

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 8th August, 1934.

SECRETNO. 718WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATORS IN CANADAReport

The anti-war demonstration in Vancouver on 4th August was a hopeless failure. There was no disorder of any kind.

The Ontario "hunger marchers" held two big meetings in Toronto. A delegation saw the new Premier and his Attorney General and went away dissatisfied.

It is noticeable that when A. E. Smith is speaking in public he denies indignantly that the Canadian Labour Defence League is controlled by the Communists. In private he is apparently less guarded and admits the association between the Canadian Labour Defence League and the Communist Party of Canada.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

1. The Ontario "Hunger March"

[✂#] The Ontario "hunger march" came officially to a close on the night of 1st August with a mass meeting in Queen's Park, Toronto, Ont. The majority of the marchers returned to their homes on the following day in 17 trucks supplied by the newly-elected Provincial Government.

On 30th July the marchers, about 2,500 in number, paraded through the City of Toronto converging on Queen's Park where a mass meeting was held and which was attended by approximately 6,000 people. The parade was divided into two sections. The marchers from the East assembled in Riverdale Park and from there proceeded along Carlton and College Streets to University Avenue and to Queen's Park. The Western section rallied in Stanley Park, and from there marched north to Queen Street, along Queen to Spadina, along Spadina to College Street arriving at Queen's Park about the same time as the Eastern division. During the march "The International" was freely sung and the children participants shouted "We want Tim Buck".

E. G. Humphries acted as Chairman of the mass rally in Queen's Park, and the principal speakers were W. Hamilton, Fred Collins, C. Sims, Mrs. T. Ewen (Beckie Buhay) and Sam Scarlett. Eulogy of Soviet Russia and the eventual establishment of a Soviet Canada featured most of the addresses.

Alderman Reginald Morris of Windsor, Ont., extended greetings to the meeting from the workers of that section of the province.

Beckie Buhay heralded the victory of the Soviet Union in Canada.

Sam Scarlett stated that Mr. Hepburn would have his attention directed "to real relief steps by the example of the Soviet Union where the workers owned the tools and

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whose methods workers of Canada could follow by taking the idle factories, the starving cattle, the rusting machinery in the erection of the Soviet State of Canada".

Fred Collins, a prominent Communist and leader of the western section of the hunger marchers, referred to the gathering as an "indication to the demagogic Liberal Party and its demagogue leader Hepburn that the workers of Ontario want their demands fulfilled, that they will fight and force enactment of those demands if they are not realized". He remarked that it was up to the workers "to tear the very vitals out of the oppressing class and establish a Soviet Canada".

Charles Sims also stressed the need for establishing a Soviet Canada and thereby putting the working class in control.

On 1st August a delegation of 200 representing the hunger marchers visited Premier Hepburn and his Cabinet and laid before the Provincial Government their demands which were numerous and similar to those enunciated by the Communist Party and the Workers' Unity League for the past two years.

The deputation conferred with the Government for more than three hours and were promised every consideration. Attorney General Roebuck gave an unreserved blessing to their effort to achieve the solidarity of the working class by the building up of workers' organizations. "God bless your work!" he exclaimed.

Following the interview with the Government the deputation joined the open-air meeting that had assembled in the park outside the Parliament Buildings. It is estimated that the attendance numbered approximately 5,500 persons. At this meeting Fred Collins acted as Chairman, and the speakers were E. G. Humphries, J. Davis, C. Sims, Mrs. Ketcheson, Alderman Reggie Morris and D. Tope. Each speaker dwelt almost exclusively on the subject of the new

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Ontario Government and endeavoured to convince the audience that the Hepburn Government was worse than the Henry Government, that the delegation had received nothing but promises. They all asserted that the need for organizing the working class for united action was apparent more than ever.

Although there was some discussion regarding the right to meet in the park, the meeting proceeded without interruption. Fred Collins, it seemed, was the most popular among the hunger marchers and appeared to be also the best liked speaker.

