

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 25th July, 1934

SECRETNO. 716WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATORS IN CANADAReport

The strike at Flin Flon has ended. Nearly a full crew is at work in the mine, the company's attitude is conciliatory, and there is every reason to hope that work will go on uninterrupted for some time to come.

The National Conference of Toiling Farmers held in Regina under the direction of the Farmers' Unity League was well attended and must be voted a success.

Sam Carr delivered a very outspoken address in Montreal on 17th July. His belligerent attitude affected the audience noticeably.

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Farmers

225 delegates in Regina

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Bespalko, W. E. Wiggins,
Secretary of W.U.L.

Comrades Husa, Sawiak, Korol, Oleksey

Support for The Furrow & The Worker

Resolution is passed

Committee named

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Attends F.U.L. Convention
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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

1. The Farmers' Unity League

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The National Conference of Toiling Farmers called by the Farmers' Unity League and held at Regina, Sask., on 4th, 5th and 6th July, was attended by approximately 225 delegates, the majority of whom came from Saskatchewan and Alberta. There were seven delegates from Manitoba, two from Ontario, five from British Columbia and two fraternal delegates from the United Farmers' League of the United States. It is estimated that

sixty per cent of the delegates were either members of the Communist Party of Canada or the Young Communist League. The convention took place in the City Hall Auditorium and the meals for the delegates were put up in a communal kitchen in the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple by the Workers' International Relief.

Following the election of L. E. Hill, W. H. Childress and J. P. Bepalko as Chairmen for alternate sessions and the election of the various committees, W. E. Wiggins, Secretary of the Farmers' Unity League, delivered the opening address in the course of which he reviewed the present economic status of the farmers, and in which he stressed the need for unity of the labouring farmers against their common oppressors.

Reports were given to the conference from the United Farmers' League, U.S.A., by Comrade Husa; from Ukrainian mass organizations by Comrade Sawiak; from the Young Communist League by Comrade Korol, Editor of the Young Worker; from the Lethbridge Northern Irrigation District Beet Growers' Association by Comrade Childress; and from the Myrnam strike by Comrade Oleksey. Greetings to the conference were extended from a Doukhobor colony in Alberta; from homesteaders in the Peace River; from a sports organization in Ontario; from the summer school at

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Two Hills, Alta., from the Hungarian Workers' Club, Toronto, Ont.; from the Canadian Labour Defence League, National Executive; from the Communist Party of Canada, National Executive; and from The Worker and The Furrow.

The fraternal delegates from the United States told of a similar United Front Conference being held there which was attended by 700 delegates representing 40 States and 58 different organizations.

The fraternal delegate from the Friends of the Soviet Union pointed out that such problems as were being discussed at the conference had long since disappeared from the Soviet Union.

Resolutions were adopted pledging support to The Furrow; against Capitalist war and the growing menace of Fascism; welcoming the work of the Canadian Labour Defence League in defending the rights of the toiling masses in their struggles against the Capitalist class; demanding free medical, dental and optical attention for all labouring farmers and workers, the money to come from taxing incomes over \$3,000 per year; demanding that the age limit for old age pensions be reduced to 55 years; pledging support to The Worker in its campaign to become a daily paper and endorsing the work of the Friends of the Soviet Union and its plan to send a delegation to the U.S.S.R. this year.

The principal purpose of the conference is embodied or summarized in a resolution which was passed by the gathering and which reads as follows:-

“Whereas: This National Conference of Toiling Farmers believes that the struggle of the farmers for improving their living conditions must be co-ordinated nationally after the conference; and

“Whereas: It is not the intention of this conference to organize a new farmers’ organization, the main intention being to get the widest possible unity of the rank and file farmers of all farm organizations as well as the unorganized farmers around the demands adopted at this National Conference;

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“Therefore be it resolved: That this conference elects a committee of 17 members from various provinces and branches of farming who will have the task of meeting from time to time and developing the movement of the farmers on the basis of the decisions of this conference”.

The committee referred to in the resolution comprises: R. Jamieson from British Columbia; J. P. Bepalko, R. Arthur, W. H. Childress and R. L. Welsh from Alberta; James Douglas, A. F. Meek, Ivan Birchard, W. E. Wiggins, J. T. Seward, Florence Bowes and Gordon Shunaman from Saskatchewan; J. Kapusta and G. A. Hoffman from Manitoba; M. Peacock and John Kozak from Ontario and Comrade Husa, honorary member from the United States.

