

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

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SECRET

NO. 330  
WEEKLY SUMMARY  
NOTES REGARDING REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS  
AND AGITATORS IN CANADA  
REPORT

Appreciations of the present state of the revolutionary schools are to be found in this issue from Montreal, Ottawa, and Edmonton. In Edmonton a teacher named John (Ivan) Symbay is doing much mischief, as he is unusually well educated.

The Communist International, through a subsidiary body in Europe named the Educational Workers' International, has made a tentative effort to get into touch with the Canadian Teachers' Federation.

The One Big Union is trying to reestablish itself in Winnipeg by putting Charles Lester forward, without admitting the fact that he is in their pay.

Both Lester and some I.W.W. agitators are making threats about the western harvest. Lester suggested to the railway shop workers that they strike during the crop moving season.[2]

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#### APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

##### 1. Revolutionary Schools in Edmonton.

We have received from Edmonton a survey of the present condition of the revolutionary schools maintained in that city and vicinity. The Officer Commanding the Royal Canadian Mounted Police there says:-

"The Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association conduct two educational schools in this districts Edmonton and Beverly. Beverly is a suburb of Edmonton, the residents being mainly coalminers. The latest figures, and we have a good source of information here, as to the attendance, are as follows:- Edmonton, 120 pupils; Beverly, 56 pupils. These figures have increased greatly in the last few months, chiefly owing to the fact that one John Symbay, a student of the educational course at Winnipeg, is in charge. He is a well educated man, a fluent speaker, and is imbued with revolutionary ideas.... Above all, John Symbay is exceedingly well thought of by the Ukrainians generally, and must be regarded as a dangerous man; he, by his teachings being utterly opposed to the Canadian Constitution and decidedly in favour of a Soviet system of Government.

"Practically the sole attendance at these schools or classes are Ukrainians; at Edmonton, for instance, there are three Russian Jews and three Russians the balance are Ukrainians; at Beverly, every student is a Ukrainian no English-speaking children are attending

these schools.

"The school is in session at Edmonton and Beverly three times a week, with lectures almost every Sunday afternoon.

Discussing the subjects taught, he says that the main subject taught is the Ukrainian language, and proceeds:-

"English is not taught, Symbay's great line being to tell the children of the alleged awful conditions of the workers in Russia under the Czarist regime, and how the workers overthrew the capitalist class in Russia, and how the workers in Canada are now preparing to overthrow the capitalist class in Canada, and how much better off, they, the workers, will be when they have control of the Government. They are also taught not to believe in religion or royalty; that the red flag is the God of the workers. Symbay also tries to teach them everything possible of the Soviet constitution, and of the great benefits to be derived from such a Government, and what a fine thing it would be for the workers if they had a Soviet Government here in Canada.

"In connection with the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Labour Temple Association of Edmonton, there is also the Orchestra; there are 26 children in same; they give concerts, assist in shows, etc. and also accompany organizers into the foreign farmer settlements on organizing campaigns. The larger part of the programme of this orchestra are revolutionary songs and marches.[5]

"As regards the Finnish race we have several settlements of Finns in this district notably at Red Deer, Alberta, a large number of whom have socialistic or revolutionary tendencies; they are a very clannish race and it has been found very difficult to get reliable information as to their propaganda. I am satisfied, however, that as regards this district the Finns are not affiliated in any way in their socialistic or revolutionary aims with any other race, but keep strictly to themselves in their various farming communities."

"With respect to the Jewish race; I have never received any information that the Jewish element of this district had any serious revolutionary aims; as a matter of fact the Jewish settlement here is small, mainly composed of small business men, lawyers, etc., and appear to be a quiet, law abiding people."

## 2. Revolutionary Schools in Ottawa.

For some time we have been aware that the revolutionary element in the Ukrainian community in Ottawa maintain a school. A new report has been procured upon it, and our investigator states that it is situated in the residence of one Nicholas Hopchuk at 523 Arlington Avenue; it has two grades, and as many as 38 children have been registered at it. The reports says:-

"This school goes under the name 'Ukrainian Workers' Party';

and a fee of one dollar per month is charged. Photographs of the late Russian Bolshevik Lenin, and other leaders of the Bolsheviki, are hung on the walls of this school room. Michael Chopowick and Peter Takubowski, Communist whose activities have been reported on by this office previously, are the leaders of this school."

The subjects taught are the same as elsewhere.

### 3. Revolutionary Schools in Montreal.

Another report is from Montreal, an agent writing:-

"At present these schools have closed down but they open again in September. The following schools are in the city:-

"The Ukrainian and Russian school is at 12 Market Place and from 33 to 38 children attend here. The school is held in the evenings from 5 to 8 p.m. and the teachers are Mrs. Bourarkeff and two other women. One of the delegates from 212 Drummond Street (Russian Soviet Trade Delegation) also sometimes comes down and gives instruction.

"At the Frontenac school 20 to 24 children attend, the school being held in the afternoon. I was informed that a delegate from Drummond Street gives instructions here.

