

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 9th September, 1926.

SECRET

NO. 334
WEEKLY SUMMARY
NOTES REGARDING REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS
AND AGITATORS IN CANADA
REPORT

An interesting note upon the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association in Edmonton appears in this issue. Careful examination of statistics given for successive years suggests the suspicion that the organization during the last two or three numerically has stood still. The Edmonton reports confirms this, but says that its influence over the general Ukrainian community is increasing, and that the Ukrainian Workers' Benevolent Association has proved to be an admirable recruiting ground.

Another interesting report deals with revolutionary schools in Winnipeg and the vicinity.

Communist support of the Independent Labour Party in the election in Winnipeg is of the usual back-stabbing sort.[2]

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

1. Membership of Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association.

In examining at headquarters the official reports made at various times by the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association, it was noticed that while assertions of progress are incessant, the figures actually quoted showed no progress for the last two or three years. The attention of several Officers Commanding districts has been drawn to this, and we have received from Edmonton the following comments and appreciation:-

"After investigation of the matter as is available I find that the membership of the Edmonton Branch of the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association at the present time is 96 on whom a per capita tax of 15 cents is paid into the headquarters at Winnipeg. (N.B. This is a slight advance on the figures of January, 1926).

"With respect to the Edmonton District, the membership has actually declined since 1922-23. This is mainly accounted for by the fact that during that period a move was made to turn titles of property, etc. of the various branches over to the trustees of the parent body at Winnipeg, Manitoba. This caused bitter controversy, with the result that when by ballot it was decided to turn these deeds over to the headquarters, a large number resigned.

"The Edmonton Temple of this Association has been fully paid for and is the property of the Organization with no encumbrances. The Edmonton Branch has some three hundred odd dollars in the treasury.

2. Ukrainian Workers' Benevolent Association a Recruiting Ground

"Without hesitation I would say that the influence of this Association and its subsidiary societies, over Ukrainians, is on the increase, due in a great measure to the fact that a Benevolent Branch has been organized. Any Ukrainian, whether or not a member of the organization may join the society, but it is noticed that it is a great recruiting source for membership to the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association; for example, several of those who dropped out in 1922-23, who have joined the Benevolent Organization, have again been drafted to the U.L.F.T.A. At the present time there are *2,600 members enrolled in this Benevolent organization.*[5]

"In connection with the Youth Section of the Association, while they are not officially allied to the Communist Party of Canada, their aims and objects are identical. The schools in this district are conducted by one J. Symbay, a very able man.

"I am told that the purpose of these schools is to teach not only the younger generation to read and write, but also the elder members, many of whom are illiterate, in order that they may read the revolutionary literature that is issued from time to time. There is no question but what the major portion of the classes are along the lines of preparing the members thereof for a revolution, with the Soviet System of Government as their objective.

"I should add that as far as I can gather greater care prevails now in keeping their accounts and rolls in a more businesslike manner, thus showing the progress the erstwhile illiterate foreigners are making."

The astuteness with which the revolutionary agitation among the

Ukrainians is conducted is revealed in the foregoing paragraphs. As soon as they perceived that the "Temple" had reached its peak of development they organized the Benevolent Society, at once to provide a "legal" organization in case proceedings should be taken against them and to inveigle into the movement Ukrainians who otherwise would remain aloof from the professedly seditious body.

3. Revolutionary Schools in Manitoba.

The Officer Commanding the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Manitoba has furnished us with an appreciation of the present condition of the revolutionary schools maintained in that Province. He says:-

"The new figures obtainable show a slight gain, and it is very probable that the coming fall and winter work along the lines of organizing the children and youth will give a considerable increase, as a certain amount of preparatory work being done by these who took the Higher Educational Courses at the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association in Winnipeg last winter, will have had time to materialize.

"It has been stated by the leaders of the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association here that at least 1,000 scholars have made application to enter the schools, of which number only 350 have been able to be accommodated, and owing to this lack of room (which is being met by the erection of a new building already started) the work has been held back considerably. The number of children attending the U.L.F.T.A. school at the present are as follows:

"Winnipeg 350. divided into 5 classes.