2. Proposed Federation of Miners’ Unions

[✂#]

A conference of [✂deletion: 1/2 line] in the mining industry was held at 62 Rachel St. E., Montreal, Que., on 1st July. It was sponsored by the Workers’ Unity League and the delegates in attendance were:

[✂deletion: 1/4 page]

The claim was made that 11,000 organized miners were represented at this conference. The major problem before it was the unification of the miners and smelter workers in the struggle for their immediate demands, to unite the workers in the whole industry for concerted militant action under the leadership of the Workers’ Unity

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League. While each union is to retain its identity, the conference decided that they must act in unison throughout the whole of Canada with a view to forming a National Miners' and Smelters' Federation.

The following plan was endorsed by the conference and is to be submitted to the rank and file of all organizations for their endorsement.

It is proposed to form a federation of all miners' unions in Canada that will unite all unions for the purpose of mutual help and for joint national campaigns. The union federating would have autonomy within its jurisdiction and would preserve its own identity. The Federation would comprise the Western coal fields (Mine Workers' Union of Canada); Nova Scotia mine fields (Amalgamated Mine Workers of Nova Scotia); metal mines and smelters of Northern Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba and British Columbia (Metal Mining Section, Mine Workers' Union of Canada); and the Minto (N.B.) coal fields. The miners of the latter district may affiliate with the Amalgamated Mine Workers of Nova Scotia or federate as a separate body.

In order to advance the plans of the conference a "National Federation Committee" has been appointed with headquarters at Glace Bay, N.S. A "National Miners' Bulletin" is to be issued once a month which will report the progress of the campaign for organization.

The conference also decreed that every effort is to be made to make contact with the militant rank and file of the United Mine Workers of America and other independent unions with a view to upsetting the "reactionary" leadership in these unions.

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3. The Proposed Ontario "Hunger March"

The Ontario Hunger March Committee held a conference at the Labour [3<#] Temple, 167 Church St., Toronto, Ont., on 13th July. The purpose of the conference was to receive reports on the work performed by various committees in connection with the proposed "hunger march". There were 55 delegates present representing 20 organizations. It was reported that a delegation attempted to interview the Chief of Police with a view to obtaining permission for a parade in the City of Toronto. They were unable to see him, but were met by his assistant who informed them that "if Chief Draper said there would be no 'hunger march', that was all there was to it, there would be none". The spokesman of a delegation that interviewed the Board of Control reported that they got no satisfaction from that quarter. Reports of the Housing Committee would indicate that there has not been enough activity in getting food and sleeping quarters for the hunger

marchers. The report said that housing has been obtained for only 136 men thus far.

A committee of eight was appointed and instructed to interview Mr. Roebuck, the Attorney General, requesting him to use his influence to have the City of Toronto issue a permit for the march and the parade. This delegation visited the Attorney General on the 16th, and were given a very attentive hearing. Mr. Roebuck informed the delegation that Mr. Hepburn, the Prime Minister, has already instructed the Commissioner of the Provincial Police to confer with the Chief of Police of Toronto.

A suggestion was made that a committee be appointed to be known as the Chalking Committee. This committee will be supplied with chalk and paint, and the function of its members will be to chalk and paint signs on the sidewalks and walls.

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A special committee to be known as the Foods Committee was appointed who will get into touch with various stores with a view to obtaining food for the hunger marchers.

4. Malcolm Bruce, Tom Hill, John Boychuk

[S<#] About 1,500 people attended a meeting at the Standard Theatre, Toronto, Ont., on the night of 17th July, held under the auspices of the Canadian Labour Defence League to welcome Malcolm Bruce, John Boychuk and Tom Hill on their release from Kingston Penitentiary, and also to protest against the continued imprisonment of Tim Buck and Tom Ewen. Mrs. Tom Ewen occupied the chair and the speakers were A. E. Smith, Tom Hill, John Boychuk, Malcolm Bruce, J. B. McLachlan and Charles Sims. The Chairman, in opening the meeting, extended greetings to the three men and said that their release was due to the "mass pressure" brought to bear by the Canadian workers under the leadership of the Canadian Labour Defence League. She warned the workers not to stop and let the authorities hold the two remaining leaders in Kingston Penitentiary but that they must continue to exert pressure on the Government and force their release.

