

UNITED  
LABOR  
ACTION

## THE ORGANIZER



TWO TWENTY-FIVE

SOUTH THIRD STREET

SMASH THE  
CITIZENS  
ALLIANCE

Volume I, No.9

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, SATURDAY, JULY 21, 1934

Price one cent

# Workers Blood Is Shed

## Johannes The Butcher Uses Shotguns To Mow Down 48 Unarmed Workingmen

The blood of workers ran freely in the streets of Minneapolis yesterday.

They were shot down and wounded by the uniformed thugs commanded by Police Chief Michael Johannes, by Johannes the Murderer, in the name of the city administration and at the behest of its master, the Citizens Alliance.

Forty-eight sons of the working class were mowed down by shot guns in the hands of police.

They were shot down though they were defenseless and unarmed, like animals in a trap.

They were shot in the back by base cowards who dared not look them in the face.

It was no battle that took place on Third Street North yesterday. It was a massacre. A cunningly conceived, diabolically planned and cold-bloodedly executed massacre.



Look again at the photographs. See the crumpled, riddled bodies of two strikers on the floor of their truck, while all around them stand blue-coated monsters with shotguns. On the floor of their truck, from which they had never descended. They were shot down where they stood, before they could lift a finger in action.

They never had a chance.

But these are men! These are lion-hearted! The first detachment quivers and falls under the withering fire of the police. Then, to the aid of their fallen brothers, from the ranks of other strikers and workers sympathetic with their cause, comes a second wave rolling right into the jaws of the shotguns. But they too must give way before the murderous fire.

How proud the police must be of their triumph! And haven't they cause to be? Was it not with ease that they mowed down the strikers—these dozens of police, armed with dozens of shotguns and pistols? Didn't they do a better job than ever before in the history of Minneapolis? Haven't they made the name of their chief ring throughout the land? Didn't they crush the criminals who were armed only with bare fists?

### A Cold Blooded Provocation

On Thursday, the Citizens Alliance met at the Radisson Hotel. The thorough manner in which the striking members of Local 574 had closed down the market, had driven the employers desperate. It was decided to lay a trap and provoke a blood-bath. It was from that source that Johannes received his orders.

On the same day, at 2 P. M., Johannes ordered a turnout of his police. That day's Tribune reported him as saying:

"We're going to start moving goods. Don't take a beating. You have shotguns and you know how to use them. When we are finished with this convoy there will be other goods to move."

Twenty-four hours later the wholesale district echoed the clatter of shotguns, rifles and automatic pistols fired by dozens of police who had caught a group of workers in a trap.

A trap—that's what it was! Look at the photographs reproduced in this morning's edition of the Minneapolis Tribune. In the scab truck which was being escorted by the heavy police convoy, can be seen only a half-dozen small cartons. There was no serious effort being made to move large loads of goods. The truck was only a decoy to draw picketing workers into a murderers' trap.

Look again at the photographs. In one of them, a handful of pickets is to be seen in their cruising truck. From all sides, the police are rushing down upon them. Police car doors are opening up to emit a devil's spawn armed with shotguns. Their murderous weapons are aimed at the strikers from every angle, and the next moment the muzzles belch a fusillade of shot.

The workers are completely unarmed and helpless. They do not have a rifle among them; not a gun; not a club; not a stick.

But oh, these lions of men, these heroes of the working class! They do not falter for an instant. Not for a second do they hesitate, even in face of the overwhelmingly superior force that confronts them, that shoots into their ranks without a word of warning. Their stout hearts beating with a magnificent courage, they face the enemy unflinchingly and seek to stop the scab truck sent out to rob them, to rob their wives and children, of the miserable crusts of bread which are their lot.

Read the first reports in the press. Not the last reports, after the prostituted newspapers had had the opportunity to doctor them up, but the first fresh accounts of the massacre. Not the last reports, which apologetically invent the lies that the men were warned off, that the police first fired into the air, and then on to the sidewalk. Read the first reports which tell how the police savagely fired into the ranks of the men as soon as they appeared on the scene.

Yes, read the first reports. Read them though you turn sick and faint at the horrifying regularity with which the words "Shot in the back" appear after the name of victim upon victim. Read, workingmen and workingwomen, until every word is burned into your memory, so that you may never forget the sadistic cruelty of the exploiters of labor, the

abominable brutality of their mercenaries—and the deathless courage of labor's sons.

