

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

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SECRET

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NOTES OF THE WORK OF THE C. I. B. DIVISION
FOR THE WEEK ENDING 14th OCTOBER.

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1. Characteristics of the Period

Interest this week is divided between the coal strike in Alberta and the

revelations of the proceedings at the Port Arthur Convention.

The Alberta strike continues in a dragging way, parts of the Crow's Nest Pass being the only places to strike in sympathy with the Drumheller O. B. U. The principal thing about the developments is the evidence which has been obtained as to the dishonest methods of Arthur Evans, the successor of Ed. Browne as District Secretary. To locals in Drumheller he wrote that the North and South had pledged themselves to strike in sympathy; to the South he wrote that the North and Drumheller were pledged; to the North he wrote in a similar vein about the South and Drumheller. The whole affair has an air of light-headedness.

Information which has come in during the week shows that the quarrel between the Winch and Midgley factions at Port Arthur was so deep and so bitter that a split in the O. B. U. seems likely. It has blazed up in numerous places; at Vancouver the B. C. Federationist is publishing Winch's side of the case, in Edmonton Carl Berg had a stand-up fight with Midgley and Naylor at a public meeting and in Winnipeg and Montreal the echoes are resounding. The immediate prospect now is for an attempt by the L. W. I. U. to take over the rest of the O. B. U.; Winch already has begun to subsidize the Searchlight and to pose as the real friend of the Alberta miners. For this project Winch already has an organization, and perhaps somewhat larger monetary resources. The whole affair is so important, and information comes from such widely separated places, that the news from the several provinces is assembled in the following paragraphs.[4]

I. THE PORT ARTHUR CONVENTION

2. Unseating of Winch and his partisans

The Convention at Port Arthur was marked by an open quarrel between the L. W. I. U. and the rest of the O. B. U. Victory rested with Midgley, who threw Winch out of the Convention, at the price of the withdrawal of the L. W. I. U. delegation. An ex parte account of the affair is published by the O. B. U. Bulletin of 2nd October in the form of a long report from the Credentials Committee.

The means adopted by Midgley were clever and tortuous and he seems to have outwitted Winch. He devised a means of seating delegates, on the basis of payments of per capita tax, which would compromise the L. W. I. U., whose finances at present are low largely as a result of earlier conventions. He enunciated this in a circular which was so worded that Winch does not seem to have noticed the full effect of the rules; at all events he did not protest. Then the Credentials Committee found the L. W. I. U. some \$2,100 in arrears, seated those delegates who represented the Coast District (which is more or less critical of Winch) and threw out Winch, Cowan and Neale on the ground that they did not represent specific districts. As usual, the issues were much complicated by details. Eight of these seated seven L. W. I. U. men and Carl Berg left the

convention, which retained only one man W. A. Alexander of the largest unit. The convention thus reduced is stated to have comprised 31 members, though only 19 can be traced.

The foregoing is an outline of occurrences. Evidence accumulates as to the depth of the split. J. R. Knight was on the side of Midgley, as the L. W. I. U. delegation, if they had been seated, would have attacked his management of affairs in Eastern Canada, as well as Midgley's handling of the head office. Midgley controlled the [5] credentials committee, which resorted to courses which the loggers' union greatly resent; for example, the committee simultaneously disqualified the L. W. I. U. for being in arrears with per capita, and seated a Thunder Bay delegation which represented a district at once in arrears with its per capita and heavily in debt to the L. W. I. U. but which was antagonistic to Winch and L. W. I. U.

Contradictory reports of the Convention have appeared in the O. B. U. Bulletin, which favours Midgley, and the Worker of Montreal, and B. C. Federationist which are controlled by the L. W. I. U. The account in the Worker is very bitter, and even so, by the statements of Walter Cowan, suppresses much of what took place.

The executive committee of the O. B. U., elected at the Port Arthur convention, is:- W. A. Pritchard; R. B. Russell; F. Woodward (Winnipeg); W. A. Alexander (Vancouver); P. M. Christophers (Crow's Nest Pass). Alternate for Pritchard and Russell are Joe Naylor (Cumberland) and J. R. Knight (Toronto). The executive may be increased (if a proposed amendment carries on referendum) by giving an additional member to each district council which has a membership of 2,000. It will be noticed that Winch disappears.

3. Resolutions passed by the Convention

On 4th and 5th October O. B. U. meetings were held in Winnipeg at which a good deal of news got out. The important occasion was that of 5th October, the fortnightly meeting of the Central Labour Council, O. B. U., F. Woodward being the principal speaker.