2. D.C.C. OF C.L.D.L. Meets in Winnipeg

[☞#]

On 28th July the District Central Council of the Canadian Labour Defence League at Winnipeg, Man., held a special conference with A. E. Smith, National Secretary of the organization, in attendance. Among the many important items under consideration was the question of the Secretary-Organizer of the district. A. E. Smith announced that he had been instructed to inform the District Council that the National Executive Council has decided that [☞deletion: 1 2/3 lines] is to be replaced by [☞deletion: 2/3 line] for the district; that [☞deletion: blank] is to assume his duties forthwith and remain in this position until next fall when he will be transferred to the National Office at Toronto, Ont., to take up the duties of National Secretary-Organizer. [☞deletion: 1/4 line] A. E. Smith announced, is to be transferred to Toronto this fall and someone else, not yet known, will be sent to the Winnipeg District. When some of the delegates objected to two active functionaries being taken away from the district they were rebuked by Smith who stated that

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they must abandon their provincial view and think nationally and internationally. In reviewing the past activities and progress in the district it was pointed out that although no spectacular gains have been attained, considerable progress has been made and the league is now better established and rooted in the working class organizations.

[☞deletion: blank] came in for some considerable criticism on account of [☞deletion: blank] actions during the strike at Flin Flon, Man. It was pointed out that instead of looking after the interests of the Canadian Labour Defence League and confining [☞deletion: blank] to defence work [☞deletion: blank] took an active part in the strike proper and thus

neglected [deletion: blank] duties. A. E. Smith expressed the opinion that [deletion: blank] actions were perhaps unavoidable due to the strike being premature. In this connection it was reported that preparations are being made to call another strike at Flin Flon in the spring of 1935.

On 30th July another conference of the District Central Council was held which was thrown open to the delegates and members of the league, and at which A. E. Smith gave a report on national and international affairs. He asserted that the league in Canada now has 17,000 active members and 26,000 supporters or sympathizers. He declared that the Canadian Labour Defence League was controlled by the Communist Party of Canada.

At this session [deletion: blank] spoke briefly on the Flin Flon situation and made certain suggestions regarding the defence of those arrested and whose cases are now before the courts. She suggested that an intensive propaganda campaign be launched with the object of raising funds on behalf of those facing trial and that speakers should canvass the mining fields of Saskatchewan and Alberta for that purpose and to rouse mass pressure.

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3. C.L.D.L. Mass Meeting in Winnipeg

[#] The Canadian labour Defence League held a large mass meeting on the Market Square in Winnipeg, Man., on 29th July. The only speaker was A. E. Smith, the National Secretary of the Canadian Labour Defence League, who is making his tour across Canada. There was a large gathering estimated at between 1,500 and 2,000 people.

Smith started off by saying that when the Bennett Government assumed office, it found the militant movement among the workers highly inconvenient and determined to crush it as quickly as possible. The leaders of the workers were wrongfully indicted, wrongfully accused, wrongfully prosecuted, wrongfully convicted and finally wrongfully imprisoned. The charge against these men was that they had advocated the overthrow of the Government of this country by violence. This, Smith asserted, was wholly untrue, because none of the leaders had ever done anything of the sort.

Smith related how on one occasion he was at the head of a delegation which called on Mr. Bennett at Ottawa, Ont., and the Prime Minister, just prior to ordering Smith out of his office, asserted vehemently that as long as he was the head of the Government the eight Communists who were in Kingston would serve their terms to the last minute. Within eight months, five of these men had been released on ticket-of-leave, thanks to the mass

pressure exercised by their fellow workers and the Canadian Labour Defence League.

Smith dealt at length with the case of Tim Buck and his own trial for sedition because of comments he had made of the Buck case.

He described at some length conditions in Kingston Penitentiary, giving particulars of the "paddle" and the "wheel". He compared the Canadian prison system with the Russian one, very much to the advantage of the

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latter.