Read—and bear in mind that workers were shot down like dogs in cold blood. That they were shot in the back when they sought to escape. That they were shot in the legs so that they could not escape. That as they lay face to the ground, they were kicked and shot at again by the Pride of Minneapolis, the Defenders of Law and Order, the Uniformed Protectors of Profit.

### Victims of the Murderers

The following 48 names constitute a partial list of the wounded workers who fell under the fusillade of Johannes' blue-coated assassins:

- |                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Fred Nelson        | Frank Zankay    |
| J. R. Dean         | George Ross     |
| O. Shugren         | Jack McCoy      |
| Jack Lindahl       | Otto Lindahl    |
| Simon Barach       | Nels Nelson     |
| Henry B. Ness      | Pat Hasty       |
| Sam Soulis         | Henry Lindberg  |
| Raymond Bloomquist | Victor Tastuch  |
| August Haase       | Walter Carlson  |
| Ed Koski           | Jack Novak      |
| Harry McIlvaine    | Jack Severson   |
| Donald Tutty       | John Belor      |
| Walter Martin      | Charles Collins |
| John Hoffus        | Martin Hasty    |
| John M. Dutcher    | Alfred Listrom  |
| S. G. Glaser       | James Fahey     |
| William Sarenpa    | Harry Krueger   |
| Ben Rubin          | Frank Broz      |
| Harry De Boer      | Norman Bernick  |
| Godfrey Lundahl    | Walter Wislok   |
| Bernard Kaski      | Henry Lyndahl   |
| Carl Johnson       | August Seeber   |
| H. Herber          | Theo. Stoffels  |
| Eugene Crocker     | John Pierce     |

Additional names will be published later in our columns.

The following are reported held by the police. Many of them are in a critical condition. One has had three blood transfusions; another is in dire need of an operation but the cops thus far refuse to release him for treatment.

- |                      |                  |
|----------------------|------------------|
| Richard Scammon, Jr. | Arthur Mudge     |
| Simon Barach         | John Lindahl     |
| Nels Nelson          | Robert Chilters  |
| Jack McCoy           | Evans Robertson  |
| Herbert Tjosvold     | John M. Dutcher  |
| Victor Gastuch       | Emanuel Holstein |
| Frank Broz           | Theo. Stoffels   |

John Pierce

### The Crime of the Strikers

For criminals they are, these strikers. They have committed the greatest crime known to our modern society. They have stood up, these impudent slaves, and demanded wages that will enable them to live like human beings. They have demanded hours of labor that will permit them a little rest and recreation, a few more years of life. They have demanded recognition of their elementary organizations of defense against cruel exploitation: the workingman's Union.

Is this not a crime? And for this crime, which has already produced thousands of heroes and martyrs throughout the world, many famous and many nameless, the workers must be punished. They must be taught their lesson. The vipers' nest of the Citizens Alliance, of the Law and Order League, has commanded it. The command has been obeyed with powder and shot.

Yes, butchers and assassins, the workers have learned a lesson, but not the one you thought to teach them. They have learned only to tighten their ranks, to link their powerful arms together more firmly, to clench their teeth and march more resolutely towards their goal.

The shot you fired into their defenseless bodies has not broken them, as you thought it would. It has only toughened them, steeled them—not for tomorrow's massacres, but for tomorrow's battles. They will not permit themselves to be massacred.

You thought you would shoot Local 574 into oblivion. But you only succeeded in making 574 a battlecry on the lips of every self-respecting working man and workingwoman in Minneapolis.

You thought you would separate the rank and file from their leaders. You only succeeded in cementing the bond that holds them together in an efficient fighting army.

You thought you would alienate the labor movement from 574. You only succeeded in rallying every section of the labor movement to our cause, in bringing one Union endorsement of our fight after another, in having one Union after another put its men and resources at our disposal.

You thought you would create an antagonism between 574 and the rest of the workingmen of Minneapolis, that you would frighten them away with your despicable "red scare." But last night 15,000 men and women roared their condemnation of your dastardly attack, roared their endorsement of 574's militant fight. Their voices will echo and re-echo throughout the city.

You thought you would cut us to pieces with your shotguns. But you only succeeded in having the whole labor movement forge an iron shield of protection around us.

(Continued on page two)

# Workers' Blood Has Been Shed!

(Continued from page one)

You thought to intimidate us with your bullets. But you only aroused the anger and indignation of every honest workingman, you showed him more clearly than ever that this is not merely the fight of 574, but the fight of the whole labor movement.

