

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

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SECRET

NO. 44

NOTES OF THE WORK OF THE C. I. B. DIVISION
FOR THE WEEK ENDING 7th OCTOBER.

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1. Characteristics of the Period

The strike at Drumheller seems to have had a bad start. Our latest information by mail indicates that the preparations for it were inadequate, that Lawson and Evans, who were promoting it, were not very confident, and that several of the leaders, such as Christophers, Beard and Browne, were taking little or no part in the arrangements.

A telegram received on 6th October, however, announces that some 1,200 men have struck in Fernie, the citadel of the O. B. U. in the mining community.

Evidence from several sources suggests that the L. W. I. U. is experiencing some decline, possibly in membership, and certainly in power. The change in the market is putting the employers in a stronger position, and the men are not nearly so ready to provoke conflicts.

A curious development in British Columbia is the disposition of a number of agitators to support Prohibition on the ground that it increases discontent. Several reports to this effect have come in this week. In one case a local clergyman was moved by this attitude to speak from an O. B. U. platform.

In Winnipeg the fight in the Building Trades between the O. B. U. and the Internationals seems to be going in favour of the latter. The O. B. U. unit is in a depressed condition.

One more small revolutionary society has been formed in Toronto. It

is called the Plebbs League, and it is as unpromising and as unamiable as the others. Its leading spirit, Morris Spector, at a recent meeting prayed earnestly for a hard winter, with a bread line.

Revolutionists in various parts of the country have been attributing the Wall Street bomb outrage to the authorities, or to the police or detectives.[4]

The Russian organization in Montreal is interesting in the fidelity with which it conforms to Bolshevist policy in Russia. It seems to be under close direction from New York.

1. BRITISH COLUMBIA

2. The L. W. I. U.

The N. C. O. in charge of C. I. B. work in East Kootenay has made the following report upon conditions in the logging industry in South Eastern British Columbia:-

"Regarding the strength of the L. W. I. U. there has been a distinct falling off in the number of members employed in this district in the past two months. Out of a total of 2,500 members that were in the district at the end of July last, about 600 have departed to Alberta and Saskatchewan for the harvest season, about 1,700 are distributed amongst 12 large mills at present operating in the district, and about 200 scattered amongst small operators.

"There is a distinct shortage of labour in the lumber camps, and very little bush work is going on. Conditions are unfavourable for a strike in all camps except the C. P. R. Mills at Yahk, where 300 men are employed, where the product taken up by the C. P. R. co. The market is very low, the mills have been working on their last winter's out steadily during the present summer, very little has been shipped, and the yards are all piling up lumber. The lumbermen are prepared to close down at any time and wait for a better market, and therefore any action on the part of the employees to call a strike would be met by the employers by an instant closing down of operations, which would be disastrous only to the strikers.

"The L. W. I. U. although organized solidly throughout the district, are not strong enough to dictate to, or make demands of the employes, and can only deal with the employers as employes of the respective firms by whom they are employed. This condition has existed throughout the present year, and has worked satisfactorily to all concerned.

"It is considered that by the end of October next the loggers at present on the prairies will have returned, and conditions will be much better".

Reports from an outside source as to conditions within the L. W. I. U. at Vancouver suggests that the union is feeling less powerful now. A good many agitators find that they are black listed, and are experiencing some

agitation on their own account.[5]

Before the recent Port Arthur Convention Winch was rumoured to be seeking a place on the Provincial Compensation Board. This presumably was to ensure a retreat if he were displaced.

Although the L. W. I. U. are \$2,000 behind with their per capita tax to headquarters, and in consequence had trouble at the Port Arthur Convention they voted \$500 to aid the Vancouver gas-workers in their strike.

An agent who is well acquainted with the affairs of the L. W. I. U. in Vancouver, says under date of 25th September that

"He believes that the long talked of split between Midgley and Winch has finally come to a head at the Winnipeg Convention. The last edition of the Federationist shows that the coast delegates refused to be seated in the convention under the conditions imposed by the credentials committee and operator believes he can see in this the hand of Midgley working to eliminate Winch and his bunch. Alexander was the only coast delegate who took a seat in the convention under the conditions imposed and it is well know that there is little love lost between him and Winch".

3. O. B. U. Notes

A report on conditions in Victoria dated 28th September remarks that feeling is strong against the O. B. U. and that the O. B. U. is making no great headway among the returned soldiers' organizations.

However, the Building Trades Council has recommended its locals to reduce their entrance fee from \$30 to \$10.

Information has been received that at Anyox the O. B. U. have added from 150 to 200 members. This is represented as being a local rally, and not as due to any special incursion of organizers from outside.

Last June V. R. Midgley issued circulars commending the Shop Stewards movement, and trying to arrange a tour for Alex M. Robertson of the Scottish Labour College, Glasgow, whose movements have been noted. Robertson's address is given as in New York. The circular met with [6] little response, and the attempt to arrange a tour failed.

Paul Meadows, an "old-timer", has been made secretary of the O. B. U. at Merritt. His pay is said to be \$40 a month. He is of mediocre ability and is not regarded as a dangerous agitator.

