

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

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SECRET

NO. 41

NOTES OF THE WORK OF THE C. I. B. DIVISION
FOR THE WEEK ENDING 16TH SEPTEMBER

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 1. Characteristics of the Period.

The approach of the dates set for the O.B.U. Convention and for the Alberta Coal Strike are the principal events of the week; the actual happenings include nothing very noticeable. As regards the Port Arthur Convention; we still hear of the rather mysterious ground-swell which is threatening the tenure of office of several of the O.B.U. leaders; our information this week is more in the nature of confirmations of last week's news than of fresh occurrences, though from one quarter comes the statement that one cause of the disturbance is J.R. Knight's attempt to utilize the absence of Russell and Johns from the councils of the O.B.U. to give the organization an Anarchistic twist. It is noticeable in this connection that Knight's associates in Eastern Canada tend to come from the Communistic foreign elements.

As regards the Western Coal fields, evidence accumulates both that the leaders intend to provoke a strike, and that they feel too weak for a long struggle, and so desire to organize a sympathetic strike of railwaymen. The "Labour College" project is making an appearance in British Columbia.

I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

2. Cross Currents in the O.B.U.

The Officer Commanding British Columbia in his confidential monthly report for August makes some interesting observations of a general nature;-[5]

"A large number of loggers have been out of employment during the month owing to camps closing down because of fire risks. Forest fires have been prevalent. Altogether to date this season there have been 754 fires costing the Government \$71,458.00, according to figures compiled by the Chief Forester.

"Not so much trouble has been experienced on account of strikes as

heretofore. The I.W.W. element is gaining in power and indications are that E. Winch, the present general secretary-treasurer will have a hard fight to retain his position. This he realizes, and in order to hold on as long as possible he has ceased to oppose the I.W.W. openly, and is playing his cards in such a manner as to lead them to believe that he has come to their way of thinking, while in reality he will continue to oppose them. How long this will last is problematical. The result of the voting on Clause 5 on the Coast Referendum Ballot, which was put through by the I.W.W. element and reads as follows:-

“Are you in favour That the Coast District withdraw from the Central Executive Board of the Lumber & Camp Workers’ Industrial Union; and affiliate direct with the General Executive Board of the O.B.U.?”

will have a direct bearing on the term of his office, and no doubt this was the cause of Winch’s change of tactics.

“Investigations have been carried on as usual during the month. Indications are that there has been no great activity towards advancement in membership, and the standards of its moral seems to be steadily, although perhaps slowly, weakening. One of its present main leaders is sick of the thanklessness of the work which he has been performing for the past four years; and confidently expects that the rank and file of the organization will leave him stranded high and dry without an executive position just as soon as the opportunity offers. This same leader expects also that another of the organization’s officials will find himself in a similar position, mainly through the action of the I.W.W. element in the L.W.I.U. gaining strength. These leaders recognise that Canada is a ‘land of plenty’, that the employer is humane; that there is little room in the minds of the great mass of the Canadian public for ‘Bolshevistic’ thought, but they still hope that trouble may follow in the wake of labor trouble in Europe (Great Britain especially) and in the United States, and no doubt much will depend on that.[6]

“From time to time it is apparent that the conscientious workers, members of the O.B.U. having joined that organization in the full belief that it would be an act to their individual betterment, and having stayed with it long enough to find out its weak point, now repudiate it entirely and sever their connection. A notable instance of this may be found in the folios of a file ‘re O.B.U. Strike at Camp 17. Pacific Mills Ltd., Ocean Falls’. In this case an O.B.U. strike was called, which was at first supported by a majority. In its finality, however, the O.B.U. delegate and four others were ordered out of Camp by the men. These four men were able to control 40 others who took their time and left also. The rest went back to work, and

many of these tore up their O.B.U. membership cards and declared they were through with the organization for ever.

"There have been no new strikes during the month, except that at Camp 17 aforesaid".

Dealing with unemployment he says:-

"Gratifying figures are shown in the Provincial Employment returns for the month of August and the results obtained were greater than in any previous month since the employment service was instituted. The main factor in bringing about this increase was the sending of men to the prairie provinces for harvest work. These still out of employment- Victoria having the usual high proportion- could obtain work if they interested themselves in jobs outside their own locality".

The interview with Winch was incorporated in the last issue of the Summary. The comments of the Officer Commanding show the importance which he attaches to it.

3. More about the O.B.U. Dissensions.

In a report dated 3rd September, the N.C.O. in charge of C.I.B. work at Vancouver says:-

"Recent reports indicate that the One Big Union organization is being gradually undermined, partly through mismanagement of its affairs; partly by apathy on the part of its officials; partly by the disgust which individual members have openly expressed from time to time; partly by the rebuffs of employers, and lastly but not least by any means, the growing activities of the I.W.W.

