

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

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SECRET

NO. 38

NOTES OF THE WORK OF THE C. I. B. DIVISION
FOR THE WEEK ENDING 26TH AUGUST

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1. CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PERIOD

The principal thing to note this week is the steady recurrence of warnings of a coal strike in Alberta in the autumn. We have had many predictions of trouble, and nothing has occurred to discredit these [2] predictions.

The O. B. U. have won their most noteworthy success for some time in the decision of the Winnipeg Street Railway union to turn over to them. This will give them a numerical superiority in Winnipeg. The Internationals will form a Street Railway Union of their own, but the event remains a gain for the union.

Preparations are beginning to be made for the O. B. U. convention at Port Arthur in September.

Montreal continues to be the part of the Dominion upon which the Soviet organization in New York exercises direct influence. One of its organizers, a man named McBride, is to come to Montreal to speak, and the man who is organizing the affair, and arranging for co-operation among the radical bodies, is the O. B. U. organizer, Binette, who draws his salary from Vancouver and so is under Winch's control.

I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

2. Loggers inclining to sabotage

An informant reports a change of policy among the L. W. I. U. to (1) more sabotage; (2) fewer strikes; (3) more energetic support of such strikes as are called. After describing a bad case of wilful damage to machinery done by an I. W. W. in a logging establishment known as the Dempsey Camp, he continues:-

"The idea of sabotage is gaining favour among the loggers. Strikes have been proven almost useless and their system of dealing with men who refuse to join the union, or with employers who refuse to meet their demands, seems to lean strongly with the curtailment of production and sabotage. Operative believes that in future there will be less strikes than there have been in the past, and that where it is absolutely necessary to pull a strike, more support will be given to see it through."

3. O. B. U. Notes

The L. W. I. U. headquarters financial statement for July shows that the receipts were \$5,667.94 and the expenditures \$5,559.95. The cash on hand on 31st July was \$435.18. Among the interesting outlays were the sum of \$700 given to the British Columbia Federationist and \$300 for organization in the East.

The O. B. U. strike at the Blue Bell Mine, Riondel, continues but the company has about 20 men working and is actually producing more than

when the O. B. U. were installed.

At a convention held in San Francisco some time ago a proposal to change the name of the O. B. U. to "Progressive Workers of the Pacific" was vetoed.

4. British Columbia Reports

Ocean Falls, 7th August:-

"Although one can hear considerable radical talk in the labour circles of this district, there is also outspoken optimistic opposition to this".

Alert Bay, 14th August:-

"Logging is proceeding very satisfactorily and all camp superintendents spoken to report improving labour conditions; agitators are becoming less and less and their influence is fast decreasing, no trouble reported. "Shortage of labour reported at the canneries".

Chakawana (Coastal Patrol) Detachment, 6th August:-

"Labour conditions along the Coast patrolled by the Chakawana are very quiet at present, no trouble being reported. The supply of labour is good".

Hazelton, 7th August:-

"No trouble or complaints have been heard of or reported during the past week. Work still continues in the railroad construction.

Grand Forks, 7th August:-

"The majority of the mills and mines in this district have been visited during the two weeks under report and everything is reported quiet. Labour conditions are good at present and from appearances there is no unrest".

Nelson, 7th August:-

"There is no change in the Slocan strike situation during the week. Labour conditions remain quiet, very few men applying for work. Some have been taken to fight forest fires".

Merritt, 14th August:-

"There is little change in the labour situation locally. The mill continues to work full shifts; the mines are working a little more steadily and work has not been resumed at full strength as yet, in the woods".[4]

5. Miscellaneous Notes

Tomashewshy's paper "Pravda i Wola" (Truth and Freedom) after a lapse of several weeks has revived sufficiently to issue two numbers, No. 10 on 5th August and No. 11 on 19th August. John Boychuk, who with Popowich urged the Vancouver Ukrainians to abandon the local paper in favour of the Ukrainian Labour News, has left for Edmonton (whether permanently or not we do not know yet) and the Ukrainians are returning to Tomashewsky's leadership.

