

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

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WEEKLY SUMMARY
REPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS
AND AGITATORS IN CANADA
REPORT

A quarrel among Communists in Toronto revealed the existence of the "District Bureau Committee", a secret body, "elected" after Buck and the others were sent to prison; it is the ruling body of the Communist Party.

Additional trouble is expected in Winnipeg, owing to the anger felt by revolutionists at the closing of the camp at the Grassmere Ditch.

Henri Barbusse, the French revolutionary writer, is expected to visit Toronto soon.

The Montreal Canadian Labour Defence League is in difficulty with its lawyers. It has not paid them, and their zeal has slackened.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL1. Communism Among Ex-Soldiers.

The Officer Commanding the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Quebec in an official letter regarding conditions there says:-

"Communism amongst ex-soldiers remains confined to the Workers' Ex-Service Men's League. This organization is meeting with a small measure of success in its efforts to bore into the 'Steel Helmets'. A number of the league have already become members of

the 'Steel Helmets', but the latter organization, as at present constituted, is non-political and if Communist propaganda is preached at their gatherings it is not likely to get a good reception, particularly in view of the fact that the membership of the 'Steel Helmets' is largely French Canadian."

He recalls that the membership of the Communist Party is about 250, and says:-

"The work of the membership of the Communist Party, is to manipulate and direct all potential radical movements to a revolutionary end. My reason for mentioning this is because there might be a tendency on the part of people to analyse the strength of the revolutionary movement on the basis of the membership of the Communist Party, which, in my opinion, would be very unwise as the majority of the sympathizers are members of affiliated organizations who are continuously carrying on revolutionary propaganda."

2. Closing of the Grassmere Ditch

The closing of the Grassmere Ditch has caused a peculiar situation to rise in Winnipeg. The majority of the men in the camp preferred that place to any other camp, and, finding themselves obliged to leave to go to a less agreeable camp, they are accusing the leaders of the Camp Workers' Union of going too far in their subversive tactics, thus a split in the Camp Workers' Union has occurred. The leaders of the Left Wing element, for their part, are furious at the closing of the camp, which they considered a perfect ground for the breeding of discontent.

To retrieve themselves the Communist leaders have undertaken to organize the unmarried men who are being fed at the dining halls in the city (whose number is about 3,500), and are endeavouring to induce them to demand more relief, and

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to refuse to go to the camps. The report dealing with this situation says:-

"It might be said that there is an ugly mood among the single men. They are dissatisfied with the idea of being forced into camps at a moment's notice; that is, being told on their arrival for their relief that they are cut off and must go to camp, which is generally the same day. This they resent and it has caused a great deal of discontent even among the more loyal ones, who, if given a few days' notice to get ready to go, would go willingly."

"The coming week will see developments of a dangerous and riotous nature."

3. Anti-Fascist Agitation

An anti-Fascist Conference was held in the Canadian Labour Defence League hall in Verdun, on 10th October. It was sponsored by the Verdun Workmen's Association. The attendance was about 200.

Our report says:-

"Official delegates numbered about 75, representing 39 organizations, 30 of which were left wing organizations.

The report proceeds:-

"McGonnigal of the Verdun Workmen's Association gave a short opening address. He stated that Fascist organizations in Canada were growing and that all workers should unite in the fight against Fascism. He urged that a strong defence body be organized to protect workers' mass meetings."

One Bedard, a member of the Association Humanitaire, deprecated the use of force in opposing Fascism, saying that to do this would encourage the Fascists to use weapons against them.

A member of the Matteoti Club stated that there was no danger of Fascism growing in Canada.

Our report says:-

"He blamed Fascism on Mussolini and accused the Italian Consul in Montreal and the Italian priests of trying to organize Fascism in this city. Neither Bennett nor Taschereau wanted Fascism in Canada for they were too firmly entrenched in their respective positions and Fascism would do them no good. If the delegates really wanted to put an end to Fascism in Canada then all they had to do was to break every bone in the Italian Consul's body and ship him back to Italy. When that was done there would be no Fascism left in Canada."

J.S. Wallace opposed the last speaker strongly. Our report quotes him:-

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"Owing to the deepening crisis the danger of Fascism in this country was growing daily. Now that the workers are refusing to take any more pay cuts and are beginning to organize strongly. The Canadian Government's only method of smashing the workers is by Fascism. Fascism is the medium by which the Capitalist class smashes workers' organizations and kills the workers. He urged that

a strong Defence Corps be organized to protect workers' mass meetings and workers' organizations."

Sarkin urged those present to treat Fascism more seriously than they had been disposed to, arguing that it is stronger in Canada than they had been disposed to believe. He urged the formation of a strong Defence Corps "to defend the workers against the attacks of the Fascists."

It was decided to start an educational programme to educate the workers against Fascism; and also to form a Defence Corps.

Our report adds:-

"Some Trotskyists managed to get into the meeting as official delegates and made some trouble. They urged that only workers should be united in this fight against Fascism and that 'petty bourgeois' elements and intellectuals be left out. They also passed out a leaflet stating their demands."

An Anti-Fascist Executive was formed, to which the following Left Wingers were elected: J.S. Wallace, Sam Bailey, Jim Gauld, Alec Gauld, Sarkin, Bob Haddow and Fred Rose.

Three Trotskyists also were elected.

At a meeting of the Canadian Labour Defence League held in Montreal, on 8th October, it was announced that the Verdun Workmen's Association had succeeded in inducing a number of churches, and athletic bodies to join a "United Front Anti-Fascist Conference", which was to take place on 10th October. At this meeting it was decided to arrange for a big anti-Fascist meeting to be followed by a parade and demonstration to Fletcher's field.

