

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 17th July, 1926.

SECRET

NO. 327
WEEKLY SUMMARY
NOTES REGARDING REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS
AND AGITATORS IN CANADA
REPORT

(No Report was issued for the week ended 9th July).

The Communists are preparing to take an active part in the pending General Election. The Ontario Section of the Canadian Labour Party (which is wholly under their control) is to hold a convention in August.

Some space is given in this issue to the official report of the seventh convention held by the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association, covering the year 1925. Particularly interesting features are the close organization and firm discipline, and the progress made in regard to seditious schools, a sort of Normal School of agitators having been held.

Fresh evidence is given in this issue of the bitterness with which the Ukrainian agitators disparage the public schools.

An example of the extent to which the Ukrainian Communists rely on music as an avenue of propaganda is the projected tour through the prairies of a mandolin orchestra of about 20 young girls trained by the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association in Winnipeg.

The One Big Union is making some progress in Cape Breton; the miners are disgusted with the United Mine Workers of America, and are in a state of uncertainty as to their future course in matters of organization.[2]

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APPENDIX NO. 1: GENERAL

1. Ontario Communists and the General Election.

The Ontario Section of the Canadian Labour Party, which is completely under Communist control, will hold a Convention on 7th August in Toronto, to prepare for the coming Federal and Provincial elections. Candidates will be selected, and a platform decided upon. Our informant says:-

"This will be the first convention of its kind ever held by the Labour movement in Ontario and providing that funds are sufficient no doubt quite a number of candidates will be placed in the field. I believe that the bulk of the candidates will be selected for Constituencies in Northern Ontario.

"In conjunction with this, the Toronto Central Council of the

Canadian Labour Party will hold a Convention on 19th July to nominate candidates in Toronto, if they decide to contest any of the Constituencies."

2. Methods of Approaching Foreign-Language Farmers.

Illustrating one method of agitation among immigrant farmers, M. Rozen, an active Communist of Edmonton made an interesting statement at a business meeting of the Communist Party held in that city on 3rd July. It is thus reported:-

"During the month of June I have been travelling through the district on my personal business buying poultry and eggs from farmers. I have done all I could for the Party. The farmers are coming to understand that the Capitalist class have been robbing them all the time. As far as I can tell we have 60 percent of the farmers in the left-wing movement." [5]

3. The Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association in 1925.

It will be remembered that the seventh convention of the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association was held in Winnipeg on 25th 27th January last. An official report has been issued, and a translation of this contains some passages of interest, in addition to what was noted at the time.

The financial report of the "Workers-Farmers' Publishing Society", the dummy company which issues the Ukrainian revolutionary newspapers, showed that the general income during 1925 was \$42,734.97; the general expenditure having been \$40,365.72, the balance this being \$2,369.25; as the balance from 1924 was \$4,484.36, this makes a total favourable a balance of \$6,853.61. One expenditure was \$1,050.65 sent to Europe to pay for the publication of a translation of Karl Marx's "Capital" into Ukrainian.

The circulation of the Ukrainian revolutionary press was reported to be:-

<u>Ukrainian Labour News</u>	6,800
<u>Robitnitsia</u>	5,800
<u>Farmers' Life</u>	2,500

The income of the largest of these, the Ukrainian Labour News, was about \$25,000, and of this half, or \$12,851.87 was received in the form of subscriptions, and half, or \$12,634.94, as gifts. It is fair to note that no receipts from advertisements are listed.

The Central Executive Committee of the society during 1925 had a general income of \$11,157.48, and general expenses of \$10,199.33. The balance thus was \$958.15, and as the cash balance from 1924 was \$603.81, the year 1926 was begun with a cash balance of \$1,561.96. [6]

The largest expense was \$1,873.30 for the "Higher Educational Course"; another considerable item was \$1,787.50 for "Short term loans", and yet another of \$1,702.12 is described as "return of loans". The debt during the year was \$4,990.04, and as \$1,702.12 was paid on this, the debt on beginning 1926 was \$3,287.92.

4. Size of the Society

Figures as to the membership etc. show 64 branches, with a membership composed of 1870 men, 902 women, and 1637 pupils in the children's schools. Other figures are:- Dramatic Circles, 43; choirs, 21; orchestras 38. The value of the property is shown at \$410,572.80 of the branches 40 had buildings; these either had been transferred to the Central Committee, or were in process of being transferred.

