

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

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SECRET

NO. 42

NOTES OF THE WORK OF THE C. I. B. DIVISION  
FOR THE WEEK ENDING 23RD SEPTEMBER

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### Characteristics of the Period

The outstanding event of the week has been the Annual Convention of the Dominion Trades and Labour Congress held at Windsor, Ontario.

Prior to the convention rumours were rife regarding the Radical resolutions to be presented and supported by the Radical element; also the efforts to be made to control the Trades and Labour Congress by replacing the President and Secretary with men from the radical faction.

Whatever plans the Radicals may have had in view, they apparently resulted in complete failure.

The Prime Minister addressed the Convention, and our information, from a very reliable source is, that the Premier's speech had the effect of creating a good deal of thoughtfulness on the part of the milder type of Radicals.

The outcome of the Convention was a decided victory for the conservative element. All officers were re-elected and our informant says "there was less Socialistic and Revolutionary discussion than there has been at the Convention for a number of years".

The "Red" element were active amongst the delegates outside the convention. I.W.W. literature was distributed by two individuals named Currie and Webber, who crossed over from Detroit, U.S.A. for that purpose. They were both placed under arrest by the local Immigration Inspector and turned over to the City Police.

Full reports of the O.B.U. Miners' Convention held at Calgary on the 10th and 11th instant are now to hand. On the whole the proceedings appear to have been rather tame. Its chief result is embodied in a circular issued by the district Secretary and which is quoted in full elsewhere in this report.[4]

## I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

### 2. Strike of Firemen and Deckhands Employed in North Vancouver Ferries

A report to hand from Vancouver advises that:-

"The Firemen and Deckhands employed on the North Vancouver Ferries went out on strike on the 4th September, demanding an increase of wages from \$110 to \$130 per month.

"A special meeting of the City Council was called on the afternoon of the same date, and after debating the question, they agreed to grant an increase from \$110 to \$125 per month, retroactive from August 1st 1920, on a nine hour forty minutes day all overtime beyond that period being at the rate of 75 cents per hour.

"In addition, the Council pledged itself not to discriminate against any of the strikers. The agreement is to last for one year, but may be cancelled by either side on a thirty days' notice.

"The Ferry Captains are now demanding an increase from \$190 to \$200 per month, and have signified their intention of walking out on September 23rd. If their demand is not met. The Mates are to be called out in sympathy, but there is no dispute over the wages paid these latter. Ten men are involved. The Council holds that the Captains are receiving a fair wage for their services and unless either of the contending parties back down in their present stand, there will be a second tie-up in the ferry service".

### 3. Gas Workers' Strike

A report on general conditions in Vancouver concerning the Gas Workers' strike states that:-

"The employes of the Victoria Gas Company, numbering 22, went out on strike on 8th September.

"The point at issue is the demand for time and half for Sunday work. The company are determined not to accede to this demand, and have given the strikers an ultimatum to the effect that if they do not return to work immediately, they will not be reinstated".

A later report from Vancouver says:-

"The Company served notice on its individual employes that unless they reported for work on 10th September they would automatically be discharged. It was reported on the 11th September, that none of the men went back to work".

### 4. Strike of International Jewelry Workers' now ended

We are now advised that:-

"The strikers of the Vancouver Branch of the International Jewelry Workers' Union are now back at work and no further trouble is anticipated.

"The meetings between the employers and employes were conducted in a very friendly spirit".[5]

### 5. Typographical and other Unions Amalgamated

An agent at Vancouver advises that:-

"The typographical and other newspaper unions have amalgamated into a sort of One Big Union. I am informed by a well-known labour printed. Eighteen organizations of pressmen, stereotypers, printers, lynotype operators, bookbinders, etc. have organized in New

Westminster, Vancouver and Victoria. They are 100 per cent strong he says, and the International Headquarters, though objecting, have been forced to give way. This "O.B.U." of the printing trades intends to handle all of its own local affairs without consulting the International. They have already presented demands to the newspaper proprietors for an increased scale, to take effect January 1st, 1921, when the present agreement expires. They will ask for \$10 a day straight time, \$12 a day for over time and night work, and a 7-hour day.

"Tentative efforts are being made to have reporters affiliate with the printing trades".

Whether this means a definite split from the A.F. of L. and an affiliation with the O.B.U. is hard at present to decide.

#### 6. Dissensions in the ranks of the O.B.U.

A further indication of the strained relations between the two prominent O.B.U. officials, Winch and Midgley, is disclosed in a report to hand from Vancouver. Although they are both attending the O.B.U. Convention at Port Arthur it will be noted they did not travel together. The report follows:-

"Midgley left Tuesday night for the O.B.U. convention at Port Arthur. He asked me on Monday to see if I could find out if Winch was going. Winch told me he was not. I asked Winch of the I.W.W. question would be fought out at Port Arthur, and he said he did not think it would be even touched. This morning (14th September), I saw Midgley and he told me he had seen Winch late Monday and asked him to arrange for an O.B.U. committee to Meet Hon. G.D. Robertson, Minister of Labour, when he came here, and Winch told him he could not as he expected he might be out of town when the minister arrived.

"Late this afternoon Midgley saw me on the street and came up to say "Winch has gone to Port Arthur, he left last night. He went C. N. R. and will stop off at a couple of towns before he gets to Port Arthur'. Midgley seemed quite put out. He said 'I think Winch lied to you about not going to Port Arthur'.[6]

#### 7. O.B.U. Declined further assistance to Ukrainians

In a report from Vancouver our agent says:-

"The Vancouver Branch of the Ukrainian organization is not at present making any progress by way of gaining larger following amongst the Ukrainians. The O.B.U. has declined further assistance to their paper, the last number of which (No.11) appeared on September 19th.

