

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 30th September, 1920.

SECRET

NO. 43

NOTES OF THE WORK OF THE C. I. B. DIVISION  
FOR THE WEEK ENDING 30TH SEPTEMBER

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1. Characteristics of the Period

For some time past our attention has been directed to the activities of the O.B.U. in the Southern Alberta Coal fields. The actions of the O.B.U. officials in that area indicated that plans were being prepared to bring about a trial of strength between the mine operators in the Alberta fields and the O.B.U. on the questions of the recognition of the O.B.U. by the operators and the compulsory check-off to the U. M. W. of A.

As this report is being prepared information comes to hand advising

that the threatened strike is to be called by the O.B.U. on or about 1st October, 1920. The organizers for the O.B.U. have concentrated their efforts on the Drumheller section, apparently working on the theory that should they be successful in inducing Drumheller to lead the way and come out on strike a good proportion of the remainder of the District will follow suit.

O.B.U. circulars are making their appearance in different sections of the country, warning men to keep away from the Alberta coalfields, as a dispute is taking place in that section and a strike will likely be called.

A careful review of the facts before us at the present time regarding the situation in the Alberta coalfields point to the probability of the O.B.U. being successful in bringing out a large percentage of the miners in the Drumheller section. What effect this will have on the remainder of the District and what proportion will follow the action of the Drumheller men, is difficult at present to estimate. There is one outstanding fact in connection with this proposed strike in the Alberta coalfields and that is the lack of funds in possession of the O.B.U., with which to carry on a strike for any lengthy period.[3]

On the other hand there is a pressing demand for coal, which fact, no doubt will have its effect on the action of the operators.

## I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

### 2. Gas Workers' Strike, Vancouver

Our agent at Vancouver reports on the Gas Strike as follows:-

"One of the volunteer workers at the gas works told me that he did not see how the plant could continue operation. The work is being done by clerks who volunteered from the B. C. Electric offices. They do their office work and then go nights to the gas plant. The chief engineer, Mr. I. Keiller, got only six hours sleep in 48. The engineers, who are union men, had to refuse to continue at work when the gas workers went out and strike-breakers were hired. The strikers do not look upon the office men as strike-breakers, figuring they are only temporary employes. But new men are considered so, as they are going in to take permanent jobs. As soon as the company began to taken on permanent men, the engineers had to quit. Now the company is seeking gas workers and engineers.

"The pickets on the outside of the plants are on the qui vive, and use only verbal arguments so far. However, they are growing more bitter toward any actual "scabs". The intimidate, in a sense anyone who approaches with the intention of asking for a job. About 20 pickets are on duty around the plant all the time. The company sends its shifts to the works in automobiles that speed up and dash through the gates.

"Thus far the company has been able to get only about a dozen men, and some of them have been reached by the strikers and persuaded

to quit, I am informed.

"My informant, whose sympathies are entirely with the company, said it was "God's own blessing that the 'green' workers had not already brought on a more or less serious explosion".

A later report says:-

"The street railway men who are employed by the same company as the Gas Workers are about demanding increased rates of pay, and whilst the situation is bristling with possibilities, yet I do not think it is likely that the Street Railway men will go out, but I have an idea that the whole situation will result in an amicable settlement between the employer, the Street Railwaymen and the Gas workers, with a strong possibility of increased street car fares".

#### 2. The Street Railway Employes' Demands

A report concerning the Street and Electric Railways Union states:-[4]

"Since my last report, the proposed demands of the men for more pay have been lying more or less dormant but the matter is being stirred up now, owing to the fact that their co-workers, the Gas Company's employes are out on strike, and look like losing out on their case.

"The Street Railwaymen realising this delegated their business agent to meet the Company on behalf of the Gas Workers, with a view to alleviating their present position, which is that of having been "fired" for non-compliance with the Company's wishes i.e. that they should go back to work without more fuss.

"On 24th September, the Street Railwaymen's Committee is to meet to decide the new scale of wages for linesmen, conductors, motor-men, shopmen and maintenance-of-way men. The committee includes representatives of employes from New Westminster, Victoria and Vancouver. It is believed that the Company will refuse their demands as they have done in the Gas Workers' Case, and just what will be the outcome of that is difficult to say just now, but I hardly think it will result in a strike, which will have far reaching effect, much as the O.B.U. and other radical elements would wish it so.

#### 4. B.C. Printing Trades Council

A special agent informs us that:-

"Printers, Lynotype operators, bookbinders, stereotypers, and pressmen of New Westminster, Vancouver and Victoria, have organized or amalgamated in one district body, I am told, called the "B.C. Printing Trades Council". They are all International Organizers.