First, some bits of miscellaneous information were given among these being:-[6]

The organization apparently has been given the power "to dismiss any member of the O. B. U. who belongs to another hostile organization". (This conceivably could be used as a purge against the L. W. I. U.)

It had been decided to move the general head office from Vancouver to either Calgary or Winnipeg, preferably the latter.

"Owing to financial weakness", Tom Cassidy is to be withdrawn as official general organizer at Chicago.

No more general travelling organizers would be employed.

No official could hold an "officially paid position" in the O. B. U.

for a longer term than one year.

The struggle to obtain the release of the convicted strike leaders should be continued.

The system of per capita tax payments is to be reformed in some way, a way which the general executive is to devise.

A general head office is to be established in the United States, probably in Chicago. This should be followed up by a convention of U. S. members.

Funds are very low, the organization having only \$162 to its credit after defraying the expenses of the convention.

Concerning these items it may be noted that the resolve at once to open offices in Chicago and to drop the organizer there seem inconsistent. The resolutions as to general travelling organizers and limited tenure of office require elucidation, as all the paid officials and organizers seem to be at work as usual.

4. Echoes of the Quarrel

Next comes echoes and disclosures of the quarrels of the convention.

P. G. Anderson, whose affiliations probably are with the L. W. I. U. charged that the convention was composed almost if not quite wholly of paid officials. Reluctance was shown to answer this charge.

Woodward's references to the L. W. I. U. are thus reported:-

"The Lumber Workers' Industrial Union of the O. B. U. brought up a considerable amount of discussion at the Convention, it was stated, and the opinion had been that these members would have to either change their attitude or keep apart by themselves as they were [7] running far too differently from the other units of the organization.

"This, however, it was stated was not put to any motion, only the delegates were requested to notify the officials of that unit what attitude they should adopt."

Less information of a general nature, but more about the quarrel, came out at the earlier meeting, which was one held by the Building Trades Unit, O. B. U., also at Winnipeg. Here the speaking was done by Cottrell and Hammond, two of the five Winnipeg delegates. Their statements may be quoted at some length. The first to speak was Cottrell. He mentioned the General Secretary's report. This, he said, disclosed

"that a little over one half the members of the O. B. U. were keeping their dues paid up.

"The miners have dropped back considerably in their per capita tax, he stated, and likewise the Metal Trades Industry Unit, the only unit keeping anywhere within its old standing being the Railway Shop Units, and even they had fallen back considerably in their per capita payments.

"He said it might be stated that four individuals had tried to stick

one over the O. B. U. members of the convention, their names being Cowan, Neale, Winch and Hanmor, but on finding they had no credentials, and refused to state who they represented, the four were refused admittance to the convention seats. These delegates were either Police officials or International members, Mr. Cottrell stated, and they thought it better to keep them away as mistaken reports would have been issued.

"He stated that considerable trouble had ensued with the Lumber Workers' Unit; the outcome of which he could not definitely state, as the general Secretary's report had not been received, but it was his opinion that this Unit would be separated from their affiliation with the Central Council if they did not act differently in the future. "The expenses of all unite, he declared, disclosed the fact that they were barely existing, and it was a hard proposition to see a clear way to build up the organization unless the workers themselves put more interest in their work for their respective units.

"The Winnipeg Units he claimed, had been the best paid up units in the organization, and those of Vancouver the poorest.

"Further statements regarding financial affairs, he stated, would be issued in the General Secretary's report, which was expected any day".[8]

5. The Financial Situation

Hammond's report dealt largely with finance.

"The financial statement he stated, of the entire organization showed only a little over \$160 to their credit, and this matter although it could be worse was very serious, he said, as last year things were in a far better condition at the Calgary Convention.

"The expenses of the two general organizers were something damnable, he said.

"J. R. Knight had put in expenses totaling to three thousand, three hundred and ninety some odd dollars from December 1st 1919, up to August 24th 1920; nearly one thousand of this amount was for transportation charges, another thousand for expenses and nearly all the balance for salary.

"P. M. Christophers were somewhat less, he stated, being two thousand one hundred and thirty odd dollars in all, from February 1st to August 14th, 1920 of which amount one thousand, one hundred, was salary.

"The correct figures could not be stated at present, he said, although he had them in a book somewhere.

"These figures were thought to be pretty extravagant, but could not be helped owing to the amount of travelling and good work these two men were doing for the organization, he stated".

