

**NOTES ON THE WORK OF THE C.I.B. DIVISION FOR THE
TWO WEEKS ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1919.**

N.B. - Owing to the interruptions of the holiday season, no Summary was issued for the week ending 26th December.

1. FEATURES OF THE PERIOD.

The features of the period have been the conviction of R. B. Russell at Winnipeg, and his sentence to two years' imprisonment; and the continued growth of the O.B.U. in the coal miners of Alberta.

Russell's appeal has not yet been heard.

The effect of the conviction will be most salutary. The important thing probably is the bare fact of conviction, apart from the nature of the sentence. One most useful circumstance is the conviction on the court of being a common nuisance; this is a verdict that a general strike by inflicting loss, etc., upon the general public comes under this category of the Criminal Code.

2. THE O. B. U.

Information concerning this body continues to be contradictory. Its fortunes vary widely in different localities. In Winnipeg up to the end of the trial it had been gaining strength and probably half the workmen of the city sympathized with it. In Southern Saskatchewan it is at a low ebb and the Winnipeg verdict may stun it; in Northern Saskatchewan the attempt to capture the loggers near Prince Albert for the L.W.I.A. is meeting with indifferent success. In the coal mining regions of Alberta, on the other hand it has made rapid strides, and a general coal strike seems quite possible. In Southern British Columbia the L.W.I.U. is gaining in the logging camps and the [2] O.B.U. seems to be making headway in the metalliferous mining districts. Northern British Columbia seems quiet. There have been no special developments in Vancouver. In Victoria the troublesome feature is the widespread unemployment.

At a meeting in Calgary on 5th December, P.F. Lawson asserted that V.R. Midgley had told him that at that that 36000 persons were carrying O.B.U. cards, "and thousands of orders in for more".

At this meeting Lawson said that within three days the miners could tie up all production; he advised workers to get in their supply of coal.

The finances of the Transport Workers' Unit of the O.B.U., Vancouver are at a low ebb.

There have been several short strikes in the Crow's Nest Pass. One at

Blairmore ended on 31st December.

At Taber, in the Crow's Nest Pass, the miners have returned their charter to the U.M.W.A. and have joined the O.B.U. At the Canada West Mine 240 out of 255 employes belong to the latter body.

3. THE TRIALS AT WINNIPEG.

Up to 7th December \$7000 had been raised in British Columbia for the trial at Winnipeg. The quota assigned to the province is \$20,000.

Great excitement has been occasioned among the revolutionaries in Calgary by the uncovering at Winnipeg of Corporal Zaneth, who as "Harry Black" was deep in their secrets. The Searchlight, the new paper just established by P. F. Lawson, tries to hide its consternation (he collected subscriptions for it) by declaring that the revolutionists were aware that he was a "stool-pigeon", but its assertions are incorrect. The incident should increase their mutual distrust.[3]

4. AGITATION IN VANCOUVER.

The Federated Labour Party has come to the front again in Vancouver and Victoria as a steady means of propoganda. Meetings are held constantly, usually moderately attended.

5. CLERICAL AGITATORS.

One of the features of the situation is the presence in the West of a number of ministers who preach revolutionary doctrine. Rev. Mr. Ivens, Rev. Mr. Woodsworth, Rev. A. E. Smith, are examples. The following are recent reports:-

The Revd. Wm. Irvine of Calgary, who is mentioned as likely to be appointed editor of the Farmers' Sun, on 7th December delivered a revolutionary speech at Calgary.

The Revd. George L. Ritchie of Edmonton on 14th December at the "Labour Church" there advocated revolution. His speech included an attack on the Board of Commerce, accusing it of investigating the small concerns and leaving the big profiteers alone. He also complained of the export of foodstuffs to Europe.

6. MISCELLANEOUS

During the past two weeks notice has been received of the prosecution of 76 aliens for breaches of the regulations. 160 applications for naturalization have been forwarded to Regina, and 290 investigations have been returned to the Secretary of State.

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OTTAWA, 2nd January, 1920.