"Hitherto, the International headquarters have always insisted on governing the action of local unions. Now, however, the Printing trades have decided not to be controlled by the head offices, but to carry out their own negotiations and agreements in a manner

deemed advisable by the organizations in the immediate district affected. For this reason they have amalgamated and prepared a scale.

"They are not affiliated with the O.B.U. direct, and if they are with the A.F. of L. they are not all advocates of the body. For instance, one of the strong men of the B.C. Printing Trades Council is W.R. Trotter, a man of O.B.U. sympathies.

"What they really established is an O.B.U. of their own, in a sense. They have decided to settle their local differences locally without interference from officers in some distant part. The officers in those distant parts have apparently consented to this being done, otherwise the International relations would have been severed. This has not happened and is not likely.

#### 5. O.B.U. Finances

A report dated 21st September, from Vancouver says:-[5]

"I am led to believe that the O.B.U. is getting into bad shape financially, and many of the members are not keeping up their dues.

"The Hicks Employment Agency, connected with the B.C. Loggers' Association, has for a long time been throwing its wrenches into the machinery of the O.B.U., and the latter organization, especially the L.W.I.U. is beginning to recognize that it cannot continue to organize successfully in face of the opposition of the B.C. Loggers' Association.

"It is likely that a convention of the O.B.U. may be called here shortly, the main object of it being to arrange for a series of strikes in the Lumber Camps, in order to force the B.C. Loggers' Association to slow down on their methods, and to further organize the workers not to ship out through the Hicks' Employment Agency".

#### 6. O.B.U. East Kootenay

A report concerning the O.B.U. activities in Fernie, dated 20th September says:-

"A mass meeting of the miners was called for 19th September, the meeting was called by the new secretary of the U.M.W. of A., Robert Draper. When the meeting was called to order there were exactly 35 present out of a membership of between 800 and 900, these representing the O.B.U. element among the miners.

"Wm. Hunter, the President of the U.M.W. of A. was the chairman, and he opened the meeting by stating that the rank and file of the miners were not satisfied with the new agreement which had recently been concluded between the operators and the U.M.W. of A. and that they were called together for the purpose of discussing ways and means of remedying this state of affairs. After considerable discussion it was decided that ballots would be printed and that a vote would be taken among the miners on the two questions; "Are

you in favour of an increase in wages for the low-wage men" and "Are you in favour of the check-off"?

"Now the low-wage men referred to in the first question are what is known as the 'company men' and these are in the majority. Now those responsible for this resolution know perfectly well that the company men are in the majority and that they will all vote in favour of an increase and as a natural consequence all vote against the check-off as the leaders are already preaching that it would be impossible to get the increase so long as they retain the check-off as the check-off makes them members of the U.M.W. of A. and that this body is satisfied with the existing agreement.

"I have been given to understand that this scheme was planned out and laid before the O.B.U. here by Christophers of Blairmore".[6]

#### 7. Patrol Report

An extract from a report dated 16th September from Ocean Falls is as follows:-

"Generally speaking, the men are quite satisfied with conditions at camps operated by the Pacific Mills Company and I look for no serious trouble. During my visit, I saw no sign of the I.W.W. organizing nor any attempts at sabotage".

#### 8. British Columbia Detachment Reports

##### "Chakawana" (Coastal Patrol)

"Labour conditions along the Coast patrolled by the Chakawana are quiet at present, with the exception of slight bickerings between employer and employes in the Ocean Falls District. Both the supply and demand of labour is good".

##### Nanaimo Detachment

##### Coal Mines

"All mines working to full capacity, at the same rate of pay, and no trouble at any of the mines, with their labour".

General "Everything is quiet and settled in all mining, milling and logging camps and there is no trouble anticipated by any of the companies with labour at the present time".

##### Merritt

"There seems to be little or no attempt in O.B.U. matters here. The hall is dark most of the time and fewer O.B.U. buttons are noticed on the streets".

##### Kamloops

"The labour situation is at present very quiet; there doesn't seem to be any unemployed hanging around the town, as there is plenty of work on the ranches and lumber camps."

## II. ALBERTA

### 9. O.B.U. Coalhurst

A report concerning the O.B.U. at Coalhurst says:-

"The mines are now running up to full strength there being about 400 men employed. In my report dated 16th August I stated there were about 100 men working out on the farms who were all expected back at the mines before 1st September in order to draw their retro-active pay from the 1st April, 1920. Most of these men returned in time to get this pay and a few stayed on the farms harvesting. It is estimated that there are about 75 per cent O.B.U. men amongst the Miners at Coalhurst mines at present. There is a small percentage of U.M.W. of A.

