

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 12th August, 1920.

SECRET

NO. 36

NOTES OF THE WORK OF THE C. I. B. DIVISION
FOR THE WEEK ENDING 12TH AUGUST

N.B. In most cases these notes are founded upon reports received by mail. The dates of incidents and reports consequently are stated when this is necessary.

1. General Characteristics of the Period

Confidential reports of the convention of the loggers' union held in Vancouver in the middle of July exhibit this unit of the O.B.U. as expanding in a way which is beginning to be inconvenient to the general body of the O. B. U. An attempt is being made to take in agricultural workers, and there are symptoms of an alliance between this unit and the Alberta coalminers, the other large mass of labour which favours the O. B. U. principles. Midgley, who manages the head office of the O. B. U. manifested vexation over this tendency. An interesting feature was the strength and effectiveness of Carl Berg; in low water in Edmonton, he exercises much influence in Vancouver and is said to have been the principal agent in defeating the attack made on Winch by the I.W.W. element.

The financial statements showed that missionary effort in the East so far has had discouraging results. Ten organizers in three months spent \$8,000, and brought only \$1,100 in dues into the treasury. There is no further word, it may be added, of the rumoured deposition of J. R. Knight. Several of these organizers have been dropped because of the discrepancy between their expense account and their achievements, and one of them is a man named McKnight, who spent \$1,300 and brought in \$3; Joe Knight perhaps was confused with him. Graft charges may be [2] brought against W. Cowan, lately organizer in Sudbury.

Some interesting utterances have come from Winnipeg. On Friday 6th August a public debate took place there on the subject of the O. B. U. versus the International principle, Joe Knight and John Houston (editor of the O. B. U. Bulletin) taking the one side and W. H. Hoop (of the Western Labour News) and R. J. McCutcheon the other; about 3,000 were present. The Internationals won easily on merit, Knight making very poor speeches and Houston not taking his full time; the O. B. U. partisans interrupted Hoops and McCutcheon, and at the end of the meeting a band of them assaulted Hoop. In his speech Hoop declared that the O. B. U. principles meant revolution, and said that the general strike which was planned to begin in Winnipeg on 1st June 1919 was definitely intended to lead to a revolution. As Hoop is an extremist himself, and was deep in

the Winnipeg strike this testimony is very valuable. McCutcheon, who avowed himself a former I.W.W. charged that the O. B. U. in effect is identical with that body. The Manitoba Free Press published a verbatim report of the speeches.

Kavanagh and Gage have been making statements to the Winnipeg Defence Committee on their visit to England. Both regarded England as very near a revolution, and Kavanaugh gave utterance to a remark about the general strike being a step in the raising of a revolution which it will be useful to remember.

The future of the Winnipeg prisoners is causing searchings of heart. On the one hand, the extremists are angry at Farnell being released, as the Internationals are claiming the credit for having procured clemency, and none of the noisy demands has been made on his behalf. The course to be pursued by Russell is causing much perplexity; [3] they evidently need him badly and he seems to be pretty sick of his imprisonment; all hands are much tempted to advise him to apply personally and in reasonably respectful terms for release, but are afraid that such a course would injure him with his following. Kavanaugh contributed to the discussion a characteristic remark that "honour and law could not be considered in this fight", on which ground he recommended the taking of any steps that were available to procure Russell's enlargement.

Yet another piece of frankness comes from Edmonton. Fresh from the O. B. U. convention at Vancouver, Carl Berg proclaimed the O. B. U. to represent the lower classes of labour, whom he described as more important than the skilled trades.

Signs continue to be reported of a struggle in the Alberta Coal fields next autumn or winter.

1. BRITISH COLUMBIA

2. The High Cost of Organizing

More intimate reports of the loggers' convention in Vancouver are beginning to come in. One feature was the cost of organizing work in Eastern Canada, and the meagre returns. A compilation of organizers' reports shows the following results:

P. G. Anderson, Winnipeg; expenses \$860.00; fees earned \$6.00, dues turned in \$5.00.

Baird, Sudbury and Cobalt; expenses \$495.95; fees \$3.00; dues, \$3.00.

Hanson, Fort Frances; expenses \$673.00; fees \$41.00; dues \$205.00

M.J. Keane, expenses \$573.00; fees \$3.00; dues \$7.00.

Lamont, expenses (1st April to 20th May) \$768.53; fees \$39.00, dues \$150.00.

Labelle, Montreal; expenses, \$1,065.65; fees \$193.00; dues \$429.00

Mawhinney, Sudbury and Port Arthur; expenses \$938.00; fees \$156.00; dues \$259.00

A. W. McKnight, Northern Ontario (19th January to 7th April)

expenses \$1,315.11; fees \$1.00; dues \$3.00

Clarke, Edmonton (January to April); expenses \$856.25; fees \$18.00, dues \$5,306.[4]

Cowan, Sudbury, expenses \$540; no returns.

