laugh greeted the self-righteous indignation of the Republican leaders who charged the Democrats with "wholesale failure to keep faith with the people," in the call issued, May 6, for a Midwest G. O. P. conference. Just another case of the pot calling the kettle black.

THREE STRIKES AND OUT

The St. Louis Council of Trades and Labor Unions has voted to boycott the St. Louis Cardinals until Leo (Lippy) Durocher, captain and shortstop of the team, is removed. Lippy recently appeared as a witness against a picket arrested during a strike against a clothing factory in which his wife is an executive. He also made statements abusing the unions.

Labor is certainly becoming conscious of its dignity and solidarity when it refuses to permit the popularity of America's greatest game to serve as a shield for assaults upon the unions. Our St. Louis brothers have the right idea. Never take anything lying down.

AMERICAN MERCURY TURNS SCAB

Recently the American Mercury, which lately had been publishing more or less radical articles, was sold to new owners allied

Support the Organizer

The ORGANIZER is a free workers' press which obtains its financial support solely from the subscriptions of individuals and organizations, together with the bundle orders obtained from workers throughout the northwest. Bundles of the first issues have been sent without charge so that you might become acquainted with the editorial policy and stimulate a demand among the workers in your organization and locality. Funds are needed to continue publication. Subscription rates and bundle order prices have been set at a figure which will barely meet the cost of publication. Use the subscription blank provided in each issue to send in individual subscriptions and bundle orders. Support the ORGANIZER so that you may get the labor news in an undiluted form.

with Hearst. One of the first things the new management did was to fire Edith Lustgarten, an employee of the magazine for the last eleven years, for trying to organize an office workers union. The other seven office workers immediately made demands upon the management for which they were locked out. A new crew of office workers was installed at higher pay than the older ones.

From now on you can look for the same kind of treatment to all labor from the columns of this magazine. It will no longer be purchased by those who seek accurate labor news.

NEW GROUNDS FOR DIVORCE

The German Supreme Court affirmed a decree making anti-Hitler remarks grounds for divorce. From now on, husbands and wives do not need to love each other. It is sufficient if they both love Hitler.

ANOTHER ONE FROM GERMANY

General Goering, at a dinner given by the Foreign Correspondent's association, said that Germany was buying inventions useful for fighting in the air whether the inventor was "heathen, Christian, or Jew" because "inventions do not have grandmothers whose race must be probed."

AGRICULTURE'S NEW DEAL

From its start on May 12, 1933, until April 1, 1935, the AAA paid out almost 780 million dollars. Most of these payments were made to the producers of cotton, wheat, tobacco, corn, hogs and sugar for withholding land from the production of these crops. These payments have really been of small benefit to the working and tenant farmers of the U. S. whose condition is more deplorable today than ever before. It is becoming more and more apparent that all the inching reforms which are being tried cannot bolster up a failing capitalism. Capitalism can only live by means of destruction—destruction of food, of workers, and eventually its own destruction.

Picket Is Arrested For Old Hotel Bill

Austin, Minn.—Evidently the bosses don't like to have their placed picketed. The recent experience of a picket at the Firestone Service station in Austin seems to prove this, for a picket was arrested and thrown into jail on failing to pay a hotel bill over a year old.

The law is one which aims to catch those attempting to "jump" board and room bills by skipping the country. The picket did not fall in that category for as evidence of his good faith that he would pay the bill he left his suitcase and personal belongings with the hotel manager and with that as security promised to pay the bill as soon as he was able.

The hook-up of the bosses between cities and of the bosses with the local officers is also very plainly shown. For the bill was incurred at Albert Lea and the picket was on duty in Austin. Evidently the bosses at Austin wanted to get rid of the picket so they tried to find some excuse and thought they had something on him in this matter of the hotel bill.

The hearing is set for May 14 and in going over the law it is established that the man is innocent. The lawyers say that he was arrested falsely and even the sheriff who held him admitted, "They haven't got anything on him."

Seventeen Ways to Kill Your Organization

1. Don't attend meetings, but if you do, arrive late.
2. Be sure to leave before the meeting is closed.
3. Never have anything to say at the meetings; wait until you get outside.
4. When at the meetings, vote to do everything, then go home and do nothing.
5. The next day, find fault with the officers and your brothers.
6. Take no part in the organization's affairs.
7. Be sure to sit in the back so you can talk it over with a brother.
8. Get all the organization will give you, but don't give the organization anything.
9. Never ask any one to join the organization.
10. Talk co-operation, but don't co-operate.
11. At every opportunity, threaten to resign, and try to get others to resign.
12. If asked to help, always say that you haven't time.
13. Never read anything pertaining to the organization, you may become too enlightened.
14. Never accept an office, as it is easier to criticize than to do things.
15. If appointed to a committee, never give any time or service to the committee.
16. If you receive a bill for your dues, ignore it.
17. Don't do any more than you have to, and when the others, willingly and unselfishly use their ability to help the good cause along, then howl, because the organization is run by a clique.

Labor Study Draws Interest

Austin, Minn.—Questionnaires sent to members of the IUAW, at Austin, show workers education classes to be in demand. The answers showed the most interest in public speaking. The next class most in demand is labor law and the third is labor history.

Labor Looks at the Press

"The rubber companies have fortified their plants with barbed wire; window bags, sand bags and miles of bare copper wire capable of carrying death-dealing electric current."—News dispatch from Akron, Ohio.

Balance Sheet of the Nation

ASSETS — Natural resources, man power, mechanical power, machinery, state of industrial technique, arts and sciences capable of producing a national income of 135 billion dollars per annum, equalling \$4,370 per family.

LIABILITIES — An outworn economic order kept from falling to pieces by governmental doles to banking, insurance, industry, transportation, agriculture, labor and merchandising.—Oscar Ameringer.

American GUARDIAN Chuckles

The hand that feeds the nation is held out in supplication.

This thing of spreading prosperity by creating scarcity is like trying to feed more mouths with less soup by adding more spoons.

One Hundred Dollars

"If the population of the U. S. were one hundred, and the total wealth were one hundred dollars, the following would be the proportions of ownership:

One man would have \$59, one man would have \$9, twenty-two men would have \$1.22, and seventy-six men would have less than seven cents each."—Senator Robert LaFollette.

Belief in Private Charity

Reduction by the state of private charity.

Of Special Disinterest to Youthful Workers

Minneapolis, Minn.—The Youth Today conference to be held in Minneapolis on May 18 is a very democratic gathering. It is sponsored by the Citizens Alliance—pardon, we mean the Minneapolis Council of Social Agencies.

The program is prearranged without any help from the young folks. The requirements to gain admittance are: Age, 18 to 25; secure a ticket from the arrangements committee, a board of inquisition: come endorsed by an organization (be sure it's patriotic.)

Observers will not be allowed. The chairman and the discussion leaders will not be youths. Discussion will be limited to the prearranged program.

With these exceptions the conference is a fully democratic youth gathering. The delegates retain the full right to breathe in any manner they see fit.

"I care not who makes th' laws iv a nation, if I can get out an injunction."—Mr. Dooley.

The Northwest Organizer Now Sold at the Following Places in Minneapolis

- Brickman Bros., 720 Hennepin Ave.
- Hennepin News, 602 Hennepin Ave.
- M. Kroman's, 4th and Nicollet News Stand.
- Drivers' Headquarters, 225 S. 3rd St.
- Engelson's News, 234 2nd Ave. S.
- Workers Party Headquarters, 631 3rd Ave. S.
- George Gites, corner 3rd Ave. S. and Washington.

If the government becomes the source of all major efforts in that direction, then one of the most fundamental of inspirations to the spiritual growth of the family or individual will have been destroyed."—Herbert (Fat) Hoover.

We'll trade our "fundamental inspiration to our spiritual growth" for three squares a day, Herbie.

No Wonder They're Jubilant

"Out of every PWA dollar, 34c goes to labor, 66c for equipment and materials. Any reduction in wage-rates will increase the proportion spent for materials. . . Of the total of 651 millions which the CCC has so far disbursed, 293 went into payrolls; the balance of 358 millions went into the pockets of industry."—Business Week.

A Scissorbill Writes Letter Home to Paw

Dear Paw:

I got here the 14th and started to work the 15th. I got a job with the Laclede plant here who for some strange reason can't get these lazy St. Louisans to do any work. I'm an inspector, repairman and everything else around this town now. You'll wonder how I can do all this when I never did nothing else but the regular chores around the old farm. Well, it's very easy. I haven't done a tap of work since I've been here. I can't just make out who is screwy. Whether it's the company who takes us out riding in nice trucks from one end of the city to the other, or some of the fellows who come around the plant and other places carrying banners about the government and the federation of something.

I haven't got the best job in town, though. Some of the police, dressed in nice uniforms, seem to have it better than we do. They accompany us everywhere, and although we don't do much we have to load and unload tools, this is more than the cops do. I think I'll try to get a cop's job later on. Lot of the guys they ride over town with us are kinda nervous, though, and they are always yapping when the cops get too far away from them. The other day a bunch of those fellows carrying those signs got a little reckless and punched one of the fellows in my crew on the snout. I'm glad they put more cops on the guard.

But, something is also getting the best of these cops, too, now—because the other day one big copper made a crack about us guys scabbing. Said something to the effect that we ought to be run out of town. Doesn't sound so good. I'm going to stick it out here a few more days if I can. I'm trying to figure all this stuff out.

They've got me about half scared, too; especially since they're saying we'll have to buy ourselves some guns and ammunition out of our own pay. At any rate, I'm here in this crazy town, my health is holding out and I've got my eyes open. I forgot to tell you to fix the fence out on the northeast corner of that forty out past Hiram's alfalfa patch, and be sure to watch Maude's hind teat. She cut it the other day before I left. Hope the sows are coming along fine.

Regards to all.

Your son,

RUBE.

(From the Daily Strike Bulletin, "Gas House Worker," published by Local 18799 Gas House Workers Union, A. F. of L.)

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