"It is too early to say that the O.B.U. is disintegrating, but it will be very interesting to see what will happen to it after the next convention".[7]

After recalling the interview with Midgley which has been quoted in these notes, he says:-

"Midgley and Winch have been hard workers for their organization. If these two men go out of its active service, it may be that it will be the commencement of 'Disintegration'.

After mentioning the present activities of Boyd and Callman, he says:-

"There seems to be a general belief that an I.W.W. local will be launched here in the near future.

"In Victoria, the O.B.U. appears to be a dead issue. Half the time the Hall is deserted and unopened mail is lying around for anyone to do much as they like with".

Under date of 4th September he notes that,-

"Both Winch and Midgley of the O.B.U. fully expect to be ousted from office by the I.W.W. element in their ranks at the next Convention". He recalls in this connection Allman's enterprise at Vancouver, which has been noted already.

4. The O.B.U. in the Metalliferous Mines.

Further information has come to hand as to the standing of the O.B.U. in the Metalliferous Mines.

The N.C.O. in charge at Trail reports that at the Rossland works of the Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company about 150 persons are employed, of whom 100 are members of the O.B.U. At the Trail works 1600 men are employed, of whom 300 are, if not actual members, at all events sympathizers. Upon this the O.C. West Kootenay observes;-

“There has been a good deal of investigation in regard to the actual membership of the O.B.U. at Trail and Rossland. On the one hand the O.B.U. was boasting of a membership of 700 to 800 or more and on the other hand the management of the C.S. & M. Co. claimed that there were not more than 50 actual members. Two S.A.'s at [8] different times were sent down to Trail in an effort to see whether the O.B.U. was actually strong there, as it was indicated that the employees of the Trail smelter were secretly members of the O.B.U. and that there was danger of labor troubles developing there. However, last Spring the O.B.U. attempted to call a strike at Trail; there was no response, none of the men leaving their work and only small numbers attending the meetings of the O.B.U. agitators who were in Trail attempting to call a strike. The mines at Rossland did go on strike at this time, but only stayed out a couple of days and the objects of the strike were not gained. The management of the C.S. & M. Co. are strongly opposed to the O.B.U. they do detective work on their own initiative and discharge any O.B.U. agitators immediately they discover them. Because of this there is an obvious tendency on the part of O.B.U. members and sympathizers to hide the fact and it is difficult to ascertain just what the actual paying membership of the O.B.U. is, I have heard of actual cases, of O.B.U. members putting their buttons in their pocket when they went to ask for a job at the smelter. However, there is so much to discourage membership of the O.B.U. at Trail that I think, that while Cpl. Withers may be correct in regard to the number of actual sympathizers, the number of paying members to the O.B.U. at Trail is much smaller”.

The N.C.O. in charge at Nelson is of opinion that the O.B.U. members there is confined to the general workers' unit and is of a fluctuating nature, owing to the nomadic character of the labour concerned.

The strike in the Metalliferous mines of the Slocan district now has lasted for four months.

5. General O.B.U. Notes.

The O.B.U. are trying to organize the Chinese at Cumberland. Many of whom are coalminers. Pamphlets in Chinese are being distributed

among them. The attempt is not viewed seriously. The N.C.O. in charge of the detachment in reporting this says;-

"The Chinese are split up into Tongs and factions each having a leader who practically owns the remainder of the Chinese in his faction. The result is that these men cannot do anything against the wishes of the few leaders and unless the O.B.U. can get these [9] few to join them any other attempts at organization are bound to prove a failure. There are about 500 Chinese working in the mines here, and should these men organize and go on strike it would seriously handicap the working of the mines although it would not necessarily cause them to close down. At present there is no prospect of anything like this happening".

In commenting on this the Officer Commanding British Columbia says;-

"The different elements of Chinese in Vancouver are controlled by about seven "Tongs", the leaders of which are fast becoming wealthy through their commercial enterprises".

The Finnish Unit, O.B.U. in Vancouver is in somewhat depressed circumstances. The Finnish Society about 7 years ago numbered about 350 members, and erected a hall at a cost of \$15000. The membership now is only about 150, many having left Vancouver, some to return to Finland; and some of the younger men have learned trades, joined Canadian organizations, and drifted away. The Society consequently is hard put to it to keep up the hall, is offering it for sale at \$13000. The O.B.U. Unit is a general workers one, and has only about a dozen members. It meets at the aforesaid hall.

A report from Yahk dated 29th August says that at the moment there was very little O.B.U. talk in the lumber camps of the district.

The O.B.U. has a paid organizer named Michael Casey living in Penticton. He is working in the camps from Penticton to Fairview; the men in these are employed upon an irrigation system which the Provincial Government is erecting. Most of these men are returned soldiers, and Casey's prospects are not considered good.

