

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

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SECRET

NO. 332
WEEKLY SUMMARY
NOTES REGARDING REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS
AND AGITATORS IN CANADA
REPORT

The Communists still are trying to get some advantage out of the general election. In Winnipeg they are trying to get concessions from the Independent Labour Party by threatening to run separate candidates, and in Alberta they have seized the opportunity to get signatures to petitions for clemency, or a new trial, for Lewis McDonald (Kid Burns).

At Drumheller the Ukrainian revolutionists are trying to complete their separation from the Church by holding Communist funerals.

The O.B.U. agitation has spread to Edmonton.

An appreciation of that unquiet district, the Crow's Nest Pass, shows conditions among the coal-miners to be unusually peaceful. In some camps the Mine Workers' Union of Canada predominates; in some the British Columbia Miners' Union; and in one place the mines are open shop.[2]

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

1. Winnipeg Communists and the General Election

At a meeting of the Winnipeg City Central Committee held on 12th August, the local political situation was considered again, apparently with an eye to forcing their way into the labour campaign. Our report says:-

"From the discussions it appears that the Executive Committee of the City Central Committee planed to force the Independent Labour Party to a United Front by calling a conference of labour organizations to endorse the candidate of the Independent Labour Party otherwise to scare the Independent Labour Party by putting M. Popowich up as a candidate of the Communist Party to split the labour vote.

"A telegram was sent to the Central Executive Committee to Toronto asking if Popowich would come here and to pay his railway expenses and to answer by wire. As no answer was received, it was the opinion of the delegates of the City Central Committee that it was too late for calling the mentioned conference."

The Officer Commanding the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Manitoba in commenting on the foregoing says:-

"It was previously decided that the Communist Party would not put up a candidate for the forthcoming Federal elections, and in all probability a belated idea of sending Popowich was only done to annoy the Independent Labour Party and to bring them up to the mark in connection with the Canadian Labour Defence League.

2. Canadian Labour Defence League's Campaign for Lewis McDonald

Under instructions from the head office in Toronto, the Canadian Labour Defence League is active in Drumheller, and in Alberta as a whole, working for the release of Lewis McDonald, (Kid Burns); petitions are being circulated and, owing to present political conditions, are being signed rather widely. A report says:-

"The leaders of the Canadian Labour Defence League are expecting that there will be enough signatures on their petition which will compel authorities to grant another trial for L. McDonald by a jury. They are also of the opinion that if another trial was granted by a jury, McDonald may be let free, or will be sentenced only for a few months. This is the hope of the Canadian Labour Defence League at present. The Canadian Labour Defence League is absolutely under the control of the Communist Party, so that if McDonald gets free from jail, the Communist Party will try to claim all the credit for their activities in this case." [5]

3. Trying to Stir up Discontent

The headquarters of the Communist Party at Toronto have sent out a circular on Unemployment and Immigration. A translation of the Ukrainian version is:-

"Every group of the Communist Party should prepare themselves for the coming winter, to be on guard amongst immigrants; there will be destitution this winter for the working classes, every worker and immigrant must look after the Communist movement; every member of the party that goes out harvesting, must be sure and spread Communist propaganda amongst immigrants. Times will be hard this coming winter, and all immigrants and workers should be brought into the left wing movement against the capitalist class. The army of unemployed will have to be looked after and prevented from being exploited by the Capitalist class. This work must be carried out by the Communist Party."

At a meeting of the Edmonton Branch of the Communist Party which

was held on 8th August, M. Rosen in commenting on the foregoing letter said:-

“The more immigrants that we put into Canada, the better it will be for the Communist movement and the end of the capitalist class will be nearer, and it will help the Communist Party to organize the farmers against the capitalists class. There will be more soup houses than ever in Canada this year.”

4. Agitation Among Ukrainians at Drumheller.

We have received a survey of the situation among the Drumheller Ukrainians which shows renewed activity of communist agitators among them. Our agent mentions a play which was presented on Sunday, 1st August, in the Ukrainian Labour Temple at Drumheller, under the title “Past and Present System of Rule in Russia.” He says:-

“This play was very interesting from the Bolsheviks’ point of view; it represented the most miserable life of the working class under the capitalists’ system in Russia, and after this a change took place in that country the workers possessed all the wealth, and used the same for their own benefit. There were about 150 present, composed of Ukrainians and a few Russians and Jews.”

On 2nd August the Winnipeg Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association Mandolin Girls’ Orchestra gave a concert: our report observes:- [6]

“No Bolshevik songs were sung or played, so as not to offend the English public. There were about 200 present composed of Ukrainians, some English, Jews, Italians and others.