"35 to 43 children attend the school in the afternoon of the Young Pioneers at the Labour College, at 70 Mance St. The teacher is Mrs. Julia Cohen and the school is conducted by the Young Communist League.

"The Lachine school has closed.

"The Finns as yet have no school." [6]

It may be added that the children attending the school in Market and Frontenac Streets are Russian and Ukrainian; at 70 Mance Street the children are Jewish.

### 4. Communist Notes.

George Latham has been nominated by the Canadian Labour Party as Labour candidate for East Edmonton.

The Canadian Labour Party in Edmonton, while not entirely Communist, is under Communist influence, the Communists usually managing by adroit caucus work to obtain the decisions they desire. Latham himself is not a Communist.

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We have information to the effect that the Educational Workers' International, an organization with its seat in France, but entirely under the direction of Moscow, is making efforts to get into touch with the Canadian Teachers' Federation. The Third International is exceedingly anxious to get hold of the teaching profession, so as to introduce its influence into the state school. The E.W.I. has begun by addressing to the Canadian body an innocent-looking questionnaire about salaries.

We have received a copy of the first issue of the Young Comrade, a mimeographed paper issued for the Pioneers. It is strongly Communistic.

The Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party are circulating a broadsheet, entitled "Lessons of the British General Strike". It contains the usual abuse of the British Labour leaders, and argues that the course of the general strike has proved its value against capitalism.

The Edmonton branch of the Communist Party has received orders from Toronto directing "every Communist to be on the job amongst the immigrants. During this year there will be a hard winter for the slaves." [7]

#### 5. Charles Lester's O.B.U. Campaign in Winnipeg.

Charles Lester has been very busy addressing audiences in the Market Place and at the railway shops in Winnipeg, and has impressed those who have heard him with his skill as a speaker. To some extent he has been occupied in denouncing religion. When speaking on economics, while he avoids open advocacy of the O.B.U., he follows the general line taken by that body. His whole course in Winnipeg is an example of underhand campaigning.

Lester addressed an open-air meeting of the C.P.R. shop gates at Weston on 23rd July. Our report says:-

"He earnestly pleaded with them not to take any notice of announcement that the time was not suitable for negotiations, and pointed out that now was the time to act. The crop would have to be moved in a few weeks time, and the workers, if they remained united and solid, could force the issue at this period, but there must be solidarity. The speaker was given an attentive hearing from about 150 men.

"There is no doubt that there is great dissatisfaction among the shopmen. The Division No. 4 Committee has failed them, and although the men of the American Federation of Labour do not look upon the way the O.B.U. is trying to control the situation, with favour, it is extremely probable that conditions are coming to such a pass that they will be forced to take direct action, irrespective of any union.

"A ballot has been taken but no announcement has been made yet. The men of the O.B.U. are ready to go right ahead, but the members of the A.F. of L. unions are somewhat reluctant. They have not faith in the O.B.U. and think this organization is having altogether too much to do with it, although lately the O.B.U. organizers have studiously refrained from butting in, at least publicly. Possibly this is the reason Lester is in the city. Officially he has no

connection with the O.B.U. He is a Socialist, but he speaks along O.B.U. lines.

"The situation is at present somewhat tense. The men are quite well aware that they can tie up traffic in the crop moving period, this will just about approximate the time when a large number of I.W.W. agitators and members are in the city, and this bunch make no bones about declaring that they intend to set the wage scale for harvesters, and are prepared to cause trouble of a serious kind.[8]

"All the different organizations are aware of the crisis approaching, and the red element are out to get theirs. There will be an effort to get the building trade labourers out, but this may be difficult as large numbers of them are declaring their intentions to leave the building jobs and go harvesting, they are hard to organize. It all depends on what the shopmen do.

"Bartholomew of the Communist Party is supposed to be in town. All this, taking into consideration that a general election is approaching promises to make the month of August a period of unrest."

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In reporting another speech of Lester's at the C.P.R. shop on 28th July, an agent, after remarking that Lester is careful in his speech not to mention anything about the O.B.U., adds that the ordinary organizers of the O.B.U., Sykes, Clancy, etc. ceased their propoganda in this neighbourhood as soon as Lester came to town.

In commenting upon this report the Officer Commanding the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Manitoba says:-

"The shop gate meetings from some time have been the favourite stumping ground for the O.B.U. crowd. Evidently they are leaving the field open to Lester to see what he can do. As a matter of fact the Baltimore and Ohio scheme is said to be working very efficiently at present, which tends to make it much harder for the O.B.U. to gain ground in the shops."

A further report, dated 30th July, says:-

"Lester is still on the job. He was at Transcona yesterday. This man is undoubtedly speaking on behalf of the O.B.U. He travelled down on the O.B.U. organizers' car. Clancy is in Calgary. Sykes was in Winnipeg last week but has not been around this week.

"Lester never mentions the O.B.U. in his speeches, but the men are fully aware of whom he speaks for."

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In this connection it may be remarked that there have been of late several small strikes in the coalmines in Cape Breton, called by the United Mine Workers of America, protesting against work being given to mem-

bers of the O.B.U. There is some ground for the belief that these strikes will be kept up until the company refuses to employ O.B.U. [9] members.

