

# THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

Official Organ of the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council

MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE:  
257 PLYMOUTH AVENUE NORTH

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. 2, NO. 35

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA, THURSDAY, DEC. 17, 1936

PRICE 5 CENTS

## FINAL SETTLEMENT IN FOOD STRIKE BRINGS NEW WAGES

### WHOLESALE IN AGREEMENT ON NEW WAGE

Direct Dealings Between Employers and Union Bring Results

Wage of 55c Per Hour Is Set for Platform Men by Local

Last week saw the final windup of a dispute between the Wholesale Grocery employers and General Drivers Union. Attempts to secure a union agreement for wholesale grocery drivers, helpers and platform men by Local 544 proved unavailing after two months effort and in August a strike was called on all wholesale grocery houses.

This strike, which saw a complete shutdown of all trucking in the food industry, lasted eight weeks. At the end of this time an agreement was arrived at between the union and the Grocery employers which, with a few minor exceptions, was agreeable to both sides. A direct union agreement was signed by both parties at the termination of the strike.

Several matters, however, were left to be settled either by direct negotiations between the union and the employers or by an arbitration board which was provided for in the contract. The principal matter in dispute was the rate of pay that was to be set for platform workers. The employers offered 50c per hour. The union asked a higher rate.

Numerous meetings were held by both parties to the agreement which finally resulted in the hourly wage of the inside workers being set at 55c. Other minor disputed points were quickly settled. The difference in the hourly rate offered by the employers for inside workers and that which was

(Continued on page 2)

### Settlement Is Near In Paper Dispute

Negotiations which have been going on between General Drivers Union and the Twin City News service for an agreement covering wages and working conditions of drivers and helpers at this company appear to have reached a place where settlement is near.

The matter which is still in dispute is one on the question of the wage scale. A meeting between union officials and representatives of the Twin City News was held Tuesday.

### At the Graveside



### Local Will Hold Party For All Union Children

All Union Members Urged to Bring Children to Free Party on Saturday, Dec. 19

On Saturday, December 19, General Drivers Union will sponsor its second annual Christmas Party for the children of members of the union.

The affair will start promptly at 2 p. m. and will continue until all of the little people are satisfied. Everything will be absolutely free and all kiddies of union members, under 12 years of age, are invited to be present.

There will be a huge Christmas tree 25 feet tall on which gifts for all of the little guests will be found. Candy, nuts, popcorn and all of the things which go to make a Christmas celebration complete will be there in abundance.

Everyone is asking, "What about entertainment?" That is a big secret with the committee in charge of the celebration.

Your reporter found out, however, that there is going to be a real program. For instance, a Punch and Judy show, a dog act with a real clown; a magician who produces rabbits and doves as easy as you and I say "knife;" music, Christmas carols and a dozen other things.

And last but not least there is going to be a real, live SANTA CLAUS! He will distribute gifts to the youngsters while they confide in him their Christmas wishes. Do not forget the time, place

and date. Time, 2 p. m. Place, General Drivers Hall, 257 Plymouth Ave. Date, Saturday, December 19. Let's bring all the kids.

### Trucker Hit by Haunting Jinx

C. H. Buchanan, independent truck owner, knows what it is to have a jinx follow him. Brother Buchanan went deer hunting and before he had a chance to take a shot at a buck he almost severed his right leg with an ax while cutting wood. On his return to the city, badly disabled, he found that a substitute driver who had been working his truck during the hunting trip had rolled the equipment into a ditch. Damage, \$700. Pagine Lady Luck.

### Splendid Union Contract Signed by Store Owners Covers Drivers, Helpers

Agreement Marks Milestone in Local Trade Union Progress

Wage Raises, Seniority Won by Department Store Workers

The agreement signed between Local 544 and department store owners last week marks a milestone in the road of trade union progress in Minneapolis.

The full import of this union contract does not become apparent until we realize that here is the first union agreement ever signed by the firms involved. The pact between General Drivers Union and the loop department stores provides splendid pay increases for almost all workers involved.

A standard work week is established and overtime pay is set at time and one-third. The agreement follows.

#### WORKING AGREEMENT

The undersigned department store employers and the General Drivers' and Helpers' Union, Local No. 544, A. F. of L., agree to be bound by the following terms and provisions covering wages and working conditions.

#### ARTICLE I

General Drivers' and Helpers' Union, Local No. 544, shall be the representative of its members in collective bargaining with the employer. There shall be no discrimination against any employee because of Union affiliation.

#### ARTICLE II

The employer agrees not to enter into any contract or agreement with his employees who are or may become members of Local No. 544 and who are covered by the classifications in Article V, individually or collectively, which in any way conflicts with the terms and provisions of this agreement.

#### ARTICLE III

The regular work week shall be not over forty-eight (48) hours and the regular work day shall be eight (8) hours. All time worked in excess of forty-eight (48) hours in any one week and all time worked in excess of ten (10) hours in any one day shall be paid for at the rate of time and one-third except that time and one-third shall be paid for all time worked on Sunday and double time shall be paid for all time worked on New Years, Decoration Day, July Fourth, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas Day. The regular work day for drivers or helpers shall start at 8 a. m. Any driver or helper re-

quired to start work before or after 8 a. m. shall be notified by the dispatcher the night previous. Extra men, when notified to report to work, shall be paid for not less than four (4) hours work on that day and may be called for work at any time. Time taken out for lunch is not to exceed a maximum of one hour and employees working overtime shall be allowed necessary time for meals. There shall be no daily split shifts.