“On 3rd August the same orchestra held a concert in the Ukrainian Labour Temple, New Castle, West Drumheller. This concert was opened and closed by playing the ‘International’ and every second song was of a Bolshevik character.

“N. Charyk make a brief speech about the orchestra from Winnipeg, stating that if the workers can produce such musical talents, they can rule the country as well, if they have the same chance as the Russian workers had in Russia.”

The attendance at this concert was about 200, mostly Ukrainians.

The Ukrainian revolutionary school in Drumheller closed down during July, but was to be reopened early in August with W. Nykyforuk, who attended the Higher Educational Course in Winnipeg last winter, as a teacher.

5. A Communist Funeral.

The report contains the following passage which probably has considerable significance:-

“On 11th July, a very interesting funeral took place in Drumheller. One member of the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association, W. Samotiuk, had died on 9th July, and his funeral

ceremony was held in the Ukrainian Labour Temple. The coffin of the late W. Samotiuk was placed in the middle of the hall, and the members sang and played the mandolins, playing 'Bolshevik's Dead March'. N. Charyk made an address and then all marched to the cemetery, where J. Stefuniuk made another speech, and the members repeated once more the Dead March.

"This is the second Communist funeral to be held in Drumheller. Last winter L. McDonald (Kid Burns) acted as high Communist priest, at the funeral of communist Schwartz, but from information I obtained, it looks as if there were two Communist priests at the funeral of W. Samotiuk. The reasons I mentioned about this funeral is that the Bolsheviks and Communists are trying to separate their members from the Church and religion for ever. The members of the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association are practically prohibited to attend any Church service. Many of them live together only on a marriage license, and none of them baptize their children. Now they start a new form of funeral, exactly the same as the Communists in Russia."

6. Ukrainian Notes.

The Ukrainian Labour News of 12th August announced that on [7] 9th August a beginning was made at the erection of the new building for the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association in Winnipeg. It is to cost \$36,000, and the usual appeal is made for funds. The paper says:

"The following is the plan of the building: the basement, the windows of which will be on the surface, will be for the printing plant; the first floor will be the hall for the children's school, a kitchen and some rooms for the printing plant; the second floor will be the offices of the administration of the editors, of the General Board and library."

In commenting upon this the Officer Commanding the Royal Canadian Mounted Police makes the following remark:-

"It has been stated that the new building will be also used to accommodate classes for the schools and that the additional accommodation will provide for a very large increase in the number of scholars, as it has been lack of accommodation that has prevented the attendance being much larger than it is at present."

An interesting and characteristic remark in a report received from Fort William, on 10th August, is that a picnic attempted by the West Fort William branch of the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association for the Sunday, 8th August, failed "on account of there being no music."

According to the Ukrainian Labour News of 12th August The Workers' Benevolent Association have bought a farm of 38 acres near

Winnipeg, to serve as a shelter for old and crippled members and for orphans; for this purpose a tax of 50 cents has been imposed upon the membership. The land was bought for \$1,800 at a tax sale.

7. Communist Notes

The Ukrainian Labour News in its issue of 5th August publishes a list of affiliations of the Communist International. This enumerates 50 territorial sections of the International, No. 1 being the U.S.S.R. (the Russian Communist Party.) The Communist Party of Canada appears as No. 41 in the list, directly after the Communist Party of Bekhara.[8]

The Officer Commanding the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Montreal in his confidential monthly report for July, remarks that the City Central Committee of the Communist Party there have decided to reorganize the party by districts.

Annie S. Buller has issued a circular letter, under date of 5th August, asking for a vigorous celebration of International Press day on 3rd October. A special issue of the Worker is to be got out for that day and efforts are to be made to get new subscribers.

Dealing with the Soviet Russian Trade Delegation the Officer Commanding the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Montreal says in his confidential monthly report for July:-

"Ivan Kulik of this delegation and his secretary, A. Kladow, returned this month after visiting various Doukhobor settlements in the west, their object being to persuade 300 families to return to Russia. Difficulty is being experienced in getting them to leave Canada the Doukhobors being apparently aware of the real state of the peasants in their native country.

According to statements in the Polish paper Tribuna Robotnicza, there are now 56 members of the Polish branch of the Canadian Labour Defence League in Winnipeg, and 15 in the branch in St. Catharines.

8. The O.B.U. Agitation

We have received a further report from Sydney dealing with the series of local strikes by means of which the United Mine Workers of America have been fighting the One Big Union. Our informant states that in some mines these tactics have succeeded and that the miners have joined the U.M.W., but he states that in other places the O.B.U. have shown a determination to be free from the United Mine Workers. He adds:-

"The conditions of the miners appear to be one continual struggle. First against the coal company, Besco, later against the present executive of the U.M.W. and now they are quarrelling among themselves. On the one hand there is growing sentiment [9] towards the O.B.U. and on the other hand there is an equal degree of alarm

on the part of the executive of the U.M.W., who have now started a campaign against the O.B.U. Conditions are thus becoming more complicated every day.