J.H. Thompson has been elected District Secretary L.W.I.U., for the Cranbrook District. The five members of the District Board are; Lee Rader; F. Bidder; W.L. Allen; G. Jorgenson; O.J. Dandineau. Of [10] these Bidder and Dandineau have attracted our notice before.

6. Other Labour Notes.

Following is a report from Vancouver dated 7th September;-

"The longshoremen are very quiet, now, and seem to wish to remain so. They recently reached an agreement with the coastwise lines for a new agreement, 90 cents an hour straight time and \$1.15 for overtime, with special rates for hazardous or disagreeable jobs. The deep-sea workers are considering demands for some increases, but have not made them. They

will ask \$1, an hour, I am told.

"Some trouble was recently averted. The steamer 'Eastern Victor', a U.S. shipping board boat, came up to load steel rails for the Black Sea. It is understood that they are going to the Black Sea, for General Wrangel. The ship came in and loading had been going on for three days before a story appeared in the paper telling where the rails were going.

"I saw the Secretary George Thomas on the Street the following day and asked him how the boys felt about sending rails to General Wrangel. He replied that it was lucky the ship had been 'worked' for three days before the men knew where they were loading for. Had they known it when the ship arrived there would have been no rails loaded. As it was the 'reds' in the union tried very hard to persuade the men to quit, as soon as they found they were loading for an enemy to the Bolsheviki. But the majority of the men held that the job had proceeded so far it might as well be finished. The ship was not going to the Black Sea direct, any way, but was going to Seattle to pick up more rails. They would complete loading the 2600 tons that were in Vancouver, and meantime would notify the longshoremen of Seattle. If the latter thought it advisable to refuse to load the ship they could do so.

"The Eastern Victor" reached Seattle Tuesday night, August 31st, No word has yet reached here of any difficulties there".

A report from a well-informed source dated Vancouver 7th September, deals with the Street Railway situation, to the effect, that a strike is probable and that it will not be unwelcome to the Company, as a means of obtaining an increase in fares. The average pay of the [11] men is \$125.00 a month, and they will ask for an increase of at least 10 cents an hour.

The Gas Workers of Vancouver, an O.B.U. organization struck on 8th September. A Conciliation Board made an award which the men rejected. V.R. Midgley represented the men on the Board and he made a minority report. The men, whose wages are high, put up rather a poor case. The COMPANY is maintaining the supply of gas, and seems determined. Midgley's personal belief, however, is that the Company is using the dispute to obtain an increase in the price of gas.

7. A "Labour College" Project in Vancouver.

The "Labour College" idea is spreading to the West. A circular letter dated 26th August 1920 has been sent out, signed by J.M. Clarke, Coast District Secretary of the L.W.I.U. It is as follows:-

"As the equilibrium of Capitalist Society gets more and more upset, and as the financial super-structure of Capitalism becomes more and more complicated and unworkable we realize as never before the vital necessity of as many members of our class understanding

the social forces at work, and the vital problems that confront us. In the British Isles they have established labor colleges in which members of the various organizations receive an education in working class questions. Although the O.B.U. is not in a condition financially to maintain a college where members of the O.B.U. could go and receive an education; yet nevertheless, personally I cannot see why a correspondence school could not be started at some central point, which correspondence school could work in conjunction with an educational committee appointed in the various districts. Personally I cannot see why a scheme of that nature could not be worked out and put into operation. It would mean that the O.B.U. would this be in a position to disseminate working class propaganda; educate its members as to their class position in society; and thus make a good live membership, who would not think, or believe that a certain act on the part of the Master Class might mean a certain thing, but it would tend to give us a membership which would know [12] exactly what it did mean. A blind man can see that Capitalism is nearing its end, and it is up to us as members of the working class, the class that will have to carry on and administer industry, that we fully understand the problem we will be confronted with and thus be in a position to successfully carry on production after Capitalism has fallen. The O.B.U. Convention will be held at Port Arthur on September 20th, if you desire, or think that any action should be taken in this matter please notify us if there is any other matter which you would like to have taken up at that convention".

The fact that this move is made by a union which contains one of the roughest, most illiterate and most nomadic and unstable classes of labour should not blind us to the effect that such schools might have. They would be training places for soap-box orators.- promoters of half-knowledge and glibness.

In this connection it may be noted that the Citizens League of Winnipeg is moving on two lines. (1) To promote increased study of civics in the University. (2) TO ESTablish a Public Service Committee of men trained to fight the Marxian School. These men will be trained to argue and to speak.