If any of the employees in each company so elect, it shall be permissible to work a maximum of 12 hours per day and 70 hours per week at straight time during the month of December only, provided, however, that no individual employee shall be compelled to work on this basis unless he so desires. Employees who do not elect to work 12 hours a day or 70 hours per week shall so notify

(Continued on page 2)

### Christmas Fund to Be Raised for All Strikers' Children

In Minneapolis, at this time, over 500 trade unionists are on strike against exploiting employers. These people are fighting our fight. We gain when they win, we suffer when they lose. Many of these strikers have families. Christmas for the children of the striking workers will be a dreary affair unless we help them. A fund is being raised to provide Christmas cheer for these little ones. Every worker and trade unionist should gladly contribute to such a worthy cause. Pending the setting up of a committee, which will be in charge, funds will be received at the Central Labor Union office, 18 N. 8th St. Urge your union to make a donation and give generously yourself. Let's give the strikers' children a happy Christmas.

# Make Minneapolis a Union Town



# WHOLESALE IN AGREEMENT ON NEW WAGE

(Continued from page 1)  
finally set was retroactive to the ending of the strike.

Following is a supplement to the agreement covering wholesale grocery workers. Matters covered in this supplement are all disputed points that were left to arbitration when the strike ended. All have been settled to the satisfaction of the union and the employers.

### ARTICLE I

The minimum rate of pay for drivers shall be sixty cents (60c) per hour and for helpers, platform workers and inside warehouse employees, 55c per hour. Shipping clerks shall be paid 65c per hour and assistant shipping clerks not less than 60c per hour. Any employee engaged in the duties of Orange man, Banana man, and Tomato man shall be paid at the rate of sixty-five cents (65c) per hour for time worked in these classifications. Employees receiving more than the above minimum in any classification shall not have their pay reduced. All wage increases are to be retroactive to November 1, 1936.

### ARTICLE II

Except for work performed by regular crews, time and one-half shall be paid for all special work done on Sundays and legal holidays, provided, however, that such regular crews shall have a regular day off and shall be paid at the rate of time and one-half if required to work on that day.

### ARTICLE III

Drivers who do long distance hauling shall be paid expenses, such as, room and board at cost when out of the city. All concerns who now have both a driver and helper at all times on tractor and trailer equipment shall continue this practice.

### ARTICLE IV

This supplement shall become effective on November 1, 1936, and together with the above mentioned original agreement shall continue in full force and effect until October 31, 1937.

- By E. B. Aslesen, V. P.  
WHOLESALE SUPPLY CO.
- By L. G. Pausch, Mgr.  
MUTUAL WHOLESALE FOOD & SUPPLY CO.
- By L. W. Bailey, Pres.  
QUALITY FOOD STORES, Inc.
- By Jack D. F. Barrett, Pres.  
WINSTON AND NEWELL CO.
- By F. G. Harrison, V. Pres.  
NATIONAL TEA CO.
- By A. J. Hansen  
RED OWL STORES, Inc.
- By G. R. Grife, V. Pres.  
WESTERN GROCER CO.
- By J. F. O'Connell, Asst. Mgr.  
BRECHET & RICHTER CO.
- By Junior F. Hayden  
HANCOCK NELSON MERC. COMPANY
- By H. E. Clay  
JORDAN STEVENS CO.
- By R. B. Stevens  
SLOCUM BERGREN & NASH COMPANY
- By R. S. Nash, Pres.  
GENERAL DRIVERS AND HELPERS UNION  
LOCAL NO. 544
- By Wm. S. Brown
- By C. Skoglund

## Big Packers Say No to Demands Of Drivers Union

Dealings for union employes on the meat row have been taking place during the past week by representatives of Local 544. Indications are that many of the smaller firms are willing to deal with the union for their employes.

The so-called Big Five maintain the attitude that they will refuse to enter into a contract with General Drivers Union. Employes of all meat and produce firms on the central market are organized 100 per cent into Local 544.

The union will continue to insist that all employers on the meat row enter into agreements with 544.

## With the Laundry Workers Union

Margaret Kashman of Gross Bros. and Kronicks is sick at the General Hospital. Her condition is reported as poor.

We have just learned that Inga Pudlick, 3501 Queen Ave. N., employed at the Custom laundry, was seriously injured last week. Inga was crossing the street when she was struck by a Lowry Avenue bus. The accident occurred at Lowry avenue and Jefferson street northeast. She is in General Hospital in critical condition.

Members who are acquainted with those members who are sick should call on them whenever possible. Those of us that have been confined to hospitals can appreciate what a call from a friend means.

In checking the ledger we find that while few are far behind in their dues, many are behind one month or so, which in the aggregate runs into a lot of money.

The Union went in the hole about eighteen bucks on the last dance. We hope that on January 16, when the benefit dance for the unemployed is to be held, the members will really turn out and make it a huge success. The money derived from this dance will be used to create a fund to help the unemployed in Local 183 and should have the support of all Union people. Get tickets and sell them to your friends.