"The general opinion of the miners at the above camp seems to be that there will be a strike all over the district about 1st October, 1920".[7]

#### 10. O.B.U. Commerce

A report to hand from Commerce states:-

"The Chinook mines are at present running up to full strength. There are about 170 men employed. The majority of the men who were harvesting during the strike have returned to work. It is estimated that although all the men at present are paying dues to the U.M.W. of A. 25 per cent are O.B.U. and 25 per cent are U.M.W. of A. the remaining 50 per cent do not care to which union they belong. All they want is to be left alone and allowed to work, but, in the event of the O.B.U. gaining power they would undoubtedly be willing to pay their dues to the O.B.U."

#### 11. O.B.U. Meeting, Lethbridge

An important O.B.U. meeting was recently held at Lethbridge by prominent O.B.U. officials. There is no doubt this meeting was called for the express purpose of inducing the miners in the Lethbridge area to also walk out should the men in the Drumheller field go on strike. The importance of this meeting has impelled me to quote hereunder full extracts from our reports.

"On adjournment of the meeting "James Slocan, President of this local announced that P.M. Christophers, Henry Beard, G. Palmer from Drumheller and Walter Clark from Coalhurst, all O.B.U. advocates were here to address the men. G. Palmer then took the floor and said that he was an O.B.U. man and that he had come down from Drumheller and was out to advocate O.B.U. principles, and that they were going to make a jump either one side or the other as he considered this the most opportune time to get rid of the obnoxious check-off. He said he was an enthusiastic O.B.U. man and that it was the only industrial organization that was going to benefit the workers of Canada, and that the boys in Drumheller District were forced to sign the obnoxious check-off against their will before they would be allowed to resume work in the mines. They had the wool pulled over their eyes then because they were told that the

operators and the Government would not recognize the O.B.U. but instead they classed it as a Bolshevik movement sprung up from Russian propaganda distributed broadcast throughout the North American continent. Since then he said we had the wool pulled from our eyes and the men were beginning to see and think for themselves. At the present time the Miners in the Drumheller District were 90 per cent O.B.U. and what they want at the present time is the check-off repealed and that Drumheller Valley be recognized as an O.B.U. District. At a meeting there of the U.M.W. of A. to discuss important business there were only four members who attended the meeting and one was an International organizer and one a company man".[8]

"He said that two days afterwards the O.B.U. called a meeting and that there were 400 members in attendance that was the stand of the men in Drumheller. The O.B.U. could not do much for the (men) workers at this stage as it was only in its infancy yet, but regardless of that the workers in certain districts were depending on the Drumheller men making the first move towards maturing the O.B.U. and other districts expect that when it is matured it will be handed to them on a plate. At the present time the O.B.U. is like a newly hatched chicken and you can't expect it to lay eggs right away. He hoped that when the time came that the Lethbridge Miners would be men and come out and help the Drumheller miners. He remarked that there never was a more opportune time than right now to get rid of this damned check-off.

"In concluding he said "I want you boys to think this thing over and think it seriously if you want to free yourselves from this bondage and I have no doubt that Lethbridge boys will be just as strong O.B.U. as we are up in Drumheller. Some of you fellows are a little nervous and scared but there is nothing to be scared of, get your courage up for this fight and fight it to a finish. There will be no date mentioned as to when it would come off but he could assure them that it would be in the near future and I hope you boys will be solid behind it. I don't know the feeling of this meeting, he said, as it is under the auspices of the U.M.W. of A. but I assume you are all O.B.U. by the attitude and reception you have given us in this meeting. This concluded Palmers speech.

"Henry Board then took the platform. He read some statistics from the Labour Reader to show that there were 1,000 delegates representing labour at a convention in England to discuss the Russian Question, he announced "the resolutions passed at this convention which asked for the recall of the British Navy from blockading Russia and the withdrawal of the British Troops in that Zone of War. He said that the O.B.U. had made great progress since he was here

last, but he hoped they would find some better means of communication between the camps so as to put the different camps wise as to what was taking place. He then went on to relate the success they had at Coalhurst and Monarch. He said that the O.B.U. had been recognized by the Government, as he had a letter here which had been sent to Secretary Spencer of the Coalhurst Local from the officials at Ottawa, asking for information re unemployment there, it was addressed to U.M.W. of A. Local Coalhurst, because of this Spencer returned the blank form to Ottawa saying 'that they was to address this local as O.B.U. in future. Then he read the reply which read "O.B.U. Local Coalhurst" from Ottawa. He then dealt on some of the subjects that Palmer dealt with re Drivers wages in Drumheller district. He concluded his speech something similar to Palmers.

"Then P.M. Christophers got up and said that he knew most of the boys here were O.B.U. and hoped they would show themselves up as well at Drumheller when the time came.