8. Kavanagh's Violent Utterances.

J. Kavanagh, spoke at the usual Sunday Socialist meeting in Vancouver on 5th September. There was a large audience, which included many foreigners. The collection was \$98.00

Extracts from his speech are:-

After referring to the bringing of Austrian children to England for feeding he said:-

"I heard from good authority that they were children of the better

class of Austrian people- the children of the other class were, of course, left to their fate. The reason for this was that the Master class of Britain preferred a more intelligent and healthy lot of children, so that when they grew up, they would be of a superior class. But Hungary made a big mistake when the Proletariat overthrew the Capitalist, and that was to have let any of them get away alive; they let them go in peace, which gave the Masters a chance to come back and cause greater bloodshed than would have been had the Proletariat murdered the whole of the Master class when they overthrew them”.

Concerning the Irish question he said.-

“We knew that the pure Sinn Fein movement aims at establishing a strong capitalist system in Ireland. What we can't understand is why England is opposed to it, but the trouble in Ireland is not all Sinn Fein. England didn't send 80,000 soldiers into Ireland because of a little religious difference; they are simply trying to use religion to camouflage the situation; it's the old game of the Master class. While I was over there, the Railway men went on strike throughout the country, demanding that certain Political prisoners would be released, and they tied up things in such a way that they were soon granted their demands -so that's something for us to take notice of”.

After saying that “The European question depends on the working class of Great Britain,” and boasting of the freedom with which the red flag is flown in England, he said,-

“What we want to do in this country is just what our fellow workers of other countries are doing- refuse to load supplies for the enemies of our fellow-workers; refuse to make ammunition for the enemies of the working man. This is our one and only way to show our comrades in other countries that we are with them, heart and soul, and we can show the Masters that we are something of importance, because when we stop, everything stops”.

9. Mrs. Rose Henderson at Vancouver.

Mrs. Rose Henderson spoke at a poorly attended meeting of the Federated Labour Party at Vancouver on 7th September. She urged political action, one passage in her speech is thus reported;-[14]

“The coming Coal strike in England will be unsuccessful on account of Lloyd George being unable (?able) to use all available power of the State to counteract the actions of the strikers. If we wish to be successful in the coming elections, we must remember that Machine guns are in the hands of our enemies and that they will use them against us. One machine gun will put to rent five thousand persons, so we must act accordingly, and educate ourselves to a political standpoint that will be superior to that of our enemies”.

The Federated Labour Party has taken a lease of rooms in Vancouver

for two years.

10. Miscellaneous Notes.

The Federated Labour Party held a convention at Summerland on 19th August and decided to contest the bye-election which is to be held in Yale in consequence of the resignation of the Hon. Martin Burrell. Mr. Tom Richardson, formerly a member of the British House, was invited to be the candidate.

Up to 4th September no reply had been received from Mr. Richardson. He is unknown in the constituency and is not likely to obtain more than seven or eight hundred votes at most.

The "Labour Temple" Ukrainian organization in Vancouver seems to be falling to pieces with the departure of John Boychuk. It has only 22 members. It managed to raise \$158.00 for the Ukrainian Labour News, and has about \$80.00 on hand.

Charles Lestor is leaving for England in a few weeks. He has no official backing, and is paying his own way.

The British Columbia Federationist of 3rd September, in its L.W.I.U. page contains an appeal to farm labourers to join the O.B.U. It is signed by J. McIntyre.[15]

At a propoganda meeting of the L.W.I.U. held on 22nd August the British Columbia Federationist was criticised as being inefficient, and a committee was appointed to go into the matter.

In this connection, a report comes from Lawson in Calgary that since the Federationist took up the O.B.U. cause its advertising patronage has fallen off by one quarter.

11. British Columbia Detachment Reports:-

Prince George, 22nd August:-

"The labor situation is quiet. There is a noticeable shortage of labor available in the lumbering industry. At Hutton, B.C. where some 300 men are employed they are at present doing what they can with 100 men. Men working in the saw-mills left in large numbers for the prairies for the harvesting in the district".

Alert Bay, 21st August:-

"Labor conditions are steadily becoming more satisfactory in this district. No reports of any labor trouble have been received during the week".

Port Alberni, 28th August.

"District quiet and orderly. Labor conditions quiet. Mills and camps working steadily".

II. ALBERTA

12. The Alberta Coalfields.

The N.C.O. in charge of C.I.B. work in Southern Alberta in a survey of the situation dated 30th August makes the following observations:-

(1) A convention of the "Mining Department, No. 1. O.B.U." was to be held in Calgary on 10th September. Notices calling it were out.

(2) The Convention was to decide whether to call a strike at the end of September or the end of October. This strike was not to be about wages, working conditions, etc., but to be a fight between the O.B.U. and the U.M.W. of A. [16]

"This is more or less the last stand of the O.B.U. in the mining field", and it all depends upon the backbone of the respective operators."

"If the Operators will stand pat and abide by their agreement, it is believed that the strike will only last the matter of a few days. However, in the event of certain of the operators weakening and recognizing the O.B.U. it will mean a continued source of trouble and strikes throughout the mining district for sometime to come".

