

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 4TH NOVEMBER

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1. General Features of the Period

No outstanding features present themselves.

In Vancouver it is becoming apparent that the L.W.I.U. are in difficulties; the position of the union has been weakened, there appears reason to expect a dangerous attack upon it by the operators, and the men are showing disaffection towards the management, i.e. towards Winch. The prospects of unemployment in the winter among the loggers are considerable; and open shop may be declared.

It develops that the disorder at Mr. Meighen's meeting in Vancouver was premeditated, and that it was hoped to prevent him from speaking.

Investigation in Southern Alberta shows that in the last three months the O.B.U. have decreased from 10,000 to 8,000 members.

The leaders of the unsuccessful O.B.U. strike now are breaking up into three factions. At Winnipeg the O.B.U. in admitting the defeat of the strike declared that it had been exceedingly badly managed. They took occasion to attack the English-speaking workingmen in Drumheller with much bitterness.

The Winnipeg Labour Church is declining. Mr. A. E. Smith's attitude is much less radical than it was before his election to the Manitoba Legislature.

In Ontario there is an increase in the friction between the several factions into which the foreign revolutionists are divided.

The extremists are looking forward with satisfaction to the prospects of unemployment, as they think it will bring grist to their mill.

I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

2. Winch's Account of the Quarrel

Winch's version of the quarrel in the O.B.U. now is, to hand; it was given in a conversation from which some extracts may be made:-

"'The camp and lumber workers are still the O.B.U.', said E. Winch to me today. 'But Midgley must go. He will go. The only reason he won out this time was that he and his gang framed us. The camp and

lumber workers have a membership of twenty thousand paying dues. We do not pay per capita tax on all, because there are many units that are not yet self-supporting. I do not think the entire organization of the O.B.U. has over 35,000 paying dues. There is very much less paying per capita”.

“Ballots have already been sent out to our members for their expression on our action. Results will not be in for two or three weeks at best, and the camps are, widely scattered. But I have confidence our action will be supported. Midgley and his friends [4] changed the constitution to fit their needs after we withdrew. Midgley knows he is done. Carl Berg of Edmonton is a strong man and he is now on our executive”.

“What about the I.W.W.?” I asked him”.

“That organization has done wonders for the loggers, as anyone will admit”, he said. “They will grow in strength because they have evolved a new policy. They have decided to no longer fight other labour bodies, but to devote all effort to fighting the bosses and getting better and better conditions”.

Winch added that he had been asked if he wanted Midgley’s job, but had refused it. Midgley’s wages, he said were \$50. a week.

“He said the Federationist was against them because Wells thought or feared they would get control of the paper. Consequently while admitting privately that Winch and his associates were right in withdrawing from the convention, Wells would not do so openly in the paper. However, Winch thought the time would come when the Federationist would support the loggers more definitely.

“He said he had been ‘roped in’ for the prohibition meeting. He thought the majority of loggers would go for moderation, as they thought it would be nearer prohibition than the present silly statute.”

The most interesting passage in this interview is the defence of the I.W.W.; it tends to bear out Midgley’s statement that Winch is swinging to that organization. Winch’s explanation of the attitude of the Federationist also is interesting; the L.W.I.U. nominally possess a moiety of the stock, but have paid only \$100 on it. It must be observed that Well’s article in the Federationist defending Midgley’s view against Winch’s is moderately expressed and strongly put; from the standpoint of an industrial unionist, his arguments seem very cogent.

3. Winch’s Troubles

Despite Winch’s assertions, the indications now point to his organization being in a precarious position. A series of reports from an outside source on the L.W.I.U. covering the period from 7th to 22nd October describes the internal conditions of that body as serious. The loggers are becoming uneasy over news that the logging camps may close down for a period in order to cut wages; they are grumbling at the extent to which

they have sacrificed work and pay in obeying numerous calls for strikes, and are anxious to continue steadily at work. A recent development has been an influx of loggers from the east who do not belong to the O.B.U. or to any other labour organization; these men seem to be preferred by the companies, and this, and the number of unemployed who now are willing to work in the woods adds to the anxiety of the men.

Dissension has appeared between the English speaking element and the Swedes and Finns over the contract system; they have been [5] several fights in connection with this matter, and there is a growing willingness to take contract work, whether the O.B.U. likes it or not. The chances are said to be favourable to a general split between the English speaking element and the Finns.

As so often happens at such a juncture, the men now are exceedingly critical of the management of the unit. The particular point of criticism is finance, there being dissatisfaction among the ordinary members over the failure to build up a treasury although much money has been coming in. Cases have occurred of men tearing up their cards.

Winch in fact, seems to be in difficulty with his organization.

The Officer Commanding British Columbia in this connection remarks:-

"The L.W.I.U. will require careful handling to pull through the coming winter, and this fact is well known to the Loggers' Association. This latter organization may be depended upon to take full advantage of conditions, and they no doubt will enforce "Open Shop" and cause a reduction in the scale of wages paid in all branches of the Lumbering industry".