"Tom Tomashewsky, the Editor of Truth and Freedom, stated that on account of insufficient funds and disharmony amongst the mem-

bers of the group, he could not make headway with the paper at present, and would cease to publish it. He intended, however, to publish a humorous bi-monthly illustrated journal sometime this winter. He would be the sole owner and avoid politics”.

#### 8. Charles Lestor Collecting funds to go to Moscow

From an outside source we are informed that Charles Lestor, socialist agitator of Vancouver, has secured by subscription about \$500.00 for his transportation to Moscow, and is leaving for England en route to that point.

#### 9. Socialist Party of Canada, Vancouver Branch

A meeting was held under the auspices of the Socialist Party of Canada at the Empress Theatre on 12th September. The Chairman introduced Mr. J. Harrington, the speaker of the evening. Then he spoke briefly explaining the objects of the meeting as follows:-

“Comrades and fellow workers; I suppose you all know what these meetings are held on Sunday nights for: mainly offer the education of the working class and also to put before the working class what stand they should have in social life. We hold these meetings, also on the corner of Carrall and Cordova streets on Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays.

“We have another way of educating the working class by the distribution of literature, especially the “Western Clarion” which you should all subscribe to.

“We are also, starting classes on the 1st of October; any member (especially the younger members) who wish to learn more about socialism, should get into these classes”.

Mr. Harrington then spoke in part as follows:-

“We saw by the newspapers that the big fight between the Soviet and Poland has quietened down. Of course we can't believe them. They tell us it was the bloodiest battle ever fought. It appears that some people like to fight their battles on the front page of the “Province” newspaper. This Bolshevik trouble is like the Mississippi or Fraser River. It runs along and there are farms and all kinds of successful industries along the banks, and all of a sudden, these rivers rise and threaten to destroy the wealth which is being produced from the lands, and all the people rush and blockade the water, but it only leaks out in another place. So you can see that when all the Capitalists rushed to stop the trouble in Russia, it broke out in Italy.

“The Catholic Church has great power, and power is what counts; it is what always counted, and it will count now for the labouring class of today throughout the world has the power, and through that power they will maintain their object”.

The meeting was well attended. Literature was sold and a collection

amounting to \$71.00 was taken up.

An agent reporting on local No. 1. Socialist Party of Canada, Vancouver, states:-

"The offices, meeting hall and library of this organization are situated at 401 Pender St. E., where a disused chapel is rented for that purpose. The Secretary is one Jack Shepherd, and the librarian George Haig. The committee consists of 5 or 6; they have informed meetings almost daily, in one of the larger rooms of the basement. Here a large quantity of the "Western Clarion" and other radical literature is stored.

"Open air meetings are held 2 or 3 evenings a week, where popular speeches are held on subjects appertaining to Socialism. At time as many as 100 gather to listen, but it is estimated that 75% of them are either already members or otherwise initiated. The organization has grown only little of late, and the committee is anxious to expand their field of activity and influence.

"A financial statement, issued by the committee of Local No. 1 of the Socialist Party of Canada to members reads as follows 9 for six months):-

	Dr.	Cr.
Dues acct.....	\$ 373.00	\$ 86.00
propaganda.....	1948.00	1560.00
Literature.....	1560.89	1395.40
General.....	19.45	806.35
Library.....	3.00	3.00
Soviet relief.....	59.00	20.00
	<u>3963.45</u>	<u>3870.75</u>
Balance.....	<u>3870.75</u>	
	92.70	
Dr. Balance June 1	<u>275.39</u>	
	368.09	
Difference unacctd	31.40	
Balance in Bank	563.55	
Outstanding cheques	<u>164.06</u>	
	<u>399.19[8]</u>	

#### 10. Chinese Nationalist League sending funds to China

The Officer Commanding at Vancouver reports that:-

"The Chinese Nationalist League is very active just now in the matter of collecting funds for transmission to China. Our informant learns that \$10,000 had recently been subscribed in British Columbia and sent to China through this league.

#### 11. Chinese Esperanto School Vancouver

An agent who visits the Democratic Academy at 210 Pender St, Vancouver, informs us that he meets there Hong Sum, the secretary, who

says the address of the Esperanto teacher was changed to Room 525 Canada Hotel, 514 Richard St.

He also says the Academy was established by the Chinese Labour Association for educative purposes, and the membership is 200 strong. The school is amateur, with classes in English, book-keeping and political economy. Only about a dozen students attend regularly. A portrait of Tolstoi appears on the walls of the schoolroom.

### 12. Labour Conditions Swanson Bay

An agent who visited the Pulp, Lumber and Shingle Mills at Swanson Bay says in part:-

"There are employed at this Plant at present about 400, with about equal numbers of Whites, Japanese and Chinese, a large number of whose families are on the place.

"I would mention a point to show the inconsistency of the O.B.U. members at this camp, which was brought to my notice: one of the workers' demands was for equality in pay with Whites and Orientals, yet this month one of the sawyers, speaking for three others as well, asked the manager for extra pay, saying he did not think it right that a Chinaman working alongside him, should get the same pay as they did, and two of these men, were men who were at the camp during the May strike, and apparently were in perfect accord with the demands for equality".

### 13. British Columbia Detachment Reports West Kootenay

A report from West Kootenay concerning Michael Casey, O.B.U. organizer says:-

"Casey seems to be holding down his job as secretary of the O.B.U. by soliciting for a few new members, he is not doing much on account of there being so many returned soldiers in the Penticton District.

"There are some 425 men all told, working on construction on the Government irrigation works, of this number the check up shows about 200 O.B.U. members, at least 80 per cent of these O.B.U. members come from the Slocam Mining District where they went out on strike some few months ago." [9]

#### Stewart

Apart from the Premier Mine there is very little activity in this district at present. A patrol was made to the Premier Mine on the 9th September, and found everything progressing in the usual way.