"He also said that there was no time like the present, as never in [9] the history of Canada was there ever so great a shortage of coals at the present. He said that there was no date specified as to when it would come off but it would come off in the near future and with short notice.

"He said he was going to-morrow to a convention at Port Arthur where they would discuss questions pertaining to this camp and on his return he would speak here, he said he would notify Peacock to post up notices around to give the members notice of this meeting. He said that when he was at Bob Russell's trial in Winnipeg he heard more lies told there in ten minutes than he had heard in half a life-time. He went on to say the Government was issuing pamphlets and distributing them as fast as the mails could carry them as there were thousands of them in Calgary when he left but was sorry he could not obtain one before he left. He said that Gideon Robertson, Minister of Labour, was a bigger liar than Annaias. He then dealt with contract prices for certain work in the Michel Mines and went on to show in figures where this new arrangement had reduced wages per square yard from 70 cents to \$2. below the old agreement. "He remarked that it was the rottenest agreement he had ever heard of. He said they were out for the repeal of this check-off and that they were going to get it if it took him 20 years. Christophers and the rest of them were having a conversation from James Sloan outside the door and I heard Beard say they were getting some printed posters to read:- "Sign the Check-o? and you have nothing to lose but your brains". They are going to distribute them around the mines. He said that about the 1st of October they would come



out at Drumheller or the first week in October, and that would be the signal, for the rest of the camp to act. And that when they came out at Drumheller he would bring all the O.B.U. organizers down here and endeavour to bring them out here to.

"Clark of Coalhurst spoke a few minutes dwelling mostly on the success they have had with the O.B.U. at Coalhurst. He says there is not a man that is dissatisfied now since they got the O.B.U. There agreement at Coalhurst with the management calls for the Miners to give the management 30 days notice prior to any strike but he said there would be no 30 days as they would down tools without any notice. He then went on to relate how they did in the Yorkshire mines during the big strike when the Government had to use the Royal Navy to sabotage the pumps to keep the mines from ruin. He advocated for O.B.U. and that was all he had to say. This concluded the meeting".

#### 12. O.B.U. Calgary

The following circular letter was sent out by Arthur Evans, District Secretary, O.B.U. Mining Dept. No. 11. to various points in Canada and the U. S. A.:-[10]

"To the Transient Wage Worker in Canada and U.S.A."

"Fellow Workers:-

"There is an industrial dispute taking place in the Coalfields of Alberta and South Eastern British Columbia, (formerly Dist 18. U.M.W. of A.) and coal miners and others are therefore requested to keep away.

"If you wish to help the miners here, do your bit by keeping away from this district, thereby permitting the workers to wage their fight against the enforced check-off of the U.M.W. of A., and intolerable conditions existing in this district.

"The larger the surplus of the labour in Alberta, the greater will be the mine owners' resistance to the workers' demands; do not be misled by statements in the capitalist press to the effect that there is no trouble in this district. A strike may be called at any time.

"Even you can co-operate in this struggle of you will keep away from this district".

#### 13. Lawson and the "Searchlight"

The N. C. O. in charge of Canmore Detachment, reports as follows on a public meeting held at that point:-

"The object of the meeting was to collect money in order to keep the Searchlight going, both speakers spoke on the part the Searchlight had taken in assisting the Miners to get the increase and that the labour organization was very much handicapped without a newspaper, Editor Lawson said he had been running the paper at a loss and that he was going from camp to camp to get assistance

financially from the workers. Canmore had not supported him in his enterprise as they should have done. He stated the camps in the Crows' Nest Pass and Drumheller Field were all from 75 to 90 per cent O.B.U., and said to watch all from 75 to 90 per cent O.B.U., and said to watch their movements in the next 2 or 3 weeks, stating they were going to make the operators release them from the check-off system and advised Canmore to line up."

#### 14. Miscellaneous Notes

An extract from a pamphlet entitled "Freedom", a Ukrainian weekly, is as follows:-

"We get authentic information from reliable parties that the Bolshewiki Ambassador in America, spends large sums of money to disorganize the Ukrainian Nationalists, and for the publication of Ukrainian papers, the "Ukrainian Labour News" (Winnipeg, Man) "Ukrainian Daily News" (New York, U.S.A.) and other publications to support Bolshevism, in North America. There are many Bolshewiki agents, Jews and Russians employed on the staff of these papers and publications".[11]

At a recent meeting of the Labour Church Edmonton, the Chairman announced that no further openair meetings would be held this season, but that the committee was trying to arrange for a theatre for the winter, to hold concerts and meetings in, if successful it would be announced at a later date through the press.

