

F-L Bazaar And Dance April 17

An Affair For Every Trade Unionist And Members Their Families

Ken DeVillier's twelve piece orchestra will provide the music for the dancing at the huge Farmer-Labor Bazaar and Dance being sponsored by the Hennepin County F-L Association on April 17th, at the City Auditorium.

This affair will make history in the city of Minneapolis. Games and attractions of all sorts will be offered in the bazaar which begins at 1:00 P. M. on Saturday. The afternoon will also feature dramatics by the well known Minneapolis Theatre Union and local talent, such as the melodious voice of Eleanor Solberg, called the "Song bird of the Farmer-Labor Association," and others.

It's an affair for every trade unionist and his family. It will offer the most in entertainment from the point of view of variety, spice, and inexpensiveness! The money raised will be used in the Farmer-Labor campaign for the coming city elections.

General admission is only ten cents, and dancing twenty-five cents additional. It is expected that the Auditorium will hardly be big enough for the crowd for this first annual Farmer-Labor Bazaar and Dance. It will be a big occasion for a big purpose, and something no one should miss.

Union Campaign Group Meets Sunday

Members of the Trade Union Campaign committee are requested to attend an important meeting of the committee to be held Sunday morning, April 11, at 10 o'clock, at 24 Eighth street N.

Important matters to be considered and decided call for the attendance of all members.

It is requested that all be on hand promptly at 10 o'clock.

A. H. URTUBEEES, Chairman.

Firemen-Oilers Mass Meeting Thursday

Firemen and Oilers of Minneapolis and St. Paul are invited to attend an open mass meeting, Thursday evening, April 15, at eight o'clock, at A. O. U. W. hall, 310 East Hennepin avenue.

The meeting will be held under the auspices of Firemen and Oilers Twin City Union No. 48.

All engaged in this line of work in the Twin Cities are invited to attend.

Benson Brings Peace To City Albert Lea

(Continued From Page 1, Col. 3)

who wore union buttons were jerked out of their cars and thrown into jail; 52 were arrested, virtually all of them held without charge. A few of the leaders had been charged with "constructive contempt of court" on warrants issued by Judge Norman E. Peterson. Josiah Baker, attorney for the strikers, declared that these warrants were issued without authority of law and in direct violation of the Minnesota Labor Disputes Act.

The atmosphere in Albert Lea became tense as news of what transpired spread among the workers. Angry men began to gather on street corners, in front of buildings. Resentment was at fever pitch. The groups began, as if by instinct, moving in the direction of the American Gas Machine Company, before which the special deputies had gathered.

Word of what transpired reached Austin, some 20 miles away. Hundreds of Austin workers laid down their tools and the trek to Albert Lea began—by automobile, by truck.

By noon the crowd in front of the American Gas Machine Company had grown into many hundreds and every minute was growing larger. By 2 P. M. it reached several thousand. Feeling seemed to be mounting higher and higher and it was certain that the crowd would soon lose restraint, that nobody could hold them back. The deputies seemed to sense the temper of the crowd and retreated into the building, but their presence at the windows seemed only to further infuriate the strikers and their sympathizers.

Demolishment of the front part of the plant began with the smashing of windows; the guards retreated to the rear. It was at this point that the Governor arrived. The crowd within the plant was moving ominously closer and closer to the deputies in the rear. Physical violence and bloodshed on a large scale was certain to follow, once contact between

the two groups had been made. Cool heads appealed to the crowd to desist, but their reply was "not until they let our men out of the county jail."

Governor Benson summoned to his hotel room Sheriff Myre, County Attorney Elmer Peterson, Russell Hanson, president of the American Gas Machine Co.; E. A. Evans, vice president and treasurer; Bennett O. Knudson, attorney for the company, and others. Judge Peterson could not be reached, although a few minutes earlier somebody had talked to him. County Attorney Peterson was unwilling to assume responsibility for release of the men from jail. Sheriff Myre said he was helpless to act. Mr. Hanson offered himself to go bail for all the men if that could be arranged, but there was no judge to set the bail and no judge to order them out. In the meantime the demolition of the American Gas Machine Company's plant was continuing at a rapid pace.