#### Grand Forks

Labour conditions in this district still remain good and there is no appearance of unrest. The majority of the mines and mills have been visited by mounted patrols and everything is reported quiet.

#### Chakawana (Coastal Patrol)

There is considerable labour unrest at Ocean Falls district, but

nothing serious has occurred up to the present.

#### Esquimalt

Commander H.E. Holme took over the command of the sawmill and shipyard in full swing. Labour conditions favourable.

#### Cumberland

All logging concerns and sawmills are working full swing with a few exceptions.

A machine gun battery has been formed in Courtenay and are equipped with Vickers Guns, Rifles, equipment and uniform. The city of Cumberland has been presented with war trophies, two German light machine guns have arrived, and there is a 77 MM field gun on the way".

#### 14. East Kootenay

An agent who visited the East Kootenay district reports:-

"I attended a miners' smoker on 14th September. Richardson, ex-M.P. from England addressed the meeting on Prohibition only, but the men would not give him a hearing.

"I also attended a Sunday night's meeting called by the U. M. W. of A. About 35 men were present. A motion was passed to circulate District 18 for the purpose of calling a convention. It would be called by the U. M. W. of A., but the O.B.U. would try and get all O.B.U. men as delegates to over rule the U. M. W. of A. The chief reason or as a pretext of calling a convention is that the low wage men have not had the increase, that is to say, a man had \$6.00 and a man at \$4.00, the \$6.00 a day man is getting more per day on the increase, some claim the increase should be all alike.

"Wm. Sherman made the statement that the U. M. W. of A. would not last any longer than the last of October. It was also said at the meeting that the men are not ready for to strike now.[10]

In forwarding the report the Officer Commanding East Kootenay District remarks:-

"This man Sherman mentioned above is one of the worst agitators, and was one of the delegates to the O.B.U. Convention at Calgary. They are undoubtedly going to stir up trouble but whether they will succeed in calling a strike is difficult to forecast just now".

#### 15. Miscellaneous Notes

A visit by the "Chakawana" on 21st August to Ocean Falls has resulted in a report that the labour conditions there are good. It is noted that by free use of overtime some men there work 500 hours a month, the average wage being 65 cents an hour.

Attention has been drawn to a man named David Dion, now a forman in a lumber camp near Ocean Falls. This man last February was an O.B.U. agitator; now he poses as anti-O.B.U. The discrepancy is being investigated.



Richard Higgins, Vancouver, a somewhat prominent member of the L.W.M. is on his way to Port Arthur. He is a delegate to the O.B.U. Convention, and in addition will organize in that district. He speaks French and Italian.

#### 16. First Annual Convention of the G.A.U.V.

The first annual convention of the G.A.U.V. was held at their Club rooms, 570 Granville St., Vancouver on 8th and 9th September. The newly elected officers were:-

M. A. Oxford, Provincial President

J. L. Miller, First Vice President

R. A. Webb, Secretary

The Association is entirely a political one and purpose working in connection with the Farmers and Labour organizations. At present there are about 400 members in the Vancouver Branch. There is also a Ladies Auxiliary.

There are 9 units of this organization. Delegates from only six attended the convention. Four did not attend because of lack of funds. Fifty cents a head was collected from everybody who attended the Whist Drive. Before this organization can make headway with their objects, they will need to get more funds than they have at their back at present.

## II. ALBERTA

### 17. Convention of Miners held at Calgary on 10th and 11th September

Full reports of the O.B.U. Miners' Convention at Calgary are now to hand. Proceedings on the whole seem to have been rather tame, its chief result is embodied in a circular issued on the 16th September by the district secretary which reads as follows:-[11]

"District No. 1. Mining Dept. O.B.U."

"Arthur Evans, Dist. Sec.

P.O. Box 1650, Calgary.

September 16th, 1920

"To the officers and members of the former District No. 18 U. M. W. of A.

Fellow Workers:

"The following resolution was given to me for circularizing the district with. It was passed at a meeting of the West Commercial Miners' Unit, after having been on strike against the U. M. W. of A. check-off and intolerable conditions.

'We the members of the West Commercial Miners' Unit of Wayne, call on mine workers to notify their respective employers that unless the U. M. W. of A. check-off is removed and negotiations opened for a new agreement by Oct. 1st 1920, they will take whatever action is necessary to bring about the removal of the check-off and the

opening of negotiations for a new agreement!

Signed on behalf of the West Commercial

(Signed) A.P. Picco, Sec.

R. Roberts, Chairman.

"The convention held there in Calgary was of the opinion that unless the miners in this district take action against the check-off in the next few weeks, nothing practical could be done about it until this time next year.

"At the same time the convention was of the opinion that the present scarcity of coal is a factor in our favour, and that all other things being considered, the present time is the most opportune for forcing the issue, not only of the check-off but also of the wages and conditions around the mines of the whole district.

"The first action to be taken is the notification of the employers that unless the U.M.W. of A. check-off is removed and negotiations opened up for a new agreement by Oct. 1st., you will act in whatever way you consider necessary. (Should you do this, and the employers turn you down, your action will depend on the sentiment of the rest of the district. This office will inform you of that).

"This circular is being sent to all camps in the district. I, successor to Sec. Ed. Browne, should be notified of your attitude and actions promptly. You will be informed as to all happenings.

"THIS IS A RANK AND FILE PROPOSITION, WE HAVE SUBMITTED LONG ENOUGH TO THE CHECK-OFF AND ENFORCED AGREEMENT. LET US ACT".

(signed) Arthur Evans

District Secretary, No. 1. Mining Dept. O.B.U.

"HAVE THIS TAKEN UP AT YOUR FIRST MEETING, OR CALL A SPECIAL MEETING AND IMMEDIATELY NOTIFY DISTRICT SECRETARY OF RESULTS."