The Compliance committee and Arbitration Board set up to handle claims of violations of the Union agreement are having plenty to do. If the employers would abide by the contract little trouble would be encountered. With only a few complaints, Arbitration Boards can function in a satisfactory way toward settling many of these disputes. However, when so many complaints come in, many of these cases are delayed, thereby working a hardship on the people involved. We fail to see any excuse for an employer to pay less than the wage scale provided for in the Union contract. If they were compelled to pay double when caught much of this deliberate chiseling would stop.

It appears that certain foremen in certain plants have an exaggerated opinion of their own importance. That is all very well, but we wish to remind them that it is not exactly impossible for them to be deflated. The Clark Box factory is having some "difficulty" with their workers over this very issue.

A shop stewards' meeting will be held Wednesday, December 30, at the Union headquarters, 703 3rd Ave. S., at 8 p. m. All stewards please arrange to attend.

## Bill Brown Says—

The signing of a union agreement between General Drivers Union and downtown department store owners should be a matter of celebration for the Minneapolis trade union movement. For years the department stores have been regarded as unfair by most trade unionists. But now with these drivers, helpers and platform men covered by a union agreement, department stores are as fair as any other concern. The signing of this pact with Local 544 marks the first time that workers in department stores have ever been covered by a written, signed union contract.



BILL BROWN  
President of 544

## Warehouse Union to Start Member Drive in January

### Citywide Mass Meet Planned to Open Campaign

As evidence that the Warehouse Workers union is prepared to enter an active campaign to unionize all workers coming under the jurisdiction of that organization, the following letter was sent to all members of Local 20,316.

The charter covering warehouse and inside workers has been in Minneapolis for about two months. Since that time the local union has taken in many members. Ground work is now being laid for a real organizational drive which will start in January. All members are urged to attend this and all subsequent meetings.

### WAREHOUSE INSIDE WORKERS UNION Local 20,316

Minneapolis, Minnesota  
December 11, 1936

Dear Sir and Brother:

As a member of the Warehouse and Inside Workers Union, Local 20,316, your Executive Board wishes to inform you of some matters which are of extreme importance.

Starting immediately after the holidays, an intense organizational drive will be undertaken to organize all the workers in Minneapolis that come under the jurisdiction of our charter. It is intended that this drive shall be initiated by a giant city-wide meeting of all Warehouse and Inside Workers in some large available hall, centrally located. Special stress will be laid upon the necessity of organizing Sears, Roebuck and Co. in conjunction with other places. In preparation for the drive you are urged to attend without fail the next meeting of our local where the groundwork for this drive will be laid and plans submitted to the members for approval.

Inasmuch as our membership has not yet taken the obligation that every member of the American Federation of Labor must take, it is necessary that you be there in order that this may be done.

The next meeting of our Union will be a strictly closed affair and no one but members or those receiving one of these letters will be permitted to attend. There will be a roll call to determine who is present and who is not. In order to gain admittance, it will be necessary for you to present this letter to the Sergeant of Arms at the door. Also bring your dues book if you have already received one.

In accordance with the decision of the last regular membership meeting held on Monday, December 7, the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 16, at 8:30 p. m. sharp. The meeting will be held at the hall of General Drivers, Local 544, at 257 Plymouth Ave. N.

BE THERE WITHOUT FAIL!  
MAKE MINNEAPOLIS A

### UNION TOWN

Fraternally,  
EXECUTIVE BOARD, WAREHOUSE AND INSIDE WORKERS UNION LOCAL 20,316.

By James Bartlett, President  
By Ray Lind, Secretary.

For further information regarding this meeting call Main 6328 between the hours of 7 to 9 p. m.

## Yellow Notes

Believe it or not! The Yellow notes are here again. A miss once in a while makes members of this unit appreciate them more.

Fay Cipperly lost his leg a week ago Monday. His condition is fair but his spirits are low. Come on, fellows, show a little brotherly spirit and go and see him and see if we can't cheer him up a little. The visiting hours at the General are Tuesday, Friday and Sunday from 2 to 3:30 p. m. and Wednesday night from 7 to 8.

The "cream" of the season for the Yellow drivers is now on and every Yellow driver ought to exert every effort to work at each available opportunity and really work. From all indications, we are going to have the best winter we have had in several years. Let's see if we can't make an unbeatable record this winter and lay aside a few bucks for a vacation when the fishing gets good next spring.

A recent visit to Al Canfield found him improving slowly. True to the Irish, you just can't keep him down. He still likes his little "nip" too.

Tommy Williams experienced an embarrassing situation a few nights ago. He had as a fare the Siamese twins. One of them said she wanted to go to the Alden and the other one said she guessed she would go there too. Forgetting himself, he answered, "Oh, yeah."

Tony Manthis is on the sick list again according to latest reports. Something in his spinal column has gone wrong.

The vicinity of the Yellow Cab garage is getting to be quite a concentration center for 544 members with the locating of the Lambert Transfer Co. and the East Hennepin Transfer Co. within two blocks of the garage.