Calling the sheriff over, Governor Benson said: "Release those men on my responsibility at once."

"That is good enough for me," Sheriff Myre replied.

The order for the release of the men came in the nick of time. Had it come a few minutes later the streets of this city would have run red with blood.

A large section of the crowd had left the plant of the American Gas Machine Company and was now moving on the jail to storm it and to deliver the prisoners. Within the jail a score of deputies stood grimly behind machine guns, their muzzles pointing in the direction of the crowd which was moving closer and closer, closing in from virtually all sides.

The Governor's assistant secretary, Hursh, entered the jail from the front door to tell of the order for release of the men, but a deputy behind a machine gun, shouted to him in a tone which meant business: "Step back or I will shoot." Hursh stepped back.

When those in the advanced part of the crowd had reached the jail steps word was flashed that the men were being released. They stopped and in a few minutes the 52 arrested strikers began filing out singly through the jail door. The crowd went wild, carrying the men on their shoulders through the principal streets.

A large number of persons, however, still remained in front of the American Gas Machine Company's plant, waiting for the special deputies to leave the building. Governor Benson sent word that the deputies be permitted to leave without molestation. A bushel basket was sent in to them in which to deposit their stars and their clubs. This was complied with. One of the clubs—a particularly large and vicious looking one—has a swastika carved on it with the inscription, "Heil Hitler." A striker took the club as a memento.

The deputies left the building to the jeers and taunts of the crowd, but not one was molested physically. The desires of the Governor that no one be injured and that no further property be destroyed were carried out.

The Governor requested representatives of the company to remain at the Hotel Albert and also summoned representatives of the workers to meet him there. He insisted that negotiations start at once and said: "I will not leave here until a settlement has been reached." Included among the worker representatives were Joseph Voorhees, business agent of the packing house unit of the Austin union; Peter Lauritsen, president of the Albert Lea union; Ray Hemenway, business agent; Leo Koski, Carl Nilson, Chester Yocum, J. L. Esherick, Simon Lee, Oscar Christianson, Adolph Hoff, Olaf Bjorklund, and Daniel Johnson.

In meeting with the company's representatives in one of the hotel rooms, Governor Benson stated quite frankly exactly his position. "These men have a right to collective bargaining," he said, "and not through a union which the company selects. The Wagner Labor Relations act is still the law of the land, and you had no right

to arrest them. I am here to see that their rights are secured."

A company union representative endeavored to argue with the Governor. "I do not care to discuss company unions," Governor Benson replied. "They have no standing whatever because company unions are nothing short of fake unions. They are formed in violation of the law."

With the aid of Alexander and Genis, negotiations between the two groups began. They ran far into the night. By midnight no agreement had been reached. Conferees became weary. But the Governor, who is in ill health, persisted that they continue "if it takes us all night . . . and tomorrow . . . and the next day . . . until this thing is settled."

Agreement was reached at 4:15 A. M. At 4:30 A. M. the agreement was signed. Peace to Albert Lea was restored.

The American Gas Machine strike had been in progress since March 19, when it was provoked by the discharge of four men, all officials of the union or members of the grievance committee. Three other strikes also have been in progress during the same time.

District Judge Norman Peterson on March 30 issued restraining orders against strikers. On an affidavit of prejudice filed against the judge by Dave Peterson, a defendant in one of the actions, Governor Benson appointed Judge Vince A. Day of Minneapolis to act in his place. An appeal for annulment of the Governor's order was made to the State Supreme court.

Swearing in of deputies started two weeks before Friday's event, upon a court order from Judge Peterson. Workers charge that the county is unable to meet its relief load, unable to feed its hungry population, but is able to find sufficient money to pay special deputies and purchase for them tear gas bombs to destroy the union.

Taking a leading part in the anti-union activities at Albert Lea is the so-called Citizens Committee, which the workers refer to as the Black Legion of Albert Lea. A secret committee of this group appears to control the labor policies of all the employers of the city, so that employers

who are in reality friendly to labor are compelled to adopt an anti-union policy.

