

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 4th July, 1934.

SECRETNO. 713WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATORS IN CANADAReport

A vote was taken at Flin Flon on 30th June as to whether work should be resumed or not. Some of those who were likely to vote in favour of returning to work were assaulted when going to cast their ballots. After some rioting order was restored. This strike is no nearer settlement.

A number of important conventions will be held shortly. The Farmers' Unity League will convene in Regina on 7th and 8th July. The Young Communist League will hold a convention in Toronto about the middle of July. This will be followed by the proposed Ontario "hunger march" on 31st July, and the Anti-War Conference on 4th August also in Toronto.

Sam Carr and Matthew Popowich have been released on parole from Kingston Penitentiary.

[2]

APPENDICESTable of ContentsAPPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

- Paragraph No. 1 — [~~3~~deletion: 8 lines]
 " " 2 — [~~3~~deletion: 6 lines]
 " " 3 — Proposed Ontario "hunger march"
 Permit for parade is refused
 P. Phillips makes plans all the same
 " " 4 — A.E. Smith to attend F.U.L. Conference
 To be held in Regina, 7th & 8th July, 1934

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

- " " 5 — BRITISH COLUMBIA
 Friends of the Soviet Union in Vancouver

C. E. McKendrick on "Capitalist dictatorship"

Also deals with relief & Fascism

Fred Grange on B.C. League Against War
and Fascism

Attempt to interfere with relief workers
is frustrated

[deletion: blank] speaks on "The workers' crusade"

[deletion: blank] also talks

" "

6 — ALBERTA

The Unemployed Married Men's Association

[deletion: blank] are criticized

[deletion: blank] moves vote of censure on strike
leaders

U.M.M.A. to co-operate with C.L.D.L. &
U.S.M.A.

[deletion: blank] speaks about Drumheller

[deletion: blank] is arrested

U.M.M.A. meeting addressed by Corrigan

[deletion: 1 line]

[deletion: blank] is getting bolder in speech

Drumheller relief workers vote to resume
work, then change their minds

Unemployed meeting in Lethbridge

Hugh Anderson, R. Wotton, MacDonald, G.
Anderson, J. Corey

Movement to organize Doukhobors at Cowley

M.W.U.C. at Blairmore sends money to
Flin Flon

[3]

Paragraph No. 7 — MANITOBA

The D.C.C. of C.L.D.L. in Winnipeg

[deletion: blank] goes to Flin Flon

Letter from Flin Flon is read

Plans to picket German Consulate

School of training to be held shortly

C.L.D.L. protest meeting

C. Hitchins, J. Penner, O. Morgan, A.
Campbell

W.U.L. demonstration at Parliament Bldgs.

L. Vassil, G. Taylor, M. Sago

M. Sago talks about Flin Flon

- " " 8 — ONTARIO
 Notes
 [deletion: 1 line]
 Ottawa Ukrainians meet
 [deletion: 1 line]
- " " 9 — QUEBEC
 [deletion: 5 lines]
 Tim Buck Branch, C.L.D.L.
 Money is needed at Noranda
 Needle Trades Workers to hold convention
 Finnish fraction in C.P. of C.
 No more organizational work among un-
 employed
 [deletion: blank] is missed
- " " 10 — THE MARITIME PROVINCES
 The Halifax Branch of C.L.D.L.
 Ross & R. Filmore speak
The Steel Worker is in circulation again
 Only half of first issue was sold

[4]

APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

[#] [deletion: 1 page]

[5]

[deletion: 1 page]

[6]

[deletion: 3/4 page]

3. Proposed Ontario "Hunger March"

[#] Although the Toronto city authorities have refused to issue a permit for the proposed Ontario "hunger march", which is to take place on 30th, 31st July and 1st August, preparations are being made to provide lodging for approxi

[7]

mately 8,000 men. Phillip Phillips, one of the leading members of the Hunger March Committee, remarked to one of the observers:-

“The city authorities will know on the last day of the demonstration whether or not they can stop us from showing the want that is in the country. We intend to hold this parade and meeting and show the authorities that we mean business”.

Phillips was of the opinion that the city authorities will not issue any permit as they are afraid of a riot if so many men come to the city from out of town.

