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STRIKERS DEFY OLSON MILITIA

Drivers Force Release of 4 Leaders

Minneapolis, Aug. 2.—Defying military law and the bayonets of Governor Olson's National Guard, the striking truckmen are back on the picket line.

They have stopped scab trucks operating under military permit. They have defied Governor Olson's blistering order: "There will be no picketing by automobiles or otherwise."

Major General Ellard Walsh, military dictator of Minneapolis, tried to break the drivers' strike by raiding headquarters of Local 574, and putting William S. Brown, president of the union, Vincent and Miles Dunne, and 50 other pickets and leaders behind a military stockade.

He failed! The supposedly leaderless strikers continued their militant anti-scab activities with utmost precision and perfect efficiency.

A report from military headquarters here admits that the strikers have stopped 69 trucks during the three hours between 6 and 9 a.m. and that the picket activities continue unabated despite the military reign of terror.

Here is a sample of the radio reports sent out from military headquarters to the radio patrol cars enlisting the city:

"Pickets unloading trucks on Tenth ave. bridge. . . Pickets chasing a meat truck in south Minneapolis. . . Pickets captured a truck near Bryant ave. police station. . . Soldiers too late; pickets gone."

The military patrols rushed to the scene, to find damaged trucks, and bruised and beaten scabs, according to reports from their headquarters. But no pickets.

With unparalleled affront, it is admitted that among the trucks overturned by the strikers were a number of pie trucks, supposedly banned by Governor Olson's "non-partisan" permit order.

Minneapolis, Aug. 2.—William S. Brown, president of the drivers' union, Vincent and Miles Dunne, active leaders in striking Local 574, were ordered unconditionally released from the military stockade in which they have been imprisoned.

Meanwhile, from the employers, backed by the police, the Citizens' Union, the capitalist press, the State militia, Governor Olson, and other strike-breaking agencies, comes the first "peace proposal" to federal mediators today.

The bosses suggest scrapping the May 31 agreement, the terms of which they shamelessly violated, and the drawing up of a new agreement.

Their proposal offers a minimum wage scale of 50 cents per hour for drivers and 40 cents per hour for all other workers, as compared with the federal proposal of a 42½ and 52½ minimum, which the workers accepted.

They demand the prior calling off of the strike, and offer "the reinstatement of employees except those convicted of violence."

Convicted of violence by the boss courts, which were silent when the police thugs shot down unarmed workers, killing four and wounding scores seriously. Convicted of violence by the courts that have accepted military rule, the raiding of workers' headquarters, destroying of records, violation of the rights of free speech and assemblage.

This is the peace proposal Governor Olson has been waiting for; for which he mustered military forces, to "bring both sides to terms."

Law and order must be preserved at all costs, in particular at the cost of the striking workers.

"Impartial" Military Rule

An illustration of Olson's impartial military rule was afforded when the Guardsmen swooped down upon strike headquarters, dispersing the pickets in front of the building, and arresting nearly one hundred leaders, among them Brown, and the Dunne brothers.

The wounded strikers, being cared for at headquarters, were removed to a military hospital, un-

(Continued on Page 4)



Olsen "Protects" the Strikers

Local 574 Makes Frame-up Against Labor History in Great Struggle

Minneapolis, July 31.—The great trucking strike of Local 574—the third strike conducted by this militant organization within six months—begins its third week today, and it is clear to all that a critical stage in the struggle is at hand. Having smashed every attempt of the bosses to break through the iron ring of 574's pickets by the aid of police, even when the latter cruise the streets with loaded shotguns, the strikers now stand face to face with a determined campaign to break the strike by military force. The National Guard, called out by the Farmer-Labor Governor, "to protect the citizens of Minneapolis," is issuing permits on a wholesale scale for the operation of scab trucks under military protection. Martial law, ostensibly invoked to compel the employers to accept the compromise settlement proposed by the federal mediators, is tightening like a noose around the strike and threatens to strangle it.

Martial law has been in effect now for five days. An ordinary trade union would have been smashed to bits already. Never in recent times has such an imposing display of military force been brought into play against a strike. Four thousand National Guardsmen—almost one for every striker—patrol the city, armed to the teeth and menacing the pickets, curbing free assemblage and carrying out a right of way for the scab trucks. But Local 574 is not an ordinary union and it cannot be broken without a real fight. Local 574 has a firm core of militants tested in three battles within six months. It has a staff of determined leaders who know no policy but the policy of struggle. This union cannot be broken without a fight that will set new standards of militancy for the American working class.