The delegates did not seem confident of the support they would receive from the miners in case a strike was called. No delegate was appointed to the O.B.U. convention which is about to assemble at Port Arthur.[12]

#### 18. Meeting of Central Council of the O.B.U. at Edmonton

At a meeting of the Central Council of the O.B.U. on 11th September Carl E. Berg gave a report of the miners convention in Calgary as follows:-

"The miners had decided that the Drumheller valley was the one to start the fight against the check-off and that if a majority of the miners in the Drumheller Valley thought that it was to their interests to go on strike it was up to them to call one and that if they did the rest of the miners would not be affected at the start but that on a date that was set at the convention, but was not made public, the rest of the miners in the whole of District 18 would go out on strike. Berg

pointed out that the reason the date was withheld was that it would keep the bosses guessing and that they would be tied up at the time that they probably least expected it, as there would be no notice given when the rest of the district came out in support of the miners in the Drumheller Valley. He also stated that it was the firm decision of the miners that the check-off must go".

"The miners who have to lose a half days' work to attend the meetings of the central council gave notice of motion that at the next meeting they were going to move that the Central Council meetings be held on Sunday afternoon instead of Saturday.

Our report continues:-

"Berg reported that the miners are going to make a gigantic effort to organize all the mines in the Province that are not at present organized and that the miners are going to send out returned soldiers, who are members of the O.B.U. to break the ground for organizers and that by the spring they hoped to have the whole of the Province 100% organized".

#### 19. The O.B.U. in the Drumheller Coal Fields

Our investigator, who recently visited the Drumheller district, was impressed with the renewed activities of the O.B.U. element in that area. His report in part is as follows:

"If the Drumheller mines come out on strike, steps are at once to be taken to call out the remainder of the District not later than October 1st 1920.

"I find there is considerable amount of agitation in Drumheller on behalf of the O.B.U. Geo. Palmer the secretary of the O.B.U. at Drumheller, being the prime mover. He is working very hard on behalf of this organization and doing everything within his power to stir up trouble. I had several conversations with Palmer in which he told me that the O.B.U. element was in the majority in the Valley and that they were determined to defeat the operators and the U. M. W. of A; that the miners, as a whole, had no grievances, whatsoever, so far as wages and working conditions were concerned, but that they would not abide by the "check-off". He intimated to me that the operators would have a lot of trouble on their hands,[13] within the next few weeks, in the way of strikes, that the feeling of the miners was running so high that they are determined to strike and force the operators to recognize the O.B.U. In regards to this feature, it is problematical as to want success they will, have in pulling the men out on strike and it greatly depends upon the tactics they will devise.

"In reference to the operators stand in this matter, I am a little doubtful. The Red Deer Valley Coal operators Association held a meeting at Drumheller on the afternoon of the 7th to discuss the

situation and from what I am informed, they decided to stand firm and beat the O.B.U. However, when you get one or two operators individually and discuss the situation with them privately in their homes, one can easily notice that their chief desire is to keep the mines running by any means whatsoever, as they feel they cannot afford a strike. The operators, upon whom we can rely as being absolutely genuine in their intentions of standing firm, are Messrs. Gouge of the Newcastle and A. B. C. mines, A. H. Gibson of the Premier and Tupper of the Rosedeer mine at Wayne. These men can afford to hold out against a strike and furthermore their mines do not need the care and protection in the event of a strike that the others do, but with the other operators, I am afraid they, if the strike lasts for any length of time, are apt to weaken, as they cannot stand the expenses of keeping their mines in repair. For instance, S. L. McMullin of the Midland Mine, Drumheller, informs me that owing to the fact that this mine is wet, it cost him a matter of between three and four thousand dollars a month to keep it in proper condition, in the event of a strike. Furthermore, some of these operators appear to have the idea that a local Union at each mine is the best principle to work on and to dispose of both the U. M. W. of A. and the O.B.U. "I gather that they have come to this conclusion through the bad example set them by the Monarch Mine owned by the North American Collieries. This mine has been running continuously, but is an O.B.U. mine in to .

"As regards the North American Collieries: this company is not a member of the Western Coal Operators' Association and therefore do not come under the agreement made by the latter organization with the U. M. W. of A. and the order of Coal Commissioner Armstrong as regards the check-off, with the result that they employ any and everybody, regardless of what union they may belong, so that their mine, the Monarch, is a breeding ground of the O.B.U. at Drumheller. The general public and miners as a whole do not understand this and the opinion has been expressed to me a good many times as to why the Government does not force them to abide by the order of Coal Commissioner Armstrong; if this gentlemen's order has any power behind it at all. They do not realize that technically the Government has no power to enforce this order upon the North American Collieries, as they are not included in the above mentioned agreement. While on this subject, I might mention that although the North American Collieries were not included in the agreement for reasons stated above and do not abide by the order in reference to the check-off, at the same time they have taken advantage of the increase in cost of coal, the said increase being granted by an order of Coal Commissioner Armstrong on the

strength of the agreement between the Western Coal Operators Association and U.M.W. of A. so that I do not see why this company should abide by one portion and not the other. The operators who are not in a financial [14] position to stand a strike have told me that they do not see why they should not take the same stand as the North American Collieries, which have been able to keep their mine open all the season; they do not see why they should fight the O.B.U. element at a loss, temporarily, while the North American Collieries are allowed to run their mine under the system they have adopted. It is practically impossible to judge just exactly what stand the majority of the operators would take in the event of a strike or what success the O.B.U. will have in pulling a strike.

"There is a shortage of labour in the Drumheller field, however, the operators as a whole do not appear to be worrying themselves to any extent, as they claim the same conditions occurs every year during the harvest period.