The report of the Central Executive Committee contains an account of the "Higher Educational Course" which at the time of the holding of the convention was in progress; in part it is as follows:

"There are 40 students, 17 of whom are kept at the cost of the organization, and 23 are paying for themselves. All students are living in one building and eat in one restaurant, and study collectively. There are two teachers, and besides, from time to time other comrades lecture on organizational matters. The technical matters of the Higher Educational Course are managed by a board of three comrades students. Two inspectors are appointed to look after the teaching. The whole programme of the Higher Educational Course is managed by a board of five inspectors. Two inspectors, one representative of the Central Executive Committee, one teacher, and one of the students board. Reports about the proceedings of the teaching will be submitted by the inspectors, teacher, and the representative of the students. Although the Higher Educational Course will cost the organizations very much, it will be worth while. However, in the future we have to think about, instead of spending money for housing to erect for it a proper building, and to create a steady Labour University."

Considerable attention was paid to the process of centralization whereby the ownership of all the property of the sixty-[7]odd locals is to be vested in the headquarters organization. This work has made progress, but had not been completed at the time of the convention.

5. Efforts among Women and Farmers.

A subsidiary body which has made progress is the Women's Section; during 1925 it increased by five branches; the total standing at the convention at 36 branches. The income during the year was \$1,701.90, and the expenditure was \$1,720.88.

The magnitude of the plan to Belsheville the farmers is shown by a report made by Ml. Sawyak, who travelled as an organizer in rural districts in Saskatchewan and Alberta. Complaint is made that slackness by the

Alberta Provincial Executive Committee interfered with the full success of his tour, the report continuing:-

"The plan was to visit at least 40 farm villages, but only 11 were visited because of sickness. The farmers in general were very favourable to the organizer. Even there where some part of the farmers were in the beginning in enmity, after the speech greeted the organizer."

The situation in Ontario was described as unfavourable, a passage in the report being:-

"The general situation of our organization in Ontario, notwithstanding our best efforts, is not of the best. In some of the branches is to be noticed carelessness, lack of energy and sincerity in the work. Some of the branches did not think it even important to come in contact with the P.E.C., and the latter often have to ask the services of private sources in order to find out about the work of these branches."

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The issue of Rebitnitzia of 1st July contains the following statement of principal branches of the Women's Section of the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association:-

<u>"Place"</u>	<u>Membership</u>
1. Winnipeg, Man.	321
2. Timmins, Ont.	69
3. Fort William, Ont.	66
4. W. Fort William, Ont.	59[8]
5. Transcona, Man.	52
6. Edmonton, Alta.	50
7. Vancouver, B.C.	50
8. Fort Frances, Ont.	50
9. Port Arthur, Ont.	40
10. Sudbury, Ont.	40
11. Calgary, Alta.	30
12. Lethbridge, Alta.	28
13. E. Kildonan, Man.	19
14. Coalhurst, Alta.	16
15. Regina, Sask.	13
16. Hamilton, Ont.	<u>11</u>
Total	815

In addition there are village branches.

6. Further Plans in Alberta.

According to a statement made by Ivan Symbay at a special meeting held in Edmonton 7th July, the provincial convention recently held in Alberta passed a number of resolutions, the more important being reported as follows:-

- (1) "A resolution to establish educational Institutions in Edmonton, so all farmers of the Province of Alberta will send their children to be educated in the Proletariat movement, also attend High Schools from the Labour Farmer Institution.
- (2) "A resolution that children from 8 to 18 years be organized as a section of the Labour Farmer Temple Association.
- (3) Organizers to be sent out in the Province amongst the farmers and labourers, organizing them and their children."

7. The Workers' Benevolent Society

The Ukrainian Labour News of 10th July contains the financial statement of the Workers' Benevolent Society for the second quarter of 1926. This shows receipts aggregating \$6926.11 and expenditures amounting to \$4421.13, leaving a balance of \$2,454.98. The sum brought forward on 31st March was \$1,3087.83, so that July begins with \$15,542.81 on hand.[9]

In the figures formerly given for the first quarter of 1926 an error of \$15. occurred in addition. This is reproduced in this statement, suggesting that the accounting work of this society is badly done.

In the expenditures of the society are noted appropriations of \$200 for the "Higher Educational Course" and \$150 for the "Press Fund, Ukrainian Labour News."

In connection with this society which in reality is a stalking horse under which Ukrainians not in sympathy with revolution are drawn into touch with the agitators it is of interest to note that A. Wojtyshyn, the Calgary organizer, addressed the Calgary branch of the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association on 20th June, assailing ordinary insurance companies and urging his hearers to join the Workers Benevolent Society. Our report of his speech in part is as follows:-

"It has paid to the members insurance since in existence about \$13,000.00 and \$12,000.00 cash remains on hand at present. Capitalists' insurance makes millions every year and some has billions in the banks at present. We have about 300,000 Ukrainians in Canada. If only 100,000 of the workers and farmers join this society we will get about \$12,000.00 from them per year. Out of this sum we pay about \$6,000,000 to the members and administration and another \$6,000,000 will be left for the disposition for any good cause of the working class. It is the duty of every working man and woman to be a member of this society instead of supporting capitalists insurance who use their money, very often, against the workers."

He proceeded to advise this course on Communist grounds.

The audience numbered about 150 and seemed to be impressed.

8 The Agitation among the Ukrainians

The minute control exercised over the branches of the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association is shown by a circular [10] recently sent out. Our account of it comes from a report of a business meeting of that body held in Edmonton on 30th June, and is as follows:

"The Secretary, Ivan Symbay, read a letter from the Executive at Winnipeg as follows:-

"That all U.L.F.T. Associations in Canada are to send us a full report of all work done during the last six months:-

1. How many children are attending the Association Schools.
2. How many Picnics.
3. How many shows.
4. Business Meetings.
5. Propaganda Meetings.
6. How many lecture meetings.
7. How much literature was sold.
8. How many new members were taken into the Branch.
9. How many members dropped out.
10. How many children are organized in the Association."

Ivan (or John) Symbay, the Ukrainian intellectual who recently conducted the "Higher Educational Course" at Winnipeg, is making his presence felt in Edmonton, where he is sojourning at present. The Officer Commanding the R.C.M. Police in Northern Alberta in his confidential monthly report for June makes the following remark concerning this man:-

"Before J. Symbay came to Edmonton there were 35 children attending the class at the Temple now there are 75. At Beverly, Alberta, where Symbay also teaches, there are 42 pupils."

At a meeting of the Edmonton branch of the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association held on 20th June Symbay said:-

"Comrades, there are many of our children that are keeping out of school. Every Labour child should go to school, that will stop them from going to the Street Walkers' School. The working class child must be educated to know the capitalist class and the working class. The children that are going to the Public Schools do not get the history of the working class. All they know is that the Kings are Gods over the people. The people are under the control of the Kings and the ruling class. So send your children to be educated, not for the benefit of the Capitalists, but for the working class. They are to become the ruling class of the world and to become the ruling class they must know the constitution of the two classes."[11]

In a meeting held by the same society on 22nd June in the course of the recent Provincial general election held. Finally, a labour candidate in Edmonton, is reported as saying:-

“There is one thing that I want to tell you and that is that many Ukrainians have been refused naturalization papers because they are in the working class movement. If you elect Labour into the Provincial House, I will tell you that you will not have to go through any ‘red tape’. They will not let you become naturalized as long as you are labourers, because they know that you will not vote for their class. So, let us stay together; the time will come when the working class will control the constitution of this country and the rest of the world.”

From time to time we have noticed the activities of one Ivan Gnyda or Hnyda, a Ukrainian revolutionist who carries on a precarious business in Montreal publishing seditious books, pamphlets etc. Not long ago the head office of the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association in Winnipeg gave him some pecuniary assistance. A recent enterprise of his is the issue of a number of books ostensibly educational, but of revolutionary trend. We now learn that Ivan Kulyk, the member of the Russian Soviet Trade Delegation who pays particular attention to Ukrainian affairs in Canada, is showing much interest in Gnyda's affairs.

Both the Customs Department and the Post Office Department have forbidden on grounds of blasphemy, the entry into this country of “Humour and Truth,” the revolutionary Ukrainian weekly published in New York. We learn that the management intend to smuggle it into Canada.