From 1st July until further notice the hours will be as follows:-

1st Class Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. till noon.[6]

2nd Class Thursday from 10 a.m. till noon and

Monday, Wednesday and Saturday from 2 to 4 p.m.

3rd and 4th Classes Monday and Wednesday from 4 to 6, and Saturday from 3 to 5 p.m.

5th, 6th and 7th Classes Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 2 to 5 p.m.

" East Kildonan - 75

" Transcona- 80

From July 5th until end of August.

1st, 2nd and 3rd classes from 3 to 4 p.m.

4th and 5th Classes from 9 a.m. to noon.

" Port Arthur - 47

" Fort William - 55

" West Fort William - 83

" Fort Francis - 43 (no change since last return)

"In addition to the above the formation of the Ukrainian Children's Schools of the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association is being put into practice. In many of the Rural Ukrainian settlements, such as Brightstone, Red Deer, Brokenhead, Janow, Gonnor, Bread Valley, Fisher Branch districts. It is in those localities that organizers are working principally in connection with the Ukrainian Workmen's Benevolent Association. In the Fort William District (Port Arthur) the Finns have an O.B.U. school of some 200 children, which is held on Sundays only, the teacher being one Arnberg. No particulars are obtainable at present on the subjects taught.

4. Finnish, Jewish, Russian and Lettish Schools.

"There is also an O.B.U. Finnish school at Fort William, the teacher being David Aho; but we have been unable to ascertain the number of scholars, which will probably be less than the Port Arthur School. Similar schools are said to be operating at Nipigon and Intolla and to be well attended, but the number of scholars is now known to us.

"At Lettina, in the Lac du Bonnet district, which is a Lettish community, a young folk's class and Sunday school was started early in the year, but definite particulars are not available, but the fact that Communist literature was distributed would tend to show that it is under Communist influence.

"The school conducted by the Workmen's Circle (Jewish) at the Liberty Temple shows that for the past two years very little progress has been made, as the scholars at the present time number 240 at the school classes, and 50 children attend the Kindergarten.

"It has just been learned that there is also a Russian school for children, the attendance being about 35, hold at the Liberty Temple. Jacob Penner being the teacher. This is held three days a week. The fact that the teacher is well known to us as a communist would enable us to guess the kind of teaching.[7]

5. Nature of the Teaching.

"The following, which were examination compositions of the different classes in the Workmen's Circle School, will show the influence that the teaching exerts on the children:-

"Did God Create Mankind, or Mankind Create God?" by a 13 year old boy (this boy is at present a leader amongst the Pioneers, and his brother, a boy of 17, also a graduate of the Workmen's Circle School is a leader in the Young Communist League.)

"The cause of Immigration," by a 13 year old boy.

"Why do the large Industries swallow the Middle Class," by a 14 year old boy.

"The Band" (A Jewish Revolutionary Party of Former Russians),

by a 15 year old girl.

"The Pohale Zionist school, better known as the 'Peretz' school, shows a steady increase, and the most recent figures are as follows:-

No. 1. Peretz Institute	360	in the School classes
	50	" " Kindergarten.
No. 2. King Edward Branch	65	" " school classes
No. 3. Elmwood	40	" " " "

" Taking the Peretz School, the following are a few examples of the examination compositions:-

"A Short Biography of a Russian Revolutionary Girl," by a girl of 13.

"Coal: How this dangerous work is very poorly paid," by a boy of 13.

"The First of May: Its Importance for the Workers," by a boy of 10.

"The Labour Problem," by a girl of 12.

"The Only Remedy against Crises," by a girl of 13.

"Working Men and Bosses," by a boy aged 12.

"Can there be peace between the workman and the Boss?" by a boy of 15.

"The Boy Scouts" (Opinion Expressed to do away with the Boy Scout movement), by a girl of 15."

6. "Young Worker" advocating Civil War.

The issues of the Young Worker for September contains a story, signed A. J. Clarke, entitled "On the Barricades." It is a clear case of representing civil war as the goal at which those young people aim. It represents the government of the day discussing a revolution and ordering a field marshal to crush it. One passage represents the field [8] marshal as saying:-

"Gentlemen, we have one cure, the cure of the Paris Commune, that is, wipe out the workers' revolt in a sea of blood, workers' blood. Mobilize every loyal citizen and drown their revolt in their own blood."