The O.B.U. Bulletin was distributed as usual during the meeting.

Wasył Swystun, Ukrainian agitator, is arranging for a big convention of the Ukrainian National Church (in Canada) at the end of the present year, when Dr. Kopachuk is to be elected Bishop of that Church.

### III. SASKATCHEWAN

#### 15. Activities of the L.W.I.U. of the O.B.U. at The Pas, Man.

In a report dated 18th September, concerning the activities of the L.W.I.U. of the O.B.U. at the Pas, Man, the following passage occurs:-

"New members are being enrolled daily by Leith, secretary of the L.W.I.U. and he is making side trips to adjacent camps in an effort to secure new members and to revive interest in the L.W.I.U. among the old members. He is meeting with considerable success and there has been more O.B.U. talk among the workers at The Pas during the week than ever before. There are a few who speak unfavourably towards the O.B.U. but by far the greater majority are in favour of it. Regular meetings are to be held in future and as soon as a few more members are obtained the district will 'take over' for itself, that is, instead of having a secretary appointed by the Central Executive at Vancouver and all money being sent to Vancouver the

district will by vote elect their own Secretary, Executives committee, etc. and only a portion of the money obtained by dues etc. will be forwarded to Vancouver. Once this is done and the members are conducting their own affairs, a far greater interest will be taken by the members, which will greatly strengthen the Union. No definite time has been set as to when they will attempt to enforce their demands as this will depend entirely on the time it takes to secure sufficient members to make a strike an assured success. Leith figures that it would be best to wait until the logs are ready to be skidded to the river, for at that time the Company would have to grant their demands at once or lose their entire season by not getting their logs to the water in time for the drive".[12]

#### IV. MANITOBA

##### 16. Assistance to Soviet Russia Meeting

A meeting was held in the Strand Theatre, Winnipeg, on 19th September. Dr. Johannesson presided. The meeting was called for the purpose of opening a campaign for the collection of funds for the purchase of medical supplies for Soviet Russia.

Dr. Johannesson spoke in part as follows:-

"It is our misfortune, said the chairman, 'that we are always watched by spies. Some time ago, you could see the taking notes in their seats, but now they are afraid but as soon as the meeting is ended, they will go into some neighbouring hotels and write whatever they think will be of interest to the Government, and whenever opportunity comes, as the strike trial of last Fall, they will use these notes as evidence against some of the gentlemen and ladies who will address you today'".

The first speaker was Ald. A.A. Heaps. Our report says:-

"In his speech he stated that the workers, though they belong to a greater class of people are always subdued by a smaller class of Capitalists, and whatever wrong or disgraceful thing is done in a country, the blame is put on the workers. How long will the workers stand this?

"The Capitalistic papers of Winnipeg are daily filled up with news concerning the atrocities of the Bolsheviki in Russia; that the people are suffering from want of food, clothes and many other necessities of life. Canada, he said, is a country governed not by Bolsheviki, but by Capitalists, and still there are so many of you who do not know how you are going to get your coal for winter or the clothes for your family, or what you are going to get your children to eat. And still here in Winnipeg there are thousands of tons of coal, thousands of stores with clothes and great abundance of food supplies. Is this atrocity smaller than in Russia, where such things are not to be found?"

Miss Smith was the second speaker. She described the great shortage of medicines and medical instruments amongst the doctors in Russia. One doctor, she said, had to take out a soldier's eye, and the instrument he used was a razor.

The third speaker was Mr. Houston, who invited the audience to a hearty donation.

Mr. Gage (who recently returned from England) gave a lively speech on the progress and organization of the workers in England. He [13] said that he was in England at the time a certain man returned from Russia and was to give a lecture at the Albert Hall.

He said:-

"The Hall contained ten thousand people, and about 40,000 Russian sympathizers were outside the hall, singing radical songs and giving loud applause to Russian Soviet. The police, he said, could not do anything, and had to remain quiet. It is impossible, said he, for England to wage war against the Russian Soviet, because as soon as England sends out an army to fight the Russian Soviet another thing that she will find will be the Soviet Government in England (Loud applause).

Workers, he said, 'are to be content at least with this that the British Government without the workers consent would be paralyzed if they did anything against the interests of this class'.

A returned soldier and Mr. Stewart (who spoke at the "Hands Off" Russia meeting) also spoke at this meeting.

A collection amounting to \$287.00 was taken up, \$21.00 of this amount being contributed by the six speakers on the platform. Socialistic and Bolshevik literature was sold to the value of \$100-\$150.

Resolutions were passed that the workers will continue to make campaigns in order to raise funds for the assistance of Soviet Russia.