6. A Row at Edmonton

A mass meeting of the O. B. U. held in Edmonton on 1st October to hear about the Port Arthur Convention ended in an uproar after a bitter quarrel. Naylor and Midgley addressed the meeting on orthodox lines. When they had finished a logger asked why the L. W. I. U. delegates had been excluded. Midgley's explanation was resented by Carl Berg, and a fierce and prolonged debate ensued. Midgley said that the loggers "had never been true members of the One Big Union" and inveighed against the various measures taken by the L. W. I. U. to preserve their identity as against the general mass of the O. B. U. A woman in the audience denounced Berg as "a coward, a highly paid nuisance, and a traitor to the cause of labour in Edmonton". Berg retorted in kind.[9]

While the meeting swayed from side to side as points were scored, the general feeling seemed to be that Berg has lost his influence and soon will be out of the O. B. U.

7. Winch's Probable Course

A delegate who has talked a good deal about the affair is W. Cowan, who now is the O. B. U., or rather L. W. I. U., organizer in Montreal. As is explained later, he has succeeded Binette.

In the first of these conversations Cowan stated that the L. W. I. U. will recommend to their members that they refuse to recognize or be bound by any decision of the convention. Cowan's remarks merit rather full quotation:-

"During the long conversation Cowan stated that the Lumber Workers have no intention of breaking away from the O. B. U., stating that the stand taken by the Lumber Workers' delegation at the convention will be decided, whether they were right or wrong, when the referendum is taken amongst the Lumber Workers, and if the majority of the Lumber Workers endorse the stand taken by their delegates at the Convention, it will necessitate calling another general convention, and compel the convention to give the Lumber Workers' delegates the power to represent an "Industrial Unit" and also the power to divide their votes equally amongst the delegates. On the other hand, if the rank and file of the Lumber Workers' Unit, decided that the stand taken by their delegates at the O. B. U. convention was wrong, then they might, or they might not throw in their lot and abide by the decision of the majority of the convention. "Cowan further stated that no matter what will happen, the harmony amongst the leaders of the O. B. U. is now broken; the arguments which arose at the O. B. U. convention plainly showed that there was more than a mere fight of opinions in progress; it was a fight to decide whether the real workers were to be in control of the O. B. U. or whether the Anarchists were to control it.

"He further stated that such men as Joe Knight, who so dearly loves to be called a labour leader, do not work in the best interest of the

workers; Knight's ideals and views are purely anarchist, and owing to the fact that he never was a worker and does not understand the psychology of the rank and file, and fails to understand that the real work is on the jobs and in the shops and that the O. B. U. must first organize along 'Industrial lines' before the workers [10] could be sufficiently educated to become class conscious and form a 'Class' organization like Knight wishes to form, to stir up a revolution, and if the Industrial Form is not followed the O. B. U. will never be able to function.

"Cowan further stated that owing to the fact, that Knight is a good orator, he has been able to convince most of the ignorant O. B. U. workers to support his ideas, but he too must see the end of the O. B. U. but is too stubborn to give in.

"Knight also knows, Cowan continued, that once he commences to lose ground in the O. B. U. it won't take the rank and file very long to boost him out and that as soon as the Winnipeg strike leaders are released, Knight will be put where he belongs".

A few days later, on 9th October, Cowan remarked in conversation that the O. B. U. is on the surface of a volcano which at any moment might blow it out of existence. The interview proceeded thus:-

The L. W. I. U. are \$2,100 behind with their per capita. The reason is that the union, though affiliated with the O. B. U. is an industrial union governed by its own executive, which is elected by a rank and file which constitutes the heart and soul of the O. B. U.; this executive, with its officials and organizers, works independently of the Central Executive of the O. B. U. The L. W. I. U. executive cannot understand why the majority of an organization should be dictated to by a minority; at Port Arthur the delegation of the L. W. I. U., representing 23,000 members, were forced to retire by delegates who represented a little more than 10,000 members.

The L. W. I. U. neither can nor will pay their per capita for the following reasons:-

1. They cannot see why they should give it to Midgley, who represents a minority of the membership, and does not know what the workers need, as he never was a worker.
2. Their funds are exhausted. They are supporting the following papers:- B. C. Federationist, Searchlight, O. B. U. Bulletin and Worker. Further, when the O. B. U. was formed the L. W. I. U., then affiliated with the A. F. of L., advanced \$1,800 to Midgley; this money really belonged to the International. The advance never has been paid.[11]
3. The L. W. I. U. have spent all their money in propaganda, offices having been established in Vancouver, Fort William, Le Pas, Sudbury, Montreal, etc. Some of these have been expensive.
4. They will not submit to dictation from "people who do not

understand the needs of the workers". The L. W. I. U. might take control of the organization and ruin it to suit themselves.

Cowan further said that Knight and Midgley had exaggerated the numbers of the O. B. U. In Vancouver it had been asserted that Montreal had 5,000 members, in Montreal it had been stated that the Winnipeg Street Railway had gone O. B. U. in a body. Joe Knight had averred that there was 4,000 in Toronto, etc.

