

UNITED LABOR ACTION

THE ORGANIZER



TWO TWENTY-FIVE

SOUTH THIRD STREET

SMASH THE CITIZENS ALLIANCE

No. 6

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, WEDNESDAY, JULY 18, 1934

Price one cent

Strike Is 100% Solid!

General Strike Fever Pitch West Coast

Line Extended Into New Pacific Areas

Every day—and spirit still runs among the strikers. More than the army of labor increases with new report. Labor in Oakland, and other East-bay cities rallied to the general strike the tune of 42,000 strikers. Like San Francisco these cities have now their determination that the ruin policy of the bosses must to an end.

Following in the wake of this magnificent demonstration in the Bay re-Portland labor movement, to its feet, with the intention of bringing their brother unions a thousand miles below, on the coastline. Time is marking time, tense and to swing into action. General is the order of the day! Thousands of common suffering are dictating common action. Rotten conditions and a terrible lowering of the standard of living is meeting the answer of united labor.

On the face of the will and the determination of men who have finally listened to the clarion call of struggle—unlimited power of labor with forces unleashed in an irresistible surge, the coast bosses are frantically seeking to stem the tide. The words, so long used to befuddle the working man, has passed. Naked and brutal, the real rule of the bosses is revealing itself. The most vicious and elaborate methods that could possibly be employed are carried out against this magnificent body of men who have stood up for their rights. Reduced to the lowest forms of brute force the bosses have garnered to their aid the corrupt forces of reaction—“Vigilante” committees, roving bands of scum dragged from the depths of the underworld, are trying to instill a reign of terror in the city of Minneapolis. Pulling the same miserable gag of “scare,” these insignificant hordes of hired thugs and gunmen are trying to intimidate a mighty mass of men who are but pygmies.

Every laborer knows what it is about. He will not be fooled by phony issues or misled by the tail to distract their attention from the fight which they are successfully conducted up till now. Recognition of the union, and degrading conditions. The ranks of strikers grow and mount to ever higher summits, with each new attack. Minneapolis sends its warmest greetings to its brothers on the coast. Our fight is theirs and their fight is ours. We will win.

STAFF EXPANDED

Attention to Fred Ossanna and Al Green, Irving Green, associated with the Strike Committee of Minneapolis to defend the legal rights of strikers against any infringement. Gold from Chicago where he has defended many important cases. Green is a well-known lawyer.

Troops In Minneapolis — What For?

One battalion of the Minnesota National Guard has already been mobilized, carrying regular field equipment, at the Minneapolis Armory, where, according to yesterday's *Tribune*, “it will await orders for duty in connection with the strike.”

Everybody knows and everybody admits that the moment the strike call of Local 574 went into effect, all business activities in the market were thoroughly paralyzed. Scabs have to be sought with a microscope, and if there are any, they don't dare to run the mighty gauntlet of the pickets.

The employers know from the educational experience of the last strike that by their own efforts they cannot pierce through the solid lines of Fighting 574.

The employers know now, even better than they did last May, that even city police and the tough guys and thugs who were deputized, are not enough to intimidate the strikers and break the strike.

Mayor Bainbridge, who worked so harmoniously with the employers in an effort to break the May strike, demanded that state troops be sent in before this strike had hardly started.

This demand of the bosses was promptly complied with and, to the great surprise of thousands of workers, National Guardsmen were sent to intervene in the strike by the Farmer-Labor party Governor of the State of Minnesota, Floyd B. Olson.

The surprise of these workers is increased by the statement issued to the press by Governor Olson announcing the calling out of troops.

Governor Olson owes his elevation to the highest post in the State to the support given him—not by the bankers and employers but by the workers and farmers of Minnesota. Their faith in him, in his party and in its platform, made possible his election.

These workers and farmers expected that the Governor, particularly at such crucial moments as this, when the interests of several thousand workers are directly involved in a strike battle, would not forget his obligation to them.