A. E. Smith also expressed greetings to the men and said that although these men had spent two and a half years in prison they were now out on leave and that it was up to the masses to force the proper authorities to grant these men unconditional release. He promised that these leaders would, as soon as they had gained their health, be back in the movement to resume their fight for the betterment of the working class. He criticized severely

the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation for their attitude towards the question of fighting for the release of the

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imprisoned leaders. He said that instead of fighting for their release they were fighting to keep these men in prison. He urged the workers to continue in the fight for the release of the two remaining leaders and for the overthrow of the Capitalist system. In closing, he cried, "Long live the Canadian Labour Defence League and the International Red Aid".

The release of Bruce, Hill and Boychuk was something of a surprise and the comrades had not sufficient time to arrange a proper reception when they arrived in Toronto. Hence this meeting.

Tom Hill said he was glad to be able to meet the workers again and that he felt sorry Tim Buck and Tom Ewen were not present to address them. Dealing with the conditions in the Kingston Penitentiary he remarked that they were unbearable; that the seven comrades had been singled out for special punishment by the penitentiary officials. He also contended that it was due to the "mass pressure" that they were able to have the three men there to address the meeting. He also promised to take his place in the ranks of the organization and to continue the fight for the abolition of the Capitalist system.

John Boychuk, in a very brief speech, thanked the meeting for the attention given them and said that he was glad to be back in the working class movement.

Malcolm Bruce thanked the audience for the reception that they gave them and confirmed the statement made by Tom Hill regarding the conditions in Kingston Penitentiary saying that they were terrible. In closing he stressed the need for the workers to unite and continue the fight for the overthrow of the Capitalist system and the establishment of a Soviet Canada.

J. B. McLachlan contended that the Workers' Unity League and the Canadian Labour Defence League played

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a big part in getting these men out of prison. He hoped that the workers would now see the necessity of organizing and to continue the fight for the abolition of the Capitalist system.

C. Sims, in the course of his speech, stressed the need for joining the revolutionary unions and called upon the workers to unite and force the authorities to let the two remaining leaders out of prison.

The collection which was taken up during the meeting netted the sum of \$98.

5. Sam Carr in Montreal

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The Canadian Labour Defence League in Montreal, Que., held a mass meeting in honour of Sam Carr in Prince Arthur Hall on 17th July.

Beatrice Ferneyhough criticized adversely the Quebec Government for sending "police thugs" to Noranda and blamed Mr. Taschereau for what she termed the brutal manner in which the workers were treated.

Fred Rose contented himself with eulogizing Sam Carr.

The reception given to Sam Carr when he rose to speak is described as being even more enthusiastic than the welcome accorded Tom Mann a few months ago. This is saying a good deal. Carr started out by describing his arrest in Vancouver, B.C., in 1931. He heaped abuse on the heads of the police and commented that "it will take more than two 200 pound cops to stop me speaking for the workers' cause". He was very bitter in his references to Mr. Bennett and Mr. Guthrie, asserting that it was entirely their fault that "the seven" were sent into "the hole" and that Buck and Ewen are being kept in Kingston purely out of spite because Buck is the leader of the Communist Party

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and Ewen the head of the Workers' Unity League: that five had been liberated on account of the pressure brought to bear on the Government. He suggested that if the workers are attacked by the police it is their duty to fight back. Carr's militant attitude all through his speech clearly made an impression on his audience. Carr closed by admitting that he is a Communist and made a strong appeal for the Communist Party of Canada. He was applauded loudly at the end of his address.

Another report says that the Canadian Labour Defence League will attempt to compel the authorities to release Tim Buck and Tom Ewen within the next few weeks. With this end in view A. E. Smith, General Secretary of the league, will tour the country from coast to coast as part of the campaign.

It is part of the scheme to besiege the Minister of Justice with thousands of wires, resolutions and letters within the next few weeks. About 100,000 individual protest postcards are being prepared in Toronto (Ont.) and will be distributed as widely as possible with instructions to have them forwarded on to Ottawa.