The fees mentioned go into the pockets of the organizers.

Summarized, these men's expense accounts amounted to \$8,085.49; they earned in fees \$469.00, and they brought into the coffers of the unit \$1,114.00.

This elicited a good deal of criticism. Several of these organizers have been dropped and are looking for employment; a charge of graft may be preferred against Cowan.

3. Berg's Influence in the Convention

The attempt to abolish Winch's office was persistent and strong the debate lasting for a day and a half; the attempt was defeated by Carl E. Berg, who led the defence in the general convention. The movement against the office came from the Coastal delegates, and the "eastern delegates" protected Winch. Our informant observes:-

"Carl Berg, of Edmonton, was the strong man in this argument to stay with headquarters and carried the convention with him. He is an industrial unionist from start to finish and is the most logical man for Winch's job if he wants it. Berg floored his opponents in this argument with ease. He is not grafty, but appeals to the common-sense of his listeners and his report will make interesting reading when it is put in print".

It will be remembered that when the O. B. U. constitution was framed Berg exerted a decisive influence upon the proceedings.

4. The Expanding L.W.I.U.

The loggers' union at its convention changed its name once again. It now is the "Lumber Camp and Agricultural Workers' Department of the One Big Union". The official explanation is:-

"As it was realized that owing to a considerable inter-relationship of these occupations due mainly to the seasonal or casual nature of the work and the consequent passing from one to the other by the workers, it was the most logical thing for the organization of all workers so employed to be concentrated and socialized in one department, at least until such time as growth "and developments [5] called for some other arrangement".

Our confidential reports state that during the convention Midgley showed jealousy of the L.W.I.U. saying that it was taking in members of the O.B.U. proper, and monopolising the general membership.

This seems a natural outcome of the move of the loggers to take in agricultural labourers. From the outside it looks as if Winch nourishes a purpose of expanding his organization within the O. B. U. until it absorbs it all. It may be noted that his ally Berg is strong among the foreigners

in Northern Alberta, and specifically represents the coal-miners there.

In this connection the following extract from our confidential report may be noted:-

“McKnight has resigned as a member of the general executive board and Carl Berg, of Edmonton, was elected in his place. Berg has proven himself to be the strongest man in the convention and is an out and out O.B.U. advocate. He claims that in the near future the miners in district 18 will be lined up in this organization.

5. L.W.I.U. Policy

In connection with this convention, an extract from the reports of the Coast Secretary, CLARK, may be quoted as showing the present outlook of this body:-

“Nothing of a very serious nature has transpired during the time I have been in office, except it be the various methods to lead the members of this organization into a general strike. Last February, the Masters declared for an Open shop, when we as an organization, never tried for a closed one. Why this move? Like every effect, it must have its cause. It is obvious to any reasoning person that they thought it a transgression on “our rights and privileges”, and that we would strike as a body to enforce a closed shop. In fact, the thing appeared to be an open challenge for a trial of strength, where we would be pitted against all the machinery of the Capitalist state. However, it did not work. In the months of May, April too, various newspapers carried an item in which they stated that the officials of the O. B. U. were going to call a general strike on June 1st. In my opinion, this was a move on their part to work up a feeling among the members of the organization to that point, where [6] they “would expect a general strike again. Their efforts prove futile and will prove futile while we remember that a ‘constant dropping of water will wear away a stone’. By individual strikes, we keep them divided because some outfits want to settle terms that others will not stand for. As they tried to divide us, so we should concentrate every effort to divide them. Our strength lies in knowing how strong we are, and not overstepping that boundary. Knowing what concessions we have been able to wring from the boss by means of our industrial strength during the last eighteen months we have no cause for pessimism. In spite of what may be said to the contrary, this organization has left its mark in the concrete realities of improved living and working conditions; and it has also left a mark that cannot be seen, nor its magnitude measured. That is the class conscious knowledge which it has helped to plant in the brains of our members. The value of this knowledge cannot be measured at present, but in the future we will probably realize this fact better than we do at present”.

6. L.W.I.U. Finance

Following are the financial statements of sundry L.W.I.U. districts:-
Cranbrook: June, receipts, \$966.97; expenditures, \$1,325.34; on hand
 30th June, \$1,602.11

Edmonton: May and June; receipts, \$290.50; expenditures, \$415.00, on
 hand 30th June \$226.91.

Prince Albert: June Receipts, \$210.20; expenditures, \$156.62; on hand
 30th June, \$75.64.

Kamloops:- June, receipts \$1,012.35; expenditures, \$638.05; on hand
 30th June, \$973.19.

Nelson:- June: receipts, \$259.00; expenditures, \$173.30; on hand 30th
 June \$173.72.

Fort Frances:- June; receipts \$316.15; expenditures, \$485.73; on hand
 30th June, \$313.97.

Sudbury:- June; receipts, \$708.94; expenditures, \$861.63; on hand 30th
 June, \$428.98.