Michael Casey, an O. B. U. organizer at Penticton, has fled owing to a warrant being issued for his arrest on a charge of boot-legging. He has sought refuge in the United States and the Immigration authorities have been asked to prevent his return to Canada.

This man seems a general bad character, being a reputed card-sharper. He instigated several strikes in the mines and lumber camps of Southern British Columbia.

The Revd. D. T. McClintock of Nelson, B.C. has come into prominence lately by his utterances on the labour question. After preaching in his own church in a friendly way of the O. B. U. on 9th September he addressed

a meeting at Silverton under the auspices of the O. B. U. Womens' Auxiliary. His address, which included an attack on the pamphlet issued by the Labour Department, greatly pleased the O. B. U.

4. Agitators and Prohibition

A curious development in Vancouver is a disposition on the part of leading agitators to support Prohibition, in the belief that it fosters discontent. Among these are R.W. Trotter, A. S. Wells, V. R. Midgley, and E. Winch. somewhat contradictory stories are told as to efforts to effect an alliance between labour men and the "Drys", to the effect that the extremists are trying to induce the Internationals to take part in the movement. A passage in our report on the subject, (which is written by a well-informed agent) is:-

"Winch thinks that if Canada goes dry it will accelerate the general unrest that is what the Radicals want".[7]

In this connection the following note on W. R. Trotter, secretary of the Federated Labour Party of Vancouver may be quoted:-

"In company with others he spoke at the Broadway Theatre, in this city, on the 26th instant. He is reported to have said that in 1916 the labour men considered the question of prohibition as none of their affair. They thought it merely a trick on the part of the Capitalist class to create greater production in the factories and mills through increased sobriety, but today the heads of organized labour are lamost to a man in support of it, and before its adoption it was impossible for the organizers of labour to obtain even a hearing among the lumber-jacks. Largely as a result of prohibition they have since had time and clear brains to organize into a body 19,000 strong.

"Trotter concluded with the remark that if the present social unrest should result in anything approaching revolution, it would be very desirable to have a sober proletariat."

It is noted that Thomas Richardson is busying himself in advocacy of prohibition. In this connection the N. C. O. in charge of C. I. B. work in Vancouver remarks:-

"There is a feeling among local radicals that a 'bone-dry' condition in the country will strongly enhance their opportunities for causing general unrest".

At Prince Rupert on Sunday 26th September a debate was held on Prohibition under the auspices of the Central Labour Council of the O. B. U. W. P. Lynch, Queen Charlotte Islands, attacked Prohibition, advocating Government control and sale. Revd. W. Stevenson upheld Prohibition; he quoted the utterances of Messrs. Wells, Woodsworth and Trotter, which already have been quoted, and adopted their line of argument.

5. The Labour Church

The movement to establish a Labour Church in Vancouver was for-

mally launched on 26th September, when a meeting was held. The chairman, J. Clarke, said that to avert the criticism that they taught economics under the name of "Church" they would call it the "People's Sunday Night Meeting". Mr. J. S. Woodsworth described the methods followed in the Labor churches in Winnipeg and Brandon. He said that:-[8]

"They must develop an Institution which will function as the Workers' Church, College and Club, all in one, and all in sympathy with the Movement are invited to associate themselves with it; he also stated that, in future, they intend to have Music and Hymns suitable to the occasion, and that very soon he would preach a sermon from the text for which he was arrested and charged with sedition".

He devoted some attention to replying to the criticisms contained in the pamphlet issued by the Department of Labour.

The attendance was small. Our report says:-

"It was quite noticeable that the class of people who attended are, or have been, Church-going people and they expected more of a religious meeting".

6. "The Friends of Freedom for India"

A report from Vancouver dated 28th September says:-

"There is also a movement going on among Hindus of Vancouver called "The Friends of Freedom for India". This, he (Tom Doyle) stated was backed up financially to a certain extent by de Valera, so-called president of Ireland. The movement is getting strong in the U. S. and Mr. Urquhart the secretary of Provincial Branch, will have an interview with these Hindus and try and get them to co-operate on the Irish question".

Strangely enough, the June report of the Intelligence Service at Singapore, which was received this week, notes the appearance in Farther India of evidences of the work of this body. Its New York address is the Rand School of Social Science. No. 7 East 15th Street, New York, which affords hospitality to so many subversive societies.

7. Chinese Societies

A survey of the Chinese Societies in Vancouver, after remarking that special life is highly developed among these people, and that numerous club, societies and tongs exist which for the most part have no anti-governmental tinge, mentions three that engage in political action:-[9]

1. The Chinese Labour Association of Canada. It has two subsidiary organizations, the Chinese Shingle Workers' Union of Canada and the Democratic Academy. It publishes a small bi-monthly pamphlet, the Labour Movement. It is noted that the Academy (which has 15 pupils and no salaried teachers) has classes in Esperanto, but no revolutionary significance seems to

attack to this.