The display and use of armed force can have but one purpose: intimidation and coercion. Is it the employers who are to be intimidated and coerced? Not at all. The employers and their local administration are the ones who have clamored for the calling of the Guard—both in the last strike and in the present one. It is the workers who are aimed at.

Governor Olson, in his statement to the press, said:

“The important question is the preservation of law and order.”

We don't believe that this is the right way to put the problem. The most important question now is: Has the underdog, the worker, the exploited and persecuted, the right to organize into unions and to demand a decent living? That is the most important question and everybody ought to take a stand on it.

The only threat to public peace comes from those who try to provoke the strikers by the use of thugs and scabs and deputized hoodlums. Every scab truck that rolls, every person who tries to keep it rolling, is provoking violence. The workers want no violence, they want peace. But not the peace of the tombstone to which miserable living conditions drive them at an early age. They will fight like lions against anyone who tries to take away their rights to organize, strike and picket and stop them from gaining their just and modest—all too modest—demands.

Governor Olson, in his statement, said he will not take sides in the strike. But his action in mobilizing a battalion of the National Guard on the first day of the strike—is that not taking sides? Many workers will be keenly disappointed both with the statement and the action of Governor Olson. They voted for him in the firm conviction that he would side with them against the bosses. Union men and women have a right to doubt that anyone can be really neutral in the great struggle between capital and labor. But in any case they expected something more than neutrality from the Farmer-Labor Governor. They expected support of their struggle, not the threat of military force against them.

That is the only way the mobilization of the National Guard can be understood—as a threat against the strikers. That is why the workers who are enlisted in this fight for the right to live, demand and will continue to demand:

WITHDRAW THE NATIONAL GUARD IMMEDIATELY!

We have learned enough, we workers, to say: Neither policemen nor their clubs can move a truck. You need drivers for that.

Neither deputies nor their badges can move a truck. You need drivers for that.

And neither Guardsmen, nor their bayonets, nor their field artillery can move a truck. You still need drivers for that.

And there aren't going to be any drivers, or helpers, or inside men until this strike is over. And it won't be over until we've won it. Every man in 574 stands like rock on that.

And meanwhile we repeat what we wrote yesterday:

No truck is going to be moved! By nobody!

Big Strike Wave Spreads to New Cities

Steadily, workingmen all over the nation are following the examples set by Frisco and Minneapolis. The strike—this is a mighty weapon that labor has at its disposal to defend itself against the cheating attacks of the employers.

In Alabama the 22,000 textile workers stormed the three mills remaining open and forced them to shut down.

In Baltimore, a thousand members of the truck drivers' union are on strike, after all efforts at conciliation failed.

In New York a new strike wave is threatening. The executive board of the International Ladies' Garment Workers has approved the proposed strike of 18,000 union members. It is reported that 19,000 maritime workers will be out soon, in support of the Pacific coast struggle. Radio operators in the Atlantic have been called to join

the Radio and Telegraphers' Association strike in coastal towns.

8,000 pecan workers are striking for better conditions in San Antonio.

2,000 woolen workers and hatters are out in Connecticut, fighting for higher wages.

The thousand on strike at Kohler, Wisconsin, yesterday turned back the indignant Mr. Kohler when he tried to enter the plant which bears his

G. H. Q.
Strike Headquarters
General Headquarters for all pickets has been set up at 215 South Eighth St. All pickets report there to the Committee in charge.

name. Scabs are kept bottled up inside the plant.

And in Butte, Montana, 4,000 striking miners prevented the bosses from even making a gesture toward running the mines.

First Arrests Made

Henry Ness and Barney Barnhardt, members of Local 574, were arrested, charged with disorderly conduct and released in \$25 bail yesterday. A couple of cops stopped the auto in which these strikers were driving with three other union members, and demanded that they turn over the keys of the car. When Brothers Ness and Barnhardt told them where to get off, the cops pulled them in. The Union, of course, is standing by and will stand by all strikers and picketers. It will not let the cops get away with anything.