In four out of the seven expenditure considerably outran income.

7. Convention Notes

It is understood that a resolution was passed pledging support to the Sinn Fein movement.

P. F. Lawson addressed the Convention on behalf of the Searchlight, but seems to have received little encouragement.[7] H. Puro, editor of Vapaus, and M. Popovich of the Ukrainian Labour News, also attended the convention.

The two conventions, that of the loggers and that of the O. B. U. proper, cost rather more than \$5,000. This has left the treasury much depleted.

The Miners of Copper Mountain have broken away from local headquarters, O. B. U. owing some \$600. Their per capita tax has not amounted to enough to defray the cost of organizing them.

8. The Russian Deportees

Information received shows that the counsel for the Russian deportees at Vancouver (Mr. Rubinowitz) states that the perjury charges against our agents which he unsuccessfully pressed cost \$2,000. He only paid \$150, and while there is some talk of payment by degrees, he has no hope of this coming to anything. The report, which is dated 30th July, adds:-

“The deportations, which the Russians and those sympathizing with them had hoped the Government would not dare to carry out, have produced a depressing effect amongst foreign and Canadian radicals”.

The persons and organizations, other than Russian, who have shown deep interest in defending these men, and in convicting our agents, are:-

The Socialist Party of Canada, Vancouver Branch

The Defence Committee, Vancouver Branch.

A. S. Wells, Editor of the B. C. Federationist.

J. G. Smith, Secretary, General Workers' Unit, O. B. U.

9. British Columbia Detachment Reports

Alert Bay, 24th July:-

The management of all logging camps visited report work progressing satisfactorily, with no trouble through the interference of agitators. The camps are all in good condition and the food excellent. Practically all varieties of salmon are running now in this district and large catches are reported from all points.

Hazelton, 24th July:-

Things are quiet.[8]

Ocean Falls, 31st July:-

"There appears to be a slight improvement here with regard to the labour element of late. Very little agitation heard of and not much radical literature noticed anywhere in the district.

Port Alberni, 24th July:-

"District quiet and orderly. Camps and mills working steadily except Alberni Pacific which is still closed down..... No unemployment in the district. Construction camps are quiet and have not yet shown any signs of industrial trouble".

"Chakawana Detachment (Coastal Patrol) 23rd July:-

Conditions at Alice Arm satisfactory. The Dolly Varden mine has 150 men at work; no agitation and the men satisfied. No shortage of labour, and no labour trouble expected this summer. Things very quiet at Anyox, where some 1,300 men are employed.

10. Miscellaneous Notes

An attempt was made to cause a strike in a C. P. R. logging camp near Yahk. It only lasted a day, the cause being trivial, the local manager behaving in a conciliatory way, and the men not being unreasonable. The local O. B. U. delegate, a man named O. Dandineau, made every effort to stir up strife.

Dandineau, left the camp hurriedly on 23rd July, being frightened when the R. C. M. P. interviewed him. A correspondent says of him:-

"My personal opinion of this man is that he is out to make trouble at every opportunity. He is a very intelligent man, but not very well educated. He can make a pretty good speech and sounds convincing when he talks. He speaks French fluently".

J. Harrington was the speaker at the Socialist meeting held in Vancouver on Sunday 1st August. His speech was a running commentary on recent events, and included remarks on the possibility of a closing-down of industries and a period of unemployment. The meeting was well-attended; the collection was \$50.40.

Renewed reports come of intimidation in the Kootenay country, this time in connection with the obstinate strike at Meadows Lumber Camp, Erie, B.C. The men's demands were for higher pay, lower charge for food,

shorter hours.[9]

II. ALBERTA

11. Unskilled versus Skilled Labour

The "Park Committee" (who are identical with the inner circle of the Labour Church) in Edmonton held an open-air meeting on Sunday 1st August, at which Carl Berg and P. M. Christophers spoke.

Berg said that he had just returned from the O. B. U. convention in Vancouver and that the O. B. U. was stronger than ever, especially in British Columbia. Our report continues:-

"The O. B. U. was most bitterly attacked, said the speaker because they passed a resolution of greetings for the Russian Bolsheviks and the German Sparticans, and we (the O. B. U.) don't deny this because we support any labour class and in any country that does anything good for the labouring classes any where. The O. B. U. stand for equal rights of all classes and nationalities, and we believe the lower classes of labour such as section men are a greater power than the higher class of labour because if it were not for them doing the rough work the higher class would not be enabled to ride in luxury over the roads. Some people say, said the speaker, that the O.B.U. and the I.W.W. are one and the same organization. but I say that they are not, at the same time the O. B. U. support every case which is performed by the I.W.W."

P. M. CHRISTOPHERS described the O. B. U. as the largest labour organization in Canada at the present time. His speech was an argument for the O. B. U.

Berg's statement that the O. B. U. represents rough and unskilled labour as against skilled labour merits notice.