This was manifested in the ultimatum given to Governor Olson by the Strike Committee last night. The union demanded the revocation of all permits for a period of 48 hours. It demanded that no permits be issued henceforth to employers who do not comply with the terms of the compromise settlement and get their workers from the union. For the first time in recent labor history a union is meeting the challenge of military force and asserting its right to strike and picket in the face of it. It is needless to try to predict the outcome. But this can be said with assurance: If Local 574 goes down, it will go down fighting and will leave a record and a tradition of heroic struggle that will inspire the development of the militant labor movement everywhere.

Frame-up Against League Leaders a Complete Collapse

Minneapolis.—Symbolic of the whole "Red Scare" strategy of the Citizens Alliance for the purpose of smashing the strike and the union of the truckers, and of the aid rendered them in this job by the administration and the military regime of Governor Floyd B. Olson of Minnesota, was the fact that the first prisoners to be taken by the National Guard after the establishment last Thursday of martial law, were the two Communist League leaders, James P. Cannon and Max Shachtman, representing respectively the Militant and the New International.

Even before the strike broke out, and every day since it took effect, the three local daily newspapers carried on a systematic anti-Red drive inspired by the Citizens Alliance. If the Minneapolis Journal is the staunchest spokesman for the latter, the Tribune and the once pro-labor Star are not to be found far behind in servility. Half-page scarecrow ads paid for by the "Employers Advisory Committee", a thin cover for the Citizens Alliance, kept hammering away at the bogeyman theme—day in, day out. The International Communists, were everywhere. The infernal "Trotskyists" had captured control of Local 574 of the Truck Drivers, Helpers and Inside Workers. Their real purpose was the revolution, and the first step was to pull a strike which apparently was to be a springboard for the insurrection. These Communists, moreover wanted to form a new revolutionary party—and numerous extracts from various issues of the Militant were reproduced to indicate these sinister aims!

Union Leaders Stand Up

The whole purpose of this drive, as is the case with every "Red Scare" thrown up under such circumstances, was all too obvious, particularly to the men of Local 574, and the employers did not make an inch of headway with it. The leaders of the union, at whom the drive was aimed for the simple reason that they were not the kind of labor officials—all too common in the trade union movement—who could either be intimidated or bought, met the campaign in the only way worthy of militant union men. They made no denials or apologies. They did not leap into print with whining assurances of their "respectability". They did not shout from the rooftops that they too were against the Reds. Just the contrary. Without deviating for an instant from their principal task of consolidating all the labor forces for the struggle to gain the wage demands of the

(Continued on Page 4)

A.F.L. Heads Check Strike In Stockyards

Workers of Chicago entered the long line of strike battles that are raging from coast to coast as 800 stock handlers marched out on a strike that has had the huge Chicago Stockyards tied up for more than a week. Violation of an arbitration award by the Chicago Live Stock Exchange was the final straw which broke the patience of the stock handlers. The most important point involved being the guarantee of a minimum wage of \$20 a week to the men engaged in this strenuous and hazardous occupation.

Showing the same class solidarity that has characterized the great mass of trade unionists in all other strikes throughout the country, the other unions covering stock yard workers are voting to come out in solidarity with the stockhandlers. William Collins, organizer of the local, announced that other locals were coming out but the International officers interfered and ordered the men to stay at work.

Press reports tell of the strenuous efforts put in by the misleaders of various A. F. of L. unions to keep the workers from joining the strike. Members of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butchers of America are demanding that they be called out, but as their "leaders" are as fine a bunch of grafters as any that disgrace the American labor movement, they will leave no stone unturned to defeat strike action.

General Johnson, fresh from his strike-breaking role in San Francisco, is quoted as saying "I don't intend to get mixed up in this strike if I can help it." Evidently, he is relying on the labor fakers to defeat the strike. If they fail, action by the Knight of the Blue Buzzer can be expected. The bosses are issuing heart-rending appeals about the suffering of the poor cattle whose executions have been delayed.

A general strike of the Chicago stockyard workers would, under present conditions, have excellent chances of success, and could be used to force organization of the entire yards. Such action is the last thing that the A. F. of L. fakers want. They know that such a union could not be kept in the leading strings of the labor lieutenants of capitalism. The workers in Chicago as in Toledo, the Pacific Coast, Minneapolis, etc., are attempting to fight their way through the barriers set by the "Leaders of Labor". Will they be successful in the Chicago Stockyards? That is impossible to say from here. But one thing is sure, throughout the United States today, the workers are seeking militant leadership with ever greater insistence.

Protest the Military Terror in Minneapolis

State Troops in Minneapolis raided the headquarters of Local 574 of the striking truck drivers, arrested strike leaders and imprisoned them in military stockades, took possession of all union records and files, and forbade strikers entrance to their own hall.

Not content with this outrageous strike-breaking act, they invaded the headquarters of the Minneapolis Central Labor Union, drove its officers into the street, and took complete control.