2. The Chinese Empire Reform Association. This is described as "Ultra democratic", and to be a body with branches in the United States, Mexico, Australia, Japan and Hawaii. It has some association with the Chinese Times of Vancouver. Apparently it is concerned with politics in China.
3. The Chinese National League. This opposes No. 2. The Victoria Branch of No. 3 is inactive. Its membership is approximately 400.

8. Charles Lestor

Charles Lestor delivered his valedictory address in Vancouver on 26th September; he stated that he would be absent for three or four months.

He attributed the Wall Street bomb explosion to some detective agency.

Part of the report is:-

"The 'Daily Herald's refusal of Soviet gold is one of my reasons for going When I heard that the paper had refused to take £75,000, I knew I must go. The British workers have been trained to think of a matter or action as right or wrong, according to the capitalist moral code If we (the S. P. of C.) can get this or any other Soviet money, we won't hesitate to take it, knowing that we are going to put it to good use. Winston Churchill spent secretly £20,000,000 trying to defeat the Soviets. He used the British workers money, so the workers are quite justified in using Soviet money in trying to defeat Churchill and the capitalist class".

In conversation he said that his purpose in going to England was "to educate his ignorant fellow-workers in England". He stated that he intends eventually to go to Petrograd, to observe Communism in actual operation, and to form an opinion whether the Bolshevik methods are applicable in the Western World. He has about \$500 not a large sum for so ambitious a project.

9. Soldiers' Organizations

The principal soldiers' organizations in Vancouver number approximately as follows:-[10]

G. W. V. A. 5,000, Army and Navy ... 3,000

Imperial Veterans 1,400, G. A. U. V..... 400

Gunners and Sappers 300

An effort is being made to organize these for political purposes. On 4th September a meeting was held in the City Hall of the United Soldiers' Council of Vancouver, the organizations represented being the Amputation Club, the Army and Navy Veterans, the G. W. V. A., the Imperial Veterans of Canada, the G. A. U. V. and the C. A. S. A. After discussion it was decided that the U. S. C. as a whole would take no action; but the G. A. U. V. were to communicate with the various organizations and ask

their support.

On 19th September the G. A. U. V. held a well-attended meeting at the Empress Hotel, at which the \$2,000 gratuity was demanded, the Federal Government was denounced, and the election of soldiers' representatives was urged. The audience was sympathetic. Some of the speeches bordered on the revolutionary.

The society known as "Comrades of the Great War" in Vancouver, which has been inactive for some time, now seems to have come altogether to an end. A chattel mortgage against its effects has been foreclosed, and everything has been sold at a bailiff's sale.

An "Ex-Soldiers' Labour Council" has been formed in Victoria, composed of representatives of:-

- (1) Great War Veterans Association.
- (2) Comrades of the Great War.
- (3) Grand Army United Veterans.
- (4) Metal Trades Council.
- (5) Trades and Labour Council.

The local O. B. U. unit applied for representation, and the Trades and Labour Council on 15th September decided in favour of the application and the G. A. U. V. on 21st September voted against it.

10. Miscellaneous Notes

Conflicting reports are received as to the likelihood of the [11] striking gas-workers of Vancouver being supported by the Street railwaymen in a sympathetic strike. The balance of probability seems to be against this. The strikers seem to be losing.

Concerning the dispute between the Shipyards in Vancouver and their men, a well-informed agent declares that "The companies are stalling for time".

The B. C. Printing Trades Council are asking the newspapers in Victoria for \$10 for a 7-hour day, day-work, and \$11 a day, night work. The newspapers are unlikely to agree.

The movement to include reporters in this body is not meeting with success.

A report from Prince Rupert states that the appeal for medical aid to Soviet Russia is receiving no support whatever in that district.

A report from Vancouver is that a few copies of Alberta Inkpin's Communist, the organ in Great Britain of the Third International, are received by individual agitators. It is not sold on the news-stand.

Track has been obtained of several meeting places of the Finns of Vancouver. The agent who is in charge of this aspects of the situation says:-

"That he has been watching these people pretty closely and is in touch with many of them, and, whilst they are nearly all socialists of the ultra-radical order, yet they seem generally to be very inac-

tive. The O. B. U. makes but very little headway with them".

Mrs. Rose Henderson has been living in Vancouver for a time. She is expected to arrive in Winnipeg early in October, to deliver an address. A report from Vancouver says:-

"This woman is a regular fire-brand, and whilst here has been interesting herself in O. B. U. affairs, social and otherwise, and has also addressed meetings held under the auspices of the Federated Labour party.

"Mrs. Henderson has also actively interested herself in the affairs of the Self Determination for Ireland League at this point, but the [12] best authorities say she is not very conversant with the question".

A patrol from Hazelton eastwards to Telkwa, Moricetown Smithers, Round Lake and Aldermere showed labour matters to be very quiet. The districts visited were very orderly.

A rumour is in circulation in Vancouver that Robert Smillie may visit Canada.

11. British Columbia Detachment Reports

Stewart, 18th September

Nothing to report as to labour activities or labour unrest. The autumn exodus beginning.