"The organizers for the U.M.W. of A. appear to be doing their best in this field and they are of the opinion that they will control the situation eventually, if the operators will only support them, which remains to be seen, as I have already stated".

#### 20. Christophers at the Calgary O.B.U. Miners' Convention

Christophers was in attendance at the O.B.U. Miners Convention held at Calgary on the 10th and 11th September and returned to Blairmore on the evening of the 11th.

An extract from a report dated 13th September concerning Christophers says:-

"Christopher was the only delegate that wanted to use sabotage as a weapon with which to fight the U.M.W. of A. check-off. He advocating that the delegates should go back to their respective mines and get the men to produce the coal and turn it out in rotten shape, and to turn out as little as possible, stating if they did this, then they would be hitting at the pocket of the miner owner, and they would gain their ends. The convention as a whole was absolutely against this line of action. He further made statements to the effect that if the miners came out without the Railway workers behind them they would be sure to lose out. He stated that in Winnipeg, there were enough men in the O.B.U. there to tie up the whole of the country if necessary. Christopher further advocated that a series of strikes pulled throughout the district would be an effective weapon against the operators".

#### 21. Alderman A. G. Broatch

A. G. Broatch, City Alderman and Chairman of the Railway Transportation Unit No. 1. O.B.U. Calgary, has been appointed delegate to attend the O.B.U. convention at Port Arthur on September 20th, 1920.[15]

## 22. Report of J.F. Maguire, O.B.U. Organizer

J. F. Maguire, organizer for the O.B.U. in Edmonton in submitting his weekly report, after stating that the men in the C.P.R. yards seem antagonistic to the new movement says:-

"During my two weeks' organizing I have visited almost every job in town. The railroads shops, freight sheds and building construction, and have found among the rank and file a fearful lack of understanding of the O.B.U. and in many instances a complete lack of knowledge of the labour movement in general. In my opinion before a great increase of members takes place we shall have to carry on a more active propaganda. Every job I visited every man I approached I had to explain in detail the difference between the A.F. of L. and the O.B.U. and the invariable answer was "it sounds all right", but I will have to think it over". Under these conditions it is impossible in my opinion for an organizer to make expenses by new initiations only.

"During the week I talked with a few cooks, bakers, and waiters and it may be possible to start a small unit along this industry; as most of them are quite in favour of the O.B.U. However, a little work will be necessary before a unit can be materialized."

## 23. Meeting held by Building trades

### Unit O.B.U. Edmonton

At a meeting of the Building Trades Unit of the O.B.U. Calgary a letter was read to the meeting from James Law, secretary of the Winnipeg Defence Committee.

The letter in part was as follows:-

"Fellow workers reorganization of the above Committee (Winnipeg Defence Committee) will be taking place soon. At the present time we are actively engaged in cutting down expenses to the lowest minimum.....We have on hand a supply of the following books;- Pritchards' Address to the Jury, Dixon's Address and the History of the Winnipeg Strike. The former price of these books were \$18.00 and \$23.00 per hundred respectively. The committee has reduced the price of these books to 10 cents per copy and we suggest that the different organizations throughout Canada order sufficient quantities to issue to their membership. No workman's home should be without these books. There has also been a persistency call from the different cities in Western Canada for the Winnipeg Defence Committee to issue a defence fund stamp, valued at 25 cents. This scheme after being discussed by the committee has been adopted. We have them in 10 cents and 25 cents denominations which can be affixed to your due cards, or receipts. Instruct your secretary to get a supply of these stamps which will be charged to your local. These stamps can also be sold to the people outside your

own local [16] and will also act as receipt for money collected by your local collectors. Now fellow workers we call upon you to co-operate with us in this matter and assist us in our fight for freedom and liberty for the workers. Several instances have arisen recently where the workers have been persecuted, locked out and threatened eviction for carrying union cards, arrested and railroaded for two years in jail, etc. Until this committee hearing of the above cases immediately took action and are still fighting cases of the above nature. Through the prompt action of this committee the kidnapers of Christopher have been arrested by the Attorney Generals' Department of Saskatchewan and sent up for trial at the October assizes and are now out on \$18,000.00 bail each. These are only a few of the cases handled by this committee. You all know the work we have done in connection with the now famous State Trials held in Winnipeg early this year. These men are still in jail for fighting your fight. The fight for better conditions for the workers. Don't forget that the wives and families of these men have to be supported and it is up to your fellow workers to see to this".

Yours for the case of the workers.

(Signed) James Law, Secy.

On discussion of this letter the following motion was passed "That the Secretary be instructed to order twenty of "Pritchard's address to the Jury, and twenty-five of "The History of the Winnipeg Strike".

24. Mass Meeting of Ukrainians at Red Water,  
Alberta.

A report from Edmonton advises that a meeting of Ukrainians were held at Red Water, about 600 people were present from the district. The report follows:-

"The Meeting opened at 8 p.m. Melnyk occupied the chair and introduced three speakers, M. Glowa, and Mechailychyn from Edmonton, Madiara from Fedora. All three speakers spoke along the same line about the Ukrainian movement in Ukrainian, especially about the fighting between the Ukrainians and the Poles. The speakers said it did not matter with whom Ukraina was united they should fight until they gain their independence. The speakers idea of Bolshevism was that it was much more favourable to the Ukrainians than Polish rule, and that is why the Ukrainians fight together with the Bolsheviks against the Poles. In Canada we should have a National Ukrainian Homes all over the Dominion where the Ukrainian spirit could be fostered. The Ukrainian language and songs should be dear to all Ukrainians and such homes is the only place where the children can be properly trained and educated in such to become true Ukrainian Nationalists.