He repeated that the L. W. I. U. would gain control of the O. B. U. and hoist Knight and Midgley out of it.

8. Repercussions in Montreal

One effect of the uproar touches Montreal. The L. W. I. U. at Vancouver now find themselves unable to maintain the Montreal office; they asked their organizer there, U. Binette, to carry on gratuitously for a while, and he promptly left. He is returning to his trade (he is a carpenter) but he is likely to join the Internationals in attacking the O. B. U., as, despite his resignation, he seems annoyed at a successor having been appointed. That successor is Walter Cowan, who is trying to keep things together. Binette apparently is a thoroughly mercenary man; he has been taking part in sundry meetings of foreigners of a most seditious nature, and in particular on 1st October spoke at a meeting at which Freiger (or Preiger) prophesied the execution of Mr. Lloyd George, President Miller and President Wilson.

A small item in the affair is the bad impression produced at the convention by Rebecca Buhay, who was a delegate. Apparently she was long-winded and incoherent, and she elicited some very uncerimonious reprimands.[12]

II. BRITISH COLUMBIA

9. Lefeaux under Suspicion

It now appears that W. W. Lefeaux is under suspicion by his revolutionary associates. According to information gathered in Vancouver, something in his actions in Winnipeg during the trials of the strike leaders caused him to be distrusted. Our report says:-

"Towards the end of last year he went to New York and saw several Soviet representatives, with a view of securing a position on their mission. He asked the S. P. of C. for credentials, but was refused same. A stenographer with above law firm, had told one of the S. P. leaders that she has seen correspondence passed between the firm and Lefeaux, requesting him to return to Vancouver, but he had declined and proceeded on to England. He is supposed to have gone from there to Petrograd. The S. P. of C. leaders here, who know the herein mentioned, suspect that Lefeaux went to Russia as a secret agent of the British Government, but under the guise as a communist".

It will be recalled that Lefeaux, who acted as "devil" for the defence

counsel, drew from the Defence Fund an exorbitant remuneration for times as much as the person who (with far higher qualifications) performed the same service for the Crown Counsel.

10. Thomas Richardson

Thomas Richardson has accepted the Labour nomination in the Yale bye-election. His campaign apparently is to be made under the auspices of the Federated Labour Party. Locals of this body have been organized in Penticton and Vernon, and Mrs. Rose Henderson is campaigning for him.

An attempt to effect an alliance with the United Farmers has failed. The notice in the B. C. Federationist of the United Farmers' convention is so bitter as to suggest great disappointment. The convention apparently was influenced by a rancher named Makovski who sometime ago opposed Pritchard in a debate on "Bolshevism".

11. Individual Agitators

Frank Cassidy of Vancouver has been sent out on an organizing [13] and speaking tour by the Socialist Party. He has been in Southern British Columbia, and he proposes to go by the Crow's Nest Pass to Calgary.

It now appears that Michael Casey was acquitted of the charge of selling liquor which was laid against him, (which was mentioned last week) and that he continues to reside in Penticton.

One J. Clarke is conducting a class in Esperanto in connection with the Chinese Labour Association of Vancouver. The class comprises 10 Chinese and 2 whites. It is avowedly revolutionary, the text book being the Communist Manifesto.

Esperanto is being actively pushed by the revolutionary elements.

J. Smith was the principal speaker at the Socialist meeting in Vancouver on 3rd October. He criticised the demands of the G. A. U. V., saying that if all were obtained conditions would be no better. Instead of asking the Government for changes, they should form a Government of their own.

W. R. Trotter has resigned his position as Secretary of the Federated Labour Party, and is now a paid speaker for the Prohibitionists. He is touring the Province of British Columbia.

Mrs. Rose Henderson spoke on Sunday 3rd October at the "People's Open Forum" in the Federated Labour Party, Vancouver. Her address was a violent attack upon the Canadian Government, and a declaration that all Governments were "on their last legs".

The Vancouver Labour Church met on Sunday 3rd October, J. Clarke being chairman and J. S. Woodsworth the principal speaker. Mr. Woodsworth's text was the one from Isaiah which was mentioned in his indictment in Winnipeg. He argued that what he had said in Winnipeg had not been seditious.[14]

12. Miscellaneous Notes

Some dissension has been caused among the longshoremen by the action of the men in Vancouver in loading vessels with munitions for Russia. Resentment was expressed at a meeting of the Vancouver longshoremen at the strictures of the B. C. Federationist, but a resolution to discontinue their subscription to the paper failed.