Prince George, 11th September:-

"The Labour situation is very quiet; all labourers in this district are quiet and no agitation whatever".

Port Alberni, 18th September:-

"District quiet and orderly. Camps and mills working without any signs of unrest.

"District quiet and orderly No outward indications of disturbances in labour circles locally, matters in this regard being very quiet".

Ocean Falls, 18th September:-

"Labour element assuming normal conditions again".

Merritt, 25th September:-

Owing to a cessation of lumber orders, probably caused by the increased freight rates, the mill of the Nicola Pine Mills Co. Merritt, has been forced to let out some 150 men. The married men are being retained, for the most part, in hopes that orders will come in. As this town is largely dependent upon the mill, this lack of orders has a far-reaching effect. The logging camps will not be running at full capacity unless the situation improves".

Grand Forks, 18th September:-

"Labour conditions are good at present in the district and there is no appearances of any unrest".

II. ALBERTA

12. The Drumheller Situation

Reports from Drumheller dated 22nd September are to the effect that

the feeling there was far from being unanimous in favour of the strike. One report from a very confidential source in describing meetings held in Drumheller said that at one of them only 190 men voted [13] out of 250 present. No ballot was taken, the vote being by a show of hands. This observer's estimate is that the Drumheller miners are thus divided:- 55 per cent for the resolution; 25 per cent against it; 20 per cent waiting for the outcome before they take sides.

Another report, after stating that "A great number of the strikers are not in favour of the strike movements, they being more or less in financial difficulties, though at the same time in sympathy with the O. B. U.", goes on to give an amusing account of a meeting at Wayne which was addressed by two men, one of whom is named Feumach:-

"Feumach urged the men to hold out against the operators. This meeting I was informed was only lukewarm and many in the audience asked questions 'as to where the finances were coming from if they went on strike'. Feumach answered that they would stick it with backbone. He however asked that a collection be taken up to defray his expenses to the convention and the answer came back 'that it would have to be backbone too'.

By 29th September Arthur Evans had received only six or seven replies to his circular on the Drumheller strike; of these only three were in writing and of these only one (from Michel) actually stated that the abolition of the check-off had been demanded.

Lawson and Evans seemed to be managing the preliminaries of the Drumheller strike; it was remarked on that date that neither Christophers, Beard and Brown had visited the Drumheller area, not had they given active support. The Officer Commanding Calgary reports that Lawson and Evans seemed to be getting cold feet.

We have received information that a scheme was formed whereby the railway switchmen in the Drumheller area would pretend to fear violence, with the hope that the R. C. M. P. would be directed to remove any O. B. U. pickets; and that the switchmen then would refuse to work "under military surveillance".[14]

13. Affairs in the Crow's Nest Pass

At Fernie the referendum ordered by the O. B. U. men working through the local U. M. W. of A. machinery resulted thus:

In favour of the checkoff	88
Against the check-off	431
Spoiled Ballots	14 total 533
In favour of increase for day workers	451
Against increase for day workers	59
Spoiled ballots	13

This referendum was framed to appeal to the "company men" i.e. those who draw the lowest wage.

Our report, which is dated 27th September, adds:-

"The miners here expect Beard or Christophers to come and advise them as to what action to take. Up to the present I understand no word has been received from either of these two men, but indications are that in all probability a strike will be called on October 1st if the operators do not grant the men's request".

A report from Blairmore dated 25th September, after noting that the situation in the Pass was quiet, that Christophers was absent, and that "Rod" McDonald, the local O. B. U. secretary was working at ordinary industry, adds these remarks:-

"From information gathered at the present time, the miners are not in favour of striking, and such men as Christopher and other leaders of the O. B. U. seemed to have lost favour, the men considering that they are grafting at their expense, and doing no work, and I believe this is one reason that R. McDonald has been working for the last two weeks. On the other hand the miners are sore about the last check-off.

"There was some talk amongst the men at Hillcrest, that should the miners in England go on strike, they might consider going out in sympathy with them, but this is not general, and the larger majority of the men do not favour a strike".

14. Notes from the Coalfields

Edward Browne has resigned as Secretary of "Mining District No. 1., O. B. U.". One Arthur Evans has succeeded him.

Evidence is in our hands as to dishonest methods pursued by the O. B. U. in their attempt to foment a strike in the Alberta coalfields. Arthur Evans, who has succeeded Ed. Browne as District secretary, has sent out circular letters to locals, asking for action,[15] and asserting that "the following local have endorsed the Western Commercial resolution etc". The lists that follow differ widely, and all include names of mines where the resolution in question has not been passed. This constitutes circulating false statements with a view to bring about a strike.

A meeting of the Canada West Mine Local at Taber on 22nd September showed that Taber was not expected to strike in sympathy with Drumheller and that conditions in Taber did not justify a strike.

The regular weekly meeting of Local No. 5741 U. M. W. of A. Lethbridge, was held on 21st September. Our report says:-

"There was no talk of a strike at the meeting but I heard if voiced around the mines that there would be a strike. I presume there will be 60 per cent of the miners work if they call a strike. P. M. Christophers will address the men upon his return from the Port Arthur convention of the O. B. U."