Flash! The fire company that furnishes the tires for the cabs has finally found a solution for the tire situation. They are going to fill the tires with "non-skid hot air."

"Banjo" Miller made a very generous donation to a couple of "gentlemen" who relieved him of his load of cash. They also decided he needed some exercise so they took his cab along and let him walk. From his account of the experience, he was lucky to escape with his underwear still on.

## Workers Alliance Holds Convention Sunday, Dec. 13th

### Full Report of Meeting Will Appear in Next Issue

The convention of the Minnesota locals of the Workers Alliance of America was held last Saturday and Sunday, December 12 and 13 in the State Office building auditorium, St. Paul. The Federal Workers section was represented by a large delegation of some 70 delegates.

Our delegates worked actively in the various committees to which they were assigned, presenting among others, the major resolutions listing demands on the Federal and state governments which were adopted by the convention with minor changes.

The Federal Workers Section of Local No. 544 thanks all those individuals and organizations who responded so well to the F. W. S. request for financial aid in meeting convention expenses. Special appreciation is felt toward Bob Cramer and the other officers and delegates to the C. L. U. for their support.

We welcome this as an indication that other Unions besides Local No. 544 are beginning to understand the necessity for closer co-operation between the employed and the unemployed for their mutual protection and assistance.

A complete account of the convention will appear in the next issue of the **Organizer**. A report of the convention will be given at the Federal Workers Section regular meeting Friday, December 18.

For Union Made  
**Christmas Cards**  
CALL DALE MACHEN  
478 Sexton Bldg., BR. 1034  
The only source of supply  
in the city

LOCAL 160  
MEETING SCHEDULE  
Dec. 1—Stewards Board.  
Dec. 2—Membership Meeting.  
Dec. 8—Executive Board.  
Dec. 15—Stewards.  
Dec. 15—Executive Board.  
Dec. 16—Membership Meeting.  
Dec. 22—Executive Board.  
Dec. 29—Executive Board.

MEETINGS FEDERAL  
WORKERS SECTION  
FWS Stewards, each Wednesday, 8 p. m.  
FWS membership meetings, first and third Friday of each month, 8 p. m.  
FWS Leadership class No. 1, each Tuesday, 7:30 p. m.  
Direct relief grievance hours, Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10 to 12 a. m.  
Federal Workers Stewards Meetings—Each Wednesday at 8 p. m.

Meeting Schedule  
Local 544  
Thursday, Dec. 3—Independent Truck Owners.  
Friday, Dec. 4—Coal Stewards.  
Monday, Dec. 7—Coal Workers; Package Delivery.  
Wednesday, Dec. 9—Market.  
Friday, Dec. 11—All stewards.  
Monday, Dec. 14—General membership.  
Thursday, Dec. 17—Independent Truck Owners.  
Friday, Dec. 18—Coal Stewards.  
Monday, Dec. 21—Coal Workers.  
Tuesday, Dec. 22—Taxi Drivers; night drivers 1 p. m., day drivers 7 p. m.  
Monday, Dec. 28—General Membership.  
GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE—Meets each Tuesday at 8 p. m.  
EXECUTIVE BOARD—Meets each Wednesday at 9 a. m.

## Local 1859 Meeting Schedule

- Executive Board—Dec. 5.
- Committee men, Executive Board—Dec. 12.
- Box Section—Dec. 15
- Clarks Section—Dec. 16.
- Puffer-Hubbard Section—Dec. 18.
- Executive Board—Dec. 19.
- General Membership—Jan. 16.



### Garment Workers Thank Local 544

UNITED GARMENT WORKERS OF AMERICA  
Myrtle Harris, Sec'y  
3837 Thomas Ave. S.  
December 10, 1936  
Mr. William Brown, Treas.  
General Drivers Union 544  
257 Plymouth Ave. N.  
Minneapolis, Minn.  
Dear Mr. Brown:  
We Garment Workers Local 27 are writing a line to thank you and your organization for the wonderful help you gave us during our recent organizing done in the shipping department.  
If at any time we can return the many favors done by your organization, don't hesitate to call on us.  
Fraternally yours,  
MYRTLE HARRIS  
Rec. Sec.  
United Garment Workers of America, Local 27

### Chiseling Is Hit By Drivers Union

The Executive Board of Local 544 took steps last week to put an end to wage chiseling on the central market. Several firms on the market have made a regular practice of not paying the union scale, agreed to in the contract, and of withholding overtime from workers who have such pay coming. The Board instructed the secretary to write the following letter to all market employers. The letter is self-explanatory.

December 10, 1936

Gentlemen:

Since the signing of the working agreement between the market firms and the General Drivers Union, Local 544, in June of this year there have been several cases reported to us wherein firms who have signed the contract have violated the wage, hour and overtime provisions. It seems that there are only a few following this practice; however, these few have been continuous offenders. The Union asks only that the employers live up to the letter and spirit of the agreement which they have signed.

We expect nothing more than this but we have every right to demand that strict compliance be observed.

Kindly accept this communication as formal notice that in all future cases where market employers attempt to violate the provisions of the Union contract covering wages, hours and overtime the Union will collect the back pay due its members at the rate of double their regular wage scale.

Yours very truly,  
GENERAL DRIVERS UNION  
LOCAL 544

By FARRELL DOBBS,  
Secretary

The committee made the rounds of the sick drivers Monday and all are reported in a convalescing condition with a hope of being back to work soon.

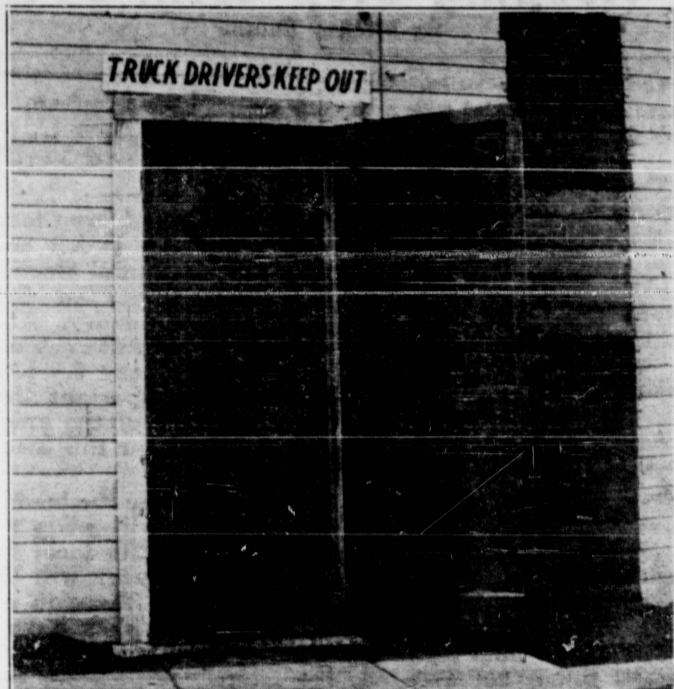
#### IMPORTANT NOTICE

The union grievance board, which has formerly held its sessions at 8 p. m. each Tuesday evening, will hereafter convene at 7 p. m. The earlier starting hour is made necessary by the increased number of cases coming before the board. All members wishing to present grievances are urged to appear promptly at the new starting time.

"We Are Proud of Our Coffee"

**S & S CAFE**  
633 THIRD AVE. S.  
We feature Home Cooking  
Try Our Sunday Chicken Dinners, They Are Delicious  
35c up

### "Outside," Says Grazer



From the above sign, posted on the state highway office on the Belt Line, it is evident that "Hitler" Grazer classified truck drivers about the same as Fuller brush men—the sign came down.

### Independent Truck Chatter

Looking for Emblems		
1257	1388	1826
1261	1410	1838
1290	1417	1839
1293	1701	1840
1298	1703	1847
1334	1707	1874
1341	1716	1879
1350	1755	1889
1362	1768	1897
1363	1772	1918
1380	1793	1944
1387	1811	1951

Every member of the ITO Section should carry this list with him at all times and check the emblems on any truck he is not sure of. If you find a wanted emblem and the driver can't produce a paid-up due book and receipts, remove the emblem and give to Gene Lundholm, ITO Secretary. Anyone who is not delinquent but has his emblem number listed here should bring his receipts to the office to change the records.

#### That's Different

A trucker on WPA told a steward he couldn't pay dues because he needed the money to make a payment on a radio, and besides it didn't make any difference if he wore a button or not. For some strange reason the Federal Workers refused to load his truck the rest of the day. Also, not so strangely, he had a paid-up button the next morning.

The unemployed file for the Independents has been very popular the last few months. It seems that many truckers know about the file but don't know anything about the ITO Section because they have not troubled to apply for section membership. In fact it has been found

that some non-union men have put in their names for work, which is the height of something or other. Trucks must have emblems before they will be called for work by the union. Any truck steward can furnish application blanks and a sticker to new members. The sticker is to be kept on the windshield for ninety days and then exchanged for a truck emblem when notified.

#### Or Get Behind a Plow

Seems as if dump truckers will have to join the CCC or the army to get a job driving truck this winter.

Those that have their trucks listed in the office as unemployed should re-register every week to be sure of quick and efficient action. These trucks sometimes have to go out on a moment's notice, and it pays to have up to date information.

Some ITO members outside the city have been mailed assessment collection receipt books for the convenience of out of towners. If you are interested in keeping in good standing with the section, and also your job, pay the money promptly. You look up a steward, don't force him to do the hunting. All sticker men and applicants must pay this assessment.

#### It's Done With Mirrors

A prospective customer was being shown the advantages of a new 1937 model car. The salesman said, "Now see, isn't this dandy? The battery is under the hood, right where you can get at it very easily." The prospect pulled an ear, shifted his chew to the other cheek and wondered, "Yeah, that's great, but what kind of can opener do you use to get at the engine on the blamed thing?"

### Cold Storage Plants Sign Union Agreement With General Drivers

#### Contract Brings New High Wages to All Workers in Industry

Last week saw the signing of a union agreement between Local 544 and workers in Minneapolis Cold Storage plants. The contract signed covers the wages, hours, and working conditions of approximately 100 cold storage workers employed in four plants.

Firms that were a party to this agreement are Booth Cold Storage Co., Minneapolis Storage, Merchants Cold Storage, and Minnesota Storage Co. The agreement provides that seniority shall prevail throughout the plant. A work

week of 48 hours was set and time and one-half is provided for overtime.