The strike of the Vancouver Gas Workers has failed completely. The B. C. Federationist blames them for the failure, on the ground that they acted by themselves, as a craft.

The mines at Merritt are working only two or three days a week. The town naturally is feeling the effect of the short time.

The Victoria General Workers' Unit, O. B. U. on 1st October, resolved to have nothing further to do with the Soldier-Labour Council. The meeting was small, only 14 persons attending.

II. ALBERTA

13. The Coal Strike in Drumheller

A report from Calgary dated 1st October describes the situation in the Drumheller field thus:-

Four small mines completely out.

Four large mines with all their men working.

Five mines with from half to three quarters of their men working.

Two mines with one third of their men working.

Altogether from 55 per cent to 60 per cent of the men were at work.

"Evans has not received the support and co-operation of Christophers and Baird, and, for that matter, few, if any, of the other so-called O. B. U. leaders in the South and North districts".

Beard, the district chairman, arrived on 1st October in Calgary from the south, and on learning how things stood in Drumheller expressed great dissatisfaction. He decided to go to Drumheller, though Evans tried to dissuade him.

Fresh evidence has come to hand of the dishonest nature of [15] Arthur Evans' strike-propaganda in the Drumheller area. On two occasions he assured meetings of miners that "all" or "practically all" of the locals in the District had promised action. In the case of the Monarch mine these false statements had an effect in deciding the men, who had been doubtful as to what course to pursue.

14. The Situation Elsewhere

On Sunday 3rd October P. M. Christophers addressed a meeting of Miners at Lethbridge on the Drumheller situation. He made false assertions as to the number of men out in Drumheller, at one time saying that not 60 men were at work, and at another saying that the field was out solidly. He urged the Lethbridge men to strike for a week, return to work for a few days, then strike again, and so on; in this way they would avoid monetary strain and would not need financial help from the unions. The Lethbridge men seemed unimpressed.

This advice illustrates forcibly the weakness of the O. B. U. in trying to accomplish strikes without a treasury.

Reports dated 7th and 8th October indicate that Christophers was not very successful in rallying Lethbridge and Taber to the support of the Drumheller and Fernie strike. Lethbridge was particularly apathetic.

A report dated 1st October describes certain manoeuvring between the Fernie Local and the U. M. W. of A. office at Calgary. The local is nominally U. M. W. of A. and in reality under O. B. U. control. Theoretically a proportion of the obnoxious "check-off" money is turned over to the local union, and the Fernie local was most anxious to obtain possession of this, presumably to finance their projected strike against the U. M. W. of A. The Calgary office, however, was holding this back on sundry pretexts, and further was objecting to certain men, including William Sherman, being elected by the local to office.[16]

A report from Fernie dated 6th October attributes the strike there wholly to William Sherman. Out of 763 men only 100 reported for work on the 6th. The men are described as not very enthusiastic.

The total number out on 6th October at Fernie and Michel was 970.

The total payroll at Michel is 520, this including office staff, coke oven employees, and lumbermen. The men who struck numbered 307, these including all the actual miners.

Walter Clarke of Coalhurst, a strong O. B. U. man, spoke at North Lethbridge on 8th October. Posing as a returned man he made a number of statements as to the treatment given the soldiers in the Army such as that they had to exist for six weeks on a biscuit a day. He was howled down by returned men in the audience, who shouted "liar", and even coarser expressions. He finally had to stop.

The men at Coalhurst went on strike on 7th October, the pretext being their objection to the "check-off". They returned to work the same day, after a heated argument at a meeting. This issued in a secret ballot which resulted in a vote of 160 for working, and 92 for striking.

A report dated 2nd October, expresses the opinion that the miners in Coleman and Blairmore would not strike.

In his quarrel with Midgley and Naylor at Edmonton Carl Berg said that if the O. B. U. could not finance the coalminers in their strike the loggers would.

An abortive attempt at a strike was made at the Alberta Coal Mining Company's mine at Cardiff, Alberta. Five foreigners presented a demand for higher wages. This was resisted, and the attempt collapsed. The mine is an open-shop one. The five men who formed the deputation on the 24 days before their action had earned from \$275 to \$305.[17]

15. The Searchlight

Lawson is behind \$800 with the company which prints the Searchlight. He got out an issue on 1st October by Winch giving him \$140 or \$150.

This action by Winch, when he is pinched for money, suggests that he is disposed to fight with Midgley for the leadership of the O. B. U. in the coalfields. With this may be compared Berg's promise to the miners.