It then describes street fighting and the defeat of the soldiers, and concludes thus:-

"The sun, lighting the streets in the ruddy glow of dawn, shone on a scene of destruction. In the roadway, a group of bodies encircles a disabled armoured car, the bodies of the two soldiers in its wrecked interior, a field marshal and its driver.

"Upon its steel turret, a flag of red, in its centre, three golden letter Y.C.L."

The August issue of this periodical asserts that the Montreal police fired upon strikers picketing a shop.

7. Communist Election Manifesto in Winnipeg.

The Communist Party in Winnipeg has issued an election manifesto

which contains one or two passages of some interest. Upon the constitutional issue it says:-

“The action of the Governor General in granting dissolution of Parliament to Meighen and refusing it to King shows clearly which way the wind is blowing. Canada is still the slave of the British Crown, and the constitutional issue shows that not only have the Canadian workers to struggle with Canadian capitalists, but with British capital also. The British North America Act is the constitution of Canada, and we are subjects, in the final analysis, of the British Imperialists. The B.N.A.A. has been consistently used in the past to block any social legislation, such as the 8-hour day, that the workers have been able to wring from the Canadian capitalists. It has been used to deny the workers’ relief, the unemployed, and higher wages. Until this act is abolished and Canada becomes independent, the workers can hope for no amelioration of their lot. Demand the annulment of the B.N.A.A. and a complete declaration of Canadian independence.”

Dealing with its relations with the Independent Labour Party and the Canadian Labour Party it says:-

“Confronted with the many bitter defeats and attacks that the workers have been forced to submit to because they are divided and poorly organized industrially and politically to defend their rights and to beat down the attacks of the Boss class, here in Winnipeg, as elsewhere, the Communist Party has repeatedly attempted to bring about a United Front of all labour political organizations and trade unions to form an all-embracing C.L.P. which would be controlled by the majority vote and which could in the present stage of the working class express the political aspirations of the workers.[9]

These attempts of the Communist Party to bring about the Canadian Labour Party have been steadily sabotaged by the Independent Labour Party.

“In this election like in previous ones, the I.L.P. has gone ahead and rushed the nomination of their candidate, A.A. Heaps, in the North Constituency without any attempt to consult labour, and the labour organizations whom they call upon to support their candidate. The I.L.P. forced the Communist Party to face the alternative of putting a candidate of their own into the field and thus splitting the labour vote and killing the chances of a Labour candidate going to Ottawa, or, of abstaining from the election and permitting the I.L.P. candidate, who represents only a certain section of the workers in the North Winnipeg constituency, to stay in the field as the only Labour candidate. The Communist Party chose the second alternative, because it sees the imperative need of a United Front to fight the boss and not to put any obstacles in the way of the Canadian

Labour Party.

"The Communist Party will continue to work and fight for the C.L.P. and will break in the end all sabotage of the office seekers and officialdom of the I.L.P. certain that the rank and file workers are for a united front of all labour organizations in the struggle with the Boss class. The workers are beginning to see the additional strength that a C.L.P. will mean to them and know that a candidate elected to the Federal House by the C.L.P. is there to represent the interests of Labour, and not the constituency as a whole, which consists of different classes."

The Central Executive of the Communist Party has issued several leaflets; one is entitled "Federal Elections and the Constitutional issue; another is described as an "Election Manifesto and a third is a leaflet on "The Senate and Social Legislativ .

The leaflet on the constitutional issue contains the following passage:-

"The issue is: 'Why is Lord Byng here at all to govern as the appointee and representative of an outside power-- the British Imperial Government?' 'Why is Canada still in leading strings?' Plainly the 'constitutional issue is the issue of the Constitution of Canada."

In the course of a campaign speech delivered on 29th August at a picnic held by the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association at Edmonton, James Lakeman, the Labour candidate in Edmonton, said:-

"I am a Communist and I am proud of it, and proud of everyone who is out to help the slave get out under the capitalist system." [10]
8. Appeal from the "Worker".