No Scab Trucks Moving Around In Minneapolis

Second Day of Walkout Finds Ranks Firm

The second day of the strike—and the town is tied up as tight as a drum. Not a truck has moved, and so effective is the picket line established by the striking members of Local 574, that the employers have not yet even tried to send out more than a scout or two. Whatever truck did try to roll was speedily turned back by vigilant pickets.

The spirit and the confidence of the men are at a high point. There are no breaks in the ranks and no sign of any. Just the contrary. The ranks of the strike are being swelled by expressions of sympathy and active support from other organizations.

Three of the most important farmers' organizations in the state have already come to agreements with the Strike Committee of 100, whereby the interests of the former are adequately protected during the strike while, at the same time, all possibility is eliminated of the farmers being used in any way to defeat the goal of the strike.

Meetings of other local unions of the American Federation of Labor held last night, gave plentiful proof of the fact that the strike of 574 has the enthusiastic support of the organized workingmen in the city. Reports confirming this continue to come into the office. A meeting of the Dental Mechanics last night heard a report which was warmly received by the members. The electrical workers meeting showed by the discussion of the truckers' strike in which the members engaged, that they were behind 574 to a man. Other locals show a similar solidarity with the strikers. There is no doubt that the organized labor movement of the city is vigorously supporting 574.

Although no serious efforts have yet been made by the employers to run scab trucks through the picket lines, the press reports that a concerted drive is being planned for Thursday morning to run trucks manned by strike-breakers. The committees in charge at the headquarters of the strike, 215 Eighth Street S., have, however, taken all the necessary measures to deal with any attempt, on a large scale or a small one, to break through the picket blockade. The strikers are well prepared for any eventuality, as the employers will learn the minute any new attempts are made.

Meanwhile it is reported from Washington that the Federal Conciliator, Mr. Haas, is on his way to Minneapolis for the purpose of bringing the strike to a conclusion. As they have demonstrated on numerous occasions, the strikers are firmly set against any effort to make them retreat from their just demands. Willing though they are to call off the strike and resume their jobs at a moment's notice, the men will not even think of taking such action unless they are assured of the victory of their fundamental demands: wage increases and the right of the union to represent the interests of its members in disputes or negotiations with the employers. Local 574 will not budge an inch from this position.

LATEST NEWS FROM THE STRIKE FRONT

Oil Men Negotiate

As a result of a meeting of petroleum drivers and station attendants held at Union Headquarters last night, it was decided not to concede the bosses' demand that the union open its books for inspection. The attitude of the petroleum workers, expressed by all speakers, was the same as that of the general drivers and inside men. The Union will not surrender its independence by letting the bosses or their snoopers stick their noses in its books, nor will the Union jeopardize the men's jobs by turning over their names to the bosses.

Earlier in the day representatives of 19 petroleum companies, constituting the whole Minneapolis industry except for a few insignificant independents, met with a Union committee composed of Carl Skoglund, George Lund, C. W. Larssen and Roy Cooper. The bosses said they were willing to negotiate an agreement with the union if the union would prove its right to represent a majority of the members by opening its books to check against the company pay-rolls.

The petroleum workers decided to inform the bosses that they will negotiate an agreement first, and the bosses can satisfy themselves later as to who belongs to the union by seeing the men with their buttons and membership cards. The committee of the petroleum workers meets again with representatives of the bosses today at 9 a. m.

Note: Strike Orders!

1. All members of Local 574 called out on strike.
2. Until further notice this does not apply to drivers of ice wagons, milk wagons, bakery trucks, petroleum trucks, gas station attendants or taxi drivers. They may continue to operate for the time being.
3. Yellow Cab Co. Baggage Delivery Service called out.
4. Brewery truck drivers, milk wagon drivers, ice wagon drivers, bakery drivers, sanitary and City drivers, are permitted to operate until further notice if they are members of the unions in their crafts.
5. Farmers' trucks carrying permit of Local 574 and farm organizations (Minneapolis Market Gardeners Assn., Farm Holiday Assn., National Farm Bureau) may truck into city to sell to retailers or consumers and may haul feed for their livestock. All such farmers must carry sign and membership cards.

