

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

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WEEKLY SUMMARY
REPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS
AND AGITATORS IN CANADA
REPORT

By skillful manoeuvring, the Communist Party has obtained complete control over the Workers' Ex-Service Men's League, dropping the former organizer. The Ukrainians share in this control.

The Workers' Ex-Service Men's League now is affiliated with the "International of War Veterans and War Victims."

In Montreal the local leaders of the Workers' Ex-Service Men's League are trying to absorb the "Steel Helmets."

Information has been received concerning the manner in which Communists fomented the Stratford strike.

[2]

APPENDICESTable of ContentsAPPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

- Paragraph No. 1. W.E.L. Now Under Complete Communist Control
 Hugo Graff
 Affiliated with I.N.W.V & W.V.
 Dickie as President
 T. Montague as Secretary
- " " 2. Wilson Being Edged Out
- " " 3. Ukrainians Asserting Themselves
- " " 4. Trying to Absorb the "Steel Helmets"
 Montreal W.E.L. at Work
 Left Wing Groups set up
- " " 5. Change in Montreal Leadership

- " " 6. W.U.L. and the Stratford Strike
Fred Rose
- " " 7. The "Nationalist Party"
To Contest Federation Constituencies?
No Boycotting of Jews Yet
"Protocols of Learned Elders of Zion"
- " " 8. City District Convention in Montreal
Meeting Place a Secret
- " " 9. The Riot at St. Martin's Hall
- " " 10. Notes
W.U.L. led 130 out of 180 strikes
"Concentration Areas"
"Putting fear into the Hearts of the Judges"
A.E. Smith on Socialist Professors
Reorganization of Montreal C.L.D.L.
Pamphlet on "The Murderer in the Mount Royal"

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

- " " 11. BRITISH COLUMBIA: Notes
The B.C. Proletarian to appear
Propaganda in the City Schools
Fraction System not making headway
House to house meetings among foreigners
Poverty of head office, W.U.L.
Oath of Recruits
- " " 12. ALBERTA: Notes
Preparations for a Coal Miners' Conference
Central Council of Unemployed, Blairmore
Central Defence Committee, Calgary
Province-wide strike?
J. Bpychuk
T. Bradley
Unemployed Married Men's Ass'n, Edmonton
Workers' Central Council
A.E. Bolton
E. Newman

Paragraph No. 13. SASKATCHEWAN: Saskatoon Notes

Vapaus on Convictions
Cameron and Nolan Convicted

- " " 14. MANITOBA: Notes
Brock on lack of interest
Pioneers and Joe Derry
F.S.U. in low Water
Drayton in Fort William
Ukrainian Labour News' Admission
Kanadsky Gudok bi-weekly
Russian Workers' Club
- " " 15. ONTARIO: The Stratford Strike
F.A. Collins and Martin Nevell the
instigators
- " " 16. Joint Meeting in Toronto
- " " 17. Notes
W.E.L.
Unemployed Council
Long Branch Strikers
Windsor Notes
George Arbuckle
Gilbanks and the Ottawa Lumber Workers
Visit to Hanover
Borba on Jugo Slav Convention
Borba wants more circulation
Soviet Russia Today
Worker on Winter Relief
Worker on Stratford Strike
P. Forkin on Estevan
- " " 18. QUEBEC: Notes
Workers' Unity League
C.L.D.L. Hard Up
La Vie Ouvriere in need of money
House to House Collections
Communists and Fascists
Scarlett and R. Stewart in Montreal
- " " 19. THE MARITIME PROVINCES: Notes
Benoit Expelled
Seamen and Harbour Workers Union.

[4]

APPENDIX NO. I: GENERALI. W.E.L. Now Under Complete Communist Control

A report from Winnipeg, dated 29th September, describes certain curious manoeuvres by which the Workers' Ex-Service Men's League has come completely under the control of the Communist Party, and for that matter the Ukrainians.

This reorganization began at the convention in Ottawa.

The movement began about two years ago in Winnipeg by Communist Ex-Service Men as a part of the Communist Party, the Winnipeg branch grew to about 225 members, but some of the leaders became ambitious to control it independently of the Communist Party, were thrust forth, then when the organization was in proper Communist condition through these expulsions, two men, G. Ashkook and Charles Marriott, disappeared with the funds of the organization; this caused another appearance of Communist discipline and the expulsion of a few more members.

At this stage, J. Wilson was made National Secretary, and to pull things together; working hard Wilson not only improved the conditions of the Winnipeg branch, but set up other branches in various parts of the Dominion. As a result of his success, Wilson became somewhat inflated, regarding himself as a national figure in the revolutionary world, and becoming insubordinate towards the Communist leaders.

About this time Hugo Graff of Germany visited Winnipeg, and as a result of his visit, the Workers' Ex-Service Men's League became affiliated with the International of War Veterans and War Victims.

The Communist leaders finding Wilson too important for their purposes, laid plans to supercede him. They delected one Dickie as National Secretary and T. Montague as National Organizer. Dickie is described as a "yes-man"

[5]

of the Communist leaders, especially the Ukrainian leaders. The Communists threw Dickie into the background and instructed Montague to organize the "All Canada Congress of Veterans," to take sundry steps at once to keep Wilson involved in these activities.