J. Smith addressed the Sunday Socialist meeting in Vancouver on 15th August; the attendance was small, Smith's speech was poor, and little interest was shown. The collection was \$47.20.

The Socialist Party of Canada are holding open air meetings in Vancouver on four evenings in the week. They now have two "pitches".

II. ALBERTA

6. The Coal Mines

A report dated Blairmore, 14th August, after noting that the situation in the Crow's Nest Pass for the moment is quiet and orderly, adds:-

"From conversations gathered on the street and other places, there is considerable indication of a big strike this fall, and October is the month spoken of when this proposed strike will occur".

At the same place the recording secretary of the local lodge of the U. M. W. of A. informed us, on 12th August, that out of the 370 men working at the Greenhill mine nine tenths were O. B. U.; and that although they had signed the U. M. W. of A. check-off, and so were contributing to that body, they still were paying their O. B. U. dues to the local secretary, Rod. McDonald.

The principal agitators in the Pass on that date were:-

P. M. Christophers, General Organizer, O. B. U. [5] Wm. Patterson, District Organizer, O. B. U.

Rod. McDonald, Secretary, Blairmore Local O. B. U.

Isaac Ray, not known to hold office.

Joe Legacy, not known to hold office.

Legacy is a leader among the Belgians in the district and is said to have full control over them. A Frenchman married to a Belgian woman, he is said to speak Belgian, which presumably means Flemish.

The new U. M. W. A. lodge at Fernie held a meeting on 15th August to elect officers. All chosen are O. B. U. sympathizers; they are not the most rabid ones, but none the less are on that side. The meeting was turbulent. The result of the compulsory joining of the U. M. W. of A. has been to put the O. B. U. in control of that lodge.

The dispute over timbering (noticed in an earlier Summary) continues to cause apprehension of a strike. This is due to the temper of the men, not to the intrinsic importance of the issue.

The Coalhurst strike has ended, a compromise having been effected, and the mines are in full swing again. About 70 per cent of the miners have returned to work; the rest are working at the harvest and are expected to return by 1st September.

The coal miners at Commerce, which is near Coalhurst and in the Lethbridge region, signed the U. M. W. A. check-off on 14th August. On 18th August Henry Beard, the O. B. U. organizer, appeared at the camp and induced the men to demand the revocation of the check-off, coupled with the retention of the additional pay which goes with it. On 19th the men struck, as the mine management refused to agree. About 70 per cent of the men were reluctant to strike.

Beard has considerable powers as a trouble-maker.

A report on the activities at Drumheller of George Palmer who is living there as an O. B. U. organizer, represents him as quiet and [6] exerting little influence.

7. O. B. U. Sympathy with Train Murderers

In connection with the shooting of Corporal Usher and Constable Bailey which followed the train robbery in the Crow's Nest Pass, an agent who is in a particularly good position to learn the real opinions of the O. B. U. was instructed to report their comments on the crimes. Following is his report:-

"From conversations I have had with the members of the O. B. U. I find that their sympathy without an exception lies with the men who held up the train in the Crow's Nest Pass. When the news came through with regards to the shooting and killing of Cpl. Usher and Const. Bailey I was in Dworkin's store on 8th Ave., there being present, Ben Dworkin, Wm. Lewin and another man by the name of Dworkin. Ben Dworkin passed the remark, that it was one less for us to get, (meaning the O. B. U.). The other man Dworkin, was ridiculing the fact that there was 104 Mounted Police trying to get two men and they could not do it, and was hoping that the men got away.

"When Christophers, Beard and Lawson got back from Drumheller Christophers was expressing his opinion of the Mounted Police in not too weak language and was wanting to bet that the bandits would make a clear getaway, and he made the boast that 10,000 Mounted Police could not catch him if he was in the position the bandits were in.

"Lawson did not have very much to say, only that he hoped the men would get clear".

"While out with Beard he expressed the fear that O. B. U. cards would be found on these men, and that the Government would use that to fight the O. B. U. with".