Smith urged those present to do their utmost to prevent war. He outlined the aims and objects of the Canadian Labour Defence League. He said that it was quite wrong to brand the Canadian Labour Defence League as a Communist organization designed to replace the Communist Party which had been declared illegal. The Canadian Labour Defence League is a branch of the International Red Aid, which has branches all over the world for the express purpose of defending any worker who may get into trouble.

The meeting concluded with the singing of "The International" and lusty cheers for the International Red Aid and the Canadian Labour Defence League.

It will be noticed that, when speaking in public, Smith denies that the Canadian Labour Defence League is Communistically controlled.

4. C.L.D.L. in Montreal

[§#] The Communist Party members who constitute the majority of the leadership of the Canadian Labour Defence League in Montreal, Que., met on 27th July to discuss the organizational situation within the Montreal District of the Canadian Labour Defence League and the general work of [§deletion: 3/4 line] A survey of conditions in the district revealed the fact that organizationally the league has been losing ground. It was pointed out that the only real active and functioning branches were the Tim Buck, the Jewish, the Ukrainian, the Central and the French. The Verdun Branch has been inactive for the past two months. It was pointed out that two years ago this branch was the largest single branch in Canada with a paid-up membership of approximately 450. The survey also revealed the fact that the Canadian Labour

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Defence League lacks suitable material to lead the organization. The various committees, such as Finance, Relief, Press, Organization, etc., were without competent leadership.

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[deletion: 1 line] return to Montreal was given considerable consideration. It is felt that owing to [deletion: blank] stand on religion and because he lacks the ability to organize he sets a poor example to the Canadian Labour Defence League members and should be kept in the background. It was decided that another Communist Party fraction meeting will be held on 8th August to give the matter further consideration.

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5. Demonstrations for Release of Tim

Buck and Tom Ewen

[#] Demonstrations for the release of Tim Buck and Tom Ewen, against Section 98, and for the legality of the Communist Party of Canada are to be held from coast to coast on 13th August. To make these demonstrative actions successful the National Executive Committee of the Canadian Labour Defence League urges that these take the form of broadest United front action, that Co-operative Commonwealth Federation clubs, churches, etc., be drawn into the struggle. Thousands of leaflets, stickers, posters and other forms of publicity will be used to make the demonstration a success.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

6. Trevor Maguire

[#] It is reported from Vancouver, B.C., that Trevor Maguire intends to make a speech on 4th August at a meeting in favour of the Anti-War and Anti-Fascist movement. It is his intention to say enough to render his arrest certain.

Maguire is anything but happy in his surroundings in Vancouver. He feels that there has been hostility to him which is led by Purvis, Drayton and Dishnitsky.

A telegram from Vancouver says that the demonstration on 4th August was a complete failure.

II. MANITOBA

7. The Workers' Sports Association

[3<#] The Winnipeg (Man.) Branch of the Workers' Sports Association has become a very active and important instrument of the revolutionary movement of that city. It is said to have now 264 paid-up members, all devoutly interested in the organization. The members, it is alleged, are very active and have succeeded in gathering a great many sympathizers around this particular movement. The headquarters of this association are situated at 269 1/2 Dufferin Avenue known as Miniuk's Hall. Having some splendid talent in physical culture in their midst and the strong backing of the older organizations, the Workers' Sports Association of Winnipeg has developed remarkably during its short period of existence. The association has the most up-to-date gymnastic appliances and a very able gym instructor in the person of [3<deletion: 1/4 line]

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The association has arranged a picnic and sports day to be held on 29th July on the Workers' Benevolent Association farm in East Kildonan, Man.

[3<#] The strike of 450 cloakmakers in Winnipeg, Man., conducted by the Needle Trades Workers' Industrial Union continues. On 25th July a demonstration took place in front of the Jacob and Crowley Building on Portage Avenue, East, in which about 200 strikers and sympathizers participated.

After the demonstration a brief meeting was held on a vacant lot near the building at which speeches were given by [3<deletion: blank] Workers' Unity League Organizer, [3<deletion: blank] Organizer of the Needle Trades Workers' Industrial Union, and M. Sago. The speakers praised the manifest solidarity of the strikers and urged them to keep the strike front intact. The important obstacle preventing a settlement of the strike seems to be the demand for recognition of the union. Some of the companies seem to be inclined to meet the general demands of the strikers but refuse to recognize their union.