12. The Fernie Situation

Reports from two sources represent the situation in Fernie as interesting and perhaps dangerous.

One report, is that on 29th July a meeting of "Employes of the Crow's Nest Pass Co" was held; the term in this case meant the O. B. U. About 150 were present, and it was proposed that they sign up with the U. M. W. of A. This was hotly debated; the meeting dwindled to 65 and then a vote was taken which resulted 45 against and 20 for joining the U. M. W. of A. Our informant adds:-[10]

"I would like to point out the significance of this vote, for this is the first time since the O. B. U. has started in this camp that an actual open vote has been cast in favour of signing up with the U. M. W. of A.; on the other hand, the attitude of the O. B. U. members that are signing up with the U. M. W. of A. is clearly shown by such statements as made by Jas. Clarke last night when he said 'Let us sign up with them and then we have a chance to work from the inside'.

"During the last four days 83 additional members have signed up with the U. M. W. of A. and their total membership today is in the neighbourhood of 500 out of 800 members".

An attempt was made by the O. B. U. leaders to make a flank attack on the agreement, by instigating some returned soldiers to protest against being called upon to join the U. M. W. of A. This request was refused.

Another informant states, under date of 1st August, that a dispute over the timbering of the mines is in sight. This in itself is insignificant, but may be used by the O. B. U. as a grievance wherewith to stir up fresh discontent. This informant says:-

"I had a long talk with Dick Beard this morning and he told me that inside of two months the miners will ditch the new agreement. All the men are signing the checkoff this week but are looking to this timbering agreement as a loop-hole".

13. A Coal Strike Prophesied

F. Bidder, an O. B. U. organizer in the East Kootenay sub-district when attending the District Convention of the O. B. U. at Cranbrook made a statement which is wholly in accord with the information which we have been receiving for months.- Our report is:-

"Bidder announced at the L.W.I.U. District Convention today, that while mining department of the O.B.U. was not very strong right now he predicted that by mid winter, they would be the strongest department of the O.B.U.

"When asked what he meant he replied that right now, while there is not much demand for coal the men are working because they need the money, but when winter starts they would have the upper hand and be in a position to force the recognition of the O.B.U. This particularly applies to District 18.[11]

"He said he felt safe in saying that District 18 would start a bunch of trouble for the Operators when winter set in".

14. Agitators' Lies

In connection with the dispute at Coalhurst, a speech delivered at an O. B. U. meeting there by a man named Clarke may be noticed. Clarke is a returned soldier who "lets everyone know about it". He was chairman of the meeting. Our report is:-

"He said this was started by the Capitalists of all the countries involved and that the 'Kaiser' and 'King George' were working hand in hand all through this war.

"He told of the 'planes bombing London, stating that they never bombed the west end of this city because it belonged to the Capitalists, but that they always bombed the East-end because that was where the working people lived. He also said that when the Allied 'planes bombed German cities they never bombed any place where it would harm the Capitalists and he proceeded to give them

an instance of this by stating that one time an English plane bombed a Red Cross train that the 'Kaiser' was riding on and the Pilot of the plane was court-martialled for doing this. The inference he desired to draw was that the pilot of the plane was only court martialled on account of dropping the bombs on the train because the 'Kaiser' was aboard the train and not because it was a Red Cross train.

"He said that the capitalists were beginning to fear the working classes with their unions and socialism so they started a big War to break them up.

"Clark then said that no C.P.R. steamships were sunk by the enemy because German capital was in it, and he then denounced the Government as being wholly consistent of the capitalist class".

15. Strike Notes

The strike at Coalhurst continues. On 6th August 60 or 70 men were doing surface work, with no interference from the strikers.

A one-day strike took place, over a local matter about ventilation, in the Atlas mine, one of the best managed and steadiest mines in Drumheller. It is organized under the International, and it is unlikely that the O. B. U. had any hand in the affair.

16. O.B.U. Activity in Calgary

Transportation Unit No. 1. O.B.U. Calgary, is making progress in the Ogden Shops, C.P.R. Fourteen shop stewards have been appointed [12] and there is active canvassing for members, a number of recruits being secured. An agent says:-

"I think their aim is finally to try for closed shops at Ogden, and may succeed, as they are slowly but surely getting men from the International, Stewart is after men a great deal of the time while at work. He has good chances as the machinists are working on engines in the boiler shops, that is, a great many of them. The machinists are the International's strong hold at Ogden".

Concerning this the Officer Commanding Calgary, while admitting the energy shown by the O. B. U., expects the International to institute a counter-campaign, and adds:-

"The O. B. U., however, are out in the open, so far as meetings are concerned, and may succeed in becoming fairly strong in members, but it will be some time before they can talk closed shop".

