

NEW MILITANT

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INTO THE STREETS ON MAY DAY!

Tobin Lifts Charter of Drivers Union, 574

JOINS WITH CITIZENS ALLIANCE

But Thousands of Truckers Swear Fealty To Local Leaders in Reinstatement Fight

By F. X. FERRY
MINNEAPOLIS, Minn., April 25.—Local 574 of the General Drivers, Helpers and Inside Workers, which during 1934 began to write a new militant labor history in Minneapolis, was again thrust into the forefront of the labor struggle. This time, however, the fight which is to be waged by "574" is against a united front extending from the "Citizens Alliance," a new reactionary bosses' "Committee of One-hundred," D. J. Tobin, President of the Truck Drivers International Union, reactionary labor leaders in Minneapolis, to—the C. P.

The fight was brought into the open on Monday, April 14, when an undated letter "574" was informed by Tobin that its charter had been revoked; the reason given for the revocation was "non-payment of per capita tax." Tobin's communication was read, on Monday evening, to a meeting of between 900 and 1,000 members of the union. The workers, who successfully battled the forces of police and specials; who drove 1,500 armed vigilantes from the Market Place during the strike in May, 1934; who fought on the picket line until their demands were met, and the Citizens Alliance was forced to its knees—these valiant workers now heard Tobin's statement outlawing them as union men. Some truckers heard the letter with a bitter curse against the reactionary leaders of the International, others (and they appeared to be in the majority) felt that the new attempt to disrupt their ranks will be repulsed and that the union will come out of the fight stronger than ever.

March with the W.P. On May Day in N.Y.

All friends and sympathizers of the Workers Party in New York are urged to fall in with the W. P. contingent of the New York May Day parade. The party's section of the march will form in front of 2 West 15th Street—15th Street and Fifth Avenue—at 12 noon sharp. Take your place with the revolutionary party of the workers in the march of New York's unions and labor organizations on May 1st.

Broad Unity For May Day In Allentown

Monster Parade to Voice Important Labor Demands

ALLENTOWN, Pa.—Sixty-nine organizations representing more than 6,000 workers have joined in a solid united front for the biggest May Day demonstration that Allentown has ever witnessed. Among the organizations participating are: the Workers Party, the Communist Party, the Socialist Party, the Lehigh County Unemployed League, the American Federation of Silk Workers, the United Ribbon Workers, and many other union groups.

A monster parade will be formed which will march past the principal factories and end at Center Square where a huge mass meeting will be held, culminating in the singing of the International. A request has been made for the dismissal of all schools for the day. Many workers plan to call a one day strike.

A May Day Manifesto has been drawn up to be distributed to every worker in Allentown. Among the demands are:

1. For the complete unionization of all workers. IN UNITY IS STRENGTH.
2. For the right of collective bargaining and the right to strike and picket effectively.
3. Against Mayor Lewis' proclamation limiting picketing.
4. For CASH RELIEF and a 50 percent increase in relief allowances.
5. For a 5c car fare and free transportation of the children of the unemployed.
6. For the abolition of toll on the 8th St. bridge.
7. Against all sales taxes and for a steeply graduated income tax.
8. Against the destructive policies of the Roosevelt administration which have as their main purpose the raising of prices.
9. For the repeal of the Flynn Sedition Act and all criminal syndicalism laws. For the freedom of speech and press.
10. For the unconditional release of all political prisoners: Tom Mooney, the Scottsboro boys, the Sacramento prisoners, the Fargo workers, etc.
11. For equal right for Negroes and the foreign born.
12. For the 30 hour 30 dollar week; with union rates where they are higher.
13. For the Lundeen Unemployment Insurance Bill.
14. Against imperialist war and the division of relief funds for war preparations.

CARRY ON!



First of May Manifesto of the Workers Party of U.S.

Fifty years ago American workers struggling for the eight-hour day made the First of May a labor holiday. Later the workers of other lands made May Day the International Labor Day—a day to commemorate the struggles of the toilers and to do homage to the martyrs who had fallen in those struggles; a day of protest against nationalism, militarism and war; a day symbolizing the solidarity of labor; a day over regardless of nationality, color, race; a day of defiance of labor's foes and oppressors; a day to march and to sing of brotherhood, of hope, of the ultimate victory, of a workers' world in which plenty, justice and truth shall reign!

