

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 9th September, 1920.

SECRET

NO. 40

NOTES OF THE WORK OF THE C. I. B. DIVISION  
FOR THE WEEK ENDING 9TH SEPTEMBER

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1. General Characteristics of the Period.

Little additional information has been received as to the projected strike in the Crow's Nest Pass. Christophers and the other agitators have been exceedingly active. Despite their plans, the leaders feel their position weak, probably because of the lack of money, and they are said to be trying to induce the railwaymen to join in the strike. The idea conceivably is to

make it a species of general strike, to force surrender by the creation of impossible conditions. There is word of money being sent to Blairmore.

For some reason three of the O.B.U. leaders have reason to feel anxiety as to the outcome of the approaching O.B.U. Convention at Port Arthur. Knight's apprehensions were noted last week, as were Winch's difficulties; now it appears that Midgley expects to be overthrown. In this connection it may be noted that the I.W.W. are reappearing in Vancouver and British Columbia.

Revolutionary activities in Toronto are shifting from the O.B.U. (which so far has been a complete failure there) to the Communist Party. The Ontario Labour College seems to be the present centre of mischief there.

## I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

### 2. V.R. Midgley's View of the Labour Situation

175\*2409. V.R. Midgley recently was in close touch with one of our agents, and talked to him freely. His utterances were so interesting that very full excerpts may be given. It will be seen that he expects the coming Convention to throw both himself and Winch out of office:-

"In various conversations with V.R. Midgley recently, he told me he expected to have to go to work again, "but", he said, "It will be a rest. I have had four years of strain now. Labor is ungrateful, and it is a 24- hour a day fight. One is fighting the employers, and fighting the opposition element in his own organization. One has to fight the extremists and the conservatives, and is always being charged with double-crossing and underhand dealings. WHEN one gets an ordinary job, he is through in eight hours. Also I have to fight men whom I like personally, like BLAKE WILSON and George Kidd. They are very fair and reasonable men to deal with and it goes against the grain sometimes to stand out against them." "Midgley expects to be sent out of active participation in labor and socialistic matters by the I.W.W. element at the coming O.B.U. convention. He has opposed their policy of national organization, he says, and has upheld the policy of local industrial organization. That is, the Province of B.C. should attend to its own affairs, and every other section should do the same. There should be no national general movement whenever one locality wants to gain something. "Speaking of conditions in Canada, he said that they would never be serious because the food question was settled, on account of the big surplus production. There was no real misery in Canada and the people could never be prevailed upon to make a general movement. There was also the fact that labor men in large majority respected their employers who were kindly, humane men. The most extreme labor element that Canada had to contend with was the common lumbering and laborer classes from the United States. In that

country common laborers were considered and treated as no better than animals. This had resulted in the I.W.W., formed of men who for ten, twenty, thirty years have been driven from pillar to post, from job to job, their own feelings never considered, their liberties abused by the authorities. This condition, having existed many years, had created the possibility of I.W.W. organization, and the bitterness of the I.W.W. against capitalistic methods was engendered not by Canadian treatment, but by the actions of the capital-controlled authorities of the United States. He expected there would be very wide and serious troubles in the U.S. and he thought it would be good business if the Canadians took care to watch the international border line very sharply.[5]

"Jack Kavanagh, who recently returned from England, informed him that civil war might break out in England at any time. It would not be directly from labor troubles, but would be through some extraneous dispute like the Irish question or the Polish trouble, which would line up definitely and solidly the opposing parties. The condition in England was to some extent due to the high cost of living and the rationing system which still was being carried on, according to Kavanagh's latest information. Kavanagh himself did not look for trouble in Canada.

"On the subject of the Third International, Midgley said it was, in the last analysis, nothing but the socialism preached by the socialists of Canada."

"Midgley also told me that Ernest Winch, of the loggers, would be down and out soon, probably at the next O.B.U. convention.

"He is opposed to the I.W.W.," he said, "But as the strength of that following has increased in his organization, he has deemed it wise to accept their policies, intending to block them in the execution. In words he is with them, but will not be in action. He is a man whose one desire is to gain power, and he thinks it is to be obtained by the route he has taken. He is not susceptible to money, excepting as a means to gain power. But no man can accept policies and then not carry them out. He must act or repudiate. This will be what will kill him. He will be forced to take a definite stand, and if he goes with the Wobblies he will be eventually ditched, and if he goes against them after what he has accepted of their principles, he will be a dead one too. He is more sure to be put out of an influential position in the O.B.U. organization than I am."