"The Speakers did not refer to the assimilation with the Canadian

race or the fostering of Canadian ideas in the educating of their children, advocating only Ukrainian Nationalism".[17]

#### 25. Tom Richardson

In a report to hand from Calgary we are advised that:-

"Tom Richardson, who is an ex-member of Parliament of the House of Commons, England, will speak at the convention of miners at Calgary on the 10th September. Lawson is also trying to arrange for him to address a meeting of radicals on the following Sunday".

#### 26. Ben Spoor Arriving from England

Ben Spoor, a friend of Tom Richardson, who is expected to arrive here from England about 17th September on his way to a convention in Washington, U.S.A., is to address meetings in Toronto, Montreal and Winnipeg.

As this man is a fanatic of Prohibition, Lawson is trying to arrange for a meeting to be held under the auspices of the Prohibition League. Lawson stated that Spoor's lecture would be entitled "Prohibition and the working man" and said "that quite a little "Red" stuff would be thrown in and that he would advertise the meeting and see that all the 'Good Reds' in town were there".

### III. SASKATCHEWAN

#### 27. O.B.U. Northern Saskatchewan

Extracts from a report concerning the L. W. I. U. of the O.B.U. in Northern Saskatchewan are as follows:-

"Apparently the O.B.U. centre all their hopes in the Pas District, as attempted organization at Big River, Hudson's Bay Junction and other points proved a failure and a waste of money".

"Tether said that Noggy Mackintosh, O.B.U. delegate is working at a lumber mill at Merritt, B.C. where he is getting \$9.00 a day as a lumber piler. Tether intends to get work of a similar nature if possible, when he gets to Vancouver".

"Tether seems to greatly regret that they did not go to the Pas to organize in the first place, instead of having office at Prince Albert, where the O.B.U. spent around \$5,000 on organization work to no purpose whatever".

The Officer Commanding in commenting on this report says:-

"I feel quite satisfied that the O.B.U. is not so solid as Tether makes out. I feel sure though that a last effort will be made to organize at the Pas this winter when the camps commence operations".[18]

A further report of the O.B.U. activities in Northern Saskatchewan states in part:-

"George Tether, secretary for the Prince Albert District of the L.W.I.U. had left the Pas on Sept. 1st and had gone to Vancouver, and that one John R. Leith is now in charge of the District".

"Leith has been in and around the district for some three months as



a delegate of the L.W.I.U. and it would appear that he knowing that Tether was more or less discouraged and wanted to leave on account of his wife's illness, had planned not only to hasten Tethers' departure, but to secure his position.

"One thing that Leith did was, while away on his last two trips, which covered a period of some six weeks, he sent in numerous reports stating that he was not meeting with any success and forwarding only an occasional new name for membership during this period and brought back with him over \$800.00 for dues etc. He withheld the names of new members secured and the money received until Tether had turned over the office to him. For, as he stated, if Tether knew how well he did he might not have left."

It continues:-

Yesterday afternoon I assisted Leith in checking up the number of members in good standing in the district, there has been all told 1,682 members signed up in this district, of which 714 have either taken transfer cards to other districts or have failed to pay their dues, leaving a balance of 968 up to date members.

"Leith on his last trip covered the districts of Ruby Lake, H.B. Junction, Tisdale, Star City, Melfort and Bozeman, it was on this trip that he secured 300 new members".

#### 28. General Conditions in Southern Saskatchewan

The Officer Commanding Southern Saskatchewan in his weekly report for 11th September says:-

"Employment. During the week there has been a marked shortage in the labour market. This applies to ordinary labour, building trades and railways as well as to the more acute shortage in harvest help. Wages have jumped from \$5 and \$6 a day to \$7 and \$8. The situation should improve within the next ten days."

"O.B.U. Activities. From what I can learn Regina is being avoided by leaders in the movement. There is a general impression that they are closely watched in this city. In any event they appear to be dead here".

#### 29. Harvesters and I.W.W. Literature

An agent in conversation with some harvesters in Regina states:-

"According to their statements they entered Canada legally, one gave his name as Peterson stating to me that he bought a "whole bunch" of I.W.W. literature along with him, which he distributed after landing at Brandon. On my request for some of this I.W.W. literature he proceeded to the Waverley Hotel and brought me a copy of the Industrial Workers and a copy of a pamphlet entitled "I.W.W.", and [19] remarked this is the best of our literature. They informed me about the progress of the I.W.W. in the U. S. A. and certain things concerning the movement in the United States and

they also expressed the hope that one day the O.B.U. and the I.W.W. will amalgamate.

The G.A.U.V. at Regina are trying to get F. J. Dixon, M.L.A., to address them.

#### IV. MANITOBA

##### 30. Meeting of Running Trades Union of the O.B.U.

##### Winnipeg

A report from Winnipeg advises that the fortnightly meeting of the Running Trades' Union of the O.B.U. was held on a Sunday.

In part the report states:-

"The meeting was then opened for general discussion, under which the strike of last year was brought up.

"Mr. Stephenson declared that the Running Trades were the ones who had the doing of things if they wanted to.

"As an instance, he gave an illustration of what took place last year, in front of the City Hall, declaring that the machine guns and ammunition was brought up from Toronto, and that the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen and the B.T. of R.E. International organizations had been notified of their coming, but took no steps to prevent it.

"A motion was put before the International Brotherhood he declared in an endeavour to have the arms delayed, but it was turned down, and a few weeks later, the very same guns were turned on the men and their wives in front of the City Hall.

"Mr. Stephenson said this was where the Running Trades would have to play their part in case of any trouble that might arise in the War against Capitalism which was now in progress, and it would be up to the Running Trades next time to see that no such merchandise was carried on the train they were running.

"But he further stated that it was not the intention as far as he could find out of the O.B.U. to use the strike as means of beating the master, unless it was absolutely necessary.