At the "O. B. U. Class Meeting" held by Lewin at Calgary on 22nd July the leader gave definition of "Anarchism" which is somewhat interesting. It is thus reported:-

"Lewin said that this very day we were living under anarchism; that the Government and all concerned therein were nothing but a bunch of anarchists; that there was lawlessness from every portion of the Government and disorder in the worst possible form that must collapse. Every man serving the Government today, he said, was an

anarchist. He brought up Russia as an illustration for the class and, I think, succeeded in showing them or teaching them what was the real meaning of anarchism”.

The O. B. U. in Calgary has taken to holding open-air meetings in the parks on Sundays. It is thought by a competent observer that these will benefit the O. B. U., by interesting persons who before were indifferent to it. The first meeting was addressed by George Palmer and P. M. Christophers.

Christophers has been trying to organize the stockyard and floor mill workers in Calgary.

17. The East Kootenay Loggers

The District Convention of the Fernie District of the L.W.I.U. was held on 1st August in Cranbrook. Only 12 persons attended and the proceedings lasted 3 hours, little business being transacted. It principally related to the salary of the organizer (one Thompson) hospital matters, etc. Nothing was said about future wages. [13] A passage from our report is:-

“It was announced that two districts namely Prince Rupert and Fort George had definitely broken with the O.B.U. and the L.W.I.U. are just running a little union independently”.

18. The Labour Press

The attempt to publish the Labour News in Cranbrook seems to have come to nothing. The Cranbrook Courier refuses to publish any further issues, and Kingsland seems to have left the district. The first issue comprised 1,000 copies; only 250 copies were sold; the rest are at the Courier office; the cost of printing has not been defrayed; and the paper was much disliked locally. The L.W.I.U. disclaim connection with it.

P. F. Lawson's visit to the Vancouver convention brought him no money for the Searchlight.

Lawson has returned to Calgary from Vancouver.

19. The Foreign Element

Dr. O. Sushko of Winnipeg on Sunday 25th July addressed the Ukrainians of Edmonton in the Samo-Obrazowania society. His speech began as a eulogy of Bolshevism as “the sunlight for all labourers”, but became an electioneering address. It appeared that he and Popovich are rivals for the control of the Ukrainian Labour Temple, and that the latter has succeeded in carrying the Board of Directors. The meeting promised to support Susko, who is described as very eloquent in the Ukrainian language.

It may be worth noting that Popovich is in Vancouver at the moment that Sushko is in Edmonton. Popovich also seems to intend to tour the Crow's Nest Pass.

The Russian Ukrainian Drama Company on 28th and 29th July played at Coalhurst. It seems to be visiting all the coal mining towns.

III. SASKATCHEWAN

20. A Sidelight on O.B.U. Methods

Inquiry at Kamsack throws doubt upon the existence of a branch [14] of the O. B. U. there. A few employes in the C.N.R. shops have O. B. U. sympathies but they are in the minority, and the older men are adverse.

The interesting thing about this is that lists of O.B.U. locals include the following entry; "Transportation Unit, Kamsack Sask; C. Hannan, Kamsack (Secretary)". Investigation in this small place fails to discover either an organized unit, or any person named Hannan. It is recalled that in June a man visited Kamsack, made unsuccessful efforts to organize an O.B.U. local and left for Winnipeg; presumably this was Hannan. It has been suspected that many of the locals of the O. B. U. which appear in their lists are non-existent, or consist of the secretary alone, and this incident goes to confirm the suspicion. The Montreal unit and secretary, it will be recalled, are almost wholly supported by the head office in Vancouver.

21. A Foreign Would-be Revolutionist

A report on John Onishenko, the Bolshevik at Hafford, presents some interesting features. He is agent for a lumber company, and he and one or two men of the shop-keeper class lead the local Russians and Galicians; Onishenko speaks both languages and is on good terms with both races. He is exceedingly ignorant of Bolsheviki or Socialist doctrine, and yet is strongly revolutionary in disposition. Paraphrased, this probably means that he is in a very bad temper with the country in which he lives, is anxious to stir up trouble, and, owing to his ignorance, is at a loss how to go about it. He does not even know the names of any leaders to whom to write to help. Onishenko (whose name properly is Onishchenkoff) thinks that if he could import a good organizer he could get up a revolutionary society of 150 to 200 members in Hafford and two or three adjoining districts.

A feature of the situation here is that the local Greek Catholic priest is strongly opposed to Bolshevism, and that the branch [15] of the Ukrainian Nationalist Home Association, the only organization of foreigners in existence in Hafford, has no revolutionary purpose there, whatever it may have elsewhere. Any organization formed would be comprised of the most ignorant people of these nationalities. Another feature is that they all are much in fear of police supervision.

A circumstance which merits attention is that the leaders of this particular set of obscure discontented foreigners are shop-keepers, i.e., men, who are relatively advanced and well-to-do. Among English and French speaking Canadians such men usually are supporters of public order. Here is a case where the isolation of the foreigners tends to make their ablest and most energetic men leaders in disorders.