" 'That convention will please the Internationals', I said.

" 'Oh, I don't know', he replied. 'Although the O.B.U. and the I.W.W. elements are opposed in policies they are not personally opposed to each other, and they understand.'

" 'Will not a number of the moderates go back to International

organizations?’

“ ‘Some, but not many. They all understand pretty well.’

“ ‘But, if the I.W.W.’s get control, what will happen?’

“ ‘They won’t keep control long’.

“Midgley told me that about 71,000 membership cards in the O.B.U. had been issued. In January there has been some 42,000. I asked him if a large number had not lapsed and he said some had, but the per capita payments showed that the membership was strong. He estimated from this tax payment that there were about 50,000 or a little more in Canada. These figures included about 20,000 of whom 16,000 were in British Columbia.”

### 3. Quarrel Between Midgley and Winch.[6]

175\*237 An Agent reports under date of 15th August;-

“There is a big fight on between Winch and Midgley. Winch wants to keep the Headquarters office open and Midgley is trying to have all dues paid direct to the O.B.U. headquarters. I look for Winch to send all the men he can get (who are blacklisted) East, to organize them Farm hands in the loggers’ Union.”

### 4. Per Capita Tax versus General Fund.

The General Workers Unit O.B.U. of Vancouver on 23rd August discussed the constitution in view of the approaching convention. They were specially interested in the per capita tax system of finance; a committee was appointed to draw up tentative proposals for the establishment of a General Fund scheme.

J.S. Smith published in the B.C. Federationist of 27th August an article denouncing the per capita tax system as a pernicious characteristic of craft unionism, and advocating of ownership of all union funds by the union as a whole. Thus weak units which do not pay their own way could use the money contributed by strong units. He depicts a number of benefits which would ensue from this “General Fund System”, the most noteworthy being the ability to establish a daily paper.

### 5. The L.W.I.U. Short of Funds.

175\*237. The L.W.I.U. in Vancouver are in an odd predicament. they have not enough money on hand to pay the \$650. which the printer is charging for issuing the proceedings of the recent convention. A referendum is pending on sundry proposals to change the constitution; the ballots have been printed, but are unintelligible until the proceedings can be consulted. The members are demanding the booklets impatiently. Further, so late as the end of August, Winch was unable to see how they could finance the approaching convention at Port Arthur.[7]

### 6. The I.W.W. once more Establishing itself.

175\*237. According to reports, the I.W.W. once more is being established in Vancouver, and one observer believes that after a while it will

be more dangerous to the operators than the O.B.U.

At present a knot of men, Magness, Boyd, Allman and possibly Hatherley, are at work on the project. Stack, who was reported to have succeeded Allman as chief of the I.W.W.'s in British Columbia, and who also is Chairman of the Resolutions Committee of the L.W.I.U. probably is helping. They have taken an office, and Boyd seems to be Secretary, with Allman managing from the back ground. During July Boyd took in \$148.00 in dues. Allman is busy about the employment offices, expounding the I.W.W. doctrine and criticizing Winch and the O.B.U.

A somewhat earlier report from a different source stated that Allman now is charged with being in the secret service of the R.C.M.P. He and an agitator named Higgins were living together; Higgins was arrested during Allman's absence, and Higgins concluded that he had been betrayed. He now is making charges against Allman.

It was noticed in the report about the setting up of Boyd's office and that he and Allman were keeping somewhat aloof from the majority of the members of the loggers' union.

#### 7. One Big Union Notes.

175\*237. A somewhat amusing bit of news is that Lamont, who was active as an organizer, after a brief spell of manual work in a logging camp returned to Vancouver. He said that "he could not make good on this [8] work on account of having to pack the saw around the bush".

175\*237.

Another bit of mild scandal about the L.W.I.U. is contributed by a letter from a Frenchwoman in Victoria who wished to join the O.B.U. there. With this in view she visited the O.B.U. Hall there and found it so filthy, so carelessly managed, and the Secretary-Caretaker so indifferent, that she changed her mind, and wrote to J.M. Clark in Vancouver for a card.