4. A. E. Smith to Attend F.U.L. Conference

[✂#]

A. E. Smith, General Secretary of the Canadian Labour Defence League, is expected to attend the First National Conference of radical farmers called by the Farmers' Unity League and which is to be held in Regina, Sask., on 7th and 8th July, 1934.

[8]

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

5. Friends of the Soviet Union in Vancouver

[✂#]

A rather well attended meeting of the Friends of the Soviet Union, Main Branch, of Vancouver was held in the Orange Hall, on 17th June, there being approximately 800 people present and the speaker of the evening was C. E. McKendrick, who spoke on “Capitalist Dictatorship”. He traced the history of Capitalism back to the time of the Romans, and stated that ever since it had been supported by the Forces of the State. “Capitalism simply means dictatorship”, he said. “In this country”, he continued, “the relief office authorities dictate to those who are unfortunate enough to be on relief and tell them what they are to eat and what they must not”. He defined the State as a concern that looks after the interests of the Capitalists and not the workers. He contended that the State constitutes force and violence, and that in the case of strikes and demonstrations the State faces the workers with bayonets, guns and artillery.

Referring to Fascism in Germany and Austria, McKendrick intimated that seventy-seven per cent of the people in those countries are Social

Democrats, but they are being misled by reactionary leaders, just in the same way as the bulk of the membership of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation are being in this country. He contended that Fascism is growing in this country; that he could see it coming and urged the audience to be prepared to fight against it at the present time. He said the U.S.S.R. is the only country genuinely wishing peace, and that the Capitalistic class on the other hand is working towards war, inciting one country to fight against another. He also launched a bitter attack on the Oxford Group movement and the British Israel Society, characterizing these organizations as merely

[9]

branches of the Fascist movement.

Following McKendrick's address, Laycock, of the Central Committee of Ex-Service Men, seconded all the remarks made by him (McKendrick) stating that the only way out is through a revolution to Communism. Fred Grange, of the British Columbia Relief Camp Workers' Union, took the floor for a short time and spoke with reference to the work of the British Columbia League Against War and Fascism, urging that now is the time to stop the coming war. He urged all present to come out on the streets and demonstrate on 4th August.

[§#] A detachment of the Provincial Police and a squad from the Vancouver Police Department dispersed a group of approximately 50 men who compelled a municipal crew to stop work on the widening of Mosquito Creek bridge, near Vancouver, on 21st June. There was no violence, but the disturbers, jeering and hooting, were forced to withdraw from the vicinity, following which the employees resumed their work. It constituted an attempt on the part of the unemployed to interfere with relief work.

[§#] [§deletion: blank] a member of the Unitarian Church of British Columbia and the Anti-War League, gave a lecture on "The Workers' Crusade" at a meeting of the English Bay Branch of the Friends of the Soviet Union at Vancouver, on 17th June. It was attended by approximately 50 people. The lecture centered principally around the question of arms and ammunition, their manufacture, and the Disarmament Conference at Geneva.

Following [§deletion: blank] address, [§deletion: blank] took the floor for a few minutes, and congratulated [§deletion: blank] on her fine lecture.

The meeting closed with the singing of the "International".

[10]

II. ALBERTA

6. The Unemployed Married Men's Association

[§#] The Communist Party fraction of the Unemployed Married Men's Association of Edmonton met on 16th June in the Workers' Unity League office. [§deletion: blank] acted as chairman. In a discussion on the mistakes made during the recent strike, which was sponsored by the association, [§deletion: 1/3 line] were severely criticized for their policy and individualism.

Following the discussion, [§deletion: blank] moved a motion to the effect that the local Bureau of the Communist Party in Edmonton be reconstructed. This motion, however, failed to pass. [§deletion: blank] then put forward a motion that the leaders of the last strike be severely censured for their bureaucratic attitude displayed during the strike. This motion was seconded by [§deletion: blank] and passed. [§deletion: blank] who displayed considerable uneasiness following the passing of this resolution, pleaded for leniency stating that whatever the members may decide they should not kick him out of the Party. He promised to try his best and work hard as a rank and file member if deposed from his position [§deletion: 1/2 line] It was decided that the Unemployed Married Men's Association Grievance Committee in co-operation with the Canadian Labour Defence League and the Unemployed Single Men's Association send delegations to the Civic and Provincial Governments in an effort to have all single men, who were struck off relief for their participation in the relief strike, reinstated. Also to demand the withdrawal of all charges against those arrested during the strike.