(4) "Rod McDonald, O.B.U. Secretary at Blairmore, stated in conversation,- "They were about to hold a meeting, the subject being "direct action, and that the O.B.U. element expected to call the strike the latter part of September or the beginning of October this year, the trouble to commence in the lignite fields of Drumheller and Lethbridge".

(5) Many miners, in view of the imminence of a strike, have gone to the harvest fields. **THUS THE STRIKE** will not affect them, and there is some shortage of labour. This shortage is particularly noticeable in Blairmore.

(6) The U.M.W. of A. are getting impatient, and if the operators recognize the O.B.U. probably will abandon the district.

(7) He reiterates the view that everything depends upon the firmness of the operators, "If they show any signs of weakness, the miners are pretty sure to come out in strength".

A report dated 31st August confirms the fact that the convention was to be held on 10th September, Ten or fifteen mines would be represented. The Convention probably would be secret.

13. The Plans of the Leaders.

The plans entertained on 1st September were,- "Not to call a strike or set any date for a strike to be called, but to make arrangements throughout the district for the various mines to lay off work one at a time, till all the mines are out".

Our report continues,-

"Lawson is of the opinion that if the O.B.U. call a strike, there will be trouble for them, but states that no one can make a man work under a check-off if he doesn't want to, and that it is not illegal for a miner to "take a holiday" for a couple of weeks or so if the [17] miner wants to do so. "Lawson is further of the opinion that the O.B.U. will be so strong this Fall that there will be no need for more

than a 24 hour strike, and stated that in the O.B.U. now there are enough trainmen, yardmen and switchmen to tie up the whole country as far as transportation is concerned".

Lawson (of the Searchlight) is one of the junta who are planning the strike.

14. Later Reports.

A report from Fernie dated 1st September says,-

"At present the majority of the men are all satisfied, and no talk of any kind among them. If there is going to be any trouble it would not start before November or December".

"Beard and Christopher will do all in their power to start trouble if they see men not paying O.B.U. dues, and men will not pay, as \$1.50 is taken off the U.M.W. of A".

Christophers visited Coleman- on 2nd September arranging for an "Organization meeting" there on 5th September. The Unit there subsequently was resuscitated on that date, about 80 men, mostly foreigners, attending. The feeling of the miners was described as aversion from the check-off but reluctance to strike.

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.

A slightly earlier report, dated 28th August, from the N.C.O. in charge at Blairmore, after noting Christophers' activity in the district, says;-[18]

"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".

The Michel local of the U.M.W. of A. has been seized by the O.B.U. The President, Secretary and Treasurer were ejected from office and three Italians of O.B.U. sympathies replaced them; the meeting also voted to meet in the hall frequented by the O.B.U.

The N.C.O. in charge of the detachment say; under date of 3rd September;-

"From the way everything looks at present and the general conversation I am of the opinion that there will be another strike about November as at the present the U.M.W. of A. meetings are undoubtedly O.B.U.".

ANOTHER informant, who is well acquainted with the local situation, after reporting the same incident, says;-

"As a result of all this I find that while the miners at Michel are

running normally at present the miners are divided and it would take but very little to precipitate matter and cause trouble”.

On 2nd September a strike occurred at the Western Commercial Collieries at Wayne, in the Drumheller field. It affects about 10 men. It arose through a personal squabble, but feeling was shown against the U.M.W. of A. and the O.B.U. made the most of it.

P.F. Lawson attended a meeting of the Transportation Unit No. 1, O.B.U. held in Calgary on 3rd September. His speech is reported thus;-

“Lawson was present and spoke of the Searchlight and the miners. It seems that the leaders of the Union look for trouble this coming Winter. Lawson advised the meeting to attend the convention, as it would enable them to line up stronger and to discuss their lot and troubles together; also, that the Railway [19] Units would get a great deal of help from the miners of Alberta”.

The strikers at the Chinook mines at Commerce, near Lethbridge, returned to work on 7th September. They had been out since 18th August. They failed to obtain exemption from the U.M.W. of A. check-off.

15. The General Situation.

Assembling the various reports, it is fair to conclude,-

- (1) That the O.B.U. leaders are desperately anxious to call a strike.
- (2) That there is perceptible some weakening among the rank and file.
- (3) That because of this and perhaps because of shortage of funds, the leaders do not feel able to face a long strike, and on the whole feel rather weak.
- (4) That for this reason every effort will be made to cause a railway strike and in general to make the attack on the community so violent as to force a quick decision.

16. Events in Calgary.

The Shop Steward's Committee at Calgary held their second meeting on 27th August. Not much had been done up to that time, though about 16 recruits have been secured for the O.B.U. It is held that the success of the O.B.U. movement among the C.P.R. employees there depends greatly upon this movement. It is too new to estimate what success it is likely to have.