III. ONTARIO

8. Malcolm Bruce

[X#]

Malcolm L. Bruce arrived in Windsor, Ont., on 16th July and has been living in seclusion at the [Xdeletion: blank] home. He spoke briefly at a mass meeting held under the auspices of the Women's Committee Against War and Fascism in the Lanspeary Park on 23rd July. Bruce was particularly revolutionary in his utterances and advocated the establishment of a Soviet Canada. He also eulogized Tim Buck and Tom Ewen, the two Communist leaders still confined at

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Kingston Penitentiary. He told the audience that the release of himself and the other Communists was due to the mass pressure brought to bear by the Canadian working class.

Bruce apparently is ill to the extent that he is not physically capable of taking a very active part in the revolutionary movement, especially as far as platform speaking is concerned.

[X#] According to a call issued by Thomas C. Simms, the Third National Congress of the Workers' Unity League will open in Toronto, Ont., on 1st September. It is expected that it will last four or five days.

[X#] The Toronto (Ont.) Branch of the Finnish Organization of Canada held an open-air meeting and picnic at the Tarmola Summer Camp on 22nd July. When T. A. Hill, recently released from Kingston, mounted to the speakers' platform he was tended a tremendous ovation with the orchestra playing "The International".

A Young Pioneer extended greetings to Hill, characterizing him as a leader of the class fight and urged him to continue his work which had been interrupted when he was sent to prison as a result of a conviction under Section 98 of the Criminal Code.

Hill, in a rather lengthy speech, assured his audience that his spirit had not been broken by his imprisonment and promised to continue where he left off at the time he entered Kingston Penitentiary.

[X#] As a result of a demonstration staged outside the North German Lloyd Steamship office in Toronto, Ont., in protest against the imprisonment of Ernst Thaelmann,

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four members of the Young Communist League — [Xdeletion: 1 line] — were arrested and appeared before Magistrate J. E. Jones in the Toronto Police Court on the 27th ultimo on a charge of "vagrancy". They were convicted and each sentenced to 30 days' imprisonment.

[X#] Commencing with issue No. 608 The Worker will appear twice weekly in four pages. The first issue of the twice a week paper will appear on 31st July. The new subscription rates will be \$3 per year or \$1.50 for six months. Single copies will sell at 1 1/2% to district agents, 2 per copy to local agents, and will retail at 3.

[X#] The Worker for 28th July, for the first time since the Communist Party of Canada has been declared an unlawful association in Ontario, publishes an official document in the form of an excerpt from the Manifesto of the Communist Party of Canada on the united struggle against war and Fascism. This seems to be in conformity with the new policy of the Party which instructs that the face of the Party must be more clearly shown.

[X#] In an article appearing in the 25th July issue of Vapaus John Gillbanks, member of the National Committee of the Lumber Workers' Industrial Union, complains of the attitude displayed by members of the organization in regard to payment of dues. He points to the fact that the total income from initiation and membership fees during 21 months ending on 31st May, 1934, amounted to \$1,624.50, whereas the income from entertainments and campaigns for the same period amounted to \$2,659.78. He also claims that during that period only an average of 1,700 members paid

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their membership fees out of a total membership of 8,000. He criticizes the management, claiming that the organization has greater debts than necessary. He, however, sees some improvement as for the first five months of 1934 \$1,140 have been collected in membership fees. He urges the reorganization of the management and appeals for more intensified revolutionary action.

IV. QUEBEC

9. The "Free Speech" Question in Montreal

[§#] A meeting was held on the evening of 24th July to discuss the question of "free speech" and the matter of the arrest of the six speakers in Lafontaine Park, Montreal, Que., at the anti-war and anti-Fascist meeting on 20th July. This meeting was held under the auspices of the Conference Against War and Fascism, and amongst those in attendance were [§deletion: 2 lