

Spread the Maritime Strike to the Atlantic Coast

Demand All Of BMT Cut Taken Back

Transport Union Calls Co. Union Agreement A Betrayal

B.M.T. company union representatives have recently concluded, against the will of the overwhelming majority of the employees, an agreement with the Brooklyn-Manhattan Transit Co. which provides for the return of two per cent of the 10 per cent cut put through in 1932.

Negotiations between the company and the company union representatives were carried on in the utmost secrecy for the past few weeks. When the representatives returned to the workers with the proposal of the company to give them back two per cent, they took the position of being against accepting it. At the same time they paved the way for the sell-out by refusing to call a meeting as demanded by the men in order to give them an opportunity to vote on the question.

The question of the workers and their demand for nothing less than the flat return of the 10 per cent cut is based upon the report of the Transit Commission published recently. According to this report the B. M. T. after paying all its obligations for the year of 1933 still shows a clear surplus of \$4,737,052.24, a sum equivalent to 48 per cent of its total payroll.

The Transport Workers Union, an independent union, issued the following statement in connection with the sell-out agreement signed by the company union representatives.

"It has again been proved that the transit workers can get back the 10 per cent cut, increased wages to meet the rising cost of living, only by organizing into a real workers' union. The B. M. T. employees won't accept the sell-out agreement signed by the company union representatives, which is an insult to their intelligence and a new blow to their sinking living standards. By joining in masses the ranks of the Transport Workers Union they do challenge the right of the transit trust to drive down their living standards when the stockholders are pocketing millions in profits and there is still a surplus of five million dollars for the year of 1933."

Help the "Daily's" Drive!

Members of Trade Unions Ought to Become Active Builders of Daily Worker

By ANDREW OVERGAARD
Secretary, Trade Union Unity Council

THE Daily Worker campaign to double its circulation and secure 20,000 new readers in two months should receive the full and wholehearted support of the members of all unions of the Trade Union Unity Council. All leading organs of the unions (executive boards, trade boards, shop locals), should make all plans to have every new as well as old member become both readers and builders of the only working class daily paper in the English language.

In all strikes led by our unions, in all strikes led by independent unions, as well as strikes led by the American Federation of Labor, the capitalist press spreads its daily poison in order to demoralize and confuse the workers.

The Daily Worker in all strikes not only supports the demands of the workers and exposes the tricks of the employers, but stiffens the morale of the workers, mobilizes support, helps to organize mass picket lines. The "Daily" exposes all compulsory arbitration schemes, the injunction judges and the police as well as the N.R.A. and company union schemes.

The Daily Worker in its editorials and special articles gives concrete answers to all problems in strikes and other struggles only in the interest of the working class.

The special weekly New York Trade Union Supplement is of great assistance to all our unions, but with increasing struggles and development of the revolutionary trade union movement (T.U.U.L. unions, independent unions, A. F. of L. oppositions) there is enough news to bring forth a daily Trade Union Supplement.

However, the first step is circulation. It is necessary to bring the

(Continued on Page 3)

Sweatshops Continue Under N.R.A., Investigator Proves

That sweatshops continue despite N. R. A. codes is shown in evidence submitted by Grace Hutchins of the Labor Research Association in a letter to Nathan Straus, Jr., state director of the National Emergency Council under N. R. A. Mr. Straus has called on Grace Hutchins to give him the facts in specific cases bearing out the statements made in her recent book, "Women Who Work," that sweatshops for women survive under N. R. A. codes.

"Not only have sweatshop conditions continued under N. R. A., but the recovery act itself tends to reduce wages to the lowest possible minimum," declares Hutchins, in citing typical cases in this state. "Investigation of a large number of shops in different industries reveals that the minimum wage established

by the code becomes in effect the maximum. Wage provisions of the codes are almost universally applied in such a way that the lowest rates set forth are the highest rates paid."

Wages under N. R. A. codes are stabilized at the low levels of \$10.50, as in the President's Blanket code just revived, or at \$12 or \$13 for a full-time week, she points out, but there is no guarantee that the worker will have a full week's work. Violations of the code regulations, moreover, are now so common that workers do not even earn the low wage stipulated.

Where gains for labor have been made under the N. R. A. it was only by striking or by threats of striking that these gains were made.

Marine Union Calls For National Strike In Marine Industry

General Marine Strike Will Set All Workers On East Coast in Motion Against Companies

The wave of strikes taking place in the marine industry is the answer of the marine workers to the ship-owners' low wages and rotten conditions. The west coast strike has made history in the marine industry.

This splendid display of solidarity of longshoremen and seamen fighting together under a united program and leadership has shown the necessity of the unity of all marine workers on a national scale for national action.

The beginning of struggles in the marine industry took place first on individual ships around small demands during the period of the last two

Shoe and Leather Workers Hold 1st Youth Conference

Elect Official Body of 21 Delegates to Map Work

By N. NAMIROWSKY

The first Youth Conference in the history of the United Shoe and Leather Workers Union was held June 7, at union headquarters, 22 E. 15th St., for the purpose of organizing the young workers in the various shops into youth committees.

An official body of 21 delegates were elected whose purpose is to participate in all activities pertaining to youth in the trade, discuss these activities, and if they are practicable, bring them to the attention of the union officials. This body of the union, namely, the Trade, Executive and Grievance Boards, also includes the Unemployment Council.

There seems to be a lack of understanding among the younger workers in regards to organizational work in trade unions. Perhaps they do not know the proper method to build up specific demands, such as an increase in pay and better sanitary conditions, as was won by the youths in the Brass Bros. & Feinroth shop a few months ago. It would therefore be our duty to form

(Continued on Page 3)

years. These struggles grew until a solid revolt took place on the west coast. The longshoremen came out over the heads of their fake leaders, who had previously refused to carry out the wishes of the rank and file. This started the ball rolling. The seamen were called upon to come out in support and responded 100 per cent.

Ship Supported Strike

Attempts were made to spread the strike to the east coast. One ship's crew, the crew of the S. S. Texan, came out in support of the west coast strike and for their own demands for three watches and 1929 wage scale. Since this strike this company has installed three watches on all their ships and increased wages.

Talk Strike

Seamen on the east coast ships began to talk in terms of strike. The shipowners were worried. Fearing that similar action would take place on the east coast, the shipowners began to grant a few concessions. Oil companies raised wages to the former level. Another company raised wages, and rightly so, because nearly all the crews on their ships were members of the Marine Workers' Industrial Union.

These wage increases are not accidents but are the results of organized action of the marine workers on the west coast.

Concerning Roosevelt Committee

A committee was inaugurated by President Roosevelt consisting of a sky pilot, a shyster lawyer and McGrady, the notorious labor hater, to act as arbitrators in the strike.

The International Seamen's Union officials lovingly embraced this committee and declared that they

(Continued on Page 3)

Police, Using Guns and Tear Gas, Attack Striking Dock Workers in San Francisco



Beat Relief Worker Refusing To Take Another Wage Cut

Cop Aids Supervisor Against Militant Union Chief

NEW YORK.—Because he refused to be fired from his relief job for not accepting a pay cut, Nick Sawchuk, militant president of the Independent House Wreckers Union, was brutally struck on the head Monday by his supervisor, James Markley, at the project, 11th Ave. and 37th St.

After being on Home Relief for three years, Sawchuk was given a job as a housewrecker a month ago. He worked alternate weeks, and his pay for this very dangerous work averaged \$14 a week.

This Monday Supervisor Markley told Sawchuk that his pay was to be cut. Sawchuk answered that he would not submit to having his already low wages slashed, and that the other workers on the job would fight against a cut. Markley thereupon removed the worker from his wrecking job, and made him do other difficult work, such as loading bricks on trucks.

The supervisor, bullying and threatening, tried to force Sawchuk to lift extra heavy loads of bricks. The latter refused, explaining that he could only lift three bricks at once, as they were very heavy and the truck was very high. Markley threatened to discharge Sawchuk. The worker retorted that he was on work relief, and Markley could not fire him.

Thereupon, taking advantage of the fact that Sawchuk was lifting a load of bricks and could not defend himself, Markley brutally struck him, and told him he was discharged.

The worker went to the nearby French Hospital, where his badly bruised head was X-rayed and treated. When he came out of the hospital, the union leader signed a complaint against Markley. Accompanied by a policeman, he went back to the job and served the supervisor with a summons. After Markley took the subpoena, he took the policeman to one side and spoke to him for some time. When the officer returned Sawchuk told him he wanted to get the names of other workers who had seen him struck. Instead of going with the worker, this officer, whose shield number is 7281, refused to allow Sawchuk to talk to the witnesses, and chased him from the project.

A delegate, Cassidy, from Local 95 of the A. F. of L., came down to the job to investigate the case, but left immediately when he learned that the worker was a member of an independent union.

United Front Union Picnic To Be Held Sunday At Astoria

Sports, Theatricals, and Well-Known Speakers, Many Events

On July 15, trade unionists of New York, irrespective of union affiliation, have been called upon to gather at the mass solidarity picnic at North Beach Picnic Park, Astoria, L. I. A very interesting program of sports and entertainment has been arranged by the committee in charge. This will include the Workers' Laboratory Theatre, and all sorts of sport games in which the terms from the various unions will engage in socialist competition.

Fred Biedenkapp, Louis Hyman, Ben Gold, and Andrew Overgaard will speak.

All trade unions that have not as yet secured their tickets should do so at once. Trade unionists and sympathizers are urged to keep the date open and not to arrange any other affair. Let us make this picnic a real mass demonstration and a united front of labor. Admission 25c. Get your tickets at your union.

Conditions Under Which Messengers Work Led to Formation of T.M.U.

By PHILIP RANDOLPH

Last week I wrote of the importance of the telegraph industry, and the labor organizations now in it. This article will describe the conditions under which the New York City messengers work, and which led to the formation of the Telegraph Messengers Union.

The Western Union Company carries approximately three-fourths of the domestic telegraph business in the United States, and last year made a profit of \$4,364,882. The Postal Telegraph Corporation, controlling the remainder of the business, is a subsidiary of the International Telephone and Telegraph Corp., which made a profit of \$694,126 in 1933, in contrast with a loss of \$3,934,960 the preceding year.

These companies made enormous profits by forcing their lower-salaried employees to shoulder the burden of an economy program by back-breaking speed ups and wage cuts. But, in the face of published financial reports, they answer the demands of the underpaid and overworked telegraph workers for the return of the wage slashes and an improvement in conditions with the statement that they cannot meet them because of their uncertainty concerning this year's profits.

As a result of the company's desire for more and more profits, the conditions of the telegraph messengers, always the most exploited, became increasingly worse. These young boys, one-fourth of them under sixteen, had to work harder in order to make at least the miserable sum of \$8 a week.

Work to Support Families

Most of these young boys are working to help support their families, who have suffered severely from unemployment and the rising cost of living. Their work, because of the constant speed-ups and the accidents resulting from the former, is very hazardous, not only to their present physical condition, but to their future health. Statistics prove that nine out of every hundred messengers throughout the country suffer injuries every year sufficiently severe to keep them from work.

Because the pay schedules for the delivery of telegrams are so low, these boys are forced to deliver messages with the utmost speed so that they may return to the telegraph office for another message. This has caused many boys to suffer from pulmonary diseases and heart trouble. Because of the continual strain on their legs, some of them suffer considerably with swollen ankles, flat feet, and other foot and leg ailments.

In the boys' haste to deliver messages they are frequently struck by automobiles and street cars while crossing busy thoroughfares. The number of messengers injured by automobiles has mounted considerably.

Paid on Piece Basis

Messengers are paid on a piece basis according to zone schedules. The zone furthest away from the telegraph office receives the highest scale and the closer the zone to the office, the lower the rating. If a particular office becomes busy and the boys have an opportunity to make a trifle more because there are more messages, the company immediately lowers the zone schedules and the rate of pay per message is reduced correspondingly. In this way the companies keep the wages of the messengers very low.

The conditions in the various telegraph offices are very bad. The boys must come to work in their street clothes and put on their uniforms in the wardrobe. In many cases the office where the boy works is situated quite a distance from the wardrobe, but the messenger is not paid for the time which he spends travelling between them.

In order to save money, many messengers bring their lunches with them and are forced to eat them in the wardrobe, since there are no accommodations in the office for eating. This makes it necessary for them to walk to the wardrobe, and back to the office, all in the 45 minutes they are allowed for lunch.

One of the worst conditions with which the messengers have to contend is the burden of "idle time." The boys must sit in the offices and wait for their turn to deliver a message. Many times, when business slackens, the messages come in very slowly, and the boys are forced to wait for hours without making a cent. Although they are wearing their uniforms, and are therefore supposedly working, they do not receive even a minimum wage. If business happens to be slow for a week, the messengers' salary for that week is drastically lessened. When it is considered that the boys barely average \$8 even at best, what the problem of "idle time" means to them can well be imagined.

Messengers work on the average between 46 and 48 hours a week. During busy periods they must work overtime regardless of their wishes. During holidays, boys are sent out to solicit holiday greetings, for which time they are not paid. They are used to canvass and solicit these greetings in order to secure business for the company. This disagreeable task is forced on them with the threat of being put on the "reserve" list or being transferred, if they fail to obtain the messages.

The Western Union messengers must buy brown, high-top shoes which can be used on the job only. These shoes are not practical for other wear. If a messenger works but a short while, he has on his hands a pair of shoes which he paid for out of his own meager earnings, and for which he has no further use. Boys who use bicycles must buy them out of their own wages and pay for their upkeep themselves. No provision is made by the companies for the protection of these bicycles, and many are stolen. In case of accident the messenger is not compensated for the damaged

bicycle, but must replace it himself. In most cases compensation for injuries is inadequate to cover hospital and medical expenses.

Very Few Get Vacations

Messengers are not entitled to vacations with pay unless they are over 21 years of age. Since the majority of the messengers are under that age, very few of them receive any vacation. This lack of any rest is not conducive to the health of young boys who work the year round in all kinds of weather.

These are some of the conditions under which thousands of messengers throughout the country work. When the boys rebel against their exploitation, they are intimidated and threatened with firing. When they begin to organize for better conditions, they are transferred to other offices.

Despite this sort of intimidation, the messengers, disgusted with their conditions, have formed their own organization, and their militancy has already gained certain concessions for them from the companies. The Telegraph Messengers Union is constantly growing, and is rallying the messengers in the fight against the terrible conditions. At present messengers are picketing two Western Union offices, one at 1440 Broadway, the other at 37th St. and Eighth Ave., and are demanding a minimum wage of \$15 for a 40 hour week, the recognition of the union, and the reinstatement of all messengers fired for organizational activities.

The next article will describe the fight of the messengers to organize their own rank and file-controlled organization, their delegations to the code hearings in Washington, and the strike situation in which they participated.

Tells How Owners of Summer Camps Exploit the Workers

By a Worker Correspondent
BROOKLYN, N. Y.—I tried to get a job in a camp in the country, by answering an advertisement in the Morning American. Before I got the job, the boss, Mr. Federman, questioned me a lot; he asked me if I was an agitator, Communist or I. W. W. He said he had trouble with his men last year, but didn't say why.

Mr. Federman has his office at 59th St. and Broadway. He owns Camp Navajo and Camp Bryn Mawr, the former a boys' camp and the latter a girls' camp.

The boss, Federman, makes a contract which says I was to receive \$30 a month with good meals and laundry, clean bedding, and I was supposed to work in the laundry, but when I got there it was a different story. He broke the contract, didn't keep any of his promises. Mr. Federman's son wanted me to use a blood stained blanket to cover myself with. I made a kick against these conditions, so he asked me if I was an agitator, and called me a trouble maker, and said I wanted to break things up. He finally gave me a clean blanket, and I thought everything would be O. K. That same evening, last Friday, they served the men with some chopped meat and spaghetti. The meat tasted bad, so I only ate the spaghetti. They served us with oleomargarine, which had a terrible smell, so I went to bed hungry. The cots were crowded in very close together, there were no decent places to wash yourself. The toilets and sinks were filthy; all the men were dissatisfied, but they seemed to be afraid to act.

Saturday morning we had to get up at 5:45 a. m. They served us breakfast: oatmeal which was starting to get black, and they gave us some eggs, which tasted terrible, and they only allowed us on the average of two slices of bread and oleomargarine. We had to work on an empty stomach in the hot sun from 12 to 14 hours. At lunch time we

were served a plate of goulash which stank. They serve you slop and expect you to stand for it. Then if you kick they call you an agitator or a troublemaker, when you fight for your rights.