#### 17. Strike of Lake Shipping Seamen

The men employed on the Great Lakes went on strike for an increase in wages on 15th September. There is no disorder and the crews are awaiting the settlement of their demands which are being considered in the East.

The increase asked for amounts from 20 to 30 dollars additional per month.

A report regarding the O.B.U. convention at Port Arthur, dated 21st September, says:-

"The above mentioned convention which was scheduled to commence on the 20th starts at 10 a.m. to day, 21st inst. owing to the non-arrival of certain delegates. The meetings are held in the Finn Hall at Port Arthur and ow? to this place being chosen instead of either of the Labour Temples at the head of the lakes, a considerable [14] amount of adverse criticism has been aroused.

"I am informed that owing to the O.B.U. inactivity many of the most radical members among the Finns have dropped out of the organization and are looking for some organization that aims at revolution".

#### V. ONTARIO

##### 18. O.B.U. Convention, Sudbury

From a reliable source we are informed that the O.B.U. Convention at Sudbury on 6th-9th September, was a failure due to internal dissension based on suspicion that the Finns were trying to obtain control of the O.B.U. for furtherance of I.W.W. or Socialistic schemes of such a Radical complexion as to conflict with the policy laid down for O.B.U., which recognizes that any extreme Radicalism is likely to result in legislation which will interfere with O.B.U. growth.

This informant says:-

"The Finns are the most dangerous part of the O.B.U. in this district, they have associations within themselves of a revolutionary nature and are only using the O.B.U. for their own purposes: I am convinced that they are in close touch with European Bolshevists and that they know better than to confide in their O.B.U. confreres, unless they happen to be Finns. It is well known that the most secret O.B.U. matters leak out sooner or later; but a good deal goes on among the Finns that is closely associated with European Politics".

##### 19. Plan to establish O.B.U. paper in the East

A correspondent at Hamilton writes that on the 16th September he accompanied Roberts to Toronto, where they saw Mrs. Knight, who said "the O.B.U. had plans for some time to try and establish an O.B.U. paper in the East and that Cascadden would probably have charge of it; that this paper might be located in Hamilton or Toronto, and that Joe Knight had already secured the promise of subscriptions for bundle orders from various locals and internationals to support him when in danger of it having to close down for lack of support. This matter is to be brought up at the O.B.U. convention. Mrs. Knight seemed to be quite certain that it would meet with approval.[15]

He continues:-

"As far as I can make out from Mrs. Knight, Joe Knight will have a good deal to do with the establishment and management of the paper and will also act as a free lance organizer for the O.B.U. Mrs. Knight said that if their plans carried Joe would spend a great deal of his time in Hamilton and vicinity and do everything in his power to make the Hamilton local a success".

##### 20. The Russian Workers' School, Toronto

A lecture was delivered by M. Dodokin in the Russian Workers' School, Toronto, on 19th September. All the audience were Anarchist-Communists.

The subject of his lecture was a review of the World-wide Labour movement. He began with conditions in Russia, stating that the workers had achieved much, in comparison with former conditions. He expressed satisfaction at the recent Italian movement.

Concerning England he said "England is an Empire which from his viewpoint, is gradually losing its dominating position amongst the Great Powers: India is in open revolt, Ireland is struggling for independence and the Dominion are to be regarded as seriously that a conflict may occur at any time".

#### 21. Moses Almazoff at Meeting of the Jewish Socialist League, Toronto

A meeting of the Jewish Socialist League was held at 194 Beverley Street, Toronto, on 24th September.

Our report states:-

"The Committee brought a report that they interviewed Jim Simpson and others and they asked him to organize a new Social Democratic Party. He refused because he is the Secretary of the F. L. P. and he promised to help them if they form a radical organization after the discussion. They formed a committee which would get into communication with all radical organizations in the Province and asked them to send two delegates to a special meeting which is going to be held at the end of next October. Besides the committee has to work out a new platform and constitution. The constitution will be submitted for acceptance, if they do not agree with the constitution then the league will go ahead with their work. After the discussion the president introduced a man named Almazoff from Winnipeg. He [16] spoke to the audience saying that he was in jail last year for his radical activities in Winnipeg. He said 'I am still a radical as I was before and that he is going to stay in the city for a time. He promised to give a lecture next Friday at the above place and he is going to help to organize'.

#### 22. Plebbs' League, Toronto

A new organization, called Plebbs League, was started on 19th September on the corner of Shuter and Yonge Street, Toronto. The programme of this organization is to educate the proletariat as to class consciousness and to understand their political power. Their ultimate purpose is the overthrowing of the capitalistic system of Government.

Three speakers were addressing the crowd on the same principles as we have heard from the Socialists, Labour Party and O.B.U. speakers.

#### 23. Miscellaneous Notes

An extract from a report dated Welland, 23rd September states:-  
"On Sunday, 3rd October, a meeting will be called at Welland of the real active reds in that city to hear a report of the convention, but as Winding stated there will be certain points publicly discussed. An

executive meeting will be held. Zeegar, when going to Toronto will stop either at Welland or Niagara Falls to give them inside information as to the results of the Congress".

An extract from a report dated Hamilton, 24th September, is as follows:-

"Roberts received a letter from Los Angeles local of the O.B.U. stating that one of their members was arrested some time ago and after two trials he is slated for a third trial on 4th November. In both trials the jury failed to agree and in the meantime he and several others are touring the United States appealing for funds to aid in fighting the case to a finish, as they claim that the authorities are making a test case of this and if the O.B.U. should lose, their member, whose name is Blossom, will be sent to jail; that this would be the beginning of the smashing of the O.B.U. in that part of the country. The letter asks the Hamilton local to try and arrange a meeting for one of their speakers and to also help them financially. They are trying to arrange for one of their members to tour Canada".[17]

## VI. QUEBEC

### 24. Meeting of Society for Technical Aid to Soviet Russia

On September 19th a meeting of the Society for Technical Aid to Soviet Russia was held. A report by Kaverga was read concerning his negotiations with U. Binette.

According to this report U. Binette of the O.B.U. agreed with the plan to organize a special committee to raise funds for Soviet Russia, and promised helped and contributions, but stated that he (Binette) had received special letters from Ludwig R. Martens (Soviet Ambassador at New York) and Dr. Mendelson (Secretary of Soviet Relief Fund at New York) in which letters it was stated that Dr. Mendelson and another representative would be in Montreal at the end of September or the beginning of October in connection with this matter; and Binette advised that they should not organize until the arrival of the aforementioned representatives.

They decided to call a meeting inviting the leading men of the local labour organizations, and also to send a letter to Dr. Mendelson.

There was quite a hot discussion about the New York explosion. W. Revenko, secretary, and some other members expressing their opinions that the bomb outrage was done by the U.S. authorities or their agents as an act of provocation so as to turn the public against all labour movements, but the majority of the members are still thinking that this explosion was done by Anarchist-Terrorists (the most extreme fanatic party, amongst all the radical organizations) as an act of revenge to Governments for political prisoners.

A further meeting of this Society was held during the week and our correspondent writes:-[18]

"Secretary W. Revenko read a letter from Dr. Mendelson, secretary of Soviet Russia Medical Relief Committee, New York, in which he was asked to collect money from labour in Montreal to aid Soviet Russia.

"He gave a speech on conditions in Soviet in which he stated that 'The population were suffering from the murderous blockade of England'. At the end of his speech he proposed a special committee for that purpose, and decided to ask other radical labour organizations for contributions for Soviet Russia. After discussion it was decided to select a committee from the members, also to appoint two delegates to confer with leaders of the O.B.U. about this matter. A committee of our were chosen from Medical Relief for Soviet Russia, with Dr. Nighthours as secretary; two delegates were also chosen, namely Kaverga and Selan, who will give a report on this matter next Sunday.

"Sec. W. Revenko notified the members that comrade Paradovsky had left for Soviet Russia on 18th September.

"Paradovsky is an active member of this association. He is well-known as a translator of Bolsheviki pamphlets from Russian to Ukrainian. He also is a clever painter. Many of his sketches of Bolsheviki revolutionary movements are used as decoration for the hall of this organization".

#### 25. O.B.U. Metal Trades Unit

A meeting of the O.B.U. Metal Trades Unit was held at the Labour Temple, Montreal, on 16th September. About 20 members were present and John O'Cane was elected Chairman.

Rebecca Buhay took the floor; her subject being the "Class Struggle". Part of her speech follows:-

"So we find today a small minority of one class of people who possess and don't produce, through virtue of laws and militia, holding fast on that big class who produces and do not possess, because somehow or other, this small class has been able to gain control of the machine of industries, they have also united their forces to such extent until they have become so powerful that they do dare the working class to wrest that power from them."

A. Saint-Martin was the next speaker, who spoke in part as follows:-

"We have reached the day when it is necessary to take over the industries of the country and run them for the benefit of all people instead of only a few. I want you to remember this word; plant the seed of the verb "Take" into the mind of your fellowworkers, water it occasionally so that it may flourish and some day in the very near future, we will be able to "take" the industries of the country in our



hands and run them as they should be run.[19]

The report continues:-

"Under the order of "The good and welfare of the movement" W.E. Long, secretary-treasurer of the Metal Trades Unit stated that the Amalgamated Society of Engineers of Maisonneuve, as the result of the meeting held by Joe Knight on the 11th September, have decided to join the O.B.U. in a body, and owing to the fact that the Amalgamated Society of Engineers' Hall is rented and paid for until the 1st May 1921, it would be advisable for the Metal Trades to join forces with the Amalgamated Society of Engineers and hold the meetings at Maisonneuve instead of the Labour Temple, it will curtail expenses and it would be much better for those workers who live in the North and East of the city.