"The O.B.U. he declared, used the boycott system and he believed that when the organization was properly built up, it would be preventing strikes instead of making them, as there was no worker who really could afford to strike, at any time, and when he did, he lost, even though he gained the object he was on strike for."

"Comrade L. Goucher stated that arms and ammunition were coming into the City over the C.G.R. and C.N.R. where he was working every [20] day, and he guessed the Capitalist class was getting ready to kill some more people when another strike took place.

"He further declared that the working class could make no headway while the Capitalist class was allowed to import such means to prevent the workers from using their power."

### 31. Ukrainian "Canadian Farmer"

In the Ukrainian "Canadian Farmer", dated 10th September, the following article has been printed:-

"Everyone thought up till now that in Asia or in all the Mohammedan World in general, the Bolsheviki could not count on many supporters. In reality it is not so Mohammedan factions of the "Eastern Commissariat Department of Foreign Affairs" opened a "Union to liberate Islam". The Union gets from the Soviet Government a support in the sum of 5 million roubles in gold for the purpose of the safeguarding and maintaining of the Mohammedan uprisings against the European rule".

### 32. Swystun, Ukrainian Labour Party

Swystun, of the Ukrainian Labour Party, in his lecture on 12th September at the National Home, Winnipeg, gave a full account of Russia, its republics and their Governments, and finally stated that the Ukrainian Independence, their safety and help lay in the hands of the Bolsheviki, and the only means for the Ukrainians to obtain all that, would be to ally themselves with the Bolsheviki Government.

## V. Ontario

### 33. Convention of Dominion Trades-Congress

The following is an extract from a letter received from an outside source regarding the convention of the Dominion Trades Congress at Windsor, Ontario:-

"We are pleased to be able to again report this year the re-election of all officers of the Dominion Trades Congress. While there was considerable doubt as to whether we would be able to carry the whole ticket, this was eliminated after Premier Meighen's speech on Tuesday which had the effect of creating a good deal of thoughtfulness on the part of the milder type of radicals and by Wednesday morning we were so sure of our ground that we thoroughly organized to give the Reds the trimming of their existence. No doubt you have read the press reports of what happened to the Toronto leader of the radicals, Jimmie Simpson, and his resolutions from the Toronto Trades Council when we used all of our heavy weights to show up his and the Toronto Trades Council's work in the [21] labour movement for the last couple of years".

"The idea of sending the Convention to Winnipeg, after being thoroughly discussed, was that the different International organizations are going to flood the West with organizers to combat the O.B.U. and the best thing to do next year would be to show them that we were not afraid to go out there and give them a fight for the offices in their own territory and at present it looks as if this is a safe policy and will go a long way toward killing O.B.U. influence in

the west”.

“There was less socialistic and revolutionary bunkum at this convention than there has been to my personal knowledge for six or seven years back.”

“The reason assigned by the Butcher Workers’ International for not giving Braithwaite the office of Canadian organizer was due to his statements on different occasions that he favoured the O.B.U. as the best form of organization for Canadian workers”.

34. The arrest of Two I.W.W.’s - John Currie  
and Aaron Webber

The I.W.W. faction were active in distributing literature amongst delegates to the Convention of the Dominion Trades Congress held at Windsor. As a result of these activities John Currie and Aaron Webber, both members of the I.W.W. were apprehended and have been remanded to the Sandwich Jail until the 27th September. Our report in this connection reads in part as follows:-

“On Friday night, 17th September, John Currie and Aaron Webber, both of Detroit, Mich. U.S.A. members of the I.W.W. crosses to Windsor and commenced to distribute I.W.W. pamphlets amongst the delegates attending the Convention. The two agitators met with a hostile reception. Most of their literature was collected by the delegates and set fire to in front of the Armouries. The two men were arrested about 10 p.m. the same night, by the Immigration Inspector and turned over the City Police. The following morning they were arranged before Magistrate Meyers and remanded to the Sandwich Jail until 27th inst., bail being refused.”

35. O.B.U. Meeting at Toronto addressed by  
P. Leckie

A belated report from Toronto states:-

“That at a propoganda meeting of the O.B.U. P. Leckie told the audience that they are on the way to Windsor as delegates to the Dominion Trade Congress. He said they are going to the Congress as Reds and to show Tom Moore what Reds can do and it is going to be a [22] big battle between the Reds and the A.F. of L. and we will sure beat them. He said that the workers will never get anything from the present Government. Canada is the rottenest place in the world for the workingman and we are going to have a revolution here very shortly. He agitated them to throw over the present Government and take away everything from the Capitalist and divide amongst the working class the same as they did in Russia and what they are doing at the present time in Italy”. He spoke for two hours and there were about 600 persons present”.

The final outcome of the Convention must have been very disappointing to Leckie and his associate “Reds”.

### 36. Russian Workers School. Toronto

Lika Goldberg in conversation with an operative stated that there were not enough students attending the Russian Workers' School for her to teach. She is therefore helping Dadokin in the school three nights a week because the students refuse to have Morris Nestor for a teacher as he is a capitalist and owns a business.

Morris Nestor of the Russian Book Store, 185 Dundas Street, Toronto, has arranged with the New York Book Stores that they will not sell certain Russian literature except himself in Toronto.

### 37. Shapiro and the Jewish Socialist Revolutionary League

A meeting of the Jewish Socialist Revolutionary league was held on 18th September. There were 32 members present and a committee was formed for the purpose of collecting \$450 from the Jewish Workers to furnish a new place and to obtain literature.

One of the members named Shapiro proposed that from 1st to 30th October will be the 'Red month' that will be for collecting the above sum of money and to distribute propaganda and get new members.