22. The Bienfait Affair.

From a confidential source it is learned that statements are being laid before the persons appointed by the Saskatchewan Government to inves-

tigate the Bienfait affair which reflect seriously upon the operators. These are in brief that the mine-owners were paying the men low wages and holding them in a species of "helotage"; that a quarrel arose between these operators and a lignite plant which desired to give higher wages; that in the course of this dispute some men were dismissed for belonging to the O. B. U. who had joined it months ago as an incident of subscribing to the Winnipeg Defence Fund, and then forgotten it; that Christophers' visit came after these events, and that the men who kidnapped him formed part of a whiskey-running enterprise.

Some of the details given almost certainly are incorrect.

23. The L.W.I.U. in the NORTH

George Tether, the O. B. U. organizer among the lumbermen of Northern Saskatchewan has moved his office from Prince Albert to the Pas. He does not intend to stay there long. The L.W.I.U. have been very quiet for the last two months.

A report from Prince Albert describes Tether's intention in [16] moving to the Pas to be to make his last stand there. The report continues:- "The delegates that Tether has had working for him, during the past 9 months, have been a crooked bunch and have done more harm than good to the Union, by absconding with O.B.U. membership funds. The latest delegate to do this was one of the best delegates that Tether has ever had, as far as getting members goes. This was Fred Wright, who skipped out of the Pas recently and must have taken about \$200,00 O.B.U. money with him. This kind of thing has been going on, more or less, right along, until the public look upon the O. B. U. as a shady organization and its delegates a bunch of crooks".

24. Miscellaneous Notes

A meeting of the Self Determination for Ireland League was held on 29th July in the City Hall, Regina; J.K. McInnis presided and Miss Katherine Hughes spoke. About 100 joined the league. The meeting, at the suggestion of the Chairman, sang "God save the King".

George Babych, president of the Hotel and Restaurant Employes Unit, O. B. U. Moose Jaw, a very enthusiastic O. B. U. man, visited Regina at the end of July and tried to form a similar union there, but without success.

The danger of a strike of civic employees in Moose Jaw has been averted.

The membership in the Grand Army of United Veterans in Regina is asserted to be about 500.

At a meeting of the Zapomhe Towarsto. the Ukrainian Bolshevistic Society of Saskatoon, only about 40 persons were present, to the disappointment of the local leaders.

IV. MANITOBA

25. Gage on Conditions in England

Gage, the emissary sent by the Winnipeg Defence Committee to England, and Ald. A.A. Heaps reported at a meeting of the Committee held on Sunday 1st August.

Gage, while impressed by the status of labour in England,

"Said the different labour organization leaders who he had [17] interviewed from time to time gave him very little encouragement, as to the possibilities of the Russell appeal being heard by the Privy Council, as they said it was like everything else, and under control of the master class.

"The general feeling, he stated, of the workers themselves was, that they would support any direct action to their fullest extent, and he had been informed to the effect that the rank and file of labour was really behind the cause, although the Labour leaders were very slow in taking interest in the situation.

"He mentioned having addressed meetings of the South Wales' Miners' Federation, all of whom he found in sympathy with the Russell appeal case, more so than any body of labour he ran across in England. In fact, he stated, this organization of miners was the only one which had donated any money to the Defence Committee outside of the regular collection which was always taken up at all meetings. He stated that this was practically the largest organized labour body in the Old Country and had up to millions of dollars in the Treasury for reserve purposes, and could easily afford to give some donation, but the smaller labour organizations were like their own here in Canada barely enough in the treasuries to keep them floating, and the labour leaders of these parties had expressed their opinions that the Defence Committee of Canada should be well able to finance their own appeal case when he had asked for financial assistance. Nevertheless, he said, the collections were very good and defrayed expenses considerably".

Gage said that a considerable number of the books and pamphlets issued by the Committee had been circulated.

Ald. Heaps gave a report of his journey through Eastern Canada, speaking in glowing terms of the attendance at his meetings and making the usual complaint of the "spy system".

It also came out that the English labour men had not been satisfied with Gage's credentials. Ernest Robinson, the secretary of the Winnipeg Trades and Labour Council, had avoided giving him credentials.

26. Kavanaugh's Speech

J. Kavanaugh spoke at a meeting of the Central Labour Council O.B.U. in Winnipeg on 3rd August, describing his experience in England. He passed lightly over the reception given him, saying that:-

"Nobody thought anything at all of Russell being in jail, that was one of the most common things to them, as there were men amongst the leaders all over England who had done two and three years in jail, and when their time was up, had come out and renewed the [18] fight".

He described England as on the verge of revolution. Our report is as follows:-

"Red propaganda was a very common thing over there, he said, but none of the authorities seemed to take any particular notice of it, red flags always being worn and carried on all labour parades and celebrations.

"He also declared that as far as could be made out from the stand the Labour situation was taking in the old country, it predicted revolution. This was on the tongue of every working man, who was class conscious, and there were very few who were not.

