

NORTHERN IDAHO UNION ACTIVITIES

By A. S. IRWIN

The clerks of the city of Coeur d'Alene are waking to the advantages of belonging to Organized Labor. So much so that a group have asked for an organization meeting with plenty of members willing to join and it looks as if a local of the Retail Clerks Protective Association is an assured thing in that city. Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, is the prettiest city in the state and may turn out to be the best, if the present trend is followed out to its ultimate consummation. The city has been held back for a long time by the cheap wages paid to workers in that district. We are of the opinion that the merchants and business men there are waking up to the point, and will not be averse to helping Organized Labor to change matters. Organized Labor put over a law that will help Idaho cities, such as Coeur d'Alene, due to the fact that lumber cut in Idaho must be processed and milled here, in Idaho.

General Laborers Union No. 129 at Wallace and No. 660 at Coeur d'Alene are girding their loins for any new continuation of government works. They intend to see that they are represented when wages are set up. State WPA Administrator Hood has shown the boys that he is a pretty clever politician as he has forestalled an investigation by the national administration into his rotten disregard of human rights. Investigations have been ordered from Washington, D. C., but they have never been made or they have been bought off before they got here. It is high time that all workers who are depending on work of this type, get into A. F. of L. Unions that they may be represented in any new set-up. They must have a stronger front than they have had in the fight of this winter and the fight must be carried into the coming election. Every worker that fails to make it his personal duty to see that he is registered and that every one else is, is weakening his own cause and he will be deserving of whatever fate he receives. Labor's crisis is this year 1936 and labor has never been better equipped than now to handle the situation. The farmer and the laborer are bound to the Roosevelt administration as they have never been bound before, and it looks as if that long dreamed of combination, has been born of that mother of so many interesting things, "necessity". We have however to see that the Hoods and others are not included in the picture. Adam and Eve were driven out of the Garden of Eden through the efforts of the state administrator of that period.

Wallace Miners Union No. 14 is growing at a good and steady rate with more and more men seeing the light regarding centralization of their efforts. Theirs is a hard fight as we all know, but they are fighting a winning fight.

We are in receipt of a paper called The Miners News of the Juneau Mine

Workers Association. We are inclined to smell a little bad from contact with the sheet. Their cry is an interesting one and is certainly music to Organized Labor's ears. They claim to represent the fair-minded citizens of Juneau, Alaska, and cry pitifully that the company did not get a fair hearing from Chas. W. Hope of the National Labor Relations Board in the recent hearings there. They also offer insurance and several other benefits to the "tame apes" who belong to their company union. This company union is so much like a similar one previously mentioned in this column that we are wondering if the same brain conceived this one. When our forefathers fought the battle of Bunker Hill they probably thought that that would be the last of it, but it appears that the Alaska Local No. 203 of the I. U. M. M. and S. W. has to fight it all over again.

Mill Workers Local No. 2632 of Lone, Washington, needs funds to carry on their fight with the Panhandle Lumber Co. and John Dimmeling the owner. He is waging a bitter and dirty fight against as fair a bunch of men as you will find anywhere and these boys deserve your financial aid. This concern operates the mill at Spirit Lake, Idaho also, so it concerns us. Send them a check. E. J. Brasch is secretary.