The comment made by our informant is: "It is evident from the tone of the letter that the O.B.U. is a dead issue in Victoria. This opinion is shared by Clark also".

175\*2142. The Secretary of the Merritt Unit of the O.B.U., a man named Fod Killer, has left, and interest in the unit is decreasing.

#### Labour Notes.

175\*402. The following report upon labour conditions in Victoria has been received:-

"Labour Unions and O.B.U. losing control. Situation in labour circles, quiet. No mass meetings. Ordinary meetings poorly attended. Active members decreasing, unemployment increasing. Approximately 2500 labour men left town since 1st October last; of whom 1000 at least will return between September 1st and 30th November."

175\*3238. Messrs. T.E. Naylor and G.A. Isaacs, Labour members of the Imperial Press Party, have given several addresses during their tour. At Vancouver their statements that English labour is not revolutionary [9] were received with a surprise that bordered on incredulity. The N.C.O. in charge of C.I.B. work in Vancouver remarks:-

“It is a pity that more speakers of the calibre of Naylor and Isaacs cannot be sent through Canada. I am sure they would establish a different feeling among the working class. Their words would go a long way to offset the rotten revolutionary speeches of men like Kavanagh, recently back from England, to misrepresent the real conditions existing there, and to reflect only the sentiments of men of his own stamp.”

It is to be noted that Messrs. Naylor and Isaacs were far from “reactionary”. They were, for example, strongly opposed to war in general and in particular the giving of aid to Poland.

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175\*2726A patrol from Prince George to Quesnel results in a report that labour conditions on the construction work of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway are good. About 800 men are employed on the grade at present; when the snow comes this force will be reduced to 300. The supply of labour is good, there are no agitators, officials and men alike are pleased with each other, and the men are making high wages.

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175\*622. The Labour Temple in Vancouver has been bought by the Provincial Government and all the tenants are under notice to quit. These include the printing office of the British Columbia Federationist, as well as the offices of numerous unions. The Company which held the Temple had become insolvent, and it is a question whether anything will be left of the purchase price, \$165,000, when all obligations have been met. [10]

#### 9. Kavanagh on Conditions in Great Britain

175\*1523. J. Kavanagh addressed a meeting in Vancouver, about 600 persons being present, on his experiences in Great Britain. He attacked Tom Moore for hampering Gage and him, criticised the Trade Union officials of Great Britain, praised Smillie, and was greatly impressed with the strength of the revolutionary labour movement, particularly in Scotland and Wales.

#### 10. The International Bible Students' Position.

175\*1724. The International Bible Student's Association are busy contradicting the statement that they are a revolutionary society. A sample meeting was held at Vancouver on 29th August, when S.A. Cater repudiated the charge. He said in part:-

“During the war they accused us of being Pacifists; now they call us revolutionists, but we know we take the only stand that any true christian can take at all times that is to be Neutral. A true Christian

can take no part in political affairs. We are in sympathy with Radicals (with which we are classed), as far as they are struggling for better conditions and righteousness; and on the other hand, we are in sympathy with the governing officials in so far as they are interested in the welfare and safeguarding of the people; but we are not allied to either parties."

He went on to make the usual prophecies (which must be very unsettling to persons tinged with their beliefs) of the certainty of the revolution which emanates from RUSSIA spreading here and upsetting the Government.

#### 11. British Columbia Detachment Reports:-

175\*2736Prince George, 14th August:-

"Labour situation is very quiet, all labour required is available. No agitation in the district.

175\*2734Hazelton, 14th August:-

No trouble or complaints have been heard of or reported during the past week and the district is quiet".[11]

175/1595Ocean Falls, 21st August:-

Situation rapidly becoming normal.

175/2831Chakawana Detachment (Coastal Patrol) 14th August:

"Labour conditions along the coast patrolled by the Chakawana are very quiet at present, no trouble being reported".

175/2501Nanaimo, 21st August:-

"Everything is quiet and orderly in this district. All mines and logging and lumbering operations are working to full capacity and there is plenty of work throughout the entire district. It is reported that there has been a complete lay off of No. 5 camp, of the Victoria Lumber Co. but have not as yet been able to confirm this report."

175/2531Alert Bay, 14th August:-

"Labour conditions are quiet in this district. There is a great shortage of labour in the canneries, which, now that the big run of salmon is on, is causing great inconvenience. Logging camps are working smoothly without any noticeable labour trouble."