Spirit of 574 Spreads to North

The Minneapolis "Star" on Tuesday agreed that, "the Minneapolis strike fever spread to Duluth today with a truck drivers' mass meeting and an expected strike vote scheduled tonight. Pro-strike sentiment ran high."

According to Martin, business agent of the Duluth Local No. 346, the men there are considering a strike for approximately the same reasons that brought the Minneapolis drivers out on the streets. "The reason the men are so militant over securing union recognition is to remove the \$14-a-week pay situation in Duluth. They can't raise families on this kind of pay and are ready to tie up the town."

The example of 574 in courageously fighting for its elementary and modest demands is certainly worthy of emulation by the Duluth workers.

Labor Strong for 574

That Minneapolis labor in general is strong for Local 574 and back of its strike is becoming increasingly clearer, so that even the bosses can't escape that fact. Bakery drivers are enthusiastic because, as a result of 574's refusal to let any but union bakery drivers operate, 150 new drivers joined the bakery drivers local in the first 24 hours of the strike. The strike was discussed at length last night at meetings of the Dental Mechanics Union and the Electrical Workers Union Local 292. Man after man got up and pledged support. Many union workers drop in at Strike Headquarters to voice their solidarity.

STRIKERS! WRITE FOR YOUR PAPER

The **Organizer** is your paper. It has its regular reporters but they cannot cover the whole town. You can help them by reporting every bit of interesting news concerning the strike which you come across in picketing or other strike work. When you are in Headquarters grab a pencil, write down the information and put it in the box provided for that purpose next to the bulletin board. Thus you will help your paper and help your strike.

Union Honors Wiener

Local 574 turned out strong yesterday to honor Brother Kenneth Wiener, killed in an accident on the job several days ago. About 450 Union members, led by the Executive Board and the Organizing Committee, attended services at the Welander-Quist Funeral Parlors and then went to the cemetery. The union delegation was carried in about 70 automobiles. Floral tributes were sent both by the Union and the Ladies' Auxiliary. The Union will, of course, make a donation to Brother Wiener's widow.

Sing to Victory!

It was once said: "Let me write the songs of the nation and others may write its laws." Out of the triumphs and the tragedies of the labor movement have come a number of songs breathing the spirit of the working class. Few are more popular than the song of the Irish Transport workers. "Hold the Fort," which we reproduce here. Sing it till your voices resound through the city:

We meet today, in freedom's cause
And raise our voices high.
We'll join our hands in union strong
To battle or to die.

Refrain:

Hold the fort, for we are coming;
Union men, be strong.
Side by side, we'll battle onward
Victory will come!

3 Farm Organizations Now In Agreement with 574

The Hennepin County branch of the National Farm Bureau, an organization of small independent farmers, has been given the right to issue permits to members to haul produce for consumers and retailers, as well as feed for livestock. This makes the third farmers' organization to reach such an understanding with the Strike Committee of 100.

In the early hours yesterday, the farmers' committees which were to picket roads leading to Minneapolis had not yet begun to work. Apparently they had been misled by the fakers and the boss papers into thinking that 574 would lay down and refuse to fight. Although, unfortunately, a bunch of trucks were turned back before the farm committees got busy. At the present writing everything is o. k. on this front.

The Farm Bureau, of which Wilson Pond is President, and J. C. Campbell, Secretary, has 320 members in Hennepin County. The Farm Holiday Assn., of which C. W. Philips is President, and Arthur Miller, Secretary, has over 200 members. The Minneapolis Market Gardeners' Assn., of which Wm. Busch is President, and A. Wingard, Secretary, has about 500 members. This organization will contribute fresh meat and vegetables to the strike commissary.

In a statement to a reporter for the **Organizer** today, Brother Campbell of the Farm Bureau said his organization had not yet arranged to supply free food to strikers. "But I'm a milk farmer," he added, "and if the boys ask me for a can of milk, it's theirs. We poor fellows have got to stick together. We farmers were hard hit by the last strike, which caused us to lose sales on the first spring vegetables, but now we hope to make up a bit since 574 is giving us permits to sell to retailers and consumers."