The financial statement of the L.W.I.U. from September 24th to October 7th shows the following summary:-

Balance on hand September 23rd 1920	3,737.39
Receipts.....	<u>2,801.37</u>
	6,538.76
Expenditure	<u>4,336.01</u>
Balance on hand	2,202.75

The largest item of expenditure is \$1,653 per Capita tax to headquarters, and \$1,635 described as part of the O.B.U. convention expenses.

4. Prospects of Unemployment among Loggers

Confirmation of the apprehensions of the men comes from another quarter. An agent submits the following report:-

"Several thousand loggers are out of work, and within the next few weeks there will be hundreds more out on account of the camps closing down.

"The first reason for the closing of camps is because the mills have no orders for lumber; and the second is that the B.C. Loggers' Association is going to try to break up the L.W.I.U. and the I.W.W.

element which has been causing so much trouble in the logging camps during the past year.

"The above mentioned organizations are short of funds, and by closing down a number of these camps, most of the loggers will be 'broke', and when the camps re-open, the association will endeavour to enforce "Open shop"."[6]

"I visited several Employment Offices, there are very few jobs on the boards, and a number of men hanging around looking for work. A great many of these men are from Eastern Canada who came west for the harvest and did not return, having figured on lots of employment in logging camps at the coast."

5. The B.C. Federationist

In a former issue appeared a surmise that the B.C. Federationist might adopt a more moderate attitude. The last issue to hand prints under the heading of the L.W.I.U. page the following disclaimer:-

"This page is paid for by the Lumber, Camp and Agricultural Workers' Department of the O.B.U. Opinions expressed therein are not necessarily endorsed by the Federationist".

The N.C.O. in charge of C.I.B. work in Vancouver is disposed to regard this as a symptom of the expected change of attitude.

6. O.B.U. Notes

J. H. McVety, the leader of the Internationals in Vancouver, in conversation lately declared that the O.B.U. were "in bad shape". One remark of his merits notice:-

"On the subject of Carl Berg, he declared that Berg was a disrupter, and his presence on the executive of the loggers would result in an explosion and continual troubles. Berg was too radical, although very clever. His methods were not ones that would meet general favour, and his desires to dominate would result in clashes with other strong men of the organization".

A report upon the Building Trades Unit, O.B.U. Prince Rupert, places its nominal membership at about 100, but adds that fewer than 50 are in good standing, they usually have difficulty in getting enough members to hold a meeting. While the unit is under the control of the local Central Labour Council O.B.U., its moving spirit is a Scandinavian named A. O. Morse.

A report on the general work of the O.B.U. Penticton, states that it has approximately 170 members in good standing. They are employed upon construction work.

It is noted, in connection with a matter upon which information is required, that "since Midgley returned from the East, he has been singularly uncommunicative".

7. The Insult to the Prime Minister

Reports dated 26th and 27th October show that as early as on that date

the G. A. U. V. of Vancouver were arranging to interrupt Mr. Meighen's meeting. The plans laid were for a procession of members of this body to march to the place of meeting, for a delegation to present to the Prime Minister certain questions concerning the treatment of [7] returned soldiers, and to demand that he answer those before speaking on any other subject; and "in the event that the Premier is unable to give satisfactory replies to the delegation, the rank and file would cause such disturbances as could effectually make the continuance of the meeting impossible".

8. Miscellaneous Notes

The two rival International locals, Nos. 313 and 310, of the electrical workers in Vancouver still are fighting, with the former in difficulties. It is in bad financial condition, most of the members having ceased to contribute the per capita tax. It is asserted that No. 310 was created at the instigation of the B.C. Telephone company, to split the men. If such is the case, the object was attained, as there has been much litigation over charters etc. between the two bodies.

An incident of the affair is that Isaac Rubinowitz, the barrister who defended the Russians whose deportation was ordered, extracted a few of \$3,000 from No. 213 for representing it in court. It was this that crippled the union.

At the Vancouver Labour Church meeting on Sunday 17th October, the subject was prohibition. J. S. Woodsworth and Miss Chesney were the speakers; both advocated prohibition from the revolutionary standpoint. Miss Chesney saying that the Capitalists were trying to give liquor back to the people to keep their minds muddled.

The audience was not large, and was divided; several persons objected to what the speakers said, the meeting became a debate, and the audience seemed rather to incline to the opposition.

J. S. Woodsworth spoke on 24th October, at the Vancouver Labour Church on the "Passing of the Old Religions". The attendance was only about 100, but those present paid close attention to the speaker.

The quarterly report of the Ukrainian Labour Temple at Vancouver shows that branch has 35 members; it met on 11 occasions during the quarter. It spent on reading matter nearly \$100 and had on hand a little over \$20.