175/2500Port Alberni, 21st August:-

"District quiet and orderly. Mills and camps are working steadily. Construction work proceeding smoothly on E. and N."

175/2743Esquimalt, 21st August:-

"Sawmills and shipyard in full swing. Labour conditions favourable. All routine work and station orders carried out as per Naval Yard regulations.

175/2742Cumberland, 21st August:-

No labour troubles mentioned.

175/2735Merritt, 21st August:-

No labour troubles mentioned. Industry active.



175/2740 Nelson, 14th August:-

"There are no new developments in labour conditions".

175/2778 Midway, 14th August:-

"No labour troubles mentioned.

## II. ALBERTA

### 12. Developments in the Crow's Nest Pass.

175/1965. A report dated 28th August, from the N.C.O. in charge at Blairmore, after noting Christophers' activity in the district, says;-[12]

"There is no doubt but what the miners will strike this Fall, and I have received reliable information that the O.B.U. are working hard and will endeavour to get the railway employees to go out on strike with the miners, and it is the opinion of some that unless the O.B.U. can get the railway men to go out, the strike will not amount to much."

175/420.

P.M. Christophers returned to Blairmore on 31st August and worked very actively among the miners. R. McDonald, the local O.B.U. Secretary on 1st September was reported to have received a good deal of registered mail, during the two previous days. This contained money, apparently a considerable sum.

175/420. P.M. Christophers visited Fernie on 25th and 26th August, apparently to confer with Thomas Uphill, a local agitator and the brains of the Fernie, O.B.U. and Sawyer, the local O.B.U. SECRETARY.

On 1st September, it is reported, the situation was quiet, the miners were more satisfied than they had been for some time, and the O.B.U. seemed at a standstill. In AUGUST barely 100 men paid dues to the O.B.U. and Sawyer was looking for a job".

### 13. One Big Union Notes.

175/4 P.M. Christophers' fortnightly report of 14th AUGUST claims considerable gains for the O.B.U. in Drumheller, where he spent some days. He was endeavouring to arrange an O.B.U. convention for "District No. 1", (i.e. Alberta in Calgary.)

175/3 .An investigation on 1st September showed that the strike at the Chinook Mines, Commerce. near Lethbridge, was continuing with no sign of a settlement. It had been in effect for two weeks. The manager [13] had about 20 men at work underground and 30 on the surface; the mines were working but at a loss.

### 14. Miscellaneous Notes.

175/451. A notice of Reverend Wm. Irvine of Calgary states that the recent attempt to found a Labour Church in Calgary, with him as "pastor"

failed. At present he is editing the Western Independent, formerly the Alberta Non-Partisan, the organ of the U.F.A. He also is organizer for that body. Not long ago he presided at a meeting of the Self Determination for Ireland League; otherwise he has been quiet of late.

175/67. At the Socialist meeting in Edmonton on 29th August J.F. Maguire attacked the I.W.W. The attendance was only 40, and the collection only \$2.36.

175/140. J.B. Williams of the I.B.S.A. was the speaker at the open-air meeting at Edmonton on Sunday 29th August. His discourse contained the usual predictions of the subversion of Government, Society etc.

175/200. The Edmonton Statesman has suspended publication temporarily and perhaps permanently. It was in effect the organ of Mayor Joseph Clarke.

### III. SASKATCHEWAN

#### 15. End of the Bienfait Strike.

175/3183. There has been an exodus of foreign-born O.B.U. and from the Bienfait Mines. About 30 have gone to Kipp Mines, Alberta. The two [14] leaders, Diaczun and Michalowski, have gone to Winnipeg. About 10 have left the O.B.U. and returned to work.

Negotiations took place on 24th and 25th August between two part owners of the Taylorton Mine and two representatives of the O.B.U., E.J. McMurray the lawyer and H. Cottrell the organizer. The Company was disposed to re-employ the O.B.U. men, under agreement to cause no more trouble before May next; it would not, however employ Diaczun, who had made threats of violence. The O.B.U. resented this discrimination. At this stage, the Company consulted the men who had remained at work and refused to strike; most if not all of these were English-speaking. These men objected strongly to men who remained O.B.U. members being taken back. Our report is:-

“Several of them told Mr. Sutherland that the O.B.U. was the first footing of Bolshevism and it would be a good thing for Taylorton and all Canada to get rid of them and that every white man refused to go to work if they were allowed back. They told Mr. Sutherland that the O.B.U. was agitating a rebellion and they were not going to work with a O.B.U. man”.