It was also announced at this meeting that:-

"A letter had been received from the National C.L.D.L. Office, Toronto, stating that Henry Barbusse, Parisien author and one of the leaders in the 'Committee for the aid of the Victims of German Fascism', may be in Montreal shortly."

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This report contains the following passage:-

"La Vie Ouvriere for October has been printed but there is not enough money in the treasury to take the issue from the printers. It is a strong issue and devotes a good deal of space to Fascism. In the editorial it asks the public whether it prefers Fascism to Communism."

4. Trouble With the Lawyers.

The District Central Council of the Canadian Labour Defence League held a meeting in Montreal, on 8th October. It was attended by ten members.

It was arranged that each member of the Council should have charge of some one aspect of the work.

This meeting was marked by discussion -- and criticism -- of the way in which the Canadian Labour Defence league bazaar was being organized, and steps were taken to quicken the work. After noting the disappointing money receipts, the report says:-

"A profit of at least \$100 is aimed at. All profits are to be turned over to the C.L.D.L. lawyers, Messrs. Garber and Blumenstein, who are owed over \$800 in legal fees."

A report upon the legal Department was given by Moses Muni, member of the Dresscutters' Union, as follows:-

"Though the C.L.D.L. had gained considerable prestige among the dress cutters during the early period of the recent strike, this had been practically all lost now. The main reason for this was that the League had not been active enough on the picket lines, and further, had not found bail for arrested workers, but had left the dress cutters to find their own bail.

"It was mentioned that of late the lawyers had been very careless with C.L.D.L. cases. Postponements of cases were very frequent and whenever a case was postponed it set the league back quite a lot financially (during the past week about \$20). It was decided that Wallace should visit the lawyers and, under promise of giving them some of the money that is owed, get them to act in a better manner in all league cases."

5. Work of the Communist Party

The Communist Party held a Congress in the Finnish Hall, Montreal, on 1st October. According to reports received, C. Sims of Toronto was the principal speaker. It appears that he stated that although gains had been made in

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some parts of Canada, on the whole, so far as membership was concerned, the movement was falling back instead of making progress. One reason given for the lack of interest in the party was the lack of interesting lectures.

In the future the activities of the party would be concentrated particularly in the three big centres -- Vancouver, Winnipeg and Montreal. New members were demanded; the main sources must be the factory shops, offices and stores. Particular attention must be paid to the Canadian National Railway and the Canadian Pacific Railway shops.

A paragraph of this report is:-

"In reference to the Stratford strike, and effort is being made by the local Workers' Unity League to bring about sympathetic strikes in various furniture factories in Montreal. Leaflets are being distributed in these factories, but as yet there has apparently been no response. Contact is also being made with the Swift Company's plant and the Harris abattoirs."

In forwarding this report the Officer Commanding the R.C.M. Police in Quebec says:-

"A recent leaflet on 'Fascism' was issued and distributed by the Communist Party of Canada, Montreal District."

A report from Toronto, dated 16th October, states that at a meeting of Branch No. 2 of the Communist Party of Canada held on 13th October a report was received that the Young Communist League, Canadian Labour Defence League, Workers' United League, and all other organizations join forces to work on certain shops and railways. The list was the General Steelware Company, Toronto; the railway shops at Spadina Avenue, Toronto; and the railway shops at Mimico, Ontario.

The following paragraph also appears in our report:-

"Members of the District Bureau are being sent out to give the lead at Hamilton Mercury Mills; Ford plants in Windsor; steel company, Hamilton, Welland, Niagara, Kitchener and other places. The ex-service men are also to be drawn into this."

Vapaus of 4th October contains the statement that the

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statement that the Co-operative in Timmins has supported the Stratford Strike by refusing to purchase the Swift products.

The same course will be taken by the Co-operative in Kirkland Lake which also sent \$25 to the strikers.

A meeting of the Canadian Labour Defence League was held in Edmonton on 6th October, with a total attendance of 25. The chairman was P. Morris and the Secretary, E. Newman.

An extensive plan of work for the next two months was drawn up. This has five special subjects: the campaign against Section 98; the release of the eight in Kingston; Derry and Evans; the 14 Calgary strikers; and Edmonton "Hunger Marchers."

Much was said as to publicity, etc., the first proposal being to prepare special leaflets to effect a very wide distribution.

At this meeting it was announced that a "Western Repeal Conference" is to be held in Calgary, on 12th and 13th November. There also was talk of "United Front Conferences" in Calgary, Edmonton, Edson, Smoky Lake, Red Deer, Drumheller, Crow's Nest Pass, Lethbridge and Medicine Hat.

Vapaus of 7th October contains the notice of the opening of a school at Port Arthur on 1st October. Forty students appeared on the first day and 60 are expected to attend.

"After the courses the students must take advantage of what they have learned and draw new masses into revolutionary organizations. The farmers in the neighbourhood are requested to aid the economical part of the courses."

Vapaus of 6th October also announces the holding of Central Ontario Executive Courses at Sudbury, which so far has 20 students.

6. The "District Bureau Committee"

At a meeting of Branch No. 2 of the Communist Party

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in Toronto, on 5th October, an incident occurred which is thus related:-

"Lyons reported that trouble was brewing in the Workers' Ex-Service Men's League over the United Front Committee spending the money collected at meetings too freely. Lyons stated words to the effect that Unemployed Councils were grafting and using the Workers' Ex-Service Men's League for tools to collect money, etc."

He added other complaints of a less important nature. In reply, Jeanne Corbin told him to put his complaint in writing, and that it would be taken to a section meeting, and from there would be sent to the District Bureau.

Our report proceeds:-

"Information was asked if this District Bureau Committee was elected by rank and file of party members. Corbin stated it was a secret body elected after Buck and the rest were sent to Kingston Penitentiary, and will be the committee until the party can come out in the open."