T. O'Connor was the speaker at a Socialist meeting in Vancouver on Sunday 24th October. He ridiculed the recent referendum on Prohibition, and is quoted as saying:-

"We Socialists don't believe in Moderation, Prohibition, or even elections of any kind. We have no time for little things like these; we believe in production for use and doing away with the Capitalist and Master-class. You will be no better off for votes, elections or anything in that line; you are slaves and always will be until you understand your social standing in this world".

O'Connor predicted a hard winter with parades of the unemployed.[8]

II. ALBERTA

9. O.B.U. Weaker in the South

An estimate of the strength of the O.B.U. in Southern Alberta and South Eastern British Columbia as on 30th September shows a weakening. The figures given are:-

<u>Sub-district</u>	<u>O.B.U. or Friendly</u>	<u>Hostile or Indifferent</u>
Calgary	1,461	4,292
Lethbridge	916	254
Medicine Hat	-	915
Taber	295	-
East Kootenay	3,925	1,335
Macleod	1,056	1,056
Banff	<u>455</u>	<u>260</u>
	8,108	8,112

The estimate of the O.B.U. for 30th June placed their numbers at 10,116, so that there has been a decline of 2,000.

Any estimate is difficult because of the enforced membership in the U. M. W. of A. and accompanying preference for the O.B.U. Two of the remarks of the Officer Commanding District merit attention:-

"If a good all-Canadian organization could be started, exclusion of radical agitators, it would, in my opinion meet with general favour from all the different branches of labour in the country".

"The O.B.U. shows every sign of weakening in this District, and I believe would have remained on strike for an indefinite period, but for the fear they could not continue to pay the men 'strike pay'. The indications are that the organization is in a bad way from a financial point of view, and a good many members are not paying their dues regularly."

10. Echoes from Drumheller

Investigation shows that it is quite possible to produce evidence to convict Arthur Evans, the new O.B.U. District Secretary in the Alberta Coalfields, of circulating false information in circulars which he sent out to stir up the recent strikes.

On 24th October Arthur Evans and George Palmer addressed an O.B.U. meeting in Drumheller. There was some dispute about the hall, which was occupied forcibly against the protest of the trustees. At Evans' instigation it was resolved to strike again on 1st November if the men who had been discriminated against were not reinstated. This was regarded as little more than a method of beating a retreat; the strike has not materialized.

A feature of Evans' address was his assertion that the half hearted manner in which the strike at Fernie was prosecuted was due to the posting of telegrams stating that Drumheller had not gone out. He attributed to

others his own policy.[9]

P. F. Lawson on Sunday 17th October spoke in Calgary. He declared that the coal strike in reality had been a victory for the O.B.U., because it had shown their strength, and had proved that the mine operators were afraid of them. "If the people thought the trouble was over they were badly mistaken, as it had only just started".

He spoke of Nova Scotia, saying that J. B. McLachlan was wholly in sympathy with the O.B.U., and prophesying that he shortly would be arrested.

Up to 21st October McLachlan had not replied to Lawson's appeal (mentioned last week).

Evans called a meeting of the O.B.U. board on 25th October, the object being to discuss the possibility of financing the Searchlight, by means of a rather fantastic plan. This was that the miners should join the U. M. W. of A., and pay the check-off; under this each member is assessed \$1.50 a month, and of this sum 45 cents is retained by the local; O.B.U. sympathizers would be elected officers of these U. M. W. of A. locals, and should use 10 cents per member per month of these local resources to keep the Searchlight going.

The indications are that the leaders of the O.B.U. in the coalfields are breaking into three parts; the factions are:- (1) Christophers and Beard; (2) Palmer, Lawson and Evans; (3) Clarke of Coalhurst, Sherman of Fernie and the delegates from the north.

P. M. Christophers has been boasting that he and the other O.B.U. agitators have defied the injunction served on them by continuing to speak in the coalfields. The facts of the case are that the plaintiffs who served the injunction are the operators of the Red Deer Valley Coal Association, and that the injunction only covers the mining camps in the Red Deer Valley, otherwise Drumheller and Wayne; thus Christophers and others affected are at liberty to address meetings in any other district. Since the injunction Christophers has not spoken in the Drumheller area, and the other defendants have modified their activities.

Evans recently visited the northern coal-mining camps; collecting for the O.B.U. He obtained about \$300; but in conversation he explained that out of this was to come his salary of \$200, and his expenses; so that the O.B.U. treasury would not be greatly fattened. Evans and Palmer now are competing for a post as travelling organizer, and Lawson's support of Palmer in this matter has caused friction between Lawson and Evans. In short, there is a fair amount of dissension among the local leaders of the O.B.U.