## Workers! Speak Out in Protest

And now the stalwart battalions of Minneapolis labor will speak out as they have never spoken before.

Every labor Union will speak in unmistakable terms of condemnation of the Bloody Friday provoked by Bloody Johannes and his masters. Every labor Union will express in unmistakable terms its solidarity and support of Fighting 574. Every labor Union will vote not only moral support, but also the sorely needed financial support which will help us to the victory which is a victory for every worker.

Today, they will respond to our appeal that every transportation trade worker stop the wheels from moving as a one-day protest against Friday's slaughter.

Tomorrow, they will stand in readiness for extending the strike if it becomes necessary, in order that the bosses shall not succeed in crushing 574 as the first step towards crushing the whole labor movement of Minneapolis.

Tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow, and until our battle is won, every Union man, every unemployed worker, in the city of Minneapolis, will respond to the urgent call of 574 that EVERYBODY contribute his services on the picket line. Every worker in Minneapolis is expected to serve four hours of picket duty for 574 for the duration of the strike. Such a service is a badge of honor in Minneapolis today.

Every worker will take up the challenge of the Citizens Alliance, and support the fight of 574 which is now in the vanguard of the battle for Unionism.

Every unorganized worker will immediately join the Union of his craft, trade or industry, because—

**Now is the time to make Minneapolis a 100 per cent Union town!**

The workers will not let the Citizens Alliance smash 574.

Instead, they will smash the reactionary, open-shop conspiracy of the Alliance.

Bowing their heads in admiration for the bravery of the dozens who now lie on hospital cots, they will be inspired by the words of one hero who, fully aware that his death is at hand, has said: "Tell the boys not to give up, to stick it out till they've won."

Local 574 has received its baptism in fire and blood. It emerges from it firmer and more resolute. And now—

It will man the picket lines with workers from every trade in Minneapolis.

It will permit no trucks to be moved—by nobody!

It will not capitulate and surrender. It will fight doggedly till it wins.

It will help make Minneapolis a Union town, a fitter place for workmen to live in.

The blood of its heroes will only nourish the roots of 574 and make it a mighty oak.

Woe to him who tries to cut it down! Woe to the murderers and assassins! For the oak will grow and flourish and triumph over all obstacles!

Union men, fight on!

## 15,000 Workers at Mass Meeting Condemn Johannes Massacre

Answering the call of Local 574, 15,000 workers and sympathizers gathered last night in a tempestuous open-air mass meeting on the corner of 7th and 4th, to voice a protest against the brutal shooting of peaceful pickets perpetrated by Bloody Johannes at the behest of the Citizens Alliance.

Workers of every craft, thousands of unorganized and unemployed, women as well as men, people of every nationality and many political faiths, joined in a mighty block to curse the name of their exploiters who have shed the blood of innocent strikers and to cheer leaders of the Minneapolis labor movement when they expressed unanimous determination to carry on the fight to victory.

The chairman of the evening was Bob Cramer, editor of the **Minneapolis Labor Review**. President Bill Brown of Local 574 voiced the keynote of the evening when he said: "We must either take off our hats and bow to Bloody Johannes or take off our coats and smash him!" Brother Brown continued as follows:

"Let Bloody Johannes and that acrobat, Bainbridge, explain this murderous attack away if they can. We used no violence. We were unarmed. We call on Governor Olson to remove Bainbridge and Bloody Johannes. If necessary we will call a general transportation strike and not a wheel in Minneapolis will move. And if that doesn't do, we'll get the whole town out."

Miles, Vincent and Grant Dunne, and Farrell Dobbs, members of the Organizing Committee of Local 574 also spoke. Miles Dunne announced that hundreds of workers reported to Strike Headquarters after the news of the shooting got around and said they would walk out in protest. He asked all transport unions to come out on a 24-hour protest against the massacre.

Brother Dobbs, editor of **The Organizer**, urged every Union man to read this paper, the only daily in Minneapolis that tells the truth about the strike.

Among the guest speakers was Emory Nelson, Secretary of the Minneapolis Central Labor Union and of the Milk Drivers Union. Brother Nelson characterized Bainbridge and Johannes as a couple of would-be Hitlers. "There are those who would like to put Hitlerism over on us in this country, too," he continued. "We have got to fight shoulder to shoulder to the bitter end to smash them. We will not be fooled by the Red scare. It's a trick to split the workers. We don't tell the Citizens Alliance who should be their leaders and we won't take any dictation from them as to who should be our leaders."