"In this warfare there is also a third party the Communists, with their 'no splits, no secession' policy, and this group blame the present executive of the U.M.W. and John W. McLeod for all the trouble. They accuse the executive of the U.M.W. with having fallen into the hands of Besco and assert that they are in the employ of the Conservative party of Nova Scotia.

"J.B. MacLachlan is against the O.B.U. and his present hatred of the party is due to his understanding of the danger of a split among the miners.

"The U.M.W. of A., once a powerful organization of the miners in Nova Scotia, has now been split up into many different groups, each of which is fighting for control of the miners."

Our informant adds that it is unlikely that the miners will throw up their present two years' contract with the coal companies.

J. Clancy, the O.B.U. agitator, has appeared in Edmonton having addressed a mass meeting of railway workers on Sunday, 8th August, he declared that he was on a tour from Halifax to Vancouver, in the interests of the O.B.U., trying to induce the railway workers of Canada to close their works irrespective of craft unions into a solid front and demand 10 cents an hour increase in pay or go on strike and tie up the railroads before the crop movement starts, forcing the railroads to meet their demands.

In advocating this Clancy declared that another made the following declaration:-

"Another crash is coming when the capitalist class pick up where they left off in 1918 and you will be conscripted into a one big union of workers.

He succeeded in getting the following three resolutions carried:-

"1. Railroad workers! Are you willing at this time to close your ranks irrespective of your craft union, and if not organized, are you willing to support an increase in wages at this time. Carried.[10]

"2. Railroad Workers! Are you willing to elect a Committee from this meeting to recommend the shopmen for an increase in wages. Carried.

"3. Railroad Workers! Realizing that the time is so short when the railroads will have us at their mercy, are you willing to have a ballot printed and put in the hands of every shopman that they can vote 'yea' or 'nay' on this question. Carried.

The Committee referred to was not appointed in public. Our report says:-

"There was little enthusiasm evidenced by the workers at this

meeting, in fact, more than half of the audience of about 200, left the hall before the meeting was over."

The Non-commissioned officer in charge of this work in forwarding this report notices the appreciation of another information who was present at this gathering as follows:-

"The Committee referred to in the second resolution herein, is going to be appointed privately. Further, that the Communist Party of Canada and the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association are solidly against the O.B.U. and will do anything to block their efforts.--- was also of the opinion that the railroad workers were not at all enthusiastic at this meeting."

9. The I.W.W. at Winnipeg.

Reports from Winnipeg regarding the I.W.W. state that a number of men belonging to that organization are drifting into town. The wages offered for harvesters at the time of reporting were low \$3.50 a day. A report, dated 10th August, says:-

"There is no open agitation as yet, although there is quite an undercurrent of unrest and dissatisfaction but so far it has not been serious enough to take notice of. As a matter of fact the numbers of I.W.W. in town at present are not enough to create a great deal of trouble amongst the large number of harvesters that are bound to arrive soon from the east."

A report, dated 12th August, says that the influx of harvesters from the east had begun, and that the I.W.W. members were out to meet them and were distributing tracts. The number of harvesters are so great that only a small proportion could be approached by the small number of I.W.W. men acting as agitators.

A man named M. Manchier is acting as secretary on the Winnipeg branch at present.[11]

An earlier report from Winnipeg, dated 9th August says:-

"There have been large number of members of the I.W.W. arriving in town. So far they have been quiet. The idea is to have scouts at the different railroad depots and labour offices, but so far there are not enough harvesters in town.

"They intend to make as many men as possible members of the I.W.W. In any case their intention is to dictate what wages will be paid in the harvest fields.

"During the week quite a large number of them hung around the headquarters in Main Street, but during the week-end very few were there.

"Those fellows are not going out to jobs as yet. They are waiting till the excursions arrive. So far there is little scope for their activities. About the 15th is the date set for their activities."

A report dated 15th August described the I.W.W. as not aggressive.

10. The Ku Klux Klan at Fredericton.

According to the Fredericton Gleaner the Ku Klux Klan has made an appearance in New Brunswick. Large fiery crosses were displayed in the vicinity of Fredericton, on 10th August, and 26 candidates are said to have been admitted to membership. The particular faction working there is the Ku Klux Klan of Kanada.

The proceedings seem to be under James S. Lord, M.L.A., of St. Stephen, who is described as Imperial Klaliff.