11. Elsewhere in the Coalfields

A report from Blairmore dated 16th October describes conditions as satisfactory. It says:-

"Several local meetings were called by the O.B.U. during the week,

with a view to discussing the possibility of going out on strike, these meetings were very poorly attended, and which later resulted in the agitators being discharged and most of them leaving the [10] district to seek work elsewhere; this was brought about by loyal workers of the U. M. W. of A. in the Blairmore and Coleman localities, and which I am informed on reliable authority, has broken the dangers of any strike of the miners in this locality during the present fall and winter.

"I have also been informed on reliable authority, that, owing to the complete break-down of the O.B.U. in this district, P. M. Christophers O.B.U. organizer, and R. McDonald O.B.U. Secretary, have severed their connections with the O.B.U. and that today, Christophers was seeking work at Coleman."

A report from Blairmore dated 23rd October states that the position there seem satisfactory, that there is no talk of striking, and that both P. M. Christophers and R. McDonald, formerly One Big Union organizer and secretary respectively, are engaged in construction work on new buildings and apparently are doing no agitation.

The Fernie strike was officially called off on 18th October, and work was fully resumed on the 21st. The men gave the company and the U. M. W. of A. ten days, expiring on 31st October to adjust the matter of the discrimination against William Sherman and the other trouble-makers; however, there was little likelihood of a further stoppage of work, and any trouble which might occur was regarded as likely to be but temporary.

At Michel the men returned to work on 20th and 21st October. As in Fernie certain agitators were refused employment, and the men gave the company ten days to adjust the matter. The Officer Commanding Fernie, says:-

"From the present indications I do not think that there will be any stoppage of work as the rank and file of the miners are only too satisfied to be back once more at work".

The last strike at Coalhurst near Lethbridge came to an end on 26th October. Seven agitators were dismissed, and are believed to have left the vicinity.

12. The O.B.U. Depressed

At an O.B.U. meeting at Calgary held on 15th October, H. Davis of Winnipeg spoke on an organization tour he has made. Saskatoon, he said, was at a standstill; Drumheller had been more satisfactory than he had expected, and on his return trip he would enrol the majority of the switchmen; Lethbridge and Coalhurst were "doing time". He urged them to keep the Searchlight alive.

The N.C.O. in charge of C.I.B. work for the District in commenting on this observes that his information concerning the switchmen in the Drumheller region is, first, that the O.B.U. were unsuccessful in their efforts to

enlist them; and secondly, that the C. N. R. officials would welcome any joining of the union by these men,[11] "as it would give them an opportunity they desire of discharging them and have a new crew shipped in".

Concerning Ald. Broatch, who was a delegate at Port Arthur, he reports:-

"A. Broatch appears to be very pessimistic about the success of the O.B.U. with the result that he is in disfavour with the O.B.U. members and the impression is that Broatch is trying to gracefully retire from the organization".

13. Miscellaneous Notes

The Samo Obranowicz Society in Edmonton recently put on a revolutionary play in the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Hall named Batraky (Transient Workers). As usual John Klybonsky played the leading part.

Ukrainian miners at Coalhurst on 26th September organized a local of the Ukrainian Labour Temple some 25 members signing on the first night. It was noticeable that 18 of these were unable to pay the full amount of the membership fee.

A Jewish couple named Pullan have opened a general store in Manville, Alberta. This already has become a meeting place for the foreigners of the vicinity, and a centre of infection for revolutionary agitation. Mrs. Pullan is a sister of Popowich's wife.

John Boychuk, the Ukrainian agitator, who recently left Vancouver, now is living in Vegreville. He continues to agitate, and in particular is busy with the collection for medical aid to Soviet Russia.

14. The Labour Church

The Edmonton Labour Church on Sunday, 24th October, was addressed by H. H. Hall, secretary of the Socialist Service League, upon Prohibition. No other subject was discussed.

R. E. Bray spoke at the Edmonton Labour Church on Sunday evening 17th October. His address was of the usual sort, but the proceedings were varied by an odd row. He was describing the jury in the Winnipeg trial, and said that there were on it sons of Presbyterian ministers, sons of Methodist ministers, sons of lawyers and such people, and Jews. Forthwith there was an uproar, a number of Jews present interrupting and forcing him to qualify his statement. It broke up the meeting. The audience was 300, and the interest and collection both were small.

It is to be observed that the report from which this is abridged cannot be wholly accurate, for Bray's remarks could hardly be made about the Jury. They might apply to the counsel for the prosecution, one of them being the son of a Methodist minister, and one a Jew.

III. SASKATCHEWAN

15. Miscellaneous Notes

Information has been received that the Paris Hotel in Regina [12] is

the headquarters of the local O.B.U. Austin Stanley, who now is, organizing in that district, stays there and uses this hotel as his office. The hotel-keeper, one McCarthy, is the president of the local Sinn Fein organization.

The Honourable W. L. MacKenzie King was invited to address the Regina People's Forum on Sunday evening, 24th October. He was unable to be present, and George Broadley delivered a socialist address.