In commenting on an uneventful meeting of the Lethbridge local held on 28th September the N. C. O. in charge of C. I. B. work in Southern

Alberta expresses the opinion that there was not much danger of trouble in that particular locality.

15. The Calgary O. B. U.

Dissension is appearing among the Calgary O. B. U., and their prospects are clouding. (1) The organization of shop-stewards reported a while ago, seems to be losing its energy; if it dies out, the O. B. U. probably will lose ground in the C. P. R. shops. (2) Two members of the O. B. U., Turner and Burns, were criticised severely at a meeting held recently and Turner was ejected from the body. (3) The resolutions sent by the Transportation Unit No. 1. to the Convention were uncompromising; there were summarised thus:-

1. That the Union do away with all travelling organizers
2. That organizers must act on the job.
3. That all members who are in business for themselves be expelled from the Union.
4. That all members belonging to committees or delegates must not be of a political nature, therefore, belonging to no political party whatsoever".[16]

16. The Edmonton Labour Church

Revd. Mr. Ritchie is planning to carry on his Labour Church agitation in Edmonton during the coming winter, on a larger scale. The report continues:-

"He has also formed a new 'Independent Labour Party', radicals, a branch of the Dominion Labour Party of this city, who will put their own representatives in the field at the forthcoming civic elections this fall.

"At the present time Ritchie is contracting on carpenter work, as he cannot get a job himself with the contractors in the city on account of his radical principles, and connections with the O. B. U."

17. Ukrainian Opposition to Canadianization

On 25th September the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Association known as "Shewchenko" gave a play in Edmonton. O. Shyber, the president, delivered an address, which is thus reported.

"He said that the Ukrainians in Ukrainia would fight hard for the independence of our dear Ukrainia. He also said 'I don't care on what side they fight, with Bolsheviks or against them, so long as they fight for the independence of Ukrainia. We are with them, and through Ukrainian national schools, songs and theatrical plays, in this country, we will prevent our children from assimilation with the English and train them for patriotic Ukrainians who will go to Ukrainia and be leaders among our people'. The speaker also appealed strongly to the public to attend every such theatrical play and help financially support every Ukrainian cause".

III. Saskatchewan

18. Miscellaneous Notes

The activities of the Peter Mohyler Institute of Saskatoon, with which Wasyl Swystun is connected, continue to attract attention. There has recently been established a Ukrainian Greek Orthodox Theological Seminary at Saskatoon, the Revd. Lazor Herman or Gherman being rector. Some time in June or July the last-named got into a fight at Sheho, which ended in prosecutions before a magistrate. Herman and his faction apparently tried to displace the priest established there, and a scuffle ensued. To some extent it was a matter of the older men, who speak Bukowinia standing by the old priest, and of the younger men supporting Herman and his doctrine of the Ukrainian language, Ukrainian [17] schools, teachers and priests, and "Ukrainian flag".

A recent investigation at Radville shows the O. B. U. unit there to be very quiet.

Investigation at Gravelbourg shows that while wages for threshers are high, owing to scarcity of men, there is no O. B. U. talk.

IV. MANITOBA

19. Winnipeg O. B. U. in Difficulties

The Building Trades Unit, O. B. U. Winnipeg, held a discouraging meeting on 27th September. The following were the principal features:-

1. It was admitted that three quarters of the membership have fallen away, and returned to the Internationals. The nominal membership is 800; only 200 are left who are paying dues. This was mentioned several times, in different terms.
2. The fight with the Internationals is going adversely for the O. B. U. At the instigation of the former, O. B. U. men are continually being dismissed from jobs; the O. B. U. organizers contemplated arranging a strike of painters and electricians to counter this, and found these trades so disinclined to such a course that they did not venture upon the step.
3. The unit is in a bad financial position, many members having fallen into arrears.
4. A dispute is in progress concerning the organizers. Two are now on salary; the money in hand does not seem sufficient to pay them; a proposal to have only one was discussed without a decision being reached.
5. As an aggravation, the secretary has absented himself from several meetings and has neither vouchsafed an explanation nor turned in the books.

"Someone suggested that the Unit was going to the devil, and several agreed that it was a fact.

"The meeting then dispersed".

As an offset to this a meeting of the Running Trades Unit O. B. U. Winnipeg, on 26th September it was declared that about 30 accessions to the ranks had been booked during the fortnight just past.

20. O. B. U. Leaders at Winnipeg

A mass meeting was held in Winnipeg on Sunday 26th September under the auspices of the Central Labour Council, O. B. U. to hear [18] O. B. U. delegates returning from the Port Arthur Convention. Speeches were made by Joe Naylor, V. R. Midgley, and Ald. Broatch of Calgary, and also by R. E. Bray who has just been released from jail. The attendance was about 700, and enthusiasm was shown.