This decided the management, and the men who persisted in remaining with the O.B.U. were ordered off, with the result already stated. Their families were allowed to remain in their houses on the Company's land for a month.

This has been a reaction in Winnipeg. On returning to Winnipeg Cottrell published in the O.B.U. Bulletin of 4th September an account of the transaction in which he displays great bitterness against the Anti-

O.B.U. miners. This is given the most conspicuous place in the paper and is headed "The English-speaking Workers Disloyal as Usual." This is likely to accentuate racial bitterness.[15]

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#### 16. Dissatisfaction with International Headquarters.

175/2587The Regina local of the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers on 25th August cut loose from their International Union headquarters at Springfield, Illinois. The local propose to continue as an independent union; whether they join the O.B.U. probably depends on whether it gains ground or not.

The principal reason for the defection, according to our informant, is the dissatisfaction over the "per capita tax" question, the men feeling that they sent away half their dues and got no service in return. On this subject our informant says:-

"Speaking from an organized Workers' point of view, the O.B.U. is far superior to the International Union in-so-far as this per capita question is concerned. O.B.U. Organizers and agitators use this per capita question as one of their main weapons to fight International Unionism and I am of the opinion that this will be the main cause for many other Unions affiliated with the A.F. of L. breaking away from it. Another point which must be considered and which causes much criticism among the Labourers is the initiation fee paid by the different Tradesmen. For instance bricklayers pay the sum of \$25.00 as initiation fee and \$2.25 monthly dues".

After giving an instance of the lack of interest in the craft unionism by non-unionists in Regina, he adds:-

"Apparently International Unionism is losing ground in this city, caused chiefly the fact that non-Union men receive just as much pay and just as much work as Union men are getting".

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#### 17. Miscellaneous Notes.

175/586.The O.B.U. Units at Moose Jaw are inactive and the members dissatisfied.[16]

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175/2932.Investigation into reports of revolutionary activity at Gravelbourg show these to be unfounded.

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175/3234The International Bible Students Association is very active now in Northern Saskatchewan. At Yorkton their membership number 100.

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175/3231Attention has been drawn to a boat-captain named Hicks, who is employed about the Pas, who is active in this sect. He is given to defending Lenin and Trotsky and arguing that the Bolsheviki are carrying

on God's work on earth in accordance with the prophecies of the Scriptures.

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175/2989The meeting of the Regina branch of the G.A.U.V. held on 25th August was attended by 16 persons.

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#### IV. MANITOBA

##### 18. O.B.U. Notes.

175/3201The Winnipeg Running Trades Unit O.B.U. at a thinly attended meeting on 27th August decided to conduct the unit as a secret organization, so as to be able secretly to enroll men who were members of the International and as such forbidden to join any other labour organization.

The chairman of the meeting, a C.P.R. engineer named Stephenson, said he had to keep his connection with the O. B. U. secret until 1st December. He had gone on strike in 1919, and had been taken back into the Internationals on a friend's vouching for his good [17] behaviour until that date; to protect his friend he wished his violation of the conditions concealed.

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175/424A strange incident occurred at a Socialist open-air meeting at Winnipeg on Sunday 29th August. The attendance was 200-250, and most of the O.B.U. leaders were present. The speaker, Charles Stewart, made a Socialistic address of the usual sort, including in his remarks a denunciation of W.H. Hoop as a traitor. He went on to say that recently a stranger who claimed to belong to the Socialist Party of Australia had come without credentials, had desired to speak, and had not been trusted. Thereupon a man in the audience avowed himself to be the person in question and took the platform. His speech was a series of taunts to Stewart for avoiding the point as to whether he believed in direct action. Stewart in his rejoinder suggested that the interloper was "one of the tools in the hands of the Capitalist Class", and challenged him to tell whence he came and who he was. On search being made the interrupter could not be found. Our informant inclines to the belief that he was a detective of some agency.

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177/8The Winnipeg Typographical Union is said to be considering the advisability of refusing to set up the One Big Union Bulletin on the ground that it exists to destroy craft unionism.