"He said a general strike to obtain any rights of the working class was practically of no use, unless the strike was a well organized one, and had the full power of the working class behind it, and in this case, to obtain the overthrow of the present Capitalist system, it would be necessary for a revolution to arise out of the general strike before their object could be obtained.

"That was what the worker was being faced with all over England, Ireland and particularly in Russia, not in any way leaving out our own country, he declared".

A question about the treatment of souvenir guns in some parts of England having come up, Kavanaugh

"declared that it was a fact that the large bodies of labour organizations, such as the Miners' Federation and the Dockers' Union had plenty of guns and ammunition actually stored away in case of a revolution coming, which was so greatly predicted in the old country".

27. The Release of Prisoners

The release of Farnell at Winnipeg has caused much anger among the Winnipeg Defence Committee. It was felt that the Internationals i.e. the Trade Congress, would claim credit for compassing it, whereas the Defence Committee had been paying his wife \$55.00 a week during his sojourn in jail. This ill-feeling may have accounted for some of the disorder at the public debate on 6th August.

At the meeting of the Winnipeg Defence Committee held on 1st August a report was heard from the Committee which had seen R. B. Russell in the penitentiary. As a result of the interview, and in accordance with a hint from the Warden, it was decided that Russell should send to Ottawa a personal letter asking for clemency or for a parole.[19]

At the meeting of the Central Labour Council, O.B.U. on 3rd August,

the question of Russell's release was sharply debated, the point at issue being whether Russell should appeal for clemency. The Lumber and Building Trades Unit dissented vigorously from the resolution of the Defence Committee that he should do so. P. G. Anderson, who represented this unit, predicted that the Internationals "would soon have a fine opportunity to come back with a yarn that Russell had to beg and crawl to get out of jail". Kaiser of the Metal Trades Unit also opposed Russell applying for clemency "if it was going to endanger his reputation after he had been set free". On the other side Kavanaugh remarked that it was Russell who was in jail, and not the various units of the O.B.U. who really put him there. Russell, he said, was doing no good in jail", and "if he could get out by making a plea of his own, why all well and good, as honour and law could not be considered in this fight between Capital and Labour, and therefore, he thought that nay means should be adopted if it were to gain them a point".

28. O.B.U. NOTES

There are three O.B.U. units among the building trades in Winnipeg. Recently a paragraph in the press stated that they planning to form one single unit without craft divisions. A well-informed correspondent contradicts this. According to him, there have been defections from the O.B.U. in these trades, and the executive have been sitting to consider measures to hold together the three units (which are small). The paragraph, he says, was cut out to cover these defensive measures.

It is noted that the O.B.U. in Winnipeg show themselves sympathetic with the Sinn Fein cause, regarding it as a capital and labour conflict. They also evince dislike for Orangemen.

An O.B.U. meeting in Portage la Prairie on Sunday 1st August was slimly attended. Few members joined. The speakers were P. G. Anderson and Jack Clancy.[20]

The dismissal of A. Emery from the Transcona shops, and the failure of the attempt to strike over it, have resulted in the men there being very quiet and obedient. Emery has opened a revolutionary news agency.

Mr. J. S. Woodsworth reported to the Defence Committee on 1st August that the Attorney General of Saskatchewan had promised to make a confidential inquiry into the abduction of Christophers at Bienfait.

The open air meeting of the Socialist party on 1st August in the Market Square in Winnipeg was addressed by C. Stewart. His speech needs no notice. The attendance was 200. Little interest was shown.

About 400 persons attended the Ukrainian Labour Temple picnic near Winnipeg on Sunday 1st August. The red flag was displayed but nothing else of a seditious nature occurred. The purpose was to collect money to pay the Temple's debts.

V. ONTARIO

29. Revolutionists in Hamilton

A Detroit I.W.W. named William Wilson has appeared in Hamilton and has been busy among the local O.B.U. members and revolutionary foreigners. In conversation this man said that "there was but little hostility between the I.W.W. and the O.B.U., and that they had decided to pull together in the States". He talked of bringing to Hamilton to speak a man named John Pancler, who served 18 months imprisonment at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and now is out on bail. The local revolutionaries are debating whether either of these men would not make a good local leader; since Flatman's departure from Hamilton they have lacked a man with the qualities of leadership, and Wilson has made a good impression on them, alike by his ability and by his acquaintance with revolutionary organizations in the United States.[21]

Wilson lately was going under the alias of William Edwards.

The Hamilton revolutionists have begun to arrange for halls, etc. for the coming winter. Our report says:-

"Last year the speakers were secured by the Independent Labour Party and there was a great deal of dissatisfaction among the Radicals because they claimed the speakers were too moderate. This year the committee put in charge of securing speakers will be all Radicals". One of these is to be Joe Knight.