The speeches of Naylor and Midgley were of the usual description, extolling the O. B. U. and assailing the International. They declared that the convention had been successful, and one passage in Midgley's speech is thus reported:-

"He stated that further resolutions had been passed at the last convention for the betterment of the One Big Union; that now even the highest paid official, which was the general secretary, could not do anything without the consent of the workers, who were members of the organization, and even this official could be fired from his position at any time that the workers become dissatisfied with any of his actions".

21. R. E. Bray's Speech

Bray's speech was more interesting. It was of a revolutionary tone, but contained some significant passages. He complained that the support given to him and his comrades in jail had been limited to cheering.

"The boys at the prison farm had come to the conclusion that the workers were divided by the old psychology having left most of them, and that they were being still controlled with the one idea 'If we go on strike we will lose our jobs'".

The report continues:-

"He declared that the workers of Winnipeg had taken a step back at this controlling idea when their leaders were convicted last spring, and it had always been the boys' idea that the workers would demand their release, or else lay down every tool and go on strike until they were released, but they had been disappointed in this idea, which went to show that the workers were afraid of losing that job of theirs, and would rather let their leaders put in time instead of losing it, or run the chance of so doing".

After stating that the prisoners would not accept release on any terms which would give credit to the Internationals he renewed his complaints:-

"'We believe', he stated 'that to a certain extent we have been overlooked. The workers were either afraid or unable to fight by means of the strike, and were unwilling to advise what steps we should take, whether to go out or stay in, and he himself felt that the

workers of Winnipeg should write and tell the boys just what they thought of the situation.”[19]

Another interesting passage was an onslaught upon Englishmen:-
 “He laid great stress on labour conditions in England years ago in his father’s time and declared it was always the Englishman who did the scabbing, and the Englishman who was the traitor to the labour movement of the world, and he was not ashamed to say so, although it was to be remembered that he was a good Welshman himself.

“The average Englishman he declared made fun of Russians or Italians, calling them the bohunks, but it had been shown that these same bohunks would not have thinks struck over them like the Englishmen, as could be seen by both Russia and Italy, both countries being involved in a general strike condition against the Capitalist system.”

For the rest his oration was of the usual socialistic nature. It also included a tribute to the conditions in the jail farm, where the latter part of his confinement had been spent.

22. Socialists and the Third International

The N. C. O. in charge of C. I. B. work in Winnipeg makes the following report under date of 2nd October:-

“I am in receipt of information that the Socialist Party of Canada has been asked by the Third International to join up with them. If they do so, it will mean that they will be binding themselves to immediate militant action in a revolutionary movement, so I am informed.

“The matter was discussed at a recent meeting of the Socialist Party, and it is said that it is very unlikely that the Canadian Party will join with the Third International. The majority of members take the stand that joining the Russian organization would mean binding themselves to immediate militant action in a revolutionary movement, and that such would be inadvisable now, and as long as the working class of Canada is indifferent to class consciousness.

“This situation is under discussion in all Socialist locals throughout the Dominion. No other party, I believe, is eligible to join the Third International, for the Executive demand that organizations joining with it, be of the most revolutionary class”.

23. Another Ukrainian Dispute

Another Ukrainian church squabble is reported, this time from Sifton, Man. It is of the usual type; the local priest found his preserves poached upon by an interloper of the Swystun faction and there was a quarrel. The newcomer, Revd. Nykola Kopachuk, was very impudent [20] when a warrant was served on him and there was a fight and some litigation. He seems to have served during the war as a chaplain in the Austrian army,

to have been in Canada only 3 months, and to have entered in an irregular manner. Particulars as to his entry are being looked up.

24. Miscellaneous Notes

"W. Gordon", the writer of certain Bolshevistic letters to the press, has been identified. He is a Russian name Fred Gordienko, who calls himself Gordon. He lives in Winnipeg, is a member of the Ukrainian Labour Temple Association, and his domestic circumstances are irregular.

The strike of lake shipping men was settled at Fort William on 24th September. The companies granted about 10 per cent increase and the men agreed. On 23rd September the companies successfully brought in strike breakers, who evaded the pickets. Three boats thereupon left port, and this killed the strike.

V. ONTARIO

25. Negotiations between Factions at the O. B. U. Convention

It appears from information obtained in Eastern Canada that at the O. B. U. convention at Port Arthur conference were held between the representatives of the O. B. U. of the I. W. W., and of the Communist Labour Party. Upon the outcome of these negotiations the immediate future of these factions in the Toronto-Hamilton-Niagara region seems to depend. The O. B. U. and the I. W. W. may fight each other, or may form a closer alliance. One project entertained is to organize locals under the name of the Communist Labour or Communist Party, with the I. W. W. in control in the background. Interminable and obscure negotiations seem to be on foot in the matter.

26. The Plebs League

To the list of small revolutionary societies in Toronto had [21] been added "The Plebs League", which has as its address 28 Wellington Street, the abiding place of the "Ontario Labour College". The first meeting at which it was broached was held on 12th September, and organization was completed on 27th September. The officers are:- Secretary, Swift; -Marks or Marx, Committee, Mrs. Florence Constance Bell and Morris Spector. A new chairman is selected for every meeting. The members number 25 to 30. Persons also associated with it are Max Armstrong and one Berg.