16. The O. B. U. in Northern Alberta

In Northern Alberta on 30th September the strength of the O. B. U. was estimated thus:-

Lumbermen and Agricultural Workers	300
Miners	275
General Workers	175
Transportation Workers	325
Building Trades Workers	150
Total	<u>1235</u>

In addition, unions sympathetic to the O. B. U. had 555 members; unions hostile to the O. B. U. had 3,311; and neutrals had 216. These figures show a slight increase in the O. B. U. during the last three months. The N. C. O. in charge of C. I. B. work remarks:-

"The number of miners who are working in this district, which also includes Nordegg, is estimated at 2,000. Out of this number there are 275 bona fide O. B. U. members. Of the remaining 1,725 the majority are, on the surface, members of the U. M. W. of A. and antagonistic to the O. B. U. but as the O. B. U. are endeavouring to stage a strike in the near future, a considerable number of the individual members of the U. M. W. of A. will no doubt join the strikers if they can be persuaded and assured that there will be any hope of a successful strike, but it is impossible to begin to estimate the percentage who are actually in sympathy with the O. B. U. and therefore in the above table the 1,725 are classified as antagonistic to the O. B. U."

17. The Edmonton Labour Church

The Edmonton Labour Church reopened on Sunday 3rd October, Mr. G. L. Ritchie taking charge. He read extracts from Scott Nearing's book "Religious Socialism", and spoke on "The outlook for labour". His address was principally an attack on the pamphlet issued by the [18] Department of Labour. He also complained of the disciplinary action taken against him by the Methodist Church.

In the discussion Senator Robertson was savagely assailed, one man laying down the doctrine that it was unconstitutional to appoint a Senator to be a Minister of the Crown.

18. Miscellaneous Notes

The Street Railway Employes of Edmonton have joined the O. B. U. retaining certain features of sick benefits, life insurance etc. which they had before.

A. Farmilo, the International organizer at Edmonton, has made a sharp attack upon the O. B. U. in the Edmonton press. Analyzing the figures and

facts which have become public, he describes it as in a bad way, and thoroughly corrupt.

R. E. Bray is making a tour of the prairies. He spoke at Taber on Friday 1st October and on Sunday 3rd October at North Lethbridge. His Taber meeting was poorly attended and he made a bad impression. A fairly full report of his North Lethbridge meeting discloses nothing beyond his usual vein of complaint and abuse.

IV. SASKATCHEWAN

19. Sambrooks attitude towards Reforms

Joe Sambrook, the Regina leader of the O. B. U., attended a meeting of the People's Forum held on Sunday 3rd October. The subject was Proportional Representation. Sambrook spoke as follows:-

"Why all this useless talk of Proportional Representation? It is only another little thing got up by the powers that be to fool the working class and to make them think that the boss is giving them something for nothing; but the working class will not gain anything by it as the worker will always find himself in the same fix so long as the present system exists".

20. "Bible Students" Preparing the way for Revolution

W. T. ("Bill") Crawford of the I. B. S. A. spoke on 3rd October at Prince Albert. For the most part he attacked the Churches, [19] but part of his address took the line of predicting revolution. Our report says:-

"With reference to industrial matters, he skillfully tried to show that 4/5th of the labour and work in the world today was useless to the people as a whole; but that all this would change under the new era now at hand, when the workers would work for his own benefit, instead of slaving for others. This part of his speech was practically advocating the doctrine of Sovietism. He used scripture profusely to back up his arguments and closed his speech leaving the audience with the impression that a time of great trouble and upheaval was at hand, had in fact commenced, when all nations would be swept away, but not to lose heart on account of this, but rather rejoice, as out of the chaos, Christ's Kingdom would appear on earth, to bring peace and goodwill to mankind".

V. MANITOBA

21. The Central Labour Council O. B. U.

Some of the general business transacted at the meeting of the Winnipeg Central Labour Council O. B. U. on 5th October (which is reported in Part I.) merits notice.

During the discussion of the quarrel between the L. W. I. U. and the official organization of the O. B. U., it was noted that a young woman was taking shorthand notes. P. G. Anderson announced that it was at his instance, as his statements had been garbled and he wished to guard

against his being done in connection with the discussion on hand.

It was decided to countenance a visit from Flowers, the California O. B. U., who is the object of legal prosecution in his own State. He is to lecture and take up a collection.

It was decided to stop the education classes, these not having been a success. Propaganda will be carried on this winter by public meetings.

Great dissatisfaction was expressed at the dearth of news from the Drumheller strike, and the O. B. U. Bulletin was required to put forth greater efforts to obtain information on the subject.

A curious incident was the discovery that R. E. Bray who was supposed to be Vice-President of the Central Labour Council, never had [20] had any official credentials, and had been in arrears with his membership card when he was arrested.