Other guest speakers were Charles Johnson, vice-president of the Minnesota Farm Holiday Assn.; Bob Fleming, president of the St. Paul General Drivers Union; F. R. Martin, president of the Duluth Drivers; J. G. Soltis, president of Upholsterers Local 61; Brother Prinale, Business Agent of the City and Sanitary Drivers Union; Brother Urtabeas, President of the Building Trades Council; and the president of the Independent Grocers Assn.

The meeting was the most stirring rally held by Minneapolis labor in years. At its conclusion resolutions were adopted

condemning the brutality of the police, Mayor Bainbridge's policy, and the dastardly attacks on organized labor by the gang of chiselers and exploiters hiding behind the mask of the Citizens Alliance.

### News and Views

The Wholesale Market Group in St. Paul will not permit Minneapolis finks to work there. This decision was reached after a bunch of Minneapolis workers visited St. Paul and looked into the matter.

National Tea Co. trucks are to be permitted to operate until further notice. All petroleum trucks are to be permitted to operate until further notice. Funeral trucks and flower trucks carrying funeral goods are to be permitted to operate.—By order of the Strike Committee of 100.

Who shed tears over the news that a Fire Department truck smashed up a squad car and damaged four of Bloody Johannes' yeggs?

All cattle trucks headed for St. Paul are to be routed around the city. They are not to come to Headquarters.

No small package trucks or horse junk rigs to move. By order of the Strike Committee of 100.

Do you think Bloody Johannes was upset after shedding the blood of scores of people? Not he. Here is the menu of the meal he ate several hours after the slaughter, given us by a sweated worker in the P. D.: Soup, steak, potatoes, spinach, beans, salad, pie, cheese, coffee and a big cigar. How many of the wounded workers have had such a meal in the last year?

Equal in courage to those who face armed cops are those who volunteered to give of their blood for transfusions to the veins of Johannes' victims. They are: Gene Holscher, Charles Hanson, Ralph Johnson, Elmer Patterson, Charles Hodge, Otto L. Oleson, Jack Severson, Arnold Scheel.

The Richard Scammon Jr. who was arrested yesterday afternoon down at Slocum and Bergren's is the son of the Dean of the Medical College of the University of Minnesota. He is 19 years old and a leading athlete.

This morning Bloody Johannes got a wire from the Progressive Working Women's Clubs of Superior, Wis., demanding that he turn in his badge.

Statement by one who stopped shot yesterday: "I'm ready to die for the Union. This is nothing. The Union is our life. I took it in France when I had to. Now I take it because I want to. I'm a Union man. Been one for 26 years. This fight has just begun."

One overworked man yesterday was Brother Sloan, the only Union radio announcer in the U. S. and the best radio announcer in fourteen states. Time after time he stirred the crowd with his announcements and bulletins.

### Eye-Witnesses Called

All witnesses of the vicious attack of the police on strike pickets and bystanders at Sixth Avenue North and Third Street Friday afternoon are requested to communicate immediately, either by mail or telephone, with Mr. Irving H. Green, Rand Tower, Minneapolis. Mr. Green is attorney for General Drivers Local 574. He may be reached by telephone by calling Bridgeport 2285. Strike Headquarters of the Union, at 215 Eighth Street S. can be reached by telephone by calling Atlantic 7191 or Atlantic 7192.

Statement by a street-car motorman on the situation: "What I want to know is when the hell we are going to be called out."

The **Star** reports there is a dog poisoner loose in town.

Does that worry Bloody Johannes?

The Minneapolis Central Council of Workers, organization of unemployed workers, was out there on the line when Bloody Johannes' bulls blazed away yesterday. They had ten casualties.

Close to 1,000 unemployed have registered at the M. C. C. W. since the strike was called. They want to fight for labor's cause.

Maud E. Carlson of 6500 15th Ave. sends in a poem called "Our Union." Because of lack of space we cannot print it all. We want to give a few lines, however:

"574 with brave defiance  
Threw the lie at the Citizens Alliance.  
They even put Tobin on the mat.  
Those brave boys can go to bat . . .  
Sister Carlson writes: "I sent the above to Everybody's Ideas, **The Daily Star**. They refused to print it because it is controversial. I cancelled my subscription."