The O.B.U. in Regina are supplying a news stand with O.B.U. reading matter free, so that any sales will be clear gain to the proprietor.

IV. MANITOBA

16. The O.B.U. on the English

An O.B.U. meeting was held in Winnipeg on Sunday, 24th October, at which defeat in the Drumheller strike at last was admitted. The speakers were H. Davis and F. Woodward, who had returned from a visit to the scene of the strike. Our report says:-

"The speakers admitted defeat in the mining District, and placed the responsibility at the door of the state, the mine owners and the International unions, U. M. W. of A. They claim that 99 per cent of the workers do not belong to the International movement, but he (sic) also said that all of the 99 per cent did not belong to the O.B.U. either. Woodward said the 'check-off' was responsible for much of the trouble in the mines".

An interesting passage is thus reported:-

"The British workers' said Woodward, 'were the most despicable of men'. They created racial prejudices in Drumheller the same as they did at Bienfait, and they were not worthy to be called union men. They enjoyed the distinction of being born under the British flag (laughter-sneers) but to him it did not make any difference where a man was born, so long as he was a worker and class conscious".

Woodward also said that the strike in the Drumheller Valley was the worst organized and conducted of any he had any knowledge of; that had had something to do with their defeat.

David also attacked the English:-

"At a certain camp, he stated, there was a bunch of dirty Englishmen in control, who were voting on going back to work. The foreign speaking people were strictly against this, and made several protests against the others going back to work, but as usual the Englishman got his way, and the foreigners who were married got orders to be at work in the morning or more out of their houses".[13]

The attendance was about 500. Both speakers complained bitterly of the small attendance and lack of interest.

17. The Western Labour News and the O.B.U.

The Western Labour News in its issue of 22nd October quotes the

utterances of the B.C. Federationist on the quarrel among the O.B.U. and draws the following conclusions:

“One of these is that nine-tenths of the propaganda oratory and literature used to advance the O.B.U. in Winnipeg is either dishonest or ignorant of its true basis and purpose.

“Another is that the O.B.U. is mainly dependent upon the Lumber Workers, Miners and Railroad shopmen where industrial unionism is a fact. The O.B.U. is not an absorbent of these industrial unions, it is a parasite living on them, devouring their vitals and paralysing their energies either to benefit their own members or the labour cause in general”.

The same issue contains Mr. Tom Moore's denunciation of the Bolshevik attack on International and craft unionism..

The Press Committee of the Trades and Labour Council of Winnipeg met on 26th October to outline a policy for the Western Labour News. The decision was that it is to adopt an aggressive attitude towards the O.B.U.

18. G. B. Currie

G. B. Currie addressed a mass labour meeting in Winnipeg on 22nd October, his speech being of a very revolutionary nature; it dealt largely with conditions in England and Scotland, with which he declared himself familiar.

Currie apparently is organizing the Agricultural and Lumber Workers' Unit, O.B.U. in Winnipeg.

The attendance was 200; the meeting was under the auspices of the Young Labour League.

Currie is a Scotchman by birth, about 26 years of age. He has been in Canada only about 4 months; he has mentioned having been in the United States and having been warned away. He may have been in the British Army. He is an exceptionally good speaker and agitator.

19. Labour Dissensions

The Dominion Labour Party of Winnipeg held a meeting on 27th October. The attendance was the largest in its history amounting to 400. Despite the presence of a strong delegation from the Street Railway Unit, O.B.U., the Internationals were in the majority and controlled the meeting.

The proceedings developed the fact that the extremist element intend to run “Class Conscious” candidates in the approaching municipal elections. This is almost certain to cause a split in the labour ranks, and may result in the labour candidates being defeated in the approaching municipal elections.[14]

A recent move in the war in Winnipeg between the Internationals and the O.B.U. was the refusal by the trustees of the Trades Hall to allow its use by the O.B.U. Unit of the Street Railway. Much ill-feeling resulted.

Wm. D. Bailey, M.L.A. recently elected to the Manitoba Legislature

in the Labour interest, has come out definitely as an advocate of the O.B.U.

W. H. Hoop has been engaged as organizer by the International Association of Stationary Engineers, Oilers etc. for the Winnipeg district.

20. The Labour Churches

A report upon the Winnipeg Labour Church describes it as practically at a standstill. The different branches meet regularly every Sunday evening, and are addressed by more or less prominent speakers, but the attendance has greatly fallen off. The nominal membership continues to increase, as new members join from time to time, but many give nothing except their initial dues; thus the list continues to grow while the active members are decreasing in numbers.

Mr. Willcocks, who now is described as President, remarked in conversation that very few members have been secured for the last six months and added, "Were it not for the energetic work of the women the Church would be going down hill fast". The present nominal membership is about 2,800.