In this connection the Officer Commanding Calgary remarks;-[20]
 “This shop steward movement means that representatives, who have O.B.U. tendencies, are drawn from the various labor organizations and in effect appointed organizers for the O.B.U. in their respective industries. If the O.B.U. leaders are able to instruct and enthuse these men, they will, no doubt be able to do a good deal, individually towards spreading the O.B.U. doctrine”.

A later report stated that the O.B.U. Shop Stewards in the Ogden Shops at Calgary had taken in 26 new members in the fortnight ending 3rd

September. They seem to have been aided by the bad impression made by McCutcheon, the International organizer who has appeared in Calgary. It is also reported that 24 freight handlers have joined the Transportation Unit.

The O.B.U. now propose to organize the Russians and Germans in Bridgeland, near Calgary.

Ald. Broatch is a delegate to the O.B.U. Port Arthur Convention from Calgary.

R.H. Morlow, an O.B.U. advocate of Calgary, who hitherto has confined himself to selling incendiary reading matter in the "Labour News Stand" has become active as an organizer. He has worked in the freight sheds, and early in September was contemplating a visit to Drumheller to peddle revolutionary books, etc.

The O.B.U. "Class Meeting" at Calgary is growing slightly in numbers. The present lot seem a muddle-headed crew, little likely to get anywhere. They are, however, being trained in argument, and it may turn out some capable agitators.[21]

James Bewsher, who is Secretary of the U.M.W. of A. local at Nordegg, has sent to P.F. Lawson a grant of \$50.00 from the local and some money for subscriptions for the Searchlight. Bewsher apparently is acting treacherously.

P.F. Lawson lately has received rather more financial aid, having got \$2251. in two gifts. He does a good deal of downright begging among the miners, more particularly among the foreigners. He is trying to organize a boycott for the new labour paper which is to be started by the Internationals. His debt to the printers now amounts to \$700.

17. Dissension in Edmonton O.B.U.

The Edmonton O.B.U. have appointed an organizing committee of four, half from the Transportation Workers and half from the Building Trades Unit. J.F. Maguire was appointed organizer, his salary to be \$25.00 for the first week.

Dissension has appeared. Carl E. Berg and Coombs appear to have fallen out. Berg and Maguire also appear to be at loggerheads. The Building Trades Unit seems to have turned against him.

The representatives of this unit on the Central Labour Council of Edmonton were instructed on 1st September to oppose sending a delegate to the Convention.

J.F. Maguire is trying to induce the Canadian Brotherhood of Stationary Engineers and Firemen and Helpers to turn O.B.U. This is a Provincial body without International affiliations. According to Maguire the men are conservative but the president is of O.B.U. sympathies. The Internationals also are courting them.[22]

III. SASKATCHEWAN

18. Miscellaneous Notes.

The O.B.U. in Regina has enrolled no new members recently. At least one foreign-born agitator under the influence of the Ukrainian Labour News is canvassing against the Western Labour News on the ground that it has ceased to be a Workingman's paper.

The Regina O.B.U. decided not to send a delegate to the Convention at Port Arthur. The deterrent was the expense, which would be from \$130.00 to \$140.00.

IV. MANITOBA.

19. General Notes.

The Ex-soldiers and Sailors Labour Party and the G.A.U.V. in Winnipeg held a meeting on 5th September to denounce participation in any way with Russia. It was attended by about 1300 men, principally ex-Servicemen, with a sprinkling of O.B.U.'s. The speeches were of a revolutionary nature.

One amusing incident occurred. S. Cartwright spoke and tired the audience by reading long extracts from newspapers, so that many of them left. This annoyed him and he "declared it would only be a short time until conditions would force the workers to attend these meetings whether they liked it or not".

The Ukrainians at the Ukrainian National Home in Winnipeg declared against Mr. Swystun's proposed Ukrainian National Church.

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.[23]

In an interview early in September one of the Shop Stewards in the C.N.R. Roundhouse at WINNIPEG said that he had enlisted eight new members. He was confident that in another year practically all switchmen, yardmen and firemen of the C.N.R. there would be O.B.U. But he had little hope of getting many conductors, engineers or brakemen for some time.

The move to expel W.H. Hoop from the Dominion Labour Party is being pressed with determination. The proceedings at the meeting at Winnipeg on 8th September have been published. Despite the passing of the four months hoist at that meeting the matter will be pursued. As the Internationals are behind Hoop, a split may follow.

The Manager of the O.B.U. Bulletin in a letter to the Regina O.B.U. stated that it now was on a paying basis.

At Fort William the Labour Day celebration passed off quietly and successfully; matters were taken out of the hands of the extremists and good feeling between the several classes was noticeable.