6. Flin Flon Strike Is Terminated

[§<#] On the morning of 14th July Arthur Laing, Secretary of the Flin Flon Unit fo the Mine Workers' Union of Canada, issued the following official statement:

"As a result of a ballot taken this afternoon, the strike has been officially called off. We have been obliged to take this step because of the strike-breaking activities used by the local Town Council and the Provincial Government, in the interests of the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company, and because of their policy of intimidation and terror we were unable to hold our ranks closed.

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"We have requested the Dominion Government to set up an Arbitration Board to decide on the following questions: discrimination, wages, conditions and the right of collective bargaining. We thank everyone who has helped us during this strike, and hope that there will be no ill-feeling among the employees arising from this dispute".

[§<deletion: blank] of the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company, instructed his staff that as many as possible of those who had gone on strike were to be taken back except those who had assaulted their comrades during the recent trouble and those who are definitely known as "Red agitators".

[§<deletion: blank] further arranged for a committee to be formed to consider the question of collective bargaining and to place the views of the employees before the company for consideration.

It is estimated that there will be between 150 and 200 of the strikers who will not be taken back into the company's employ. At the present time there are 1,027 men at work at the company's plant out of a total of about 1,300 usually employed.

During the strike period 35 arrests were made and two warrants, one for [§<deletion: blank] and the other for [§<deletion: blank] have not been executed. These two persons have not yet been located. To date four cases have been dismissed and seven let out on suspended sentence for 12 months. The following are retained in custody: [§<deletion: 1 1/3 line] Reduction of the number of Royal Canadian Mounted Police held at Flin Flon commenced on the 18th instant and will be continued as circumstances permit, until normal conditions have been restored.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCESI. BRITISH COLUMBIA7. The Waterfront Situation in Vancouver

[3<#] A mass meeting of members of the Vancouver and District Waterfront Workers' Association on Sunday afternoon, 15th July, rejected by overwhelming majorities the majority finding of the Conciliation Board which investigated wages and conditions on the Vancouver waterfront. The meeting also voted not to handle any United States' ships which come into Vancouver manned by "unfair crews". The meeting lasted for nearly four hours, all work on the waterfront having been stopped at noon to permit all the 900 members of the organizations to attend. The meeting instructed the Executive Committee to get in touch by telegraph with the Northwest Strike Committee at Seattle, Washington, requesting them to furnish full details of the United States' ships which are to be placed on the "unfair" list.

At the semi-annual election of officers held on the evening of 14th July practically the complete slate of offices was re-elected, the only changes being in a few of the Executive Committee, indicating apparently that the membership at large is satisfied with the manner in which the association has carried on negotiations. Milton Reid was re-elected President; T. Codwell, Vice President; and Allan Walker, Secretary Treasurer. The two Business Agents, O. Salonen and J. Greer, were also put back into office. The Executive Committee is made up of 21 members.

The Vancouver and District Waterfront Workers' Association has decided to levy \$2 on each member of the organization as a contribution to strike funds south of the International Boundary. This is intended as a gesture of reproachment of the Workers' Unity League fraction to the American Federation of Labor. It is felt that

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overtures from Vancouver direct to the longshore strikers in San Francisco will have more effect than through the Vancouver Trades and Labour Council. This action has been endorsed by the District Bureau of the Communist Party in Vancouver.

[3<#] Trevor Maguire addressed a poorly attended meeting of the English Bay Branch of the Friends of the Soviet Union at the Cotillion Hall, Vancouver, B.C., on 15th July, his subject being "War and Fascism". Maguire contended that the factories specializing in the making of munitions and war

equipment were working overtime and that large shipments of war materials were leaving Canada. He pointed out that should war become inevitable it was the workers who would handle all war materials and if they refused to handle them they would be helping out their own class. Speaking of Fascism in Italy, Maguire expressed the opinion that Mussolini was simply the head of a bunch of "gangsters and thugs" who were trying to uphold Capitalism. He also placed Hitler in the same category. He urged his audience to demonstrate their solidarity by turning out on the streets on 4th August to protest against war and Fascism.

II. ALBERTA

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The Communist Party fraction of the Unemployed Married Men's Association of Edmonton, Alta., held a meeting in the Workers' Unity League office on 14th July. At this meeting it was decided that the local
 [#] Communist Party Branch arrange a picnic on 12th August for the purpose of raising funds.

It was also decided that [~~deletion: 1/4 line~~] proceed to Calgary at the end of the month to attend the Anti-War and Anti-Fascist Conference on 4th August.

Six delegates from the Unemployed Married Men's Association are to be elected to attend the 24th July local Anti-War and Anti-Fascist Conference.

III. SASKATCHEWAN

[#] 9. John Magnus Clarke in Regina

John Magnus Clarke, who left Canada in 1931, has returned and is again taking an active part in the revolutionary movement. He attended the recent convention of the Farmers' Unity League at Regina, Sask., and it is reported that he will again edit The Forrow, the official organ of the Farmers' Unity League.

IV. MANITOBA

10. The Fifth Convention of the R.W.C.

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The Fifth Convention of the Russian Workers' Club took place at Winnipeg, Man., on 4th July. Thirty delegates, representing 37 branches, were in attendance. The various reports submitted would indicate that considerable progress has been made during the last year. The convention decided to publish Kanadsky Gudok three times per week from 1st January, 1935. The yearly subscription rate was set at \$3, and it was agreed to hold a Press

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campaign commencing on 25th November, through which it is expected to raise \$3,000 before 1st January. In order to minimize printing expenses, the convention empowered the Central Committee to purchase the necessary press and linotype. The collection campaign is to be proceeded with at once with the objective of raising \$2,500 to improve the printing system. Greetings were extended to the convention by J. Navizowsky, representing the Ukrainian, J. Campbell, from the Canadian Labour Defence League, and others representing the Polish and Lithuanian organizations. One of the most important decisions of the convention was to abolish all petty differences with the leaders of the Ukrainian movement, and to carry on in a spirit of closest co-operation. The sum of \$1,000 was set aside as a sinking fund to cover all unexpected expenditures of the Central Executive Committee.

A Red Flag was presented to the delegate from Edmonton, Alta., as a reward to his branch for their exemplary organizational work among the farmers of the Edmonton District.

The convention also forwarded cablegrams to the Soviet Union, Ernest Thaelman, and telegrams to the prisoners at Kingston penitentiary extending greetings.

A new Central Executive Committee was elected consisting of: Kurban, Yasny, Okulevich, Shumovich, Bondar, Korol and Yaworski. Kurban was elected General Secretary. Kauzoff was appointed Secretary of the Eastern Division, Pukaloff for the Western District, and Spigum was elected Secretary for the Central District.

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The cloakmakers' strike conducted by the Needle Trades Workers' Industrial Union at Winnipeg, Man., continues. A mass meeting of needle trades workers was held in the Talmud Torah Hall on 9th July. Invitations [§<#] had been extended to all trade unions, but it is reported that none of the Right Wing unions attended the meeting. The audience consisted mostly of women, and very little English was spoken.

[§<deletion: 1/4 line] were the principal speakers. At the close of the meeting a collection was taken up, and it is reported that approximately \$20 had been donated towards the strike.

Lack of funds and picket duty in the hot weather, coupled with the failure of the Flin Flon strike, seem to have lowered the morale of the strikers considerably. Leaders are now trying to effect a settlement realizing that it will not be very long until discontent will flare up in the ranks of the strikers and thus create a split.

[§<#] The financial report of the Workers' Benevolent Association, as published in the 12th July issue of the Ukrainian Labour News, would indicate that the association has now approximately 6,000 members. It has a total of 92 branches and the income for the second quarter is accounted for as follows:-

April	\$ 2,989.31
May	3,306.70
June	2,574.65
Interest from mortgages in June ..	1,159.39
“ ” bonds in June	311.92
Farm products sale	167.08
For upkeep of orphans in April ...	1,800.00
“ ” “ ” “ May	17.00
“ ” “ ” “ June	234.00
2% wage tax — April	2.25
“ ” “ — May	1.80
“ ” “ — June	<u>1.80</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>\$12,565.90</u>

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Against this a total expenditure of \$9,201.87 is shown. The balance standing to the credit of the Workers' Benevolent Association is \$89,140.31.