A 55c per hour minimum wage was established throughout the industry. Splendid advancements have been made by the workers involved. As an example of the forward strides that were taken by the workers in the cold storage houses it is only necessary to know that wages as low as 30c per hour were common prior to the union agreement taking effect.

From now on all back pay on the central market will be paid for at the rate of time and one-half.

## Splendid Union Contract Signed by Store Owners Covers Drivers, Helpers

(Continued from page 1) their immediate superior at least 24 hours in advance.

#### ARTICLE IV

Employees who have been in the service of the company for a period of one year or longer shall receive a minimum of one week's vacation with pay at the regular rate provided herein for their classification of work and those employees who have in the past, according to their length of service with the company, received more than one week's vacation with pay shall not have this customary vacation period reduced unless the reduction affects all classes of employees engaged by each firm.

#### ARTICLE V

The following shall be the minimum rates of pay in the various classifications: Drivers, shipping clerks (one who is responsible for freight and express shipments out of town), receiving platform clerks and furniture craters, 65 cents per hour; furniture helpers, 60 cents per hour; furniture loaders, furniture finishers, warehouse and platform men, special delivery dispatchers and markers or routers, 55 cents per hour; driver-helpers, male bookers, special delivery dispatch-helpers, male packers and furniture polishers, 50 cents per hour. Male employees working on the belt shall receive a minimum of 40 cents per hour. Lift operators are herein referred to as platform men. Employees receiving more than the above minimum in any classification shall not have their pay reduced. This has prevailed in the past year, such as employe bonuses, purchase discounts, etc.

#### ARTICLE VI

The senior men shall have first preference on the job. The oldest men on the job from the point of service shall be given the regular jobs and shall be provided full time work, if work is available. Extra men, if they can be reached, shall be given time in accordance with their seniority rights. In reducing the personnel because of lack of work or other legitimate cause, the last man hired shall be the first man laid off, and in returning men to work, the last man laid off shall be the first man rehired. New employes shall be placed on the seniority list after thirty (30) days of continuous employment by any one firm provided, however, that extra men shall have preference over any new employes who may be hired. Proof of drunkenness, the use of drugs, dishonesty or repeated negligence in the performance of duty shall be considered grounds for discharge. A man must prove his ability to handle his work in an ef-

ficient manner in order to hold his job.

#### ARTICLE VII

Employes shall not be charged for loss or damage unless there is clear proof of repeated negligence.

#### ARTICLE VIII

When employes are required to wear special uniforms, same shall be furnished by the employer without cost to the employe.

#### ARTICLE IX

All drivers and helpers on the seniority list shall be provided full time work before any special helpers are employed.

#### ARTICLE X

There shall be no strike or lock-out during the period of this agreement resulting from differences of opinion over the interpretation of or adherence to its terms and provisions. If such a controversy should arise which cannot be settled directly by the Union and the employer involved, it shall be referred to a Board of Arbitration consisting of two (2) representatives of the Union and two (2) representatives of the employer, and if these four (4) cannot agree they shall designate a neutral fifth person to act as chairman. The decision of this board of five shall be final and binding upon all parties concerned. In the event that the employer becomes involved in a controversy with any other Union, it is agreed that the representatives of Local No. 544 will consult with the employers' committee and use every means to reach an amicable settlement before calling a sympathetic strike.

This agreement shall be in full force and effect from December 1, 1936, to and including August 31, 1937, except that the special overtime provisions during the month of December as covered under Article III shall be effective as of the date of the signing of this contract.

GENERAL DRIVERS' AND HELPERS' UNION LOCAL NO. 544, A. F. of L.  
WM. S. BROWN, President  
FARRELL DOBBS, Secretary

THE POWERS MERCANTILE CO.

By P. R. Tennyson, Gen. Sup.  
THE L. S. DONALDSON CO.

By H. N. Malcolm, Treas.  
THE DAYTON COMPANY

By A. C. White, Vice Pres.  
THE LEADER DEPT. STORE

By R. H. Brooks, President  
THE YOUNG-QUINLAN CO.

By S. M. Tomlinson, Supt.  
THE JOHN W. THOMAS CO.

By R. J. Allert, Supt.

Jellings likes to drive a cab so well, he bought one of the old Yellows a few days ago.

### CO-OP COAL ASSOCIATION

To the Patrons  
the Profits



739 Johnson Street N. E.  
Phone: Granville 4394

#### THE CO-OPERATIVE

**Nature**  
Organized people.  
**Purpose**  
To serve its members at cost.  
**Methods**  
1. Each member has one vote and only one vote. Democracy—the people rule.  
2. Capital is paid a minimum rate of interest. Money is the servant of the people.  
3. Surplus savings are distributed to the members in proportion to their patronage. The people receive the benefits.

**Results**  
Wealth is equitably distributed among the many.

#### THE CORPORATION

**Nature**  
Organized capital.  
**Purpose**  
To serve the public for profit.  
**Methods**  
1. Each share of stock has one vote. Plutocracy—money, in control of the few, rules.  
2. Capital receives all the profits. Money is the master.  
3. Profits are distributed among the stockholders in proportion to their holdings. Money receives the benefits.