V. ONTARIO

20. Labour Day Events.

The Labour Day parade in Toronto was practically worked by the

extremists; but they in turn seem to be disappointed at their showing. As reported in the public press, the speeches made at the Exhibition Grounds were of a most wholesome nature. An incident of the day is thus reported by the N.C.O. in charge of C.I.B. work in Toronto;-[24]

"After the speaking was over several of the radical element tried to make speeches in the crowd. One little Englishman especially, who stated that he was born in the slums of London, said the economic conditions in this country would never let him have the same chance as any one else to make a living. Three or four old fellows then took part in the discussion. One said, "you have as much chance as I have, I have worked for \$10. a month and now have enough to live on". Another said he had worked for \$5.00 a month. ANOTHER old fellow said he had worked for \$1.00 per month. By that time the little Cockney was mad and told the old fellows to go to h--l," and said they were nothing but a bunch of Capitalists, at which the old fellows had a real laugh and this ended the discussion?"

Reports dated 4th September stated that the foreign radicals were trying to break up the plans of the Labour leaders for parades on Labour Day, in the Niagara District.

O. B. U. Notes.

The O.B.U. open-air meetings on Yonge Street, Toronto, continue, with very moderate success. Our report of one of them notes that it began at 8:25 p.m. and ended at 9:40 p.m. "Because there was nobody to listen to them". The attendance had totalled 60. But the sale of seditious reading matter is considerable, at the same meeting 75 copies of the B.C. Federationist were sold, and a few O.B.U. Bulletins.

An impudent trick was played at Hamilton by the O.B.U. Roberts, one of their men, there asked permission to hold an open-air meeting, and on the Chief of Police showing reluctance declared that they would hold the meeting whether permission was granted or not, and that if they were interfered with the A.F. of L. and G.W.V.A. would help them to fight for free speech. The chief yielded, the meeting was held and J.R. Knight, who was the speaker, delivered a particularly violent attack on the A.F. of L.[25]

The O.B.U. in Hamilton has arranged for a policy of meetings, open-air and otherwise, through the Autumn and Winter.

Knight is busy denying the report that Hoop was assaulted at the Winnipeg debate.

A man named George Murch, Secretary of the Metal Trades Alliance in Hamilton, is secretly in negotiation with J.R. Knight.

22. Foreign Revolutionaries.

Word has been received of the presence in Niagara Falls of a local revolutionary leader named Justoff, who is described as "an old time red from Russian Siberia". This worthy "said the workers were in a pretty bad

fix since the last general strike in Winnipeg and that if the Government could break a strike like that it seems that the only remedy for the workers was in mass action, altho it would take some time under the present conditions to stir the workers up to this state".

Winding, who was appointed organizer for the London District at the Communist Labour Party Convention at Detroit, turned up at Niagara Falls on 5th September. He had been roaming about the Niagara District. Apparently he has not been very successful.

A Russian and a Russian Jewess who are understood to be fugitives from Chicago have appeared at the Russian School in Toronto. They are trying to get from Canada to Russia.

An additional report on Henry Dworkin, 525 Dundas Street, West, Toronto, shows him to be pro-Bolshevist and Anti-Polish. In an [26] interview he stated that Polish radicals are being subsidized from the Russian Red Cross or Embassy at Berne to effect a revolution.

This man sailed for England, on his way to Poland again, on 15th September.

The Bulgarian Socialist Party at Toronto numbers 28. On 7th September it affiliated with a new Anarchist Communist Party which is being formed at the Ontario Labour College. These men get copies of an I.W.W. paper called "The Workers Thought" which is published in Chicago, in Bulgarian. These papers are enclosed in ordinary U.S. papers and sent through the mails.

It also is reported that Mestor, or Nestor, a man who keeps a Russian bookstore on Dundas Street, sold in one week 250 copies of "Soviet Russia". He is planning to get the agency for it, and to smuggle additional seditious reading matter across the border.

On 5th September a meeting was held under the presidency of George Wilshow at the Ontario Labour College to form a new Anarchist Communist Party. Opposition was offered, apparently principally to Wilshow's leadership and the meeting was adjourned for a week. It is proposed to call it the "Workers' Party" to allay suspicions.

23. The Federated Order of Railway Employees.

Evidence has been secured tending to show that the Federated Order of Railway Employees is obtaining money from merchants by a method not very remote from blackmail. A man calling himself W.J. Robinson has called on a considerable number of Toronto firms and has asked for orders for advertisements in the "Railroads men's Annual Year Book", to [27] be issued by this body, each to cost \$50.00. As an inducement he said that their freight would move quickly, and when refused he threatened that it would be held up. He seems to have collected a good deal of money.

VI. QUEBEC.

The Friction in the O.B.U.