The strike-breaking martial law in Minneapolis is a threat to labor throughout the country. When it so pleases the bosses, all constitutional rights may be violated, strike meetings forbidden, leaders placed in internment camps.

We call upon all workers to forward protests to Governor Olson. We call upon the trade unions as organizations to like-wise forward protests, in defense of their own rights. Organize protest meetings! Support the heroic struggle of the Minneapolis workers for the rights of all workers! Build the united front of labor against government strike-breaking!

Local 574 Issues Call for A Protest General Strike

(We publish below the appeal of Local 574 for a general strike in protest against the military tyranny of Governor Olson as published in the Organizer, the union's daily strike bulletin. The proposition for a general strike has been laid before the Central Labor Union. As we go to press we have not yet received news of their answer.—Ed.)

TO THE TRADE UNIONS AND THE WORKING PEOPLE OF MINNEAPOLIS:

Military tyranny has reached its peak in Minneapolis. For the first time in decades, a trade union headquarters has been occupied by military forces and trade union leaders have been arrested and imprisoned in a military stockade. Picket cars are ordered off the street while every scab truck gets a free permit. Not even in Toledo, where troops were called out by a Democratic Governor, nor in San Francisco, where they were called out by a Republican Governor, has such a monstrous violation of the rights of workingmen been perpetrated. Never before in our time has such a direct and outright act of strike-breaking by military force been witnessed. A dastardly blow has been struck at the very heart of the labor movement by the military forces under the command of Floyd B. Olson, Governor of the State of Minnesota.

The Citizens Alliance is out to break Local Union 574, and with it the entire labor movement in Minneapolis. They want to make Minneapolis an "open shop" town in order to beat us all down to the level of slaves and coolies.

They have already shed the blood of two Union men. Henry Ness was torn from the bosom of his family a few days ago, a martyr to the sacred cause of labor and a victim of this murderous gang of brigands. John Belor died in the hospital early today, his back riddled with slugs from the shotguns of Johannes' murderers, the second victim of the Union-smashing campaign, the second immortal martyr of labor's cause.

But the Citizens Alliance and the infamous band of assassins commanded by Bloody Johannes sought in vain to break the strike. Our ranks stood like a wall of steel. No scab trucks, loaded for the purpose of taking bread and milk out of the mouths of our men and their families, were allowed to move. And now, what the Alliance and its police force were unable to do, is being undertaken by Governor Olson and his National Guard. They have set out to break the strike with armed force.

Union men of Minneapolis, what are you going to do about it?

Is there one fool who still thinks that Olson's National Guard is here to help the strikers?

Is there one scoundrel who will dare to say that the suppression of picketing, the raiding of our headquarters and the imprisonment of our leaders in a military stockade—is a favor to the workers?

Is there one man so blind as not to see that if 574 is allowed to go down in defeat, under the brutal hammering of military despotism, the whole labor movement of this city will have been dealt a mortal blow?

Union men, brothers, sisters, fellow workers! What are you going to do about it?

We solemnly call for solidarity! We appeal to you upon every trade union in the city, upon every trade union leader, upon every trade union member, upon every workingman and woman, to meet this challenge of military tyranny with a GENERAL STRIKE OF PROTEST!

Up to now, Local 574 has borne the brunt of the battle. We are still fighting. And as far as we are concerned, our answer to the attempt to suppress our strike and our Union by the military force of the National Guard, is the same reply we made to Bloody Mike Johannes when he shot our pickets in the back: We shall fight for our rights to the bitter end!

We have been dealt heavy blows—first by the bosses of the Citizens Alliance, then by their murderous tools in the Police Department.

Now Floyd Olson's National Guard points bayonets and machine guns at us and tells us to give up our fight and go back to work as beaten slaves. They ordered us to quit picketing. Our answer is,

the right to picket has been conquered and defended by the labor movement for a hundred years. We shall never give it up.

They raided our headquarters with a thousand National Guardsmen, equipped with field machine guns, the latest model tear gas bombs, bayonets and pistols, and commanded by the "friend of labor," Floyd B. Olson.

They didn't raid the headquarters of the Citizens Alliance. They didn't interfere with the sinister clique which meets in the dark of the moon to conspire against the lives and the working conditions of labor. The officers of the "Employers Advisory Board" are inviolate. The men against whom Governor Olson directs his words, are not touched.

No! Only the headquarters of workingmen fighting for the right to live, is raided by Olson's militia-men. And Olson, remember, is the Farmer-Labor Governor, the friend of the workingman and the farmer, the friend of labor. Let him run for office now on the platform: "I raided the headquarters of Local 574. I flung their leaders into the military stockade. I broke a strike which Johannes couldn't break. Therefore, workers and farmers, vote for me!"