At this meeting [§deletion: blank] stated that he was in Calgary during the past week and had discussed the Drumheller (Alta.) Valley situation with the District Bureau of the Communist Party at that point. He stated that the situation in the Drumheller Valley was exceptionally bad with much destitution and hunger, and that the most militant elements

[11]

had been sent from Drumheller to various parts of the province in order to obtain the sympathy of labour organizations.

After the meeting, in conversation with several individuals. [§deletion: blank] stated however that the militant leaders of the Drumheller strike had been removed from that point and sent into the various parts of the province in order to safeguard them in case any store seizure movement

materializes. [redacted] expressed the opinion that if a movement to raid stores took place in the Drumheller Valley it would provide a good basis for the Communist Party of Canada to work in an effort to spread the strike throughout the province involving other industries.

[redacted] [redacted] recently arrested by the Edmonton City Police on a warrant charging him with "unlawful assembly", appeared before Police Magistrate P.C.H. Primrose at Edmonton on the morning of 25th June and was committed for trial at the next sitting of the Court of Competent Criminal Jurisdiction opening at Edmonton during the latter part of September of this year.

[redacted] The Unemployed Married Men's Association held a meeting in Edmonton on 20th June. The first speaker was [redacted] who was arrested the previous day by the Edmonton City Police and was out on bail. [redacted] dealt at length with his arrest and stated that no matter what the outcome of his trial will be he will remain loyal to the Communist Party and carry on his work as an organizer for the Farmers' Unity League.

After a few words from [redacted] got up to speak. He criticized adversely the Provincial and Dominion Governments, lauded the Soviet system and urged the audience to organize under the

[12]

revolutionary banner of the Communist Party of Canada with a view to overthrowing the present form of government and establishing a Soviet in Canada. He added that if the workers had the slightest idea of their power the present government would not last five minutes and that in a very short time Canada would be under the Soviet system of government.

[redacted] Although the relief strikers of the Drumheller (Alta.) Valley voted approximately three to one in favour of resuming work on 21st June and thus accepting the scale of relief set out by the Advisory Committee for the Province of Alberta, the strike is still in progress. When the vote was taken it was anticipated by the strikers that the issuance of relief would be retroactive to 1st June. The strikers maintain that the Provincial relief authorities had given intimations to that effect. It now transpires that it is not so and the relief strikers in consequence have taken another vote rescinding their former decision. However, it is not expected that any

serious situation will arise due to this disagreement and it is felt that the dissention in this particular area will be overcome in the near future.

[§<#] About 200 people attended a meeting of the unemployed in the Red Square, Lethbridge, Alta., on the afternoon of 20th June. The meeting was addressed by Hugh Anderson of Drumheller, Ralph Wotton of Calgary, MacDonald of Drumheller, George Anderson of Lethbridge, and J. Corey of Calgary. The two speakers from Drumheller spoke on conditions in the Drumheller Valley, asserting that the strike there was a success. Both speakers urged the unemployed of Lethbridge to organize a strong picket line and to display a militant attitude towards the city authorities.

[13]

George Anderson, in the course of his speech, informed the meeting that the miners of No. 3 mine had voted one hundred per cent in support of the strike.

The other speakers dealt, in a general way, with the struggle of the workers and urged the unemployed to carry on with the strike.

[§<#] There is a movement to organize the Doukhobors at Cowley and district into Russian Clubs. [§<deletion: blank] the leading member at Coleman, Alta., is in charge of this scheme.

[§<#] The Mine Workers' Union of Canada, Blairmore, Alta., recently sent \$100 to the striking miners at Flin Flon. This union also decided to hold a 24-hour strike at Blairmore in sympathy with the Flin Flon strikers. The date for this strike has been left in the hands of the Central Committee. It was also decided to assess every member of the union at 50 towards the Flin Flon strike.