The Central Executive Committee of the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association at Winnipeg intend to send a mandolin orchestra of 21 [12] young girls on an extensive tour through the West. The Ukrainian Labour News of 3rd July publishes an article by L. Shatkulsky on it, describing this organization as occupying a very prominent place in the Ukrainian revolutionary agitation. The tour is to cover some 2,500 miles. It was to begin at Brandon on the 6th July, and the party are due in Edmonton in August. This is an example of the use made of music in propaganda.

9. Progress made by the One Big Union in Nova Scotia

We have received a report on the General Workers Unit of the One Big Union at Sydney. In 1924, when Ben Legere was active there, this organization had a membership of about 600; it collapsed, however, and at one time only 12 members paid their monthly dues regularly. Another

attempt has been made to organize the Steel Workers, but Foreman Way, the O.B.U. organizer, has repeated the tactics of 1926, working principally among the miners and thus leaving the steelworkers unit to shift for themselves. Our report says:-

“At the present time the O.B.U. unit in Sydney is comprised of 20 members, known as ‘the Old Guard’ and most of these men are not working at the steel plant. The Sydney unit has its headquarters, consisting of an office and hall, on the corner of Charlotte and Prince Streets, but they hold only business meetings, for members only, and every Saturday night a social with card games and prizes. These socials are attended by large numbers of steelworkers.”

We also have an account of the O.B.U. coalminers unit in New Aberdeen. This was formed by Thomas Wooler and Jack Clancy, in October 1925. It has numbered as high as 200 but at present only some 40 or 50 members are paying their monthly dues. The secretary and local leader, [13] for a time was one Frank White; this man was convicted in connection with the food raids in Glace Bay last winter and is now in prison; his place has been temporarily taken by one Joe McKinnon, but this man who has organization work in other towns, can give little time to the New Aberdeen work and the unit is making little progress. It is meeting with obstruction from both Communists and the United Mine Workers of America.

We have received a note on the formation in May last of an O.B.U. unit in Florence in Cape Breton. This was effected very quietly; so far about 50 miners have joined, the remainder having declined to attach themselves to the O.B.U. though alleged to be much disgusted with the United Mine Workers of America.

We also learn that the O.B.U. have gained a footing in Dominion No. 1 and Dominion No. 6 mines in Cape Breton, though no units have as yet been formed there. The miners generally are disgusted with the United Mine Workers of America. In addition to Forman Way and Joe McKinnon, the O.B.U. have put two more organizers into this district, one being Foster of Winnipeg and the other being St. Andre of Montreal.

At a mass meeting recently held in New Waterford 160 miners signed application cards for the O.B.U. however, no unit has yet been formed there. Forman Way and Joe McKinnon were the speakers.[14]

10. O.B.U. Attack upon Canadian Friends of Soviet Russia

Not long ago the O.B.U. Bulletin drew attention to the fact that when the Home Bank collapsed a sum of nearly \$5,000 was lying to the credit

of the "Canadian Friends of Soviet Russia", this being part of the moneys raised for famine relief in Russia, though the famine by that time was over. The "Canadian Friends of Soviet Russia" was one of the numerous subsidiary organizations created by the Communists in order at once to carry on agitation under cover and to gain funds which they could manipulate for their own purposes. The revelation, which was accompanied by the unkind words in the use of which the O.B.U. Bulletin excels, clearly drew blood. The Maritime Labour Herald of 3rd July devotes a good deal of space to a reply, the gist of which is that the total sum raised for the Russian Famine Relief in Canada by the Canadian Friends of Soviet Russia was about \$125,000; that the over-head expenditures were very small; and finally:

"The reason why \$4700. was our balance at the time of the collapse was because new activity was being organized and developed for the benefit of the victims of the famine the orphaned children.

"It was not our fault, although our unfortunate experience, to have all our plans for this new undertaking, namely, the permanent maintenance of a Children's Home in the U.S.S.R., frustrated by the failure of the Home Bank. This was an anxiety and a disappointment in itself."