30. Events in Toronto

A report on the Jewish Socialist Party of Toronto is that on 22nd July a break-up occurred, some forming the "Jewish Socialist Democratic Party of Canada" (which seems identical with the "Anarchist Communist Party") and others joining the "Third International". Both are canvassing hard for recruits, and both meet in the same house in Beverly Street, one society on Wednesdays and the other on Fridays.

One of the Third International members is collecting for the fund for medical aid to Russia which has been noticed already.

On Sunday 8th August the O.B.U. tried to hold an open air meeting in Toronto, in Yonge Street. Mrs. J.R. Knight and Max Armstrong were to be the speakers, but the city police broke up the meeting, as they were blocking traffic and had no permit. A Socialist meeting shared the same fate on the same evening.

The O.B.U. local in Toronto on 29th July elected new officers, the President and secretary-treasurer being Arnold and Hunt. The attendance was 55. The funds on hand were \$54.30. Few members are joining. The meeting decided on a policy of open-air meetings on Saturday and Sunday meetings; the untimely end of the first of these is noticed in the preceding paragraph.

VI. QUEBEC

31. Miscellaneous Montreal Notes

Another report has been received on "The Society for Technical Aid to Soviet Russia of the Russian Socialist Federal Soviet Republic", as its full name seems to be. The registration which was noticed before as conducted under orders from the Soviet Bureau at New York is to be completed, and new members must register. This organization is growing and expects to have a busy winter.

The Worker, the O.B.U. paper issued in Montreal, has reached its seventh number, which came out on 1st August. Attempts to induce the Montreal news dealers to handle it have been rebuffed and few copies are sold. The edition issued is very large.

A positive assertion comes from Hamilton that Ben Legere is in Montreal helping to issue this paper.

VII. THE MARITIME PROVINCES

32. General Conditions

The Officer Commanding Maritime Provinces in his confidential monthly report for June and July says:-

"There has been a considerable amount of labour unrest in the Maritime Provinces during the period in question, the chief feature being a strike at the Halifax Shipyards, which commenced on June 1st, and is still un-terminated, however 850 men are now back at work, and the plant is apparently in full swing. Other strikes of minor importance are dealt with. The great Cape Breton coal fields have been operating practically without any trouble, pending the finding of the Royal Commission now sitting in Glace Bay"

Other remarks are:-

"Possibility of a general strike over the Shipyard strike is now almost out of the question. The management is to be complimented on their speedy action in compelling the city to give the men, who were anxious to return to work, ample protection. The prosecution of some militant pickets has had a good effect.

"The merger of the Dominion and Scotia interests will no doubt have a good effect. A special department is being formed to look after complaints of miners, housing conditions etc.

"Fresh developments are taking place in Cape Breton, and several old dis-used shafts are being reopened.

"So far the O.B.U. has not obtained any footing in this district, nor is it anticipated that it ever will".[23]

Dealing with the visit of the Winnipeg Strike leaders to the Maritime Provinces, he says:-

"In the early part of May, Heaps and Dunn of Winnipeg visited the provinces, with the object of raising funds for the defence of the

Winnipeg strike leaders. They were tendered a civic welcome by the council of Sydney C.B., which failed to materialize, and they were received with open arms by J.B. McLachlan and J.C. Watters. Their tour of the Province opened the eyes of the saner-minded people, and they were condemned by the Press and pulpit of the provinces. I was informed that the money collected by them barely paid their expenses in the Maritime Provinces.

"They were more or less disgusted with their trip to this part of the country. In Halifax only 200 attended their meeting and some \$38.00 was collected.

"Owing to the opposition of organized labour in St. John N.B. they were unable to obtain a Hall to hold a meeting in that city.

"In Moncton N.B. they addressed practically an empty hall, and they collected \$12.00 for their cause. This amount being practically all they collected in New Brunswick.

"A Prominent labour man in Halifax informed me that if the O.B.U. exponents did not know before, that Nova Scotia was not in sympathy with their cause, they are absolutely certain since they toured the Province, that the O.B.U. has few sympathizers here".

33. Miscellaneous Notes

On 6th August about 1,100 men were working at the Halifax shipyard, and picketting had been discontinued as a consequence of the injunction obtained by the company from the Supreme Court. On 5th August the Boiler Makers' Union decided to return to work on the company's terms; this is the first union to give up in a body.

A troublesome difference between the management and the men of the Inverness Railway had been settled. The men demanded the same pay as that received by those on the Canadian National; this was refused and negotiations were in progress, with some ill-feeling shown, when the railway came under new ownership, and the men's demands was promptly conceded. The men are reported to be much pleased.[24]

A convention of the U. M. W. of A. was called in Halifax for 7th August in connection with the expected report of the Royal Commission on Coal Mining. There was no particular intention of calling a strike unless certain demands for pay, such as an additional dollar a day for some men and 24 per cent increase for others, should be refused.

The strike at Minto is reported to be collapsing.