22. Western Labour News on the O. B. U.

The Western Labour News, which now is antagonistic to the O. B. U., says in its issue of 8th October:-

"No accurate information has been issued from any authoritative source giving, from the proceedings of the convention at Port Arthur, any coherent idea of the actual position of the One Big Union. This convention was held behind closed doors. The result has been that a good deal of information has leaked out, of which if a tenth part is true, there was ample justification for holding the convention behind closed doors. Indeed, in addition to closing the doors, it might not have been inappropriate to have put the shutters up".

23. Winnipeg Comment on the Coal Strike

Comment upon the Alberta Coal strike among O. B. U. circles in Winnipeg, reported on 4th October, was of a curious character, suggesting ignorance of the actual situation. They seemed, for example, to expect the U. M. W. of A. to help the O. B. U. to strike. Two significant paragraphs from this report are:-

"O. B. U. officials admit they know what a crisis a general strike of the mine workers will be apt to bring about in Canada, but declare that the miners must use all possible means for bettering their conditions, as they have always been beaten at any of their attempts in the past.

"News reached the Roblin Hotel (the O. B. U. headquarters) that Red flags were being flown by workers in the Drumheller coal mines. This was considered a good joke by O. B. U. officials".

The Lumber, Agricultural and Construction Camp Unit, O. B. U. of Winnipeg was noticed a while ago. A report dated 2nd October was that it included some miners in its membership, and that it was keenly interested in the Alberta coal strike. It was helping by keeping miners away from the troubled region, and that it conceivably might embark on

a sympathetic strike.

It was noted that this unit was enrolling a number of loggers, the Secretary, P. G. Anderson having reported considerable success.[21]

"The one drawback to this Unit is, however, (the report adds) that they cannot keep track of their members, and unless the member be an O. B. U. at heart, only his initiation fees are received."

24. Dominion Labour Party and the O. B. U.

The latest development in the fight between the Winnipeg Trades and Labour Council and the local O. B. U. brings in the Dominion Labour party. The new move is to strengthen this party to enable it to outvote the O. B. U's. The O. B. U. Bulletin for its part is challenging the Council, and editorial in the issue of 2nd October being a signal for hostilities. Our report says:-

"The D. L. P. is divided at present into three divisions right, centre and left. The right is composed of International Trades Unionists, the left of radical thought and O. B. U., and the centre of men who do not or cannot belong to either of the other groups. It is hoped through the foregoing Editorial to influence the centre against the left, and finally life them out of the Party. About 200 Internationals compose the right wing. This promises to be very interesting for the next two months".

25. The Winnipeg Labour Church

The Winnipeg Labour Church service on Sunday 3rd October, was attended by about 400 persons. There was present a choir of about 20 voices, a pianist and a violinist. The address was given by G. B. Currie, his subject being "What's wrong with the World". It was an advocacy of Marxian Socialism, with the usual attacks on Capitalism and the usual laudation of Soviet Russia. Under international Socialist rule the country could be run perfectly without capitalism. Among his utterances were:-

"You carpenters, you bricklayers, you electricians, you plasterers all you workers who are connected with the building houses," he said, "you build the most beautiful mansions, and yet you live in some dirty little house, away back in the dirt of the city, and leave the large, grand house which you made with your own skill to the hands of some Capitalist hound, who is making his profits out of the workers".

"You tailors and weavers of cloth", he said "you weave the finest clothes and tailor the finest suits worth over a hundred dollars, and more, and yet you go to some little dugout of a second hand Jew store and buy a poor shady suit for ten or so dollars and leave the good suits for the Capitalist class".[22] Under International Socialism, he declared, there would be "lots for all" and "All for lots".

Incidentally he denied that Socialism was antagonistic to marriage.

26. The Foreign Communities

The Ukrainian Red Cross in Winnipeg has now in the Bank \$10,972.08 and \$2,000.00 has been sent lately to Lemberg to the executive of the Ukrainian Red Cross in Eastern Galicia. Funds are being refused still.

The amount collected in the Ukrainian Labour Temple on Sunday 3rd October for aid to Soviet Russia comes up to \$528.00.

The total amount is over one thousand in Winnipeg alone.

The "Soviet Russia Relief Commission" during the four months April to July, inclusive, received \$11,459. Of this \$7,000 was expended for medical supplies, and the balance on hand on 1st August was \$2,845.

A meeting of the Ukrainian Labour Party was held in Winnipeg on Sunday 3rd October to raise funds for the medical relief of Soviet Russia. It was addressed by one Cory, who spoke in English, and by Popowich and Deviatkin. The speeches were violently pro-Bolshevist and anti-British. Cory's speech also was violently anti-religious.