Five of us got together and decided on a plan of action, and they made me the spokesman. We tried to organize the men. The five of us struck. It was a spontaneous affair; we tried to get the rest out, but we didn't succeed. I heard some of these people, a German element, were picked up from the Bowery. They have no fight in them, they are the lumpen proletariat, and they crawl on their bellies and are satisfied to live on slop.

Hamilton Federman, who is the boss's son, planted a stool-pigeon alongside of me, and this stool pigeon said he was not satisfied with the food, so this rat says we have to burn up the cottages and shoot the boss, cut the telephone wires and destroy the cars, so I said I didn't agree with him, and it won't get you anywhere. I know the Communists don't believe in individualistic terrorism, so I had nothing more to do with this fellow. When we kicked about the food the boss's son fires us, and tells us to get off the grounds of the camp.

We called in a state trooper who, by the way, was sympathetic to the workers, because he told us that the food that was served the state troopers was bad, so they kicked and then they got better food. The state troopers get \$50 per month in wages.

The boss Federman paid me a dollar for two days work, the other fellows received two and five dollars in proportion to the days they worked. The state trooper escorted us out to the highway, some of the fellows didn't have enough money to get back to New York. I had just enough money to get back. I write this to tell other workers to keep away from this place. Camp Navajo is in Honesdale, Pa.

Local AFL Unions Reply To Jobless Insurance Group

Aim To Assist Unions Financially and in Struggles

Credentials from local unions are already coming in to the A. F. of L. Trade Union Committee for Unemployment Insurance and Relief from local unions which have elected delegates to the conference on the Workers' Unemployment and Social Insurance Bill, which the Committee has called for Saturday, July 28, 1 p. m., at Irving Plaza Hall, Irving Pl. and 15th St., New York City.

Boilermakers Local 24, Suitcase, Bag and Portfolio Makers Union, Jewelry Workers Union, Local 1, and Paper Plate and Bag Makers Union, have elected their delegates. Many other locals have discussed the Workers' Bill and the sending of delegates and are to communicate with the A. F. of L. Trade Union Committee for Unemployment Insurance and Relief as to their decision.

The conference call was addressed to A. F. of L. locals, members and shops of New York and vicinity. Prior to the conference on July 28, a conference of A. F. of L. locals in Westchester County will be held. From this conference a delegation will be sent to the New York conference.

Railroad lodges are also being covered for the July 28 conference. The members of the railroad lodges are much interested in the Workers' Bill and good support can be expected when representatives appear for the purpose of securing delegates.

Conference calls have also been sent to a number of local unions in Jersey City, Union City, Bayonne and Paterson, N. J., at the invitation of rank and file members of the A. F. of L.

The committee arranging the conference has called particular attention to the minority groups in A. F. of L. locals in New York to send delegations from shops to the July 28 gathering. The basis of representation is one delegate from three to five workers and two delegates from six or more workers in a shop group. The groups need not be formally organized. If they get together for the purpose of sending a delegate to the July 28 conference alone, they will be recognized as regular delegates.

The conference will discuss the question of pushing the fight for the Workers' Unemployment and Social Insurance Bill, for relief of the unemployed in the A. F. of L., for dues exemption for the unemployed and other matters of interest to the membership of the A. F. of L.

The aim of the conference, in addition to the above, as stated in the conference call, is to present all resolutions adopted before the 54th convention of the American Federation of Labor, which is to be held in San Francisco in the fall.

All A. F. of L. locals are urged to elect delegates to this conference whether or not they have received calls. All A. F. of L. members are urged to get in touch with the Committee at 1 Union Sq., Room 716, New York City, if they wish further information.

Browder to Speak On Strike Wave At Irving Plaza Hall on Friday

The significance of the Toledo strike, what happened in the Minneapolis truckmen's strike, the situation in the steel industry, the longshoremen's strike on the west coast—all these important questions will be discussed by Earl Browder, general secretary of the Communist Party at Irving Plaza, Friday, July 13, at 7:30 p. m.

The meeting will be held under the auspices of the Trade Union Unity Council of Greater New York.

BATHROBE WORKERS MEET
A membership meeting of the Bathrobe Workers Industrial Union will be held tonight at Irving Plaza Hall.

Don't Miss the Trade Union Picnic at Astoria, Next Sunday