A.S. Buller, the business manager of the Worker, has issued an appeal for help which betrays some anxiety. A "Sustaining Fund Campaign" was to have been undertaken in October, but it has been delayed until December, "due to the fact that our Finnish comrades in the United States and Canada will be engaged during October in a drive for the Communist Press of the world. This you will realise will hamper our 'drive' as our Finnish comrades have always supported the Worker and co-operated to make our work successful." It is stated that this will affect the work seriously, and non-Finnish comrades are urgently asked for help.

9. Ukrainian Notes

The issue of Robitnitsia of 1st September contains a statement that the section of Youth of the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association at present has 20 branches, with 1,062 members. The branches and the membership are as follows:-

Winnipeg, Man.	308	Edmonton, Alta.....	49
Port Arthur, Ontario ...	40	Moose Jaw, Sask	26
Fort William, “	66	Thorold, Ont.....	23
Transcona, Man.	74	Vancouver, B.C.....	45
Regina, Sask.	26	E. Kildonan, Man....	31
Lethbridge, Alta.	28	Hamilton, Ont.	11
Sudbury, Ont.	40	Drumheller, Alta.	51
Fort Frances, Ont.	50	Calgary	36
Timmins, Ont.	68	Medicine Hat, Alta.....	17
West Fort William ...	59	Winnipeg Beach, Man.	14

There also appears a statement that a new branch of this body has been organized in Ford City with 32 members. This branch seems to be composed of young women.

According to a letter from Medicine Hat, published in the *Robitnitsia* of 1st September, the Working Women's Branch of the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association there has been galvanized into activity by the visit of Anna Moysiuk, a Winnipeg woman, who was active with the mandolin orchestra in its recent tour.

Examination of the Ukrainian comic paper *Zhalo* (Sting) tends to confirm the impression that it is *Smik y Pravada*, (*Humour and Truth*), [11] issued under a new name in order to avoid prohibition. The “new” paper continues a correspondence the earlier portion of which appeared in the “old” one, and there are acknowledgements of subscriptions which must have been sent when the “old” paper was in existence. *Zhalo* at present is edited with a good deal of restraint so as to avoid a fresh prohibition.

A leaflet called “Support the British Miners” is being circulated in Winnipeg, apparently in both the Ukrainian and Yiddish languages. It is signed “United Workingmen's Aid Committee.” The only thing worth noting in it is the following sentence:-

“In 1921, when the British miners lost their strike, the wages of the workers all over the world were reduced.”

10. I.W.W. and O.B.U.

James Sharp recently returned to Calgary from an organization trip in Saskatchewan and Manitoba; he gave a report of his proceedings at a business meeting of the I.W.W. held on 29th August. One interesting statement was that the former I.W.W. secretary at Winnipeg was a bootlegger, this accounting for the poor progress made there; he hoped for a better showing now that they have a new man there. He was sanguine with regard to prospects in Moose Jaw and Saskatoon, and remarked that the I.W.W. have about 200 delegates in the three prairie provinces. Another remark of his is thus reported:-

“He also stated that a lot of I.W.W. delegates collected some

money last year who never turned in the money to the organization, we should take direct action against these members and compel them to return the money which belongs to the organization, I am not saying where, when or how we should take this action, but he will do it somehow.”

Sam Scarlett has been asserting in Calgary that prospects in Drumheller are good; he is developing an attack against the check-off system which, according to him, is oppressive there and is resented. Our report says:-[12]

“His ambition is to get at least one operator in Drumheller to sign an agreement with the I.W.W. and this will be the first time in Canadian history where an operator has signed an agreement with the I.W.W.”

We have received a copy of the Organizers' Report periodically issued by the General Executive Board of the One Big Union, covering the week of 24th July. This shows that agitation is proceeding in Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Nova Scotia and the Minto area, N.B., and of course, Winnipeg. Practically all the activities described are those of visits to works and the spreading of leaflets, etc. It resolves itself into an attempt to induce international labour men to secede and join the O.B.U.

Thomas H. Dunn, who is contesting the Springfield constituency in Manitoba in the Federal elections as a candidate for the Independent Labour Party, is an active member of the O.B.U. He signed the report quoted in the preceding paragraph, describing himself as secretary.