"A long and heated discussion took place over this report U. Binette stated that if the Metal Trades Unit was going to join forces with the Amalgamated Society of Engineers, it would be much better also to employ the General Workers' Unit, until such time as they would be able to function independently.

"Long also stated that the Amalgamated Society of Engineers were coming into the O.B.U. as a unit, every member will carry an O.B.U. card after 22nd September.

#### 26. Dissension in the O.B.U., Montreal

An O.B.U. meeting was held at the Labour Temple Montreal, on 23rd September. In a report concerning this meeting dated 27th September, the following passages occur:-

"O. Cahrette, Secretary-treasurer of the O.B.U. general workers' Unit, in giving a financial report, stated that the General Workers' Unit are about \$859.00 in the hole".

"A. Saint-Martin then moved the following resolution:- 'Is it advisable for the O.B.U. to have a permanent headquarters in Montreal?' When the motion was put to a question, U. Binette delivered a long speech opposing the motion, stating that the O.B.U. was not in a position to keep a permanent headquarters and that it was ridiculous to try to make the workers and people in general believe that the O.B.U. is a strong organization financially or morally. We must face the facts whether we like them or not, do not let us deceive ourselves nor let us deceive the memberships for some day they will learn the truth and call you "bluffs".

"Saint-Martin in reply to Binette's remarks stated that it was very stupid and reactionary for Binette to make such statements, such statements as Binette's have the tendency to decrease instead of increasing the O.B.U. membership and such action should be fought with every weapon in order to prevent such opinions from being expressed. Binette, he continued, is always coming to throw his cold

water on our enthusiasm". [20]

Our reports continues:-

"The storm broke once more, every one wanted to speak but not until the chairman threatened to call the meeting off, the amendment was put to a vote which was lost".

The meeting dispersed at 11.15 p.m. in disorder.

### 27. French Socialist Communist Party

A meeting of the above organization was held at the Labour Temple, Montreal, on 26th September, 60 members were present.

A Saint-Martin spoke in part as follows, before proceeding to the temple:-

"That the Police and authorities are responsible for the terrible New York explosion. He further stated that in order to make this remark clear to everyone, he will explain why the police have committed such a terrible crime. He continued by stating that the authorities are using every tactic with the view to create an ill feeling against the Communists, which is the only way they will be able to gain support, but asked those present, not to believe that the 'Reds' are capable of such acts.

He then requested the crowd to follow him to the Labour Temple. As soon as they reached the Labour Temple, and the crowd had taken their seats, Gottsell proceeded with the meeting by reading from a French publication regarding the conditions of Soviet Russia and that stand taken by the Allied Power with the view to crush Russia.

After Gottsell was through reading, a few questions were asked by the members present but none of any importance, Gottsell answered all the questions.

A Saint-Martin was the next speaker.

"He dealt on economics and requested those present to organize, educate and prepare themselves for the coming revolution, stating, "If you are not organized you will be made to suffer, you want to educate yourselves and know just what you are expected to do, when the opportune time arrives".

He concluded his speech by saying:-

"That there is a social revolution taking place today in all countries of the world and it's the duty of every toiler to organize for the cause"[21]

## VII. MARITIME PROVINCES

### 23. Strike at Reserve Mine, Cape Breton

400 men were idle owing to a strike in the Collierie Nos 8. and 10 Reserve Mine, Cape Breton.

Our report says:-

"The men went on strike on account of a checking system which means that when the men put their lamps in the checking room they

have to receive a check bearing the same number which is on their lamp, and when he receives his lamp in the morning he must deposit his check with the timekeeper in order to get his day's pay.

"The men claimed that receiving and depositing this check was a loss of time to them, consequently a strike was called and about 400 men went out but they received no support from the U.M.W. of A. and they were obliged to go back to work on September 17th under the same checking system".

Extracts from a report concerning the Royal Commission Convention in Glace Bay, dated 20th September are as follows:-

"The delegates present were in every way pleased with the finding of the Royal Commission, and are not much in love with the remarks, and the way some of the other men are acting; they are all fair minded, and only want to do what is right; some others I have found, are very radical and trying to do all in their power to raise what ever trouble they can in the rank and file of the U.M.W.