8. Miscellaneous Notes

Another issue of the Searchlight has been published, under date of 6th August.

Ald. East spoke at the open air meeting in the East End Park in Edmonton on Sunday 15th August, his subject being "Reconstruction", and the principal point of his address being the need for immediate nationalization of the banking system. W. Coombs, one of Mr. Ritchie's strong supporters, presided.

III. SASKATCHEWAN

9. The L.W.I.U. in Northern Saskatchewan

A report dated Prince Albert, 16th August, is to the effect that the L. W. I. U. intend to make a last effort to organize Northern [7] Sas-

katchewan. George Tether, who now is at The Pas, is to be replaced before long; he is an inefficient man, and a good organizer is to succeed him. Talking to the person furnishing the report, Tether said that since moving from Prince Albert to The Pas he had been much encouraged. The interview with Tether proceeds thus:-

"The organization has spent, over and above all receipts some \$5,000.00 in their attempts to organize the Prince Albert District, and the Central Executive Committee had contemplated giving it up, but had finally decided to make one more attempt and to employ every means within their power to make it a success. Their present plans call for an expenditure fully as large as the total amount already spent in the District, or more if necessary. One part of this plan, which is now in operation, is to enroll as many members as possible in the camps adjacent to The Pas and to meet all new men coming into the District and enroll them before they leave for whatever camp they may be going to. They figure that the majority of the men now employed in the mining camps are only waiting for the logging camps to open when they will change over. The members now being enrolled in the smaller lumber mills in the District will, when the camps open, be instructed to secure work in the camps of the Pas Lumber Company; as they already have over three hundred active members in the Pas District, exclusive of some seventy members now working in the Pas Lumber Company's Mill, they will have a rather large number of members to start with in the camps when they open. If the number of members obtained between now and the time the camps open is not considered sufficient for their purpose, their present plans call for the importation of a large number of selected L.W.I.U. members from British Columbia at the expense of the organization they are prepared to bring in 500 or more if necessary.

"They will also have delegates at Regina, Saskatoon and Hudson Bay Junction to meet all trains when the loggers start travelling for the various camps; to head all members of the L.W.I.U. into the Pas District. Tether figures that this plan can not be beaten and that the tying up of the camps is an assured fact he has no hopes of being able to tie up the planing mill this winter but states that in the spring the 'home guards' now employed in this mill will either have to join the L.W.I.U. or be discharged by the company as the hours, wages, rules, etc. of the L.W.I.U. will by that time be in full effect and the alternative will be a general strike".

The Officer Commanding Northern Saskatchewan in commenting upon this report takes a cool view of these hopes of organizing the district. If the Pas Lumber Company continues its policy of fighting the O. B. U., it will be difficult for that organization to get a [8] foothold in its works.

As for importance of L.W.I.U.'s from British Columbia, the local supply of labour is sufficient and these missionaries of mischief would find it difficult to get employment.

10. Loss of Interest in the Christophers Case

Following are extracts from weekly surveys by an agent of the situation in Regina:-

"Nothing doing locally but the Christophers case has caused some talk, though not the stir that might be looked for in O. B. U. circles. Work has been plentiful lately meetings are poorly attended and the O. B. U. seems generally disorganized for the present".

Week ending 14th August:-

"Little interest is taken by O. B. U. men in the Christopher kidnapping case. Men with radical leanings seem more interested in knowing if the R.C.M.P. is involved than any other phase. What little interest may have been roused subsided when it became more apparent that they were not. I understand that all attempts to connect the Force with the case have fallen down. I talked to Rev. Ranns, he told me that he was convinced that no police officer R. C. M. P. was mixed up in it. He promised to bring me a letter from Rev. Woodsworth, carrying an extract from Christophers' letter to Woodsworth. He has failed to produce it".

In forwarding these the Officer Commanding Southern Saskatchewan observes:-

"Labour men have lost all interest in the disappearance of Christopher, now that they know the Mounted Police were not implicated. The Rev. Ranns has also lost interest in the matter. The main object of the investigation was to implicate the Mounted Police and this has failed, they have only implicated the Provincial Police instead".