The branch in Transcona has practically come to an end, and the Weston branch is falling behind.

A feature of the situation is that the increase of socialist opinion tells against the Church; the O.B.U. are antagonistic to all churches and take little interest in the Labour Church.

The report ends with the following remark:-

"The Labour Church is making practically no progress in Winnipeg. It is badly in need of finances, and has practically no hold on the general run of radical workers".

Since A. E. Smith, M.L.A., was elected to the Provincial Legislature his radical activities have ceased, and the services in the New People's Church have been of a more moderate nature. A report on its meetings on 10th, 17th and 22nd October shows that the Prohibition referendum was discussed at all these meetings; Mr. Smith spoke at the two first and a Mr. Olson of Brandon College addressed the last one. At none of these meetings was there revolutionary talk.

21. Foreign Revolutionists

Sava Zura, who was sentenced to imprisonment for having prohibited reading matter in his possession, has been released on parole from the penitentiary and has returned to Fort William. He has promptly resumed his revolutionary agitation.[15]

Sava Zura believes that another foreign-born agitator, Luka Ilschuk, caused his imprisonment by informing on him. Ilschuk has moved to Toronto and the Russian Community thinks that he did so out of fear of Zura.

Information has been received that Popowich, who for some years was manager of the Ukrainian Labour Temple in Winnipeg, now is the secretary of the Winnipeg local of the O.B.U., this is a more highly paid

position. Popowich is anxious to go to Russia as soon as he can, being under the impression that he will be rewarded for his services to Bolshevism in Canada by a high position there.

A curious incident has occurred in Winnipeg. Stephan G. Stephansson, an elderly farmer living at Markerville, Alberta, has published a book of poems, apparently in Icelandic; the work is on sale at Icelandic bookstores in Winnipeg. Mr. Thomas Johnson, Attorney General for the Province of Manitoba, has taken the ground that the poems are seditious and that the book should be suppressed and the sale forbidden.

V. ONTARIO

22. The Situation in Toronto

A survey of the general field of agitation in Toronto shows the following elements:-

(a) The Plebs League. This is making slow progress. Its principal members also belong to the Ontario Labour College, as already noted, it subscribes fully to the Third International, and has affiliated with the Plebs league of England; it stands prepared to take orders from Moscow. It is a centre of distribution of radical literature in Toronto, receiving it from England, and from I.W.W. sources in the United States. It supplies the O.B.U. with their surplus reading matter. The leaders are Moris Spector; Bell; Armstrong; Swift; Conny; Marks; and Mrs. F. Custance. Their activities are:- (1) Agitation at public meetings; (2) Distribution of revolutionary reading matter; (3) Educational methods.

(b) The Jewish Socialist League. This also has made slow progress, the revolutionary Jews being divided as to their attitude; some are ready to avow their revolutionary tendencies, and others are afraid. There are about 5,000 Jewish workers in various unions in Toronto, but very few of them are willing to join this associations. The league numbers only about 50 at present. Its financial sources are meagre, and its propaganda has been hampered by the difficulty of obtaining English speakers for its street meetings; speeches in foreign languages are now allowed on the streets. The leaders are:- Almazoff; Shapiro; Edelman; Sosnovich; Temkin; Brown; Miller; Stroham; Weiss; and Dianoff.

(c) The O.B.U. Progress is still very slow. The extent to which it is falling under foreign influence is shown by the fact that it proposes to hold a celebration on 7th November of the Third Anniversary of the beginning of Bolshevik rule in Russia. The weekly business meetings are attended by about 7 to 10 members; the street meetings on Saturday and Sunday, however, usually draw considerable crowds. They also distribute [16] some reading matter. They suffer from an insufficient number of speakers. The local leaders are:- J. R. Knight and Mrs. Knight and one McKnight, whose sobriquet is "Scotty". Their financial condition is described as being "complete broke", the membership is stationary, some of the members are in arrear with their dues and the organization depends upon

the collections at street meetings to pay its bills. An interesting point is that the O.B.U. had 14 Bulgarian members but that these have seceded and joined the Plebs League.

(d) The Ukrainian Bolshevik Society. This also is weak; it has about 500 members, but their activities seem confined to attending street meetings. However, the organization has a considerable amount of revolutionary reading matter which comes from Austria and the United States; this is sold at the Ukrainian bookstore in York Street. Its principal members are:- Stefanitski; Boichuk; Samchuk; and Korchuk. These men apparently visit towns in the vicinity of Toronto.

(e) The Russian Workers' School. This also has made slower progress than was hoped for by its founders. It has only 35 members. Its school course is purely educational, but the lectures on Sunday usually are revolutionary propaganda. However, dissensions exist in this, as the anarchist element led by Dodokin has come into conflict with the Bolshevik advocates led by Almazoff. This is the one place in Toronto where anarchist reading matter is sold.