Let him come before the workingmen who put him into office and defend his actions. We will hear the roar of protest that will make the indignant shouts of the 25,000 workingmen who gathered last night at the Parade Grounds, sound like a whisper.

It was the Citizens Alliance and the employers whom he criticized in words—in his statements and over the radio. But the ringleaders of the Alliance walk the streets scot free, with satisfied smiles wreathing their fat jaws, unhampered and untouched by Governor Olson and his militia.

Our leaders, whose only crime is their unwavering allegiance to the just cause of the truck drivers, helpers and inside men, are taken prisoner at the point of machine guns and bayonets and incarcerated in the stockade. And what a magnificent tribute Olson is thereby paying to Bill Brown and Vincent Dunne and Miles Dunne and the other fearless leaders of our Union who are even now being hunted and tracked like wild beasts! The bosses couldn't buy them off. The bosses couldn't kid them out of the fight for the men. The bosses couldn't scare them or bulldoze them. The riot guns of Johannes the Murderer couldn't make them quit. So it was left to the Labor Governor, Floyd B. Olson, to arrest them out of our ranks and fling them into prison.

But if he thinks that that will break our ranks, he is mistaken. We have learned from our leaders how to hold out, how to fight, how to keep together, how to meet all bluffs and threats and shows of force. Their imprisonment only inspires us to fight all the more resolutely and uncompromisingly in the spirit of those incorruptible and fearless militants whom we are proud of having chosen as our leaders.

We are confident that we shall not fight alone. From the very outset, we declared repeatedly that our cause is the cause of the whole labor movement, of every working man. Our defeat will be YOUR defeat. Our victory will be YOUR victory. We know that you all understand this. You have endorsed our struggle on many occasions. You have manifested your sympathy and solidarity in various ways. We know for sure that the heart of every honest worker in Minneapolis beats with ours. They are aiming their murderous, strike-breaking blows at you as well as against us. Now you must understand the necessity of striking back with the whole force of the organized labor movement of Minneapolis.

We shall not be slaves! Every trade union in Minneapolis must call an emergency meeting immediately!

A Council of Action representing the entire labor movement of the city must be set up to organize and direct the general strike of protest!

The working class of Minneapolis must form an iron ring of solidarity around Local 574!

Every union man and every union leader must show his colors now!

Resistance to tyranny is the beginning of freedom—Answer Olson's military tyranny with the General Strike of Protest!

More Strikebreakers

Anticipating a winter of violent and sub-machine guns for fighting labor struggles and strikes, the New York Police Commissioner has announced his plans of coping with the situation. The police rifle regiment, which was to have begun training during the fall, was called into being immediately following the San Francisco and Minneapolis strikes, and the threat of a complete tie-up of all P.W.A. heavy construction work in the N. Y. C. region.

The new "rifle regiment" which has already begun training in the armories of the city is to consist of 1,200 men. This is double the size of the old riot squad which has up to now been the major squad of the police in dealing with strike and unemployment demonstrations. In addition to the increase in number the men are being trained in the use of rifles, tear gas, machine guns

and sub-machine guns for fighting at close quarters.

Seeing a wave of strikes sweep the country, the plans for the recently organized contingent were laid down some time ago. At that time, however, Police Commissioner O'Ryan attempted to disguise the purpose of the group by the claim that it was merely for display and parade purposes. Forced by events to push ahead the date of commencement of training, the city officials have been compelled to admit their intention of using these "rifle police" against striking workers. Men on parade do not carry machine guns or tear gas bombs. The parade formation for a sub-machine gun unit has yet to be invented.

The brazen lie of parade formation so completely exposed, Mayor La Guardia of New York City and

Police Commissioner O'Ryan now admit that the function of the present unit will be the same as that of the old riot squad, to beat down workers striking for higher wages or demonstrating for higher relief allotments. The latter announced "The regiment which is double the size of the old riot squad, which succeeds, will be used in any kind of emergency."

The class conscious workers understand the new move for what it is. The increasing unemployment, reduced relief, and the strike wave sweeping the country is not leaving America's largest city untouched. The present move of the city administration will help to lay bare the sham character of the liberal La Guardia. Whether under the reactionary Rossi of San Francisco or the liberal La Guardia of New York, we observe that decreased relief appropriations go hand in hand with greater efficiency of the Police department in shooting down workers.

MAX SHACHTMAN

Editor of The New International, Twice Arrested by Police and National Guard. He is Coming to New York for this Meeting.

The Minneapolis Strike

- An Eyewitness Account -

Sunday Aug. 5, 8 P.M.
Irving Plaza 15st. & Irving Pl.