Further information as to the trouble in the O.B.U. ranks comes from

Montreal. A report dated 8th September says:-

"On the evening of the 2nd instant, while in conversation with U. Binette, I learned that Joe Knight is taking advantage of the fact that R.B. Russell and R. Johns are in Jail in imposing a certain form of organization of the O.B.U.

U. Binette stated that Russell and Johns wish for a form of Industrial organization, because they are old I.W.W. members and realize that is the only form of organization which will ever be able to function, whereas Joe Knight, being an ANARCHIST? wants the 'Class' form of organization. U. Binette stated that Joe Knight is impossible and no one can agree with him, he seems to think that he was the wisest of the O.B.U. leaders because he was not indicted along with the rest of the strike leaders in Winnipeg and, owing to the fact that he was his liberty, he wants to run the O.B.U. movement to suit himself, but you wait, Binette stated, as soon as the strike leaders are released they will put Joe Knight where he belongs".

At a meeting of the O.B.U. General Workers held in Montreal in 2nd September, W.E. Long stated that he had arranged for a couple of joint meetings on 11th September of the O.B.U. and the Amalgamated Society of Engineers; J.R. Knight was to address them.

25. A Thrifty Revolutionist.[28]

A curious report has been received upon A. St. Martin, a revolutionary agitator in Montreal. In Winter he lives in the City, having employment as an official stenographer in the law-courts; in Summer he conducts a large farm, whose situation as yet is uncertain. Nominally this farm is owned by St. Martin and about 40 other socialists in partnership; in reality the others get very small wages and St. Martin pockets the profits. He enjoys great prestige with the other revolutionists in Montreal, as they think he has great influence in civic affairs.

St. Martin spoke at a meeting held by the French Socialist Communist Party on Sunday, 5th September, his speech being violently anti-religious. He described Capitalists as "Blue-men," the clergy as "Black-men" and workers as "Red-men", and attacked the workers of Canada for their contentment with present conditions of living.

"As long as they can eat three meals a day, sleep and have a job, they are satisfied, while the Bluemen" and "Blackmen" have all the luxury and do not work and yet the "REDMEN" do not dare to revolt, because the "Blackmen" have told them that if they do revolt they must pay for their sin when they die.

"He went on to say that the 'Blackmen' are the tools of the Capitalists and pointed out to the audience that the workers of Russia have revolted. They have triumphed because they were not afraid to pay for their sins when they die. Saint-Martin continued by stating that the powerful 'Redmen' all over the world are making

themselves felt by virtue of their industrial strength and the Capitalistic system is crumbling but Canada will not act until the workers are obliged to walk the streets with an empty stomach and stated that the time is very near now.

"He concluded by stating that there is a great number of workers unemployed in the City of Montreal, and if these workers were only class conscious they would be all present at these meetings." [29]

26. Miscellaneous Notes.

The Montreal "Society for Technical Aid to Soviet Russia" continued to work. Lately it has been busy with a celebration which was to take place on 11th September. The programme included music, and revolutionary songs, and a speech by Revenko, the organizer.

A report on the Reverend J.B. Pike, who made a seditious speech in Montreal, recently, shows that he is an Anglican clergyman, who for years has been a sort of clerical outcast. He is regarded as ill balanced. It is years since he had a charge.

VII. THE MARITIME PROVINCES.

27. Conditions in the Cape Breton Coal Fields.

The Special Agent employed by the Dominion Coal Company writes in confirmation of the views upon the labour situation in Cape Breton quoted in earlier issues. He says in part;-

"Since the coming in of the United Mine Workers organization and the recognition of same by the Dominion Coal Company two or three years ago by our late President Mark Workman through the advice of the then General Superintendent of Mines Mr. Tonge, conditions have been going from bad to worse. The radical element led by such men as McLaughlin, Barrett and Baxter, and who we had been fighting for years, were given every consideration, during this regime. This disheartened the better class of men and officials, who said it was no use for to fight this element any longer, as they did not have the backing of the management, consequently those who did not throw their lot in with this radical bunch simply remained neutral, with the result that this radical element got complete control of the mines as well as control of Municipal affairs. At their request the Dominion Coal Company's Police force, who were a strong factor in maintaining discipline and law and order around the whole industrial district, were practically done away with, hence the conditions as found today. The Police administration of these Towns is something disgraceful". [30]

As regarding the possibility of a strike. I think there is every chance of their being one. These Bolshevnik leaders before mentioned, run for election to office this Fall, and while a lot of this stuff they are preaching is intended for election purposes, yet it is having a very bad effect with the workmen.

"I feel, however, that a strike may be the best thing that could happen, in order to clear the air".

"Owing to the lawless element that is in control around the mining districts, it is pretty hard to say just what might happen should a strike occur, I think we might expect the worst. I don't think our present police force could handle the situation should they start on a *policy of destruction of property*".

Inquiry is being made into the constitution and legal footing of the Dominion Coal Company's Police Force.