V. ONTARIO11. The C.L.D.L. and the Release of the Communists

[X#] [deletion: 1 line] of the Canadian Labour Defence League in Toronto, Ont., wrote a letter to Montreal recently. In it he comments on the victory which the Canadian Labour Defence League has achieved in securing the release of Comrades Carr and Popowich. He urges all the comrades to follow this up with renewed efforts to bring about the release of the other Communists who are still incarcerated in Kingston. He reports that all the comrades are in poor health. He goes on to say that Popowich was so ill that he was unable to come to Toronto to attend the welcome: that Carr is in such shape that his doctor says that unless he is taken to the country immediately he will not be responsible for his condition. He records with pleasure that Carr and Popowich and the other comrades in Kingston are as staunch as ever to the cause of the working class. They are all anxious to get back to work to make up for the time that they feel they have wasted.

[X#] Approximately 250 persons attended an open-air meeting at Queens Park, Toronto, Ont., on the evening of 16th July. The meeting was held under the auspices of the Ontario Federation on Unemployment and Provincial Hunger March Committee, and its object was to protest against the city authorities not issuing a permit for the proposed Ontario "hunger march". G. Brunnett acted as Chairman, and the speakers were Eddie Murry, Bill Keefe

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and a man who was introduced as Ryan of Scarboro. Mayor Stewart was the chief target of their attack.

Eddie Murry urged the workers to fight for the Ontario "hunger march" and to take part in it.

The meeting became somewhat exciting at times and remarks calling for the overthrow of Capitalism were applauded vigorously.

[X#] [deletion: 1/4 page]

[X#] The Central Council of the Jugo-Slav Workers and Farmers Clubs at Toronto, Ont., has instructed the various branches throughout the country to send delegates to a conference to be held in Toronto from 29th August to 1st September. Those delegates who are also members of the Communist

Party of Canada have been requested to report at 147 Beverly Street upon their arrival in Toronto where they will received instructions. The Edmonton Branch has elected [deletion: blank] who is also a prominent Communist Party member, as delegate.

VI. QUEBEC

12. Anti-War and Anti-Fascist Conference

The Anti-War and Anti-Fascist Conference are planning to hold a mass meeting in Lafontaine Park shortly which the Montreal Police refused to sanction. A delegation consisting of [deletion: 2/3]

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[deletion: 2/3 line] in this regard. [deletion: blank] advised them to send a delegation to the City Hall and have this delegation introduced by [deletion: 1/3 line] This they decided to do and will endeavour to persuade [deletion: blank] to act as their spokesman. They propose to hold the meeting with or without the permission of the city authorities.

[deletion: 1/2 line] who has been connected with McGill University for the past few years, is showing quite an interest in the Canadian Labour Defence League and the anti-Fascist movement. She is said to be supplying quite a lot of cash and appears to be very intellectual.

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[deletion: #] An anti-Fascist delegation visited the German Consul on 12th July. Thirty-two delegates entered the Keefer Building, Montreal, Que., where the Consul offices are, to lodge a protest against "Fascist reaction in Germany". Three members of this delegation, George Hincks, Dave Kashton and Alex Gauld, were the only ones permitted to enter the Consul's office.

They had quite a long interview with the Consul who finally told the delegates that they knew nothing whatever about existing conditions in Germany. In order to prove to them their complete ignorance of German affairs, he offered to pay half the expenses of any one of the delegates for a trip to Germany so that he might see things for himself. This offer was not accepted.

[22]

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[#] Le Cercle Humanitaire, formerly under the leadership of St. Martin, a free-lance radical has approached the Canadian Labour Defence League to appeal the case of Pilom, sentenced to one year imprisonment and a \$1,000 cautionary fine on charge of "blasphemous libel".

The Canadian Labour Defence League has accepted this offer and intends to launch a big drive for complete freedom of speech and against the persecution for anti-clerical views.

VII. THE MARITIME PROVINCES

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[#] M. A. McKenzie, Editor of The Steelworker, Sydney, N.S., finds it difficult to cope with the situation. He complains that he is not getting any help or co-operation from the Press Committee. He states that he has to write and compile all the material himself. It would appear that it is only a matter of time before publication will cease again.