#### 6. The Canadian Labour Defence League and Antonina Sokelicz

Much activity, at present centering principally in Winnipeg, is being shown in booming the Canadian Labour Defence League, an organization designed, like so many revolutionary bodies, to appeal to non-communistic labour while in reality held in strict control, more or less secretly exercised by the Communists. The Canadian society is a branch of the international Communist organization known in Moscow as M.O.P.R. and by Ukrainians as M.O.D.R. (International Prisoners Aid); in the United States it is styled the International Labour Defence and in Canada as the Canadian Labour Defence League. It sometimes is called the Red Aid. According to the Ukrainian Labour News it is established in 33 countries and has a membership of 6,500,000.

Antonina Sokelicz (Falken) at present in Canada, was active in this organization in Poland, and her visit to Canada, apart from her mission to organize Polish Canadians into Communism, has had to do with the recruiting of this League.

As an example of the co-ordination which marks these people's work, it may be noted that in preparation for her coming the Ukrainian Labour News printed a series of articles in advocacy of the League; the sixth of the series appeared in the issue of 24th July.

As a result of Antonina Sokelicz's activities, the following branches of the Canadian Labour Defence League have been formed in Winnipeg: Polish, about 55; Ukrainians, about 300; Jewish, about 35. The Ukrainian branch, by the way, lost no time in passing a resolution demanding an amnesty in Poland.

The Jewish branch of the League began as a "United Aid Committee for strikers". This draws its membership from [10] The Jewish branch of the League began as a "United Aid Committee for Strikers". This draws its membership from the Workmen's Circle, the National Workers' Society, the Jewish Branch of the Communist Party, the Right and Left wing of the Poale Zion, the Liberty Temple Association, the Mother Society of the Workers' National Institute and the Jewish Guild Society. It will be seen that by this device the Communist are drawing non-Communist Jewish organizations into the Communist enterprise.

One of Antonina Sokelicz's lectures was held in the Liberty Temple, a Jewish meeting place, and another in the Ukrainian Labour Temple.

The City Central Committee of the Communist Party in Winnipeg are trying to manoeuvre the Independent Labour Party into helping to form an English branch of this body.

### 7. Agitation Among the Foreigners.

Definite information has been received from Kamsack that 17 Doukhobor families, comprising 54 people, are expected to leave that place for Russia on 14th August. Their departure is not absolutely certain; the number of families depends upon whether final settlement will have been made for their farms; it is understood that deductions from the purchase price of the land will be made to cover transportation to Russia. This is the outcome of several provincial agreements between the Ukrainian Immigration and Colonization Association and the Doukhobors. Mr. Ivan Kulyk addressed the Doukhobors in several places.

We have received a report of a meeting of the Fort William branch of the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association. After Wasyl [11] Peruniak had demanded that every member of the party and every workingman must regularly attend all picnics and all concerts, and Peter Chepesiuk had spoken to the same effect S. Kamaranski gave a speech which is thus reported:-

"I know comrades we suffer and die from hunger, but we, the labourers must keep faith because there is a great number of us and we are a great power. Let us collect money to support our labour organizations. He gave \$14 Peruniak \$10 Chepesiuk, \$10, and some more tens. And some there gave a dollar cash. Kamaranski collected at that concert meeting \$172.50."

The Officer Commanding the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Manitoba remarks:-

"It will be noted in the last paragraph of this report that quite a respectable sum of money was collected from men said to be dying of hunger."

The Edmonton branch of the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association on 24th July, presented a play entitled "Always Revolutionist". An account of this given by our correspondent is as follows:-

"In the first act, a revolutionist was going amongst the workers telling them they should not work for the boss and get nothing for their work, and so the workers quit work.

"In the second act the revolutionist came out and called propaganda meetings amongst the workers and gave a speech, saying that if all workers would stay by him the revolution would be here any time, and the capitalist class will be put out of control.

"In the third act the leaders were busy amongst the workers preparing them for the revolution. One of the crowd acted that he was against them and he put the police on the job and the leaders were arrested and the movement was broken up, but the leaders stayed on the job and organized for a new start."

The attendance numbered about 60.

8. The I.W.W. and the Harvest

A man known as J. Sharp has been appointed by the I.W.W. head office, Chicago, as General Organizer for Western Canada, with instructions to open I.W.W. halls at Moose Jaw, Saskatoon and Winnipeg.[12]

Apparently Moose Jaw will be his first stopping place. He will be paid \$4 a day and expenses.

Sam Scarlett, who still is at Calgary, has been laid up by an accident, and in his absence a man named Keith addressed an I.W.W. meeting in Calgary, on Sunday, 25th July.

A correspondent says:-

"Since the Agricultural Industrial Union, No. 110 organized in Western Canada, over 4,000 members have been recruited for I.W.W. organization.

"The majority of the I.W.W.'s members going away from the Prairie Provinces leave after the harvest, but generally return each year for the harvest."

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