The boss press and other capitalist agencies, and reactionary labor leaders as well, taught American workers for many years to shun the observance of May Day as something "foreign" and to regard themselves as set apart from the workers of other lands, leading a charmed life of perpetual prosperity under a "new capitalism." Today in 1935, after six years of economic crisis, which has afflicted unspeakable suffering on the masses in the United States and all other capitalist nations and which has clearly revealed that this capitalist system is everywhere in decline, greater numbers of American workers than ever before, thousands upon thousands of trade unionists who have never in the past participated in a May Day demonstration, are pouring into the streets. Brushing away from their eyes the webs spun by the bosses' propaganda, they are making May Day their own again. We of the Workers Party hail with joy this evidence that the feeling of solidarity with the workers of all the world, against the capitalists of all the world, is growing in the hearts of our fellow-workers.

In the year that has passed since May Day, 1934, the workers of the United States have fought on many a field—Toledo, Minneapolis, Milwaukee, Kohler, San Francisco, Portland, the textile towns of North and South! In the face of opposition from the czars of American industry refusing to recognize the elementary right of workers to organize; of the deceit of the Roosevelt administration which had led the masses to believe that it would protect this right; of betrayal at times by their own union leaders; yes, faced by police, militia, machine guns, the workers have marched on!

heroic workers who were killed by ruthless capitalist violence in the strikes of this past year. These dead shall not have died in vain!

The thousands in other lands who have died this year at the hands of reactionary and Fascist butchers, we salute on this May Day. Their blood shall fertilize the soil out of which new forces shall arise to crush reaction and Fascism!

To the workers in capitalist jails and Fascist concentration camps, to Tom Mooney in San Quentin, to the latest capitalist frame-up in Sacramento, to the victims of race discrimination such as the Scottsboro boys, and to all class-war prisoners everywhere, we shout our greetings. Surely they will hear even in the innermost cells of the vilest jails the marching feet, the singing voices of the May Day demonstrators. Fellow-workers, comrades, we shall not cease to storm these prison walls that hold you now until we have battered them down and set you free!

But the hour of release and victory has not yet struck. For fresh struggles, for mightier struggles than ever before, must we gird ourselves on this May Day.

Serving the interests of the capitalists, the Roosevelt administration has launched through its Public Works program, a vicious assault upon the standard of living of the American masses. Wage rates are being completely undermined. As many as possible are to be struck from the relief rolls so that they may be forced to take work from private employers at any wage. Hundreds of thousands of young men are to be forced into the Civilian Conservation Camps to prevent them from organizing to demand a decent standard of living, to train them to break strikes and shoot workers, to prepare them for service in the next war. Employed and unemployed must united without delay for a nation-wide struggle for the six-hour day, the thirty-hour week, against wage cutting, against the share-the-misery program.

The sharpest struggle is being waged by the employing class against every attempt of the workers to organize. At the least hint of a strike, machine guns are mounted in American factories. The answer to this must be a nation-wide campaign of organization. Every worker into a union or unemployed organiza-

Toledo Strike Solid; Auto Plant Paralyzed

STRIKE PAPER TO BE PUBLISHED

Militants Active, Promise Real Fight, No Fake Agreement; Bosses Frantic

By Wire from A. J. Muste
TOLEDO, April 25.—Strike ranks solid. Plant tied up tight as a drum. Strikers preparing to vote down General Motors contract. Sentiment is for finish fight against company unionism. Militant battle will establish firm majority for bona-fide union, affirming the right to collective bargaining. All attempts of the company to provoke trouble have been crippled by effective union action. First issue of the strike paper, called "Truth" will make its bow Friday.

Special to New Militant
TOLEDO, Ohio, April 23.—The first militant thrust of the nation's auto workers against the ramparts of the giant General Motors Corporation began here today with the walk-out of all of the 2,900 employees of the Chevrolet Motors Co. Toledo plant. Organized in the Automobile Workers Federal Labor Union, Local 18384, whose representatives recently secured over 90 percent of the votes in the Auto

Beat Company Union in Calif. Auto Election

Workers Vote for AF of L Despite Extensive Fink System

OAKLAND, Cal., April 20.—Balloting under the supervision of the Wolman Board, two thousand workers in the Chevrolet and Fisher Body plants here voted their emphatic opposition to the company unions. In the Fisher Body plant the company union received only eighteen percent of the total vote and at Chevrolet this minority was a still smaller thirteen percent. At Chevrolet the A. F. of L. candidates received a majority of 462 out of 956 votes cast, over the unaffiliated and company union candidates.