From Fort William, where we have a considerable Finnish Colony, about two thirds of which is socialistically inclined, comes a report that the revolutionary elements in Finland are actively promoting emigration of revolutionists from Finland to Canada. A number of these immigrants are said to be arriving in Fort William already. The movement in Finland centres in Tammerfors.

VI. ONTARIO

27. Conditions in Western Ontario

The Officer Commanding Western Ontario in his confidential monthly report for September makes the following remarks:-[23]

"There is a noticeable reaction among labour men against the O. B. U. and other radical organizations, and labour leaders are realizing that the teachings of the extremists are doing the cause of labour more harm than good. The 'Red' sympathizers are slowly being eliminated from the ranks of labour officials and their places filled by men of moderate and conservative views.

"It is possible that there may be some trouble in the district during the winter months on account of unemployment. There are a considerable number of unemployed in the City of Toronto at the present time, and the number will be increased as some firms shut down. On the other hand there is plenty of employment at the lake cities, and it is hoped that the demand for men in other parts of the Province will offset the unemployment situation in Toronto.

"In Toronto the O. B. U. is very weak and very little activity among its members is apparent. Some activity is reported in the Hamilton and Thessalon districts.

"Closely allied the Jewish Socialist Revolutionary League, referred to above, are the two new groups known as Plebs League and the Russian Workers' School, which have recently come into being in

Toronto So far nothing of importance has transpired at their meetings”.

28. Extremists in Toronto

Despite the failure of the O. B. U. to win membership in Toronto, we receive warnings that the condition of Labour politics there is threatening, resembling those in Winnipeg before the strike. The Toronto Trades and Labour Council is in the hands of extremists, and in general labour machinery is in undesirable hands. The leaders of the extreme element include John W. Bruce, James Simpson and Fred Bancroft the two last named being writers on the Toronto Star.

The International leaders have taken alarm and are preparing to deal vigorously with this situation.

29. Miscellaneous Notes

A survey of the Niagara district shows an appreciable amount of unemployment and consequent discontent. At Welland it was stated that 1,700 or 1,800 men were out of work, many being married men who found it hard to leave town. Much discontented talk was heard and either Joe Knight or his wife was expected to visit the place.[24]

Conditions in Thorold were similar.

A Vancouver Socialist named Kennedy has appeared in Toronto, has associated himself with the Plebs League, and has spoken at one of their open-air meetings.

We now hear of one George Eavens as active about St. Catharines etc. He is described as a strong radical and believer in direct action. He is associated with Mrs. Custance and the Ontario Labour College.

Ludowski recently has been sojourning in Welland, stirring up discontent among the foreigners there. The prospects there are for unemployment during the winter, and he proposes to avail himself of it.

VII. QUEBEC

30. Seditious Speeches in Montreal

On 1st October a meeting was held in Montreal to raise money for medical aid to Soviet Russia. The attendance was only 200-300, and the chairman, Michael Buhay, expressed disappointment. The societies represented included the society for Technical Aid to Bolshevist Russia, the Jewish Socialist Bolshevist Party, and the One Big Union. The speakers were M. Buhay, U. Binette, until lately the local O. B. U. organizer (who spoke in French) W. Revenko (who spoke in Russian) Schubert (in Yiddish) and one Preiger or Freiger (in English). The collection was \$328, its size being due to the impression produced by Freiger's speech.

Revenko in his speech expressed the hope that the British Capitalistic Government will be overthrown and a Soviet Government established in England.

Preiger or Freiger attacked the Governments of the Allies and evoked

loud applause by the following passage:-

“Believe me comrades, I tell you that the time will come soon, is coming now, when Lloyd George, Wilson and Miller and will be under the death sentence of workers’ tribunals, and they will be thrown to the scaffold for execution”. [25]

31. Miscellaneous Notes

Following upon Binette’s resignation, the French Communist Party have made propositions for the editing of the French portion of the Worker which amount to the acquisition of that periodical by the Communists. Cowan, who is in charge at Montreal, is disposed to accept, despite the hostility of St. Martin and Gottsel, the leaders of the French Communist Party, to the O. B. U. The decision will lie with Winch.

Charges of being “a labour fakir, a reactionary, a spy” etc. have been anonymously made against U. Binette. At a meeting of the Metal Trades Binette unsuccessfully demanded an investigation, and on A. St. Martin praising him Binette retorted by accusing St. Martin of being his accuser.

Anna Buller has made some progress with her scheme for a Labour College. A room has been rented, and work was to begin about 15th October. The meeting at which the decision was made was attended by eleven persons.