**Results**  
Wealth is centered in the possession of the few.



# THE NORTHWEST ORGANIZER

Published every Wednesday under the auspices of the Minneapolis Teamsters Joint Council

OFFICE OF PUBLICATION  
257 PLYMOUTH AVE. N.

Subscription Rates	
One year in advance	\$1.00
Six months in advance	.65
Bundle copies (10 copy minimum), each	.02 1/2

Entered as second class matter May 1st, 1935, at the Postoffice at Minneapolis, Minnesota, under act of March 3, 1879.

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

## The Lame Duck Session

The calling of a special session of the Minnesota State Legislature by Governor Hjalmar Petersen was an act of political stupidity if not something worse. The Minneapolis Central Labor Union, a delegated organization, representing the largest body of trade unionists in the state of Minnesota, unanimously opposed the calling of this lame duck session. The Governor was notified of the action of Minneapolis trade unionists.

In the discussion of the value of calling a special session that took place after the introduction of a resolution calling upon the State Executive to refrain from such action, it was pointed out that the same Legislature that had successfully blocked the Farmer-Labor program and had consistently and successfully opposed all progressive measures during the past two years, was to be called upon to pass legislation of a nature that will vitally affect the welfare of the state's workers for a long period of time.

The arguments that the state would not receive the benefits of the Social Security Act, if it were not ratified before December 31, 1936, were dismissed as having no foundation in logic or truth by members of the Legislature present at the meeting. It was pointed out that only 25 states have taken action to legislate on the Social Security Act and it was impossible for many of them to take action until 1937.

It is admitted by the most naive political observer that the incoming Minnesota legislative body will be predominantly Farmer-Labor in its makeup. The chance of passing a Social Security bill which would place the burden of financing the act on the shoulders of the employers where it belongs, would be immeasurably heightened if the enactment of the law was left in the hands of a newly elected Legislature.

It is impossible to conceive what line of reasoning was used by Governor Peterson when he placed the fate of the enactment of a Social Security bill in the hands of an admittedly reactionary legislative body.

## On With the Investigation

The Minnesota Labor movement must not relax in its demand that a thorough investigation be made of the hookup between the Law and Order League and Hennepin County Grand Juries. Since the Minneapolis Central Labor Union adopted a resolution demanding that light be shed on the matter of the possibility of the Law and Order League and the Association of Former Grand Jury Foremen swaying Hennepin County Grand Juries in their deliberations, the Executive Committee of the Minnesota State Federation of Labor has taken similar action.

This matter is so vital and important for the labor movement that there should be no hesitancy on the part of local unions, central bodies and the State Federation of Labor pressing the state administration for action. Resolutions and motions, no matter how militantly worded and enthusiastically adopted, can never bring results unless they are followed up by resolute and determined action.

The growth of the organized labor movement throughout the state along with the sweeping victory of the Farmer-Labor Party in Minnesota have served as an alarm signal to employers. There can be little question but that many employers are desperately casting about to find means to check the growing economic and political power of the workers. It is only natural to suppose that they will turn to the Grand Jury system and attempt thereby to set up a means to stem the tide of labor's advances.

The labor movement should be properly alarmed with the evidence that has been presented so far of attempts to influence Grand Juries. Labor alarmed must be labor alert. On with the investigation!

## Direct Dealings

The final windup of a difficulty between Local 544, General Drivers Union and the Wholesale Grocery employers without resorting to a board of arbitration should be a matter of satisfaction to the whole Minneapolis Trade Union movement.

In the agreement between grocery employers and Local 544 it was provided that an arbitration board should be set up to adjudicate matters still in dispute when the strike ended and the men returned to work. Although a deadlock on the disputed questions appeared to have been reached several times, a committee from the employers and representatives of General Drivers Union finally arrived at a mutually acceptable agreement.

An arbitration board is a more cumbersome method of settling disputed points than direct dealings between the affected employers and the union. Local 544 has always made it a point to attempt to deal directly with the employers involved.

## Keeping Step With 544

By Mickey Dunne

The greenhouse strike, which lasted 24 hours ended with a victory for the union.

The St. Louis Park job is being straightened with the co-operation of the Building Trades unions.

Chuck Nelson, Wolk driver, turned his truck over last week. Next morning he found his truck plastered with signs which read, "This side up with care."

Arnold Anderson, member of Local 544, is home with a broken leg.

### As It Should Be

A bowling team labeled "Local 544" is leading the New England league.

Cold storage firms signed with General Drivers last week.

The Drivers Bowling league is sailing along in fine shape.

Independents report good success in collecting the December assessment.

The writer was in Fargo Monday. Ditto Dobbs.

Market workers held a special meeting this week.

No Yellow Notes last week. We can't explain it either.

Bill Brown is back on the job after a week's illness.

### WANTED

Four fiber casters for piano dolly. Call union office.

Meetings with transfer employers on the new agreement are being carried on.

Representatives of the Superior driving unions were callers at the union office Saturday.

Union meter readers at the N. S. P. are in demand.