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##### 19. The Federated Press.

175/3250The following curious report is furnished by an agent in Winnipeg:[18]

"It is thought by some members of the O.B.U. that the new wireless being erected by the Federated Press will be at Charleston, U.S.A.

"This new wireless is to be direct with Russia in order that the Federated Press, which is an organized radical Press system may get the direct news from Russia, concerning the Labour movement there, so that the same tactics may be used in this country, and the correct news procured for the numerous papers and Bulletins which make up the Federation.

"The head department of this Press Federation is in the U.S.A., I understand, but such a direct connection with Russia could be used for many purposes."

#### 20. Miscellaneous Notes.

175/87 The meeting of the Labour Church of Winnipeg on 29th August was attended by about 800 persons, which is much below the seating capacity of the theatre which was used. D.B. Harkness of the Social Council spoke on liquor control.

175/2620. A report from Winnipeg states that the Jews there have sent over \$20000 "for the Jewish leaders in Soviet Russia"; and that about twice as much has been sent from the United States.

### V. ONTARIO.

#### 21. Revolutionary Activities in Toronto.

175/3253. A review of the revolutionary activities now being prosecuted in Toronto by a person acquainted with the foreign element shows the following organizations to be at work;-[19]

1. One Big Union. Speakers are Mr. and Mrs. J.R. Knight, J. Blodley and Max Armstrong.

2. Ontario Labour College. Speakers are George Wilshow, Curley Hodgins, "Lou the Greek" and some others from Continental Europe.

3. Workers' Educational League, Speakers are- Roberts and Mrs. Florence Constance (or Custance.)

4. Independent Labour Party. Speakers are O'Connor McDonald.

All of the foregoing are described as incessantly praising the Soviet Government of Russia and urging the overthrow of the Government of Canada. Our informant is of opinion that the audiences addressed are little impressed.

He states that the extremists are spreading the idea that there will be trouble in Canada this Winter.

There is a secession in progress from the O.B.U. to the Communist Party. This meets in the Ontario Labour College. Some of the extremists are assailing "Jammie" Simpson and the Independent Labour Party.

175/3252. The Workers' Educational League has made its appearance in Toronto in connection with the Ontario Labour College. On 29th

August the League held an open-air meeting, the speakers being Corley (or Curley) Hodgins and George Wilshow, (?Wiltshire) of the Labour College, Wilshow's speech was extremely revolutionary.

It may be noted that there has been working for some time in Toronto an excellent institution, the Workers' Educational Association; it is designed, to enable workmen to undertake serious study, under the guidance of university men, of a number of subjects.[20]

175/2724.

175/3237. Our attention is being drawn to the Ontario Labour College, 28 Wellington Street, Toronto. It is described as the meeting place of the I.W.W. Communists and other Radicals of the city. These men are of different nationalities, Russians, Russian Jews, Bulgarians, Greeks, etc. It is a depository for revolutionary literature, revolutionary conversation is constantly proceeding there, and it is an organizing point. The open-air meetings which the One Big Union now are holding always are attended by a know of these men; they form the nucleus of an audience, sell O.B.U. reading matter, and handle interrupters roughly. An account of the School supplied to the Star is described as untrue.

175/3237. The Labour College according to announcements at open air meetings, is starting a new course which will run from October till March or April. The teaching given would be far superior to that given at the university, and the library was far better than the selection of books at the Public Library. Our report adds:-

"They stated that these Labour Colleges had originally sprung from the Ruskin College in London, but that the more progressive element had broken away from the Ruskin College and started Labour Colleges, and they had met with great success in several of the big industrial centres in Great Britain, notably in Glasgow, Birmingham and Wales".

175/2724. At an open-air meeting in Toronto on 21st August J.R. Knight was jubilant over the threat of hard times. "More men out of work is the best propaganda we can have. When the workers will get hungry, they will wake up and see what the labour conditions are in Canada. He said that something is going to happen here next Winter." [21]

175/2475 Anna Buller of Montreal may go to Windsor for a while to superintend the distribution of revolutionary reading matter there.

175/2475 J.R. Knight is arranging a circuitous route for the mailing of the O. B. U. Bulletin from Winnipeg to Toronto, as he thinks that when sent direct the bundles are "conveniently lost".