It had been intended to elect Dickie at the Ottawa gathering, but the plot became known to some other members who objected, and in the end Dickie was dropped and Montague elected National Secretary, and it was arranged that Montague was to be the nominal secretary with Dickie in Toronto, where the National Office is to be established.

2. Wilson Being Edged Out

Our report says:-

"Thus another drama has drawn to a close where the revolutionary leaders have come out victorious and which proves that the Communist cells in each branch of the Workers' Ex-Service Men's League maintain control and act on instructions given them and the leaders, through them, keep the upper hand.

Another passage is:-

"As to the local situation since the convention, Hitchin was ordered back to Winnipeg at once to take charge and organize the Ex-Service Men and to remain in Winnipeg to see that Wilson does not adopt tactics to start a counter-move and bring about a split. The Communist leaders in Winnipeg have already started to play their part in trying to win the confidence of the W.E.L., by offering the local branch assistance to obtain a hall of their own, by paying the rent to give them a start, and at the same time Wilson's return is being delayed in the hope that when he does come back the local branch will be reorganized and that his influence will be of no avail in creating friction."

3. Ukrainians Asserting Themselves

A further passage is:-

"There is an entirely different feeling existing between the ex-service men and the Ukrainian leaders in the party and from present indications it looks as if every assistance will be given the ex-service men to organize and become prominent in the revolutionary movement. Already plans are laid to organize a branch in Fort Rouge. It remains to be seen what the outcome of the whole situation will be and a further report will be submitted as the situation advances."

In forwarding this report, the Officer Commanding in Manitoba observes:-

"The foregoing report outlines the W.E.L. situation and shows it now well under the control of the Communist

[6]

Party. It is interesting to note how the Ukrainians are asserting themselves. Previous reports showed that Navizowski has been working to control the W.E.L. in Winnipeg for some time past."

4. Trying to Absorb the "Steel Helmets"

The Communist Party in Montreal are making an effort to bore into the "Steel Helmets" society. On 26th September a meeting was held at a private house between four Communists, Campbell, Peace, Stewart and Rose and eight members of the "Steel Helmets". There is a left wing in the "Steel Helmets" and it is hoped to use this to establish ultimate control of the society. It was decided that Peace and Stewart should join the "Steel Helmets". Further, an election of the Executive Committee of the "Steel Helmets" was imminent and it was decided to try to get a majority of Left Wing members on the Executive.

A "Left Wing Group" is to be formed in the "Steel Helmets" Society, the eight members who were present at this discussion furnishing the nucleus. It is to meet once a week under the guidance of Fred Rose.

In forwarding this report the Officer Commanding the R.C.M. Police in Quebec observes that this attempt to have the Workers' Ex-Service Men's League absorb the "Steel Helmets" is not likely to be successful, as a majority of the members of that society are French-Canadians.

5. Changes in Montreal Leadership

A sort of shake-up among the leaders of the Communist Party in Montreal is proceeding. Gershman goes to Toronto to replace Sims, secretary of the Workers Unity League there, who is going to Nova Scotia, but does not expect to remain long in that city; on his return Gershman will probably give him assistance. Bill Baker is being transferred to Toronto and will be on the staff of the Worker. Fred Rose succeeds Baker as organizer in Montreal. Dave Kashton, one of those recently released from Bordeaux jail, has become a Young Communist League organizer, replacing Mischa Kroll, who is expecting to be sent elsewhere.

[7]

George Edwards is in charge of the organizational work among the unemployed in Rosemount. Bendoff is organizer of Icor in Montreal.

6. W.U.L. and the Stratford Strike

At a joint meeting of the "Steel Helmets" and the Workers' Ex-Service Men's League in Montreal, on 29th September, Rose made some interesting remarks about the Stratford strike:-

"Rose said that the Ontario Government at last realized that the workers were organized in the Stratford district. The workers there had been satisfied with their low wages until a W.U.L. organizer went there and got them to strike against the conditions under which they

worked. He stated he was in Toronto last week and had made contact with the Stratford strike leaders, who were under instructions to refuse absolutely to return to work until all demands had been met."

7. The "Nationalist Party"

A further report upon the Nationalist Party of Winnipeg, dated 28th September, states that on 23rd September a well attended meeting was held in Transcona. Officers of the society in that town are R.F. Webster and G.A. Smith, who spoke, as well as Whittaker, Parker, the present secretary of the general organization, and a youth named J. Cole. Two well-known Communist speakers, Orton Wade and J. Stewart, attended for the purpose of heckling the speakers; but they sat quiet.

On 26th September an open meeting was held in Winnipeg which was attended by a good representation of the various elements in the population of the country. It was announced that the Nationalist Party hoped so to increase in numbers as to contest Federal constituencies. It was announced that the Party is not a Fascist one, the leaders fearing that the name would be a detriment. Later in a private meeting it became clear that the leaders intend to copy the Fascists and Hitler.