Apparently the cause of the formation of this body is dissatisfaction with George Wilshow and his followers of the Ontario Labour College, on the ground that they have not accounted for the collections taken up at their openair meetings. The new league is pledged to voluntary work.

Some opposition was offered to the move on the ground that it would injure the O. B. U.

The reading matter circulated (largely in foreign languages) is of an incendiary nature.

The Workers' Recreation Club, which is one of these small bands, and

which is considering amalgamation with the Plebs League, on 31st August had a budget of \$197; the heaviest disbursements was \$100 for rent.

Another meeting of the Plebs League was held on 3rd October, the attendance being about 50. It was decided to hold street corner meetings, care being taken to avoid interfering with the O. B. U. A speech by Morris Spector, who is a leading spirit in the body, is thus reported in part:-

"The P. L. is teaching the working class communism directly, and not trying to get more wages, only more action and the above speaker said that the purpose of the Plebs league is the direct duty to spread revolutionary propaganda under the direction of the 'Third Internationale' and he said that he expects to be in direct communication with Moscow and anybody of the members who knows what communism is must spread the knowledge among the Trade Unions, and other radical organizations so that they would be ready to act when the time comes".[22]

Questioned as to the outlook for the winter he said:-

"Will pray that something happens like 1914, when people depend on the 'bread line', then we could do some good work amongst them".

Two delegates from the Jewish Socialist League asked unsuccessfully for English-speaking lecturers; the Plebs League has no speakers for its own meetings.

27. Activities of Foreigners

Reports continue to be received on the Russian Workers' School, 111 Dundas Street, Toronto. It now has been in existence about a month, with V. Dadokin in charge. It is thoroughly Bolshevistic. A meeting held there on 25th September was attended by 130 people. A Russian whose name so far has not been obtained spoke somewhat as follows:-

"Comrades we are living in Canada as prisoners, no freedom of speech or print is allowed in this Country. We are assembling in the cellars like rats, so that the spies if possible, could be avoided. When will the time arrive when we shall feel freedom as they do in Russia".

Almazoff, formerly of Winnipeg, consorts with these people, but does not seem to be doing much overt agitating. He does some teaching at the school.

Dodokin, discourages Russians who intend to return to Russia from learning English, holding that they should study their own language, and arithmetic, history, geography, etc.

The Jewish Socialist League of Toronto on Sunday 26th September held an openair meeting, at the corner of Dundas and Elizabeth street, an incendiary speech being delivered by one Brown, in Yiddish. He urged the formation of Soviets on the line followed in Russia and Italy.

A leading man in this league is one Shapiro, a reporter on the Yiddish

daily paper published in Toronto.

A meeting place for Russians has been discovered in Hamilton. These gatherings are camouflaged as "educational classes". They meet in a room on the premises of a Jewish firm.[23]

28. Miscellaneous Notes

We have information to the effect that the A. F. of L. is organizing in Toronto a serious attempt to combat the extremist element in the Trades and Labour Council of that city. The first overt move probably will be made in the Bricklayers' Union, that being the leading union in the city.

Splits have occurred in Toronto in the Electrical and Butcher Workers' organization, with a possibility of litigation. Rumour charges Braithwaite, the business agent of the Butcher workers, and an advocate of the O. B. U., with considerable deflacations, and an action in the courts might reveal some of the O. B. U. ramifications.

The Toronto local of the Socialist party of Canada on 28th September had only four members at its weekly meeting, and decided to discontinue its meetings for the winter. Its attendance has been dwindling for some time.

John Currie and Aaron Webber, the men who tried to circulate I. W. W. reading matter in Windsor, appeared in Police Court on 27th September. Doubt being entertained as to whether a conviction would be under Section 97A or B of the Criminal Code, the Crown Attorney dropped the charge on condition that the accused promised not to circulate I. W. W. reading matter in the Province. This undertaking was readily given and the men were discharged.

J. Donovan, an I. W. W. agitator, has been in Niagara Falls for some time, having entered at Windsor.

Jim Branton, alias Jim Brady, a bricklayer from Butte, Montana, left Toronto on 23rd September to go to England. He is an O. B. U. and I. W. W. agitator.

J. R. Knight was in Toronto from 26th to 29th September, and left for the north.

Peter Leckie of Ottawa had begun to stir about as an O. B. U. speaker. On 25th September he spoke at an open-air meeting in Toronto. He acted as chairman for Ald. Heaps and Dunn when they spoke in Ottawa, [24] and is fond of addressing long letters to the Ottawa Citizen. He is not a man of much ability, and seems to have little standing among the trade unionists of Ottawa.

VI. QUEBEC

29. Conditions in Montreal

The Officer Commanding Quebec in his confidential monthly report says:-

"Conditions in Montreal and district may be considered as good, especially as regards common labourers, the demand for exceeding

the supply. The same, however, cannot be said of some of the trades, especially the shoe operators. At the present time there are 8 of the largest factories at Montreal entirely closed down, and the remainder are only working from 25 to 35 per cent capacity. This is said to be due to the markets being overstocked and the reluctance of the public to pay the high prices for footwear. This will likely be remedied by a drop in prices to conform with other reductions in the H. C. of L.