(f) Spujnia. The Polish National Society. This seems not to be so radical.

While these various radical agitators have failed to gain a great amount of support, it is remarked that a certain desire to see revolution in Canada can be observed among the working people.

23. The O.B.U. in the Lumber Camps

An investigation has been made of the lumber camps worked from Thessalon and Deal Lake, on the Soo line of the C. P. R. There are 13 camps, from 30 to 70 miles north of Dean Lake, and 1,275 men are employed. Two O.B.U. agitators, Brunette and Rainville, have been working in these for some time, with the result that the unrest has been considerable. One of the three companies concerned has a labour turnover of 100 per cent a month; three-fifths of the men are French-Canadians, and as the new men come from the Province of Quebec each man costs the company \$30 before he begins work. The company's complain that the O.B.U. will not come to them and state what is wrong, but stir the men up to discontent. It is to be noted that living conditions have been considerably improved of late.

24. Conditions in the Niagara District

A report on general conditions at Welland dated 26th October brings out the close connection between labour agitation in Canada and Great Britain. The point of the report is the effect of the growing unemployment on the minds of the men; they are being sedulously informed [17] that it is merely "a move upon the part of the Capitalist class to crush the workers and make them migrate to other centres where labour is not so plentiful" such as the mines and lumber camps. Winding, who is, operating in that district hopes that conditions during the winter would "help the workers to wake up" and was hoping that a successful strike in England of the

Triple Alliance "would have a tremendous effect on work throughout the world".

25. O.B.U. Affairs

Mrs. J. R. Knight on 25th October spoke in Occident Hall, Toronto on "Brotherhood". Her speech was bitterly anti-religious, and was an attack on brotherly love.

"Churches and brotherhoods have preached brotherly love for ages, but such love is meant only amongst the slaves; they must love each other, but foremost the imaginary God. This God was the means to drive great fears into minds of the slaves and by such means were the slaves kept in subjugation. The slaves were bound to fight for their masters and for interests of masters, and the slaves were taught to believe that if they do not obey they are bound to find themselves in hell at last".

The O.B.U. in Toronto have arranged to hold weekly propaganda meetings in the Empress Theatre on Yonge Street. The pamphlets to be circulated are "Lenin" by Zenovieff with the O.B.U. preamble on the cover. One Rosenthal is helping with the printing.

The O.B.U. in Toronto seems confined to the foreign element.

Tom Cassidy, the O.B.U. agitator, has reappeared in Windsor and the neighbouring towns.

The O.B.U. there are in a poor way. A meeting which Cassidy called on 21st October was attended by only four or five persons. The local lodge has no regular meeting place. The local press apparently refuses to print O.B.U. announcements; this action was attributed by an O.B.U. sympathizer in the course of conversation to the influence of the Trades and Labour Council not to "the Capitalists".

A note on Harry Roberts, the Hamilton agitator, who is so frequently mentioned in these summaries, states that he is an Englishman of about 48 or 49 years of age, who spent his earlier life in London and came to this continent about 15 years ago. He worked in various parts of the United States, in the coal mines of Sydney, N.S. and in the mines at Cobalt and Black Lake, Quebec. He has been settled in Hamilton for some time. He is a bricklayer and has been active in union matters; he was practically the first man to join the O.B.U. when it was started in Hamilton, and is its most vigorous member.

26. The Hamilton Extremists

Arrangements are under way whereby the Ontario Labour College in Toronto will help to establish a Labour Hamilton. Mrs. Custance, [18] Bell and Armstrong will take turns to go to Hamilton to teach. In Hamilton an attempt is to be made to interact the Amalgamated Clothing Workers.

An attempt is to be made to bring Scott Nearing to Toronto to deliver a series of lectures.

The Hamilton revolutionists have had a spurt of activity in circulating

reading matter. One pamphlet which they are putting about is L.C.A.K. Marton's reply to the pamphlet issued by the Department of Labour.

27. Friction among Foreign Revolutionists

The increasing friction amongst the several factions of foreign revolutionists is illustrated by an incident which occurred on Sunday, 24th October at Welland. A meeting there, attended by about 200 persons mostly Russians from Thorold, St. Catharines and Port Colborne, was addressed in English by Almazoff. It is remarked that:-

"His speech was delivered in such eloquent English that it was understood by only a few, and many left the hall before it was over".

When he had finished the lecture, a dispute took place between the Russian Communist-Anarchists under the leadership of one Medinsky of Welland, and the Ukrainians; Almazoff was asked questions as to the nature of democracy of Soviet Russia, where anarchists were arrested and shot. Almazoff apparently was disinclined to engage in a dispute. The Ukrainians resented the action of the Anarchists in heckling the speaker, and there was a quarrel over the use of the hall, the Anarchists complaining that it had been built by all the workers and should be used by all the workers; apparently the Ukrainians turned the Anarchists out.