In the meantime, the O.B.U. Bulletin in its issue of 24th June has renewed its criticisms, publishing a rejoinder to Mrs. Florence Custance, who had addressed a protest to it. The Bulletin says in part:-

"The famine started in 1921; in 1922 the effects were felt worst of all, yet the Home Bank did not fail until 1923. When we donated to the Famine Relief Funds, in our simplicity, we took it for granted, that these funds were to be forwarded directly in cash or kind, to Russia. We subscribed this money along with the rest of [15] the workers, to feed hungry men, women and children AT THAT TIME NOT YEARS AFTER.

WHY THE LONG SILENCE?

"When we come to think of it, it is rather strange that, to our knowledge, no statement has been issued by the Canadian Friends of Soviet Russia in connection with this amount of money that was in the Home Bank. We have searched our files and made numerous enquiries, but have been unable to find one person who has received a statement concerning this question."

11. Canadian Defence League and the Ku Klux Klan

A report from Calgary dated 28th June states that the Canadian Labour Defence League now has 24 branches in Canada.

This Party is circulating a leaflet issued by the Socialist Labour Party

of the U.S.A. which denounces the Ku Klux Klan as an organization fostered by capitalists to contend against labour. One passage in this is as follows:-

“Let there be no mistake about the role the Ku Klux Klan is and will be playing in America. That organization together with all the others of like character and tendencies, in the measure that the rule of American capitalism is going to be challenged, will become part of the Pretorian Guard of capitalism, an extra-legal force to be used for purposes which the legal repressive forces of the political state cannot well serve without flying too brazenly in the face of historic tradition. In the nature of things and in line with the developments to come, that force will be used to browbeat the working class, to impede its efforts toward better organization by means of provocative methods and counter organization and in every possible manner frustrate its striving toward its own emancipation.”

12. Attempted French Communist Paper in Montreal.

On 25th June a special meeting was held of the members of the [16] McGill Research Club and the French Branch of the Communist Party of Montreal; those present numbered 6 students and ten members of the French Branch. Tim Buck also was present and spoke. It is decided to publish the journal L'Ouvrier Canadien. Jean Paulin, a student was appointed Editor, the committee being Tim Buck, C. Paquette, Banel (Jewish student) and one Smith. Paulin at present is working for a New York paper, and will use extracts from it for L'Ouvrier Canadien. This paper will be published monthly; half the cost will be defrayed by the City Central Committee of the Communist Party of Montreal and half by the headquarters of the Communist Party at Toronto. It is to be distributed free.

13. Communist Notes

The headquarters of the Y.C.L. in Toronto have sent out a bulletin on Trade Union work. It contains the familiar demand that all Y.C.L. members join Trade Unions, and gives directions for the formation of “fractions” in the Unions.

A special warning is given against the danger of allowing these Communist fractions to become segregated.

The issue of Der Kamf of 2nd July contains an interesting attack upon the Executive of the Workmen's Circle. The governing body of this society has been driving the left-wing out of it, and apparently by way of reprisal, Der Kamf asserts that its insurance business is being carried on illegally.[17]

The Agitprop Department of the Communist Party is sending out from Toronto, a syllabus of 13 lessons in Leninism to be used during the period of "Red Recruiting" about December next.

Malcolm Bruce is said to be now living in Detroit.

14. An Anti British "Chinese Society of Canada" Projected.

A statement appeared in the Public Press not long ago that a Chinese named Edward Shuey Bing Lee, in Montreal, has been advocating the formation of a Chinese Society of Canada. Enquiries show that this movement emanates from the Kue Min Tang, or Chinese Nationalist Society, a revolutionary and anti British organization. A report from Montreal says:-

"Edward Shuey Bing Lee, is, I understand, a student at McGill University, where he is studying railway systems and methods. This man holds no office in the organization, but is merely an ordinary member. His name is familiar in the local newspapers as he not infrequently writes in the correspondence columns, letters of a highly instructive nature upon economic conditions in China. His phraseology and apparent command of the English language, and his excellent style leads one to believe that he is very highly educated, both along general lines and interior economy of the country whence he hails.

"Nevertheless, Edward Shuey Bing Lee is no other than the Edward Lee who, in conjunction with Ing Feng, was prosecuted by us for conspiracy in connection with the planting of decks of drugs in this city some years ago."

This "Edward Lee" case was a very mean one. Having been ejected from a rooming house for not paying rent, the two Chinese placed narcotics in the house and accused the landlady of being concerned in the narcotic drug business.