Clarify Farm Situation

To untangle confusion concerning the treatment of farm trucks, Grant Dunne of Local 574's Organizing Committee, met last night with representatives of the farmers' organizations and with State officials headed by E. A. Trovatt, Commissioner of Agriculture.

A marketing agreement was worked out along the lines previously laid down by Local 574. A central market is established between Eighth and Ninth Streets on First Ave. North, for farmers to sell produce to retailers and consumers. Retailers may haul in their private cars. Farmers coming to the city must carry identification slips issued by the farm organizations as provided for in Local 574's Strike Orders published elsewhere in this issue.

At the end of the meeting Brother Dunne issued the following statement to the press:

"The General Drivers Union wants to inform the public that we do not wish to place any hardship on any individuals or any of the small merchants or businessmen, except those with whom we are having controversies. Drivers are asking only that the central market group and others engaged in the trucking and transfer industry pay a decent living wage to their employees. We are glad to cooperate with the small merchants, small businessmen and the farmers or gardeners in any way that it is possible for us to do so."

It is expected that this agreement will eliminate all further friction on this question.

Commissary To Move

The Strike Commissary conducted by the Ladies' Auxiliary of Local 574 is to be moved today from the regular union office to the strike headquarters at 215 South Eighth St., it was announced late last night by Mrs. Clara Dunne, President of the Auxiliary.

Working against odds on the first day of the strike, the Commissary was able to provide substantial and tasty meals to all strikers on picket duty; close to 5,000 meals were served in the first 24 hours of strike. Beginning today a system will be introduced whereby strikers will be served in groups in charge of picket captains.

A doctor and nurse are on 24-hour duty at the Strike Infirmary in Headquarters on South Eighth. Two additional doctors and five nurses are available on call, but so far only a few bruises and cuts have required attention.

Thirty-five women volunteers have been at work so far, and a score more have registered and will be called on as work increases. Donations of vegetables have been received, and others are promised. Bedding and mattresses for the cots have been lend by Wm. Dishman, Elmer Patterson, C. Jensen and Nealy Peppin.

Auto Mechanics to Meet

Tomorrow night at 8 p. m. the Automotive Mechanics Union 382 will meet at the machinists and mechanics headquarters, 1310 Marquette Ave. (Temple Garage) to discuss a proposed wage agreement with the bosses. All members are urged to attend. A final decision will be taken one week from tomorrow. Local 382 just got news from Chicago that, as a result of threatening a strike, 1,600 Chicago auto mechanics forced a wage agreement on 110 Chicago bosses. Minneapolis can do the same!

Bosses Spent Thousands to Break Union Last Union Must Be Worth Thousands to the Workers

A report appearing in yesterday's Minneapolis Journal clearly confirms what greater and greater numbers of local workers are realizing with increasing vividness. In an article entitled, "Heavy Losses of Business Houses in May Truck Walkout Revealed," it was portrayed to what lengths the bosses are willing to go to prevent the growth of unions in this town—especially unions with the militant leadership prevailing in 574.

A manufacturing company admits that the May strike cost it \$3,000.00.

A large wholesale company said that the last strike cost it \$5,000.00. The manager announced that much of the business lost during the strike to competitors in Fargo and Duluth will be very difficult to regain.

A baking concern figures that the May strike rolled up a loss of \$4,000.00; business that can never be made up.

A beverage company has announced that in the last strike over \$7,000.00 in sales were lost; again, this is business that can never be made up.

The manager of a dry cleaning establishment estimated that this company lost \$500.00 each day that the strike was on.

And thus the report continues down the list. Not a single but had failed to suffer large losses.

In a letter written to St. Paulers by the Minneapolis Alliance, it was admitted the strike cost local employers over 000.00.