An effort will now be made to break up the influence of this committee. Resentment against its dictatorial actions is said to be rife among some of the employers. A new Albert Lea Business Men's association is talked about, which will bring together employers who will be free to adopt a harmonious labor policy consistent with present laws and friendly to the workers.

Carpenters' Aux. Meets Tues. Eve.

Ladies' Auxiliary No. 152 of the Carpenters' union will conduct an open meeting Tuesday evening, April 13, at eight o'clock, at the home of Mrs. Oscar Ericson, 4105 Eleventh avenue So.

This meeting is part of a membership drive that is being carried on and all former members and new members are welcome.

MRS. WALFRID ENGBALL, Secretary.

Flour Workers To Hold Dance Saturday

Flour, Feed, Cereal and Elevator Workers Local union No. 19,152 will hold a dance Saturday evening, April 10, at 501 East Hennepin avenue. The public is invited.

William Fischer is chairman of the Entertainment Committee that is in charge of the arrangements.

Special novelty attractions will make this dance one of unusual interest.

Better Housing Topic Tuesday Eve

"Does Minneapolis Need Better Housing?" Just how bad are some of the areas of poor housing? What do these areas cost the taxpayers of Minneapolis? How adequate a solution is the Summer Field housing project? Who will benefit from it? These

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THE MARQUETTE MESSENGER ANNOUNCES

Modernization Loans

CONTINUED BY

"Old Marquette"

That part of the Federal Housing Act through which the Government insured unsecured loans for repairs and improvements to buildings expired March 31. (Do not confuse with the provision for FHA mortgage loans, which is permanent.)

Believing that these modernization loans perform a useful and constructive service in the community, this bank will continue to make them, with such changes as now become necessary when the Federal Government no longer insures the risk.

The period over which the monthly payments may extend is now limited to eighteen months, and the loans are subject to our regular flat service charge of \$5 unless the borrower carries a checking account of this bank.

Bank Buys Life Insurance for Borrowers

Since the Government no longer insures the payment of these loans, each borrower pays a premium, equal to 2% of his loan, which goes into the bank's life insurance and loss reserve fund. Out of this fund, the bank pays for insurance on each borrower's life to the extent of his indebtedness to the bank. This assures the borrower that neither his wife nor his estate will be required to pay his obligation to the bank, because the life insurance company pays it for him, in the event of the borrower's death. The remainder of this premium fund is designed to cover such losses as occasionally arise from other causes beyond the borrower's control.

The interest rate will continue at 3% PER ANNUM ON THE WHOLE SUM FOR THE WHOLE PERIOD—\$4.50 per borrowed hundred on loans arranged for the maximum period of eighteen months.

For example, if a borrower negotiates a Modernization Loan of \$400 for eighteen months, he pays \$18 for interest, \$8 for life insurance and loss reserve, and a \$5 service charge. He receives \$400 in cash, signs a note for \$431, and makes eighteen monthly payments of \$23.95 each. If the borrower carries a checking account at this bank, he saves the service charge, so each monthly payment is 28c less.

These loans, as before, require no co-makers and no security.

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 FJELLMAN & SHOLD, Props.
 Billiards, Lunch, Cigars, Etc.
 33 Washington Ave. S.

are some of the questions to come before the monthly meeting of the Hennepin County Consumers' Institute on next Tuesday evening.

Mr. Herman E. Olson, engineer for the City Planning Commission, will show moving pictures of the areas in Minneapolis where better housing is most needed. He will also discuss some of the findings of the Commission in regard to the cost of these sections to the city in the way of tax delinquency, police and fire protection, public health, and certain aspects of social delinquency.

The meeting is open to the public, and will be held at 7:45, Tuesday, April 13, in the Miller Vocational High School, Eleventh street and Third avenue south.

Wages Of Puerto Rican Sugar Workers Raised

Organization of sugar plantation workers in Puerto Rico is gradually improving the lot of this long-underpaid group of wage earners, according to information coming from San Juan.

The Association of Sugar Producers has announced the appointment of a committee to intensify efforts being made to improve living conditions and educational facilities for workers. This action had been preceded by the signing of a new agreement, under the terms of which wages were increased about \$2,000,000 annually.

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