III. MANITOBA

7. The D.C.C. of the C.L.D.L. in Winnipeg

[§<#] The District Central Council of the Canadian Labour Defence League at Winnipeg met on the afternoon of 23rd June. The agenda was lengthy and much discussion took place. [§<deletion: blank] was not present.

[~~deletion: blank~~] had left for the Flin Flon strike area to participate in the strike of the miners there.

A letter from the Canadian Labour Defence League at Flin Flon, unsigned and written in poor English, was read and discussed. Although the letter did not contain much information it was stated therein that the miners were maintaining a militant stand and predicted that victory was in sight for the strikers. The letter also requested that

[14]

membership cards be sent to Flin Flon as a member wanted to join the Canadian Labour Defence League at that point. It was reported that all plans for the picketing of the building which is occupied by the German Consul in Winnipeg were complete, that each organization affiliated with the council in turn would start a tour of duty commencing at 10.00 A.M. on Monday the 25th, for one week's duration. The picketers will pace up and down the street in the vicinity of the offices of the German Consul and will carry banners and slogans for the purpose of attracting the attention of the public and also in order to obtain space in the newspapers. The banners will bear the usual slogans demanding the release of Ernst Thaelmann, the leader of the Communist Party of Germany, Anticipating arrests in connection with the picketing of the Consulate the council had made the necessary arrangements and will conduct the defence in case any arrests are made.

The council also endorsed a scheme whereby it will be possible to hold a school for the training of functionaries in the Canadian Labour Defence League. The school is to open in the near future, and will last for about eight weeks.

[~~deletion: 1/4 line~~] main activities in the Flin Flon strike area will be the organizing of women's groups to render assistance to the men, also the raising of finances in order to enable the strikers to prolong the struggle. [~~deletion: blank~~] will also make arrangements for the defence of those that may be arrested for their strike activities. [~~deletion: blank~~] will also conduct a campaign of agitation amongst the men with a view to maintaining a militant spirit and attitude towards the authorities.

[15]

[~~deletion: #~~] Approximately 250 people attended a meeting held under the auspices of the Canadian Labour Defence League on the Market Square, Winnipeg, on 24th June. The meeting was staged in protest against the imprisonment of Ernst Thaelmann, leader of the Communist Party of Germany. The meeting was addressed by C. Hitchens, Alderman Jacob Penner, Oscar

Morgan and A. Campbell. A resolution was passed which is to be forwarded to the German Consul in Winnipeg demanding the immediate release of Thaelmann who, it was claimed, has been kept incarcerated for 15 months without a trial. Mass picketing of the German Consul in Winnipeg was urged by the speakers. The speeches were brief dealing almost exclusively with German affairs.

[X#] The protest demonstration sponsored by the Workers' Unity League in front of the Legislative Buildings, Winnipeg, on Saturday afternoon, 23rd June, was a decided failure. Not more than 200 answered the call. A. Brock was the chairman and the speakers were L. Vassil, G. Taylor and M. Sago, some of whom could not refrain from remarking that it was a very discouraging turn-out. The demonstration was staged in protest against the sending of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to Flin Flon, and the object was to demand the immediate withdrawal of that Force.

L. Vassil spoke of the exploitation of workers by the Capitalist class, the lay-offs and relief cuts, and expressed the fear that at Flin Flon the same thing may take place as at Estevan. He condemned Mayor Webb, Premier Bracken, Attorney General Major and Premier Bennett.

G. Taylor, in the course of a 10 minute talk, appealed for the support of the strike, particularly for help to the Workers' International Relief.

M. Sago, in a rather lengthy speech, dealt with the conditions at Flin Flon, saying that the strike was justified

[16]

and called in order to remedy conditions which he termed "deplorable". The demonstration lasted one hour and 15 minutes, and concluded at about 4:00 P.M. with the singing of the "International".

IV. ONTARIO

8. Notes

[X#] [Xdeletion: 1/3 page]

[X#] A joint meeting of the Executive Committees of Ukrainian organizations in Ottawa on 26th June decided to conclude the campaign of the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association defence at the end of June. A plan was presented for a July campaign to collect funds in the interests

of (a) the Workers' Benevolent Association, (b) the Workers' International Relief (miners' strike), and (c) La Vie Ouvriere.