Our report says:-

"I noticed a large number of Germans at these meetings and those to whom I was able to speak: while they had heard of the 'Friends of the New Germany' movement, did not know of its existence in Winnipeg."

Our report adds:-

[8]

"There is no talk yet of boycotting the Jews, but the Germans of Winnipeg would support any movement in this direction."

R.F. Webster is selling a book called "Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion", which is an extremely anti-Jewish publication. A large number of copies have been sold for 25¢ and Webster has had to secure a fresh supply.

8. City District Convention in Montreal

At a meeting of the Central Group of the French Branch of the Communist Party which was held on 28th September arrangements were made for a City District Convention which was to be held on 1st October, and delegates were appointed.

Our report says:-

"The meeting place of this convention is being kept secret for the time being. All delegates are being instructed to meet in Place d'Armes at 9 a.m. on 1st October. Rose will then conduct them to the meeting place."

A further passage is:-

"It will be decided at this convention, amongst the business transacted, whether Jeanne Corbin will return to Montreal from Toronto and be manager of La Vie Ouvriere."

9. The Riot at St. Martin's Hall

At this meeting there was discussion about the mobbing at St. Martin's Hall, on 24th September. Marsolin had been present and said that he had to flee for his life. According to him:-

"The trouble was mainly on the religious issue. There had been a previous meeting in the hall on 22nd September, at which Biladeau and Pilon had attacked the Roman Catholic Church, and this meeting had taken place at the same time as the Italians were holding a religious fete. The Italians Fascists were enraged over this and as a result broke up the meeting on 24th inst., with the aid of Chalifour's French Fascists."

In forwarding this the Officer Commanding the R.C.M. Police in Quebec, remarks:-

"Regarding the riot on 24th September, it is very obvious that any radical who attacks the church in this province is asking for trouble. The City Police have the situation well in hand and the trouble is not likely to spread."

10. Notes

According to a report from Vancouver, dated 25th

[9]

September, it is stated that on 24th September, a meeting was held under the auspices of the Workers' Unity League, in a local theatre, at which speeches were given by George Drayton, Mrs. F. Hutton and Fred Grange of the Relief Camp Workers. Our report says:-

"Drayton opened his speech with an outline of the work performed by the Workers' Unity League since 1932, stating that out of a total of 180 strikes which had taken place in Canada during the past few years, 130 were led entirely by the Workers' Unity League, the others

being more or less of a spontaneous nature. Strikes, speaker stated, were one of the most effective methods for the workers obtaining their demands."

He added a reference to the Toronto fight for "free speech."
The attendance at this meeting was about 300.

A report from Vancouver remarks that some time ago several cities such as Vancouver, Winnipeg, Calgary, etc., were marked out for "concentration areas", to be the subject of special effort; but it is added that the headquarters in Toronto, in trying to organize that city, drew upon the other places for organizers, speakers, etc., so that outside of Toronto the movement has been somewhat held up.

On 21st September a Central Branch meeting of the Canadian Labour Defence League was held in Calgary, as a protest against the arrest of the communists in Germany. Resolutions were passed. Gus Fettschlag declared that Arthur Evans would have got five years instead of one if the workers had not made such protests which had put "fear into the hearts of judges". He urged the workers to turn out in thousands on the day in which the Calgary rioters were tried, and:-

"If this is done the judges will be forced to consider all things before they pass sentence."

A.E. Smith addressed about 500 persons, the majority of whom were of foreign extraction, in Port Arthur on 22nd September, on the forthcoming trial of the rioters at Saskatoon.

[10]

His speech was long, and covered a considerable number of subjects. He reviewed the work of the Canadian Labour Defence League during the past year, attacked the Dominion Government and also the C.C.F. In this connection he said:-

"In the first place the C.C.F. manifesto was written by Prof. Scott of McGill University, who was a liberal. The capitalists became afraid of the radical movement realizing that the liberals were not absorbing the radicalism of the workers, so they decided there should be a third Capitalist party for this purpose. So Professor Scott was

instructed to write a manifesto for the C.C.F. (This is not a personal attack upon Professor Scott but Political). I sat with him in his study and he told me himself that he was a liberal, with in the last two years.

"Then we have Professor Underwood of Toronto University, this man is a Christian Socialist, he believes in the Divinity of Christ, but there is no such thing as Christian socialism, which is founded upon co-operation between capitalists and workers. 'I suppose that if Captain Philpotts had defeated Hepburn for the leadership of the liberal party, then Hepburn would have been the Jesus Christ of the C.C.F and Philpotts, the Moses of the Liberals.'"

Our report contains the following comment:-

"Smith appeared tired and despondent, and seems to have lost a good deal of his former fire."

The District Central Council of the Canadian Labour Defence League in Montreal met on 26th September and effected a general reorganization of the local party. The Organizational and the Legal and Finance Departments were abolished and the District Central Council is to run all the work, with individual members in charge of special features of it.

Joe Wallace has been writing a pamphlet about the former President Machado (who is living in the Mount Royal Hotel), entitled "The Murderer in the Mount Royal". Ten thousand of these pamphlets are to be published in French and English, and they will be sold at a low price.