At Bienfait according to a report dated 14th August the mines were all working except the Western Dominion Mine at Tylorton; preparations were on foot for the engagement of new men and for production on a large scale. The foreigners who had joined the O. B. U. were negotiating to come back, but had not acceded to the company's condition, that they abandon the O. B. U. The company was understood to be preparing to evict them from the houses they had built on its land.[9] On 13th August the Sheriff served notice on the O. B. U. miners at Bienfait, preparatory to eviction. Some of the foreign-born O. B. U. men, notably one Diaczun, are disposed to be violent.

11. Miscellaneous Notes

About 16 shop labourers of the C. P. R. at Moose Jaw struck on 12th August for increased pay, and the 8-hour day. They have been getting 40 cents an hour. The men are foreigners. The strike was promoted by William McAllister, the local O. B. U. leader, who is himself a C. P. R. employe.

The men have been discharged and the company probably will have no difficulty in replacing them. McAllister probably will be dismissed.

The Regina Unit of the O. B. U. is too hard up to send a delegate to the O. B. U. convention at Port Arthur.

According to an I. W. W. named John Neddlec, at present in Regina, a number of French Radicals live at or near Gravelbourg. Some of them worked in lumber camps in British Columbia last winter and imbibed Socialistic opinions there.

The local body of the Grand Army of United Veterans in Moose Jaw is very weak; it numbers only about 15 and is embarrassed to meet debts of about \$20.00.

The Regina branch of the Grand Army of United Veterans met on 11th August. Only 22 members attended, and proceedings showed that the treasury is low.

IV. MANITOBA

12. The O. B. U. and the I. W. W.

The meeting of the Central Labour Council, O.B.U. in Winnipeg on 17th August was attended by about 100 delegates.[10] An interesting discussion took place about the relations between the O. B. U. and the I. W. W. It arose over a complaint from Edmonton that an O. B. U. member there named "Berge" (? Carl Berg) had been attacking Joe Knight, saying that Knight was preaching the I. W. W. form of organization under cover of the letters "O. B. U."; "Berge" apparently himself was an I. W. W. This caused a discussion as to whether the organization should approve or hold aloof from the I. W. W., a faction favouring the former course. Some speeches are thus reported, the subject before the meeting being a resolution to have no relations with the I. W. W. and to accept no I. W. W. members in the O. B. U.:-

"W. Hammond pointed out that no matter who they were, the O. B. U. organization needed them and needed them bad. He claimed they could be educated after having been signed up regarding the O. B. U. constitutions; and it was not yet decided nor would it be, until after the coming convention of the O. B. U. in Port Arthur in September, whether or not the I. W. W. was going to be a part of the O. B. U. constitution. This subject, he declared, would be thrashed out at the convention.

"P. Anderson of the Lumber Workers' Unit, O. B. U. said although he was not an I. W. W. yet, he was not altogether opposed to the organization, as there were some good points in it, and he thought that the motion was very foolish and should not be put through, because if it were passed, they would very likely have to withdraw their motion entirely after the O. B. U. convention at Port Arthur, as he understood that this subject regarding I. W. W. ism in the O. B. U. was going to be the centre of debate.

"J. Houston said, as for himself, he thought a great number of the working class had been wrongly persuaded against the I. W. W. He stated there was only one thing wrong with that organization, and that was, it had thrown away one of its arms of gaining power, and was only using the other as its methods, and that was why it had not met with the favour which the O. B. U. had both arms in its constitutions, but he could see no reason why a man who had been or was an I. W. W. could not belong or be recognized by the O. B. U. as they were only the common labourers when those fearful letters, I. W. W. were taken away, and it should be possible to remove the words after they had got him schooled a little in the O. B. U.