"Clothing factories are also very quiet and the same conditions to a lesser extent apply in these trades".

Concerning the O. B. U. he says:-

"This organization is not making any headway in Montreal, notwithstanding what the supposed leaders may say to the contrary. There is no sale of their literature, and what is being distributed has to be given away free. There is more or less petty jealousy rife amongst the leaders, and as far as gaining membership, very few appear to be enrolled.

"Joe Knight when here attempted to get the Amalgamated Society of Engineers to join the O. B. U. in a body, and while he was successful in getting a few members to join, the majority of the members would have nothing to do with him or the O. B. U.

"Other radical associations, such as the French Socialist Communist Party, and the proposed Independent Socialist Communist Party of Quebec, do not appear to be gaining much headway. The former are holding meetings every Sunday at noon at the Labour Temple and the speakers are the same ones on every occasion.....

With regard to the latest movement, it appears to have died a natural death, as the sponsor of the movement, F. W. Gerrish, is looked upon by the radicals as being an aspirant for political appointment, and has not the interest of the workers at heart.

30. Russian Bolsheviks in Montreal

We have an interesting report of a meeting of the Society for Technical Aid to Soviet Russia, which was held on Sunday 26th September. The proceedings were in Russian. The secretary and leader, W. Revenko,[25] delivered what appears to have been an able and well-informed address, the point of which was the distinction between the "Socialist-Communism" and Anarchist-Communism". He apparently regarded the latter of these theories as the ultimate goal, but the former (which prevails in Soviet Russia) as a necessary stage. Some objections were made to this by some anarchists present, and Hvat, or Hvatoff (who has been noticed before) made an effective speech on the same line, Anarchism, he said, is the next step after Socialist communism but they were not ready for it; Socialist and Anarchists still are fighting for the same object, the dictatorship of the proletariat.

The significant thing about this is that Revenko and Hvat were careful to expound and extol the exact doctrine which Moscow just now is putting forth. As that doctrine has changed rapidly, and as there is a welter of theories from which to choose, their course argues close and recent direction from the Russian Government.

31. Incitements to Violence

Apart from this, the utterances of these men were incitements to revolution of the most violent sort. The labourers Revenko said, should seize the machinery of production industries, plants, factories, railways and banks. Especially should they seize the banks. Hvat applauded the action of the Italian workmen, but considered that they had "made a mistake by not seizing the direct power of authority and support of the peasants". He also expected revolution to come soon in England.

One incident is illuminating. One of the dissident anarchists criticized the iron system and discipline of Lenin and Trotsky, whereupon Revenko spoke in rebuttal. "He said", according to our report, "That he might be anarchist himself, but under present condition, labour must obey orders of leaders and learn and carry strong military discipline to crush imperialistic capitalist Governments and, [26] he said, we must use organized power against power, to get what we want, he said that opposition of the anarchists was an act of treachery, against labour's movement".

32. Revolutionary Discipline at a Public Meeting

The public meeting held in Montreal on 1st October, ostensibly to collect money for medical aid to Soviet Russia, was attended by 175 persons, of whom only, 10 were French or English; the rest were Russians or Jews. The collection was \$367. The tone was intensely revolutionary. Buhay, Binette, Alex Schubert, Wm. Revenko and Maurice Frager were the speakers.

An amusing feature of the gathering was that Michael Buhay announced that "soldiers of the Revolutionary Army are well disciplined", and on the strength of this forbade any of the audience to leave until the end, or even to speak to their neighbours.

33. Miscellaneous Notes

The proposed Labour College at Montreal is hanging fire. Little money has been collected, and the executive committee has not met for four weeks. Anna Buller the moving spirit, is anxious to get to work, presumably to provide herself with a position, but few seem to share her anxiety.

The "Reds" in Montreal are busy asserting that the Wall Street Explosion was engineered by the United States Government to discredit the cause of revolution.

The French Socialist Communist Party held a meeting in Montreal on 3rd October, the attendance being small, no new faces being seen, and the usual stuff being talked.

VII. THE MARITIME PROVINCES

34. Situation in the Coalfields

Apprehension exists lest a cessation of work occurs in the Cape Breton Coalfields over the Royal Commission's report. Apparently the men are disposed to strike rather than accept three clauses in the [27] report, relating to the sliding scale, the right to arbitrate, and long term contracts. At Inverness the managers seem inclined to agree with the men. It remains to be seen whether the Dominion Coal Company will try to force the men to adopt the report; if they do, a lock-out will follow. The Coal Company for their part are anxious to avoid a fight, as they have important orders to fill, but if they do fight will press it to a finish.

The Officer Commanding Maritime Provinces is of opinion a show-down must come sometime.

Small squabbles leading to short strikes continually are being reported from Cape Breton.