Confirming the foregoing in some respects is another report concerning revolutionary activities at Welland. The heads of it are as follows:-

1. Two parties have developed; a strong Ukrainian Communist or Bolshevik Party, and a Russian Communist-Anarchist Party. These have continual disputes.
2. The Ukrainian Communists receive at irregular intervals a secret revolutionary paper; which is printed in the United States. It apparently is issued fitfully.
3. An Ukrainian agitator who recently visited Welland, and St. Catharines is one Dymtryshyn, alias A. D. Jaholnecki and A. D. Hobeolenko. His present whereabouts are unknown to the Welland revolutionists.
4. The Communists of Toronto, Hamilton and Welland are said to have collected over \$8,000. This is to be expended in printing a book in Vienna; the edition is to consist of 10,000 copies, of which 3,000 are to be distributed in Canada and 7,000 in Galicia and Bukowinia.[19]

28. The Foreign Extremists

The Jewish Socialist League of Toronto held a special meeting on 22nd October. The following business was transacted:-

1. They refused to collect for the James Simpson Defence Fund.
2. Asked to collect for medical aid for Soviet Russia, they decided to ask Martens of New York for further information. A rumour is abroad that the money collected in Toronto has not all reached the relief fund.

3. They discussed, and apparently agreed upon, a proposal by Essor to create a new party to be termed "The International Socialist Party of Canada". This name, it was expressly stated, is but camouflage; what they would like to call it is the Communist Party, but they are afraid to do so. Essor said that if they were "on the doorsteps of a revolution" they would not mind calling themselves Communists", but the revolution is far off in Canada yet. We cannot risk being arrested".

Word has come from the Niagara district that some time ago a man named Ladan (or Ladau), former leader of the Ukrainian Socialists in the United States and editor of the Robitnyk of New York, went to Europe under orders from the Soviet Government by way of Canada; he stayed over one night in Welland. He stated that he had received a letter from Lenin directing Ukrainian and Russian radicals not to try to return to Russia but to stir up trouble in the United States and Canada. He also stated that the Ukrainian Daily News of New York received some financial support from the Soviet Government.

The date of the foregoing information is uncertain.

A Jewish agitator in Toronto named Samson Koldofsky has been attracting attention. About two months ago he left for Europe with Henry Dworkin. he is the head of the Jewish Garment Makers' Union, and also one of the leaders of the Bolshevik movement in the city. He was the principal agitator in the strike of Garment Makers about a year ago in Toronto.

He collaborated with Dworkin in the suspicious meetings which followed Dworkin's first visit to Poland. The better class of Jews dislike him as a dangerous agitator.

A foreign-born agitator named Michniewicz of Hamilton has undertaken to collect for the fund for medical aid to Soviet Russia. he has been authorized to do so by a letter from a man named Povalski of Winnipeg.

VI. QUEBEC

29. Miscellaneous Notes

The Society for Technical Aid to Soviet Russia is planning a [20] celebration in Montreal on 7th November of the 3rd Anniversary of the establishment of Soviet Government in Russia. A project is under way for a street parade of a symbolic nature, and public meetings will be held. Apart from that, there is to be present a man named Jacob Hartmann of New York, who is described as the right hand of L.C.A.K. Martens, and as the editor of Soviet Russia. He is to explain matters concerning the collection of Soviet funds now in progress throughout the United States and Canada. He is to be tendered a banquet, at which he may make an important statement.

This society is co-operating with the extremists in Toronto in the matter of circulating revolutionary reading matter.

A survey of the situation at Sherbrooke describes the conditions there as satisfactory; there is steady work for all the population, and no labour discontent is known to exist. Most of the few foreigners in town are Jews. However, at Coleraine, Thetford, and Black Lake, where asbestos is mined, a considerable number of foreigners are employed, mostly Russians, and there is always more or less trouble there.

VII. THE MARITIME PROVINCES

30. The Miners

A report from Springhill, N.S.; puts the number of men employed in the vicinity at 1,500. All are members of the U. M. W. of A., but the report says:-

"The miners in this district are of a very susceptible and unsteady type. They usually drift from one extreme to the other. There have been twelve strikes in the last fifteen years, and one of them lasted two years.

"At times there are strong O.B.U. sentiments among some of them. They were unsatisfied with the old P.W.A. and gave it up to join the U. M. W. of A. Now there is a certain amount of dissatisfaction in their ranks, and hot O.B.U. discussions are a common occurrence in their locals.

"There is a strong feeling at the present time for a strike in order to have their demands granted."

A report from Inverness dated 24th October says:-

"The men are beginning to lose faith in their leaders, and they have bitterly attacked Mr. J. J. McNeil of Inverness".

A man named L. E. Graham, described as representing the Boston Bible Tract Society, spoke at Inverness on Sunday 24th October, in a strongly socialistic vein.