The vote indicates the determination of the workers to have bona-fide representation and further indicates a growing ability to see the necessity for a genuine union. This becomes clearer in light of the following facts; first, the existence locally of the A. F. of L. union was unknown to most of the workers until two days before the election (and then they were reached only by handbills); second, the bulk of the workers have had no organizational experience; third, the bosses used all available methods of intimidation, sided by their notorious and extensive spy system. The stool pigeon organization is so extensive that most of the company union voters can safely be placed in that category.

If the correct tactics are used the union will have strength enough to demand recognition before the seasonal decline begins. A direct contact campaign by organizers, reaching every worker in the two plants must be embarked on immediately. The stool pigeon system and intimidation makes it impossible for the workers to join the union at open mass meetings. In many instances the mere presence of a worker at a meeting has resulted in threats of discharge or actual discharge. Any tendency to rely on Federal Board arbitration, in the cases of discharged workers must be firmly opposed. The season will soon be drawing to a close. The workers want a union and correct strategy will build it. The time element will be one of the determining factors in the success or failure of the union, hence a correct organizational campaign must be started without delay.

On Monday evening, April 29, the workers of Brownsville will hold a united front rally in preparation for the city-wide May Day demonstration. The rally will start at 7:30 P.M. at Pennsylvania and Sutter Avenues and the demonstrators will march to Hopkins and Pitkin Avenues. Speakers from all the affiliated organizations will address the workers.

Labor Board elections, the Chevrolet workers marched out of the plant in a body and formed mass picket lines which quickly succeeded in shutting the plant down cold.

Toledo's auto workers, who set the tone and tempo for the great strike wave of 1934 in the Auto-Lite strike of last May, may again have the distinction of touching off the strike bomb-shell which will have national repercussions. Top-notch company officials, including William S. Knudsson, executive vice-president of General Motors, and M. E. Coyle, president of Chevrolet, flooded into Toledo yesterday in a desperate effort to delay or divert strike action which threatens to spread throughout the automotive and other major industries.

Progressives in Leadership
Leadership in the strike rests at present in the hands of young, militant and progressive elements, led by Jim Roland, chairman of the Chevrolet union group and head of the strike committee. Other militants who stood in the forefront of last year's historic battle are playing an outstanding role in the strike, leading and organizing the pickets, arranging publicity, instilling militancy and discipline into the ranks and developing effective lines of mass strike strategy.

The strike came swiftly, as predicted in the New Militant of April 13, following the presentation of the union's proposed contract to the Chevrolet management last week which was turned down on every major clause in a completely arbitrary fashion. Following rejection of the contract, a huge meeting of the Chevrolet workers was held and a strike vote taken. The vote was unanimous in favor of strike, although the actual moment for the calling of the strike was left up to the decision of the plant executive committee.

The militancy and solidarity of the Chevrolet workers so worried the employers that they voluntarily requested another conference with the union representatives early Monday morning in a last desperate effort to head off the strike. This is the first recorded instance of the untouchable General Motors deigning to stoop to confer with representatives of a genuine union.

Company "Conditions"
Counter-proposals of the company for a 5 percent wage increase for workers in the lower wage brackets, diluted by a deceptively worded provision which would lower the wages in higher brackets 10 percent, were promptly rejected by the union committee. The company flatly refused to sign any contract, grant genuine union recognition or seniority rights without a merit clause, or to consider the union's demands for a minimum wage of 70 cents per hour.

Already the daily press is beginning to poison the air with misleading stories, misquoting strike leaders and confusing the issues. Inspiration that the papers are prepared to launch a "red scare" shortly in an effort to discredit the strike was revealed in headlines and news items today. The Toledo Chamber of Commerce has swung automatically into line behind the auto barons with large scare-head ads denouncing the strike. Fall-page company ads appeared today which played up the "outstanding" (Continued on Page 6)