Did you ever think of the workers? If it means so much to the bosses that, rather than grant simple, moderate demands, they prefer to lose hundreds of thousands of dollars—if it means so much to the bosses to claim that Minneapolis is an open-shop town—WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO THE WORKERS? HAVE A STRONG UNION!

Isn't it obvious that the sure that it will be cheaper in the long run to pay starvation wages, thousands upon thousands to riotous strikes, and pocket the money—rather than to pay decent wages to the workers?

The only guarantee, then, that workers can obtain higher wages is a strong union. To achieve this is worth many sacrifices.

Boast of Open Shop Town

A stranger in town, a friend of one of our members, stopped in at the Business and Municipal Branch of the Minneapolis Public Library on Second Ave. yesterday to read up on Minneapolis conditions. The Librarian gave him half a dozen publications put out by the real estate owners, by the "Minneapolis Industrial Commission" and other boss organizations. Every one of these descriptions of Minneapolis contains a summary of labor conditions in which the bosses proudly boast that "this is one of the leading open shop towns in the United States." Labor, they say, is contented, and contented with little.

Yes, it's clear to everybody that the City Market bosses are not alone in fighting Local 574; they have the backing of the boss class which doesn't want to see real unionism in this city. Which means a hard fight, all types of workers hanging together, and the planting of genuine unionism first in trucking and then in every industry in the city. And when that's done, labor won't have to be contented with little.

Portrait of an American Boss

By Louis Untermeyer

He slobbers over sentimental plays
And sniffles over sentimental songs.
He tells you often how he sadly longs
For the ideals of the dear old days.
In gatherings he is the first to raise
His voice against "our country's shameful wrongs."

He storms at greed. His hard, flat tone
Prolongs
The hymns and mumbled platitudes of
praise.

I heard him in his office Friday past.
"Look here," he said, "their talk is all
a bluff;

You mark my words, this thing will
never last.

Let them walk out—they'll come back
fast enough.

We'll have all hands at work—and
working fast!

How do they think we're running this
—for love?"

Mpls. Strike Movement Spreads

At a meeting Monday night at Central Labor, the Cleaners, Laundry Workers voted to call effective today or Thursday, in factory results were not forthcoming from negotiations with the labor board. More than 574 the 1,800 workers employed in Minneapolis laundry and dry cleaning establishments are now unionized. The union is asking recognition of closed shop, the 40-hour week, a strike board to settle matters, a week's notice of termination, and a week's notice of dismissal for employees.

Tuesday night recommendations for a strike were to be made at a meeting of the workers, should the negotiations held earlier in the week proved fruitless. It is believed that a strike in this industry will almost certainly result.

Union 574 extends a contract to the laundry and dry cleaners and pledges to do all in their power to help them to settle their disputes with the bosses on a basis of the requirements of the workers' demands.

Entertainment at Headquarters

The Strike Committee announces that the entertainment program begun last night at Strike Headquarters will be held every night. National features will be added. There will be music, singing, dancing and other feature acts every night beginning at 8 o'clock and ending at 12. All strikers are invited to the evening and bring their own chairs.

Unemployed Support Strike

Several score of unemployed workers registered at the Minneapolis Council of Workers during the day of the strike for picket duty. A big registration is expected tomorrow. The M.C.C.W. is backing the strike 100 per cent and will have that no unemployed workers

We Need Your Aid and Count On

Local 574 is fighting a battle which is the battle of every working man and woman. Our victory will be yours. Our defeat will be your defeat. Against us are arrayed powerful forces of reaction. We know that the battle will not be an easy one to win. It will require all the resources at our command. We feel justified in calling upon every man and woman in the organized labor movement, upon every friend of the working man, to grant us assistance.

To win a battle of the kind we have in mind, means MONEY! Local 574 is calling YOU to help financially. Every cent you will be a blow struck in our behalf. Your donation immediately. Money given generously and promptly is doubly effective. Contributions should be sent to the Headquarters of the Strike Committee of 100, Eighth Street South, Minneapolis. We are counting on you!