### Things We Should All Know

Fargo drivers local is on the move again. . . . A new drivers union will soon be going in St. Cloud. . . . Workers at Sears-Roebuck are getting restless. . . . Bartenders union is at a new high since prohibition. . . . Clerks union pulled a funny one at the 7th street Woolworth store. . . . Hjalmar called a special session in spite of C. L. U. action. . . . Pearson and Hollywood candy work-

### Local 131

Owing to lack of space in this week's issue it is impossible to print the remainder of the Laundry Workers agreement. It will appear in the issue of next week.

## Laundry Union Holds Election

Laundry and Dry Cleaning Workers Union will hold their annual election of officers at the first meeting in January. This meeting will fall on Wednesday, January 6. It is extremely important that all members of the union be on hand for this meeting.

At that time the leadership which will guide the destinies of the local for the coming year will be selected. Be there in order that you may have a be on hand at this time.

ers left the jelly beans to themselves last week. . . . Cold storage workers received raises as high as 20 cents per hour when the 544 agreement went into effect. . . . Leach is going to try for the 4th street Big Seat in the spring. . . . The Citizens Alliance is not dead; they're just waiting for a break. . . . The scramble, usual before C. L. U. elections, is on in full swing. . . . Merry Christmas.

Shultz is in Chicago. Local 160 business.

City and Sanitary Drivers union now has a full time organizer.

The Workers Alliance convention was a honey.

J. R. Clark workers are still on the street.

Harold Hanson, union driver at the Mangen Company, lives at 5444 26th Ave. S. and his ledger page number is 544.

The wholesale grocery trouble has finally been settled without resorting to an arbitration board.

### Oh! Oh!

Newsboys have said that they want to join Local 544.

Ray Dunne was in Chicago over the weekend.

When the new steward's report was proposed at the Friday stewards' meeting some of the stewards demanded that they be allowed a stenographer.

The staff will exchange Christmas presents next week.

Ask Skogland who he has been meeting with lately.

## Greenhouse Owner Donates Xmas Tree

Part of the good time that will be enjoyed by the children of union members next Saturday, must be credited to the Camden Park Greenhouse, who donated a 25-foot Christmas tree to the committee in charge of the affair.

The same firm gave the union the tree that was used at last year's part. Thanks, Mister.

## LABOR... Looks at the Press

By Carl O'Shea

From the Rotarian magazine: WARNING: A short man of swarthy complexion, about 45 years of age, who assumes a rather meek manner and poses as a college professor, is going about the United States attempting to secure money on his claims to be a Rotarian and on the pretense of having had an automobile wreck.

Looks like the brethren were being taken over the hurdles.

Walter Pitkin sez: Thanks to easier work and to medical science, people live longer and keep well longer than ever before.

Ain't ya forgetting about wars, Walter?

General Hugh Johnson pipes up again: We have a managed economy, whether we want it or not.

Look at the ten million unemployed and the vacant factories—and tell me what YOU think about the "managers."

But as Gene Debs used to say: "If you can stand it, the boss can; and if you don't change this relation, I am sure he won't."

The Journal of Commerce speaks out on the maritime strike: The public is entitled to insist upon a lasting settlement of the present controversy rather than a temporary compromise that might lead to another stoppage of work before long.

Fair enough—establish worker's control of the maritime industry. For ANYTHING else will only be a temporary compromise.

From the Nation: Carl Von Ossietzky, convalescing from the rigors of a Nazi concentration camp and a Nazi prison, announced that he hoped to testify anew to his pacifist faith.

Oslo news item: Carl Von Ossietzky, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, announced he would use the money to establish a foundation to combat communism.

Gene Tunney has a word to say: Communism is on the wane in Europe. The people of Germany are happy but the economic situation is bad and they do not get enough to eat.

That is like saying that a guy is a swell cross country runner—only he hasn't got any legs.

## Geltman Discusses Security Laws

Max Geldman, prominent in the local unemployed movement, will discuss the Social Security Act Friday, Dec. 18, at 631 Third Ave. S., at 8 p. m. This is the last of a series of four lectures given this year under the sponsorship of the Socialist Party. The lectures will be resumed after the first of the year.

## Greenhouse Workers Secure Agreement in All County Plants

### 24 Hour Strike Ends When All Owners Agree to Wages and Hours

The 24 hour strike of greenhouse workers, which started at midnight Wednesday evening, was over Thursday at 8 p. m. The strike of these workers came about as a result of the refusal of greenhouse employers to enter into negotiations for a union agreement.

Many firms in the greenhouse industry were willing to sit down with representatives of Local 544 for the purpose of discussing a contract covering wages and working conditions of greenhouse workers.

The firms which refused to talk to the union were: Rice Bros. Co., Henry Bachman and Sons and

Busch Bros.

As a result these companies were struck and all operations in the plants came to a standstill. By Thursday evening all firms had indicated that they were willing to sign the agreement. All men involved returned to work Friday morning.

The union committee in charge of the greenhouse workers affairs started Friday to get signatures to the contract.

To date the following firms have signed with the union. Rice Bros., Hans Rosacker Co., Minnehaha Greenhouse, Henry Bachman and Sons, Minneapolis Floral Co., Busch Bros., Robert Stern Co., Camden Park Greenhouse and Amling Co., Inc.