"C. W. Foster of the Transcona Unit also was of the opinion that it did not matter who or what the men were they were all workers, as far as he was concerned, he said.[11] "Comrade Clancey, although against any I. W. W. methods being adopted in the O. B. U. was not against the O. B. U. taking them into the organization, as he stated he thought it would be a very foolish move to keep out any member of the working class regardless of what he was. The resolution ultimately was dropped.

Another important matter was the receipt from the "Confederated Press" of a request for pecuniary assistance "to handle certain Soviet Russian news correspondence". J. Houston, editor of the O. B. U. Bulletin is thus reported:-

"He said, it was only one chance they had in a lifetime to support this cause, and it meant that steady news of some ten or eleven pages would be furnished direct from Russia, on the Soviet conditions. This would be called out and printed in the Bulletin and as much as possible in the Presses of the city. It was news which the Labour movement in general needed, he said, and he felt it was the duty of this delegation to donate as much as possible".

A grant of \$100 was made.

13. Street Railwaymen go O. B. U.

The Street Railway Union in Winnipeg has decided to turn over to the O. B. U., the vote standing 850 to 120. Our information is that this is due to dissatisfaction with the award of the Provincial Board of Arbitration in the recent arbitration as to wages.

This will give the O. B. U. a majority of about 2,000 over the International in the city of Winnipeg.

The O. B. U. in Winnipeg are much pleased at this accession, no attempt will be made to amalgamate this unit with the Running Trades unit. Our report adds:-

"The Street Railway Unit, O. B. U. will be one of the strongest and most important units in the organization as far as the city is concerned, and is the starting point from which other cities will find

their Street Railways also going O. B. U. in the near future".

A later report states that, while the Street Railwaymen's union voted by a large majority to turn O. B. U. only about half the men voted. An International organizer will soon be on the ground organizing an International local. This will be vigorously prosecuted.[12]

14. Other O. B. U. Notes

The Running Trades Unit O. B. U. Winnipeg, which has been dormant since June 1919, has been reorganized with a membership of about 150. The moving spirit is a man named Graham, who is secretary. He is displaying a good deal of organizing ability.

Two men named Elliott and Vancluk who belong to the Running Trades Unit O. B. U. in Winnipeg are members of the International body, the latter being an organizer. They intend to remain in the International in order to betray it.

15. The Imprisoned Strike Leaders

At a meeting of the Winnipeg Trades and Labour Council held on 16th August the Secretary, Ald. E. Robinson, reported on conferences which had been had with the convicts on the subject of clemency.

1. Russell was prepared to ask the government for his release on parole, ready to sign the usual requirements of such a parole, and had no objection to his fellow-convicts being told of his attitude.

2. Pritchard and Johns refused to discuss the subject at all with the representatives of the Internationals, saying that they would leave it to the Defence Committee.

3. Bray refused to talk with them at all. He will get his release in September.

4. Ivens and Queen decided to wait till they heard what were the terms of the parole enacted from Russell.

Ivens is ill, is trouble being described as an "internal rupture".

V. ONTARIO

16. Dworkin's Return

Early in the year a Polish Jew named Henry Dworkin who is in business in Toronto went to Poland on a mission more or less connected with Jewish relief. He has returned, and on 15th August he spoke at Welland, giving an account of his experiences. He had been in Poland, [13] Russia, the Ukraine, Lithuania, and Germany, as well as in England. His speech was strongly anti-Polish, his line being to represent the Poles as victimized by capitalists at the bidding of France and England. He said that soon Poland "will face the truth of the Russian Soviet Government", that Germany might go Bolshevik, and that "the Soviet Government would have control of all Europe soon and then make a true Government the best one in Europe". He said that he himself was not a Bolshevik.

17. O. B. U. Notes

The O. B. U. propaganda meeting on Yonge Street, Toronto, on Saturday evening, 14th August, was attended by 150 people.

The O. B. U. in Toronto have gained only 8 new members in some weeks. Many of their members are going over to the I. L. P. and the Communist Party.

A returned soldier named Rice, a man of little ability either as speaker or organizer, is trying to form in Toronto a soldier organization with radical tendencies. While the regular radicals O. B. U. and Socialists helped and a meeting was held on 15th August, the prospects are poor.