Shapiro is never working and is supplied with plenty of money. He is a very busy man, at all radical meetings. He is organizer for the above party in Toronto. He contributed \$30.00 for the new place.[23]

### 38. Educational Press Association, at 182 St. Catherine Street, East, Montreal.

Further information is now to hand regarding the "Education Press Association" of Montreal. It would appear that one Isidore Boltuck, an Austrian, who is reported to be one of the most influential men in the radical movement of Montreal, is the originator of the "Educational Press Association" idea. In 1919 Boltuck was apprehended for making seditious utterances while addressing a radical meeting in Montreal. Since that time he has discontinued appearing upon the platform at public meetings. In order to carry on his radical activities, he apparently, conceived the idea on starting a small book-store in Montreal, for the purpose of distributing radical literature. This he called the "Educational Press Association and all radical publications distributed by the "Educational Press Association" are stamped with a stamp bearing that name.

A Mrs. Carmen Gonzoles takes charge of the book-store during the day and poses as a public stenographer. During the evening Boltuck and his associates sell literature at the various radical and labour meetings held in Montreal. Quantities of radical newspapers and pamphlets are imported from France, England and the United States by Boltuck and resold at the book-store.

So far the venture has not been a financial success and it is reported that Boltuck is called upon each week to donate money out of his won pocket in order to keep the book-store going. There are no indications that

Boltuck is receiving any financial assistance from outside sources.

Boltuck is a supporter of the O.B.U. and no doubt he considers he is furthering the cause of that organization by his activities in distributing radical literature.

### 39. O.B.U. Quebec District

The Officer Commanding Quebec District, Montreal, remarks:-

"There is lack of harmony existing amongst the O.B.U. element here at Montreal and even those who pose and are active as its leaders are not familiar with the O.B.U. constitution, particularly in so far as the appointment of delegates to conventions is concerned. As it appears that W. E. Long will not be able to attend the convention, Rebecca Buhay will attend in his place.

"The meeting referring to at which it was understood Joe Knight would speak on Fletchers' Field on Sunday afternoon the 12th instant was not held owing to inclement weather which prevailed. I understand Joe Knight has returned to Toronto."

### 40. "Society for Technical Aid to Soviet Russia"

An informant who attended the celebration of the Society for Technical Aid to Soviet Russia at 641 Frontenac St. Montreal on 11th September, states that about 500 to 600 persons were present, most of [24] whom were foreigners. The walls of the hall were decorated with red flags and banners bearing the Bolshevik emblems and different kinds of revolutionary pictures from the present Bolshevik movement.

The celebration was commenced by the singing of revolutionary songs. About 9 p.m. they played a drama entitled "Before the Victory". The main plot of that is drama was the last fight between the labour and capitalist governments in which war labour gained a victory. The main characters of this drama were Premier Lloyd George, the leaders of the revolutionary army, capitalists, etc. This drama caused much enthusiasm amongst the people.

W. Revenko, secretary, then spoke about the improvement and enlargement of this organization and continued:-

"By order of the Russian Soviet Ambassador Ludwig K. Martens from New York, U.S.A. this organization came into being on 7th September, 1919, under the name of "Union of Russian Engineers and Workmen. At the beginning this organization consisted of 20 members. At that time the Russian colony of Montreal did not believe in the success of this organization because previously there were several similar organizations that all disappeared under oppression and arrests from authorities. Our organization is on the way to success and has great prestige outside of Montreal; also our meetings, automobile school and evening classes of Russian language and other subjects are very popular. He advised the people to send their children to this school to get real education.

He then spoke about the purpose of the organization and said:-  
 "To get labour people together and give them education and knowledge about Soviet system. We already have passed through the bitter experience of the Capitalistic system, now we must solve the problem of establishing regular relations between all labour people".

Zdarovetz, instructor of the automobile school, read the report concerning the financial condition of the organization. At the end of his report he proposed that they should play and sing The Revolutionary Dead March in Memory of comrades who died for the revolutionary cause and that every person stand up.

Our agent continues:-[25]

"The Celebration came to a close by Secretary Revenko, making his second speech. He went back to the early days of the Bolshevik movement in 1917. In this strong speech he described how Bolshevism was born and started in Russia and has been spread all over the world. He said that "Bolsheviki made dead blow to Capitalistic governments". Further, he explained that 'Bolshevism is not only a Russian movement, but it is an international movement, it depends and will give liberation to all labour people'. He continued saying 'that during three years of great activity the Bolsheviks already had good results, that the Italian workmen had arisen and made revolution, also the labour organizations in England are adopting the Bolsheviki system and tactics. The same movement of revolt amongst labour is still going on throughout Canada and the United States'. In the last part of his speech he gave high tribute to Lenin and he called him "The Famous Immortal Leader". He said that 'Lenin is a man who will bring the world revolution and dictatorship of the proletariat, also he made remarks about Lenin Trotsky as here and organizer of the Great Red Army. He closed his long speech with a loud exclamation "Long live the World Revolution", "Long live our leader N. Lenin, Long live our hero Leon Trotsky". The people were so enthusiastic at the end of his speech that they made a great noise and applauded him, with the result that he called the people to stand up and sing the Internationale (Revolutionary Anthem).

Our agent says:-

"Revenko, the secretary of this organization, has very good ability as a public speaker and has great influence among the foreigners. His speeches and agitation would do a great deal of harm amongst labour".

## VII. HALIFAX

### 41. Halifax Stevedores and Longshoremen

A report from Halifax says:-

“Up to the present there is absolutely no signs of a movement by Irish sympathizers to induce the Longshoremen to cease work on British ships.

“The S.S. “Coronia” arrived last night at 5.30 from Liverpool. This is the first British Ship in port for some time. After she discharged her cargo and passengers she proceeded to New York.

“There was absolutely no signs of any one endeavouring to stop the Longshoremen from working on this ship. Apparently no one has yet arrived, or their presence would have been discovered among the Longshoremen, who were awaiting all afternoon for the Corona to dock.”

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