[§#] [§deletion: 4 lines]

[17]

V. QUEBEC

[§deletion: 1 page]

[18]

[§#] [§deletion: 1/2 line] at a meeting of the Tim Buck Branch of the Canadian Labour Defence League at Montreal, held on 21st June. [§deletion: 1/3 line] he referred to the Noranda strike and stressed the necessity of raising funds for the strikers. A collection was taken which realized the sum of \$8. [§deletion: 1/3 line] [§deletion: 1/4 line] of the Montreal district office, informed the meeting that a telegram had been received from Noranda, stating that 2,000 workers were on the picket lines. [§deletion: blank] contended that money must be rushed to Noranda at once as many arrests had been made. [§deletion: blank] states that the sum of \$300 was needed to send [§deletion: blank] Canadian Labour Defence League Counsel, to Noranda to handle the cases of those who had been arrested. It was decided that a committee be appointed and charged with the arranging of any activities necessary relative to the Noranda strike.

[§#] The Needle Trades Workers' Industrial Union is to hold a four-day convention in Montreal commencing on 29th June; approximately 110 delegates from various parts of Canada are expected to attend. [§deletion: 1/2 line] it is announced, will be among the Toronto delegates.

[§#] The Finnish Communist Party fraction at Montreal has recently passed a resolution to the effect that no more organizational work is to be done this summer amongst the unemployed. They stated that it has been found impossible to organize French-Canadian workers in that district and, further, unemployment was no longer acute among Finnish workers. This

resolution has caused quite a stir in Communist circles for it is the first time a resolution of this nature has been passed in the Montreal district.

[19]

[§<#] The fact that [§<deletion: blank] is absent through illness is keenly felt and generally discussed in Communist circles in Montreal. It is stated that he may be released from the hospital shortly but it is reported that he will go to Halifax for a rest before resuming his duties in the district.

VI. THE MARITIME PROVINCES

10. The Halifax Branch of the C.L.D.L.

[§<#] The Halifax Branch of the Canadian Labour Defence League held an open-air meeting at the North Commons, Halifax, on 22nd June. Comrade Ross opened the meeting and gave a short talk on the Capitalist Government of the world and the Canadian Government in particular, emphasizing that the governments as at present constituted are exploiting the workers and are forcing them to starve or to exist on the miserable relief handed out to them.

Roscoe Filmore of Centreville, N.S., whom the chairman introduced as having been in Soviet Russia during 1922 and 1923 as a foreign expert in charge of a collective farm, was the principal speaker. He compared the Capitalist system with that of the Soviets in Russia claiming that although it was not Heaven over there, there were no Capitalists to reap the harvest of the workers' labour. He said that whilst in Russia he had received more wages than Lenin or Trotsky. On being asked by one of the audience as to what the workers in this country should do in order to better their condition, he answered that the first thing was to educate themselves in order to realize their class position. He stated that Carl Marx had studied these things and had published the facts. Dealing with the Great War he stated that thousands left Canada to be slaughtered or help to slaughter others to create profit and markets for the Capitalists. The whole system, he contended, was rotten and

[20]

is doomed. The workers are awakening and are beginning to think for themselves, he said. Filmore, it appeared, made quite an impression on the audience, which numbered approximately 250.

[X#] The Steel Worker, the official organ of the Amalgamated Steel Workers of Sydney, is in circulation again after a period of silence. The current issue contains eight pages and its contents are of a mixed revolutionary nature. It is dated 16th June, 1934.

[X#] Reports submitted to a meeting of the Amalgamated Steel Workers of Nova Scotia, on 17th June, would indicate that only 1,000 of the 2,000 copies of the first issue of The Steel Worker were sold. [Xdeletion: blank] stated that the reason why the papers were not all sold was because the system of circulation was faulty. He maintained that in order to dispose of a sufficient number a *proper system of distribution must be planned and put into practice*. He also maintained that in order to maintain the paper on a paying basis a larger circulation must be built up. The consensus of opinion of the meeting was to the effect that the Press Committee must endeavour to put the paper on a paying basis.