Yes, there is a controversy on. And **The Organizer** is on just one side: the workers' side—all the time.

### Victim Denounces Police Lies

Simon Barach, badly wounded by police thugs yesterday, is now in General Hospital, where he issued the following statement:

"The outright lie published in last night's **Star**, that I told the police that Communist party leaders said I would get a good job if I joined the strike, I wish to refute absolutely. I made no statement to the press or to police stenographers beyond giving my name and address. I have talked to no Communist party leaders.

"I was not paid a red cent to picket for 574, nor do I expect to receive anything. I am a member of the Minneapolis Central Council of Workers, organization of employed and unemployed. Realizing that 574's battle is the battle of all Minneapolis workers against their common oppressors, I was more than glad to do my part on the picket line. I will always hold myself in readiness to fight for the working class—anywhere."  
(Signed) Simon Barach.

## How Do You Like Having Our Minneapolis Streets in Control of Murderers?

Yesterday's daily newspapers contained a big advertisement with the blood-and-thunder title:

"How Do You Like Having Our Minneapolis Streets in the Control of Communists?"

The advertisement was signed by the stalking horse of the Citizens Alliance, parading like a criminal under the alias of the "Employers Advisory Committee," which has thousands of dollars to spend for newspaper attacks upon workers who have organized for better conditions, but which hasn't a penny to offer these workers who demand a moderate increase in wages.

After the slaughter yesterday afternoon, where dozens of workers were the helpless targets for police shotguns, we have the right to demand of every inhabitant:

**How do you like having our Minneapolis streets in the control of Murderers?**

"Nobody killed yet; nobody hurt." That is how the advertisement reads, written by the men who at that very moment were meeting in the Hotel Radisson to give Johannes the Murderer his instructions to shoot down the workers without mercy or provocation.

"Nobody killed yet; nobody hurt"—the Citizens Alliance and its thugs have remedied that. The hyenas have claimed their victims.

"A super-government has been set up in Minneapolis by the Communist leaders of the truck drivers"—continues the advertisement.

Yes, a super-government exists in Minneapolis, its REAL government: the Sinister Alliance of Big Business and Banking, which rules the destinies of the city, which holds the life and limb of every workingman in its vicious grip, which does not recoil from murder if its sway, its sacred Profits, are endangered.

"Is this still a free country and a free city?" ask these arch-hypocrites.

If you want the answer, ask the men whose bodies you raked with bullet and shot, whom you wounded and crippled, whom you drove to death's door, whom you jailed. Ask the men at whom you fired so callously for exercising their right to peaceful picketing, their right to live like human beings. They'll tell you if this is a free city!

"Will Minneapolis labor stand for this type of leadership and domination?"

No, you butchers, that is not the question. We want an answer instead to this question:

Will Minneapolis labor stand for the domination of the streets by armed murderers?

### Offer Services to Strike

The extent to which the strike of 574 has aroused the sympathy and support of workers in this city is again indicated by a communication received at Strike Headquarters from Daniel L. H. West, vice-president of the Minneapolis Civic and Progressive League. The letters reads as follows:

"The Minneapolis Civic and Progressive League, an affiliate of the Hennepin County Farmer-Labor Association, has volunteered its services to your Strike Committee. Get in touch for any communications with Daniel L. H. West, vice-president."

The Strike Committee is requesting the League to collect food, solicit contributions, and to mobilize pickets to assist the strikers.

### Unions Back 574

Donations of \$100 each have been received by 574 from the Motion Picture Operators Local 219 and the International Union of Steam and Operating Engineers Local 34. Thanks are due for this genuine aid. Other donations are to be announced in forthcoming issues. The Motion Picture Operators Union calls on all union men to patronize only theaters employing members of 219. The bosses have organized a "union" of their own to cut the workers' throats.

### WDGY Wants Strike News

Reflecting widespread popular interest in the truckers strike, Radio Station WDGY has asked Local 574 to provide it with daily strike news. This it will do through the Editor of **The Organizer**, Brother Farrell Dobbs. The workers and poor farmers of the Northwest will thus get a chance to learn the truth about the strike.

One of the injured yesterday was a 70-year-old man who happened to be walking down the street.

Enjoy Yourself  
2951 Lyndale Ave. S.  
**SNOOKER AND BILLIARDS**  
Fred Heffler  
REgent 9759 Minneapolis, Minn.