An O. B. U. organizer at Toronto signed up a number of foreigners in the harvester excursions.

A survey of the Gowganda district shows that it is pretty solidly organized by the O. B. U., but contains no dangerously clever agitators at present. The organization does not seem to feel itself very strong as yet, but probably is growing.

VI. QUEBEC

18. O. B. U. and Soviet Russia

Binette, the O. B. U. organizer in Montreal is organizing a committee of five to make arrangements for the visit of Issac McBride to [14] Montreal in October. McBride is representative of the Soviet organization in New York and his purpose is to advocate the establishment of the Soviet system in Canada, and to collect money for medical relief for Russia. The committee is to comprise one member each of the following bodies:-

Metal Trades O. B. U. Unit.

Labour College of Quebec.

Independent Socialist Party.

French Socialist Communist Party.

General Workers O. B. U. Unit of Montreal,
represented by U. Binette.

This is interesting as a case of direct and formal co-operation with the Soviet organization. Binette is a salaried organizer, paid by the head office at Vancouver.

VII. Maritime Provinces

19. Miscellaneous Notes

An informant who is well acquainted with conditions in the coal mining district of Cape Breton furnishes a rather pessimistic forecast of events there. He apprehends trouble soon, but remarks that the men are divided; for instance, the union officials have authority to call a strike without consulting the rank and file, but there is a possibility that the men may rebel and demand a referendum. If a strike comes, he thinks that it will mean the breaking up of the United Mine Workers of America, and that that will be followed by a slow growth of the One Big Union. "The men are desperate and easily led", he says.

One remark is that the Dominion Coal Company have brought in a number of experienced English and Belgian miners, and that these men are very discontented with conditions in Nova Scotia.

The strike at No. 24 Colliery Glace Bay, which began on 14th August, ended on 16th August. It was over working conditions.

Internationals officials are understood to be taking notice of [15] McLachlan's activities on behalf of the O. B. U.

The Shipyards strike in Halifax lasted for 71 days before ending in defeat. The labour leaders now are unpopular with the rank and file, and there may be defections.

Circulars have been sent to the several railway organizations east of Montreal soliciting contributions to a defence fund. This was suspected to be an O. B. U. affair, and in every case aid was refused.

APPENDIX

The weekly Secret Reports issued by the Directorate of Intelligence, Home Office, (London) for some time have been very gloomy. That for 12th August, which came to hand this week, is of an especially anxious nature. Following are extracts from or condensations of certain portions of it.

War with Russia

1. "The possibility of a war with Russia caused an amazing outburst of feeling. The propaganda was skillfully engineered by the Daily Herald, and the great mass of the people had all sorts of fantastic beliefs: they thought that men would be recalled to the Colours and that one or two weal Divisions would be sent out to be annihilated by the Red Army and so forth. The result has been to rehabilitate the moderate Labour leaders with their extreme supporters and to weld the whole temporarily into one body. The Daily Herald has achieved an importance which it has never had since the Railway Strike".

"Having the advantage of close association with Krassin's mission and the opportunity of increasing its funds from Russia by faithful service to the Soviet Government, the Daily Herald has been able by skilful perversion and suppression of the truth to work even the moderate Trade Union people into a surprising state of excitement".

"It is a new departure for the Labour Party to force the hand of the Government in a matter of foreign policy, and it is a precedent which will not easily be forgotten".

"There were remarkable demonstrations against war in practically every part of the country".

"Some fifty reports received on this subject may be summarized in the words of my Lancashire correspondents, who write: 'Never have we known such excitement and antagonism to be aroused against any project as had been aroused amongst the workers by the possibility of war with

Russia'. "[2] "Most unfortunately in this instance the Right and Left Wings of Labour have joined forces".

COAL

2. Concerning the threatened coal strike, the Report says that at the date of compilation the two third majority necessary for a strike seemed likely to be obtained; but that a strike could scarcely materialize in less than four weeks.

The Miners were conducting an agitation against the accumulation of stocks of coal.

Miners in Fife have decided to issue promissory notes in small denominations, as a sort of strike currency. Local shopkeepers are said to have agreed to accept them.

The Engineering Industry

3. A strike in the near future is considered a certainty in Lancashire.

The engineering, foundry and shipbuilding trades have decided to recommend the termination of the agreement of 1917, whereby wages were reviewed every four months by the Industrial Court. This is regarded as a preliminary to more active measures.

The men are becoming very difficult to restrain.

In Coventry unemployment is growing and the engineers are much perturbed. One firm is rumoured to be on the verge of bankruptcy.

Labour and the Co-Operative Movement

4. Negotiations are on foot between the Co-operative societies and the trade unions with a view to the former providing food supplies for trade unionists in the event of a revolution.

The Co-Operative Societies are averse from paying income tax, and a refusal to pay is not impossible.[3] The Financial Propaganda Department of the Co-Operative Wholesale Society is trying to get more capital. Its spokesman says:- "Our object is to obtain capital, and use it in the movement as a means of destroying capitalism".

The Housing Question

5. Agitation on this subject is active. In Scotland a 24 hours strike on 23rd August was mooted by two large unions, miners and iron and steel workers. In Wales miners and co-operatives opposed the payment of increased rent. These are but examples.

Meanwhile the Building Trades object to "dilution". The Walthamstow branch of the Operative Bricklayers Society has passed a strong resolution against the training of ex-Service men.

The Communists

6. Nine British delegates are believed to have been present at the recent meeting in Moscow. "It was there assumed that civil war for revolutionary ends is inevitable and the principle laid down that the Communist Party

(in England or elsewhere) 'must be built on the principle of strict centralization, and, in the event of civil war, must introduce iron military discipline into its ranks'".

"The danger of the British Communist Party, in the present time of grave unrest, lies not in the numerical strength which is small, but in its avowed intention 'to fan the already existing flames of discontent, to foment revolt and finally to bring about revolutionary action. To every struggle of the masses it will seek to give a revolutionary purpose and meaning'. The members of the party are, for the most part, shop stewards and are already alive to the possibilities of causing trouble in the Navy and the Army".[4] "A disquieting feature of the present state of unrest is the fact that the call for troops in Ireland has left England and Scotland bare of serviceable troops in the event of large disturbances, for it may be a little doubtful whether the ordinary Irish battalions are to be depended on for aid to the civil power. This, however, does not yet appear to be known to the extremists, and it is pretty certain that entire reliance can be placed upon the Brigade of Guards, and, it is believed, upon the Police Force".

Irish Affairs

7. The Mannix excitement was described as subsiding.

Sinn Feiners at a meeting in England assaulted a man who displayed the Union Jack. In the subsequent disturbance colliers who were present aided the police.

A branch of the Irish Self-Determination League has been formed in Rochdale.

A conference of all the Sinn Fein branches in England and Scotland was called for 23rd August at Tyneside. The call said that the step had been taken in view of the rapidly approaching Irish crisis.

Sinn Fein and the Communists are understood to be acting together.

"There is abundant evidence that the Sinn Fein leaders are very uneasy. In the various outrages their losses appear to have been heavier than we know; the quarrel between de Valera and the Clan-na-Gael has been disturbing and the Bolshevik tinge which is growing among their followers has alarmed them; and now comes the publication of the minutes of the Sinn Fein Cabinet, showing that money was to be spent by de Valera in corruption during the Presidential election".

"The number of putrages reported (in Ireland) is approximately 243 as against 287 last week. Of these only 7 were due to agrarian motives. 30 were serious offences attributable to the disordered state [5] of the country, and 206 were directly due to Sinn Fein".

"The railway trouble is causing Sinn Fein some anxiety. The number of men dismissed is very considerable and they are grumbling.

"Elements of disruption are said to be at work among Sinn Feiners; there is discontent with de Valera, and Arthur Griffiths is believed to be under suspicion."