175/539 J.R. Knight's fortnightly report for 27th July, 27th to 10th

August described visits to Iroquois, Timmins, Kirkland Lake in New Ontario; his journey to Winnipeg to take part in the debate of 6th August; and his visit to Edmonton. On 10th August he was on his way to Toronto.

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175/2830. Internationals in London are said to have bestirred themselves against the O.B.U. more particularly on the railway unions.

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## 22. Foreign Revolutionists.

175/2638. We have heard additional particulars about the Russian Socialistic School in Toronto. The address is 111 Dundas Street. The teachers are Vasili Dedokin, Nestor and Mrs. Coldberg, the last named a Russian Jewess, Dedokin has stated that he obtained the money from Detroit.

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175/325?. A notice of the "Society of Technical Help to the Soviet of Russia" of Detroit in the *Rusky Goles* (Voice of Russia) shows that in that School the curriculum is Arithmetic, Algebra, Geometry, "technic", and the Russian language. [22]

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175/3256. Mrs. Sonia Goldberg, the Russian Jewess who has appeared as a teacher in the Russian School at Toronto has stated in conversation that she arrived in Canada 3 months ago from Russia (Province of "Bocroisk"). She was a teacher for the Soviet for two years. She is well educated. She knows little English.

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175/3255. The World Conference of Polia Sien (Jewish Anarchist Communist Party) held last August in Vienna by a small majority decided to join the Third International, and to abstain from the Zionist Conference. The American, English and Palestinian delegates left the conference in protest.

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## II. MARITIME PROVINCES.

### 23. General View of the Coal Situation.

The Officer Commanding Maritime Provinces in a careful review of the labour situation in the coal mines of Cape Breton comes to the conclusion that it requires careful observation and is difficult to judge; but he inclines to the belief that a strike this Winter is unlikely.

The general situation is much influenced by the character of the miners. They are insular, high spirited, impatient and very ignorant; they have little idea of the difference between Provincial and Federal spheres of action; and they hear nothing upon public affairs, except from their own leaders. On the other side, is lack of understanding between the mine management and the men, and the latter complain of red tape in management. It is noted that there has been a gratifying decrease in accidents since

the readjustment of hours.[23]

These being the general conditions, particular aspects of the situation are:-

1. The pronouncement of the Royal Commission is impending. The Labour leaders are trying to discount it by threatening to strike if it does not hurry. "This talk is not taken seriously by well-informed men".
2. Sooner or later the Merger and the Miners will have a trial of strength; the exact date cannot be predicted. The financing of the Merger has not been completed; until it is complete the operators will not provoke a conflict. Once it is accomplished they may force a fight, but this seems remote at the moment.
3. The U.M.W. of A. while well organized, find the rank and file hard to handle and impatient. The steadier miners are being driven out of control of the locals by the more radical men and there are many unnecessary stoppages of work over trivial matters. While McLachlan and Barrett are regarded by the steadier men as too extreme; they in turn are troubled by these one-day strikes; and have threatened to revoke the charters of some locals.
4. The frequency of miner local strikes is promoting dissension between the miners who wish to work, and those who do not.
5. The miners are most suspicious of and hostile to all police forces, chiefly because of their dislike of the Dominion Coal Company's Police.
6. The production of coal has decreased since 1914, and the men are not disposed to increase it. Over 5000 men went overseas voluntarily and there has been no great importation of labour to replace them. The opening of additional mines should help to effect an increase.

as. Miscellaneous Notes.

175/3240. Following is a report from an agent in the Nova Scotia mines:-

"Some time ago 25 Germans made their way to No. 4 Mine Caladonia. They started in to work and appeared in their army uniform. For some time on account of so many returned men working in this mine, a serious riot was expected at any time, however, matters have been adjusted and now the Teutons appear at work in ordinary civilian clothes.[24]

"Some fear is felt among the people that trouble may yet arise among the returned men who don't seem at any way pleased at such men coming into our Country".

175/3241. The Royal Commission on the Coal Industry in Nova Scotia has removed a grievance suffered by the men at Nos. 10 and 11 Collieries,



Dominion Coal Company. The conditions have prevented the use of the horses ordinarily employed, and the men have had to push the coal boxes themselves, sometimes for 300 yards; the box when loaded weighs 1 ton 7 ewt. The Commission having inspected the mine have agreed with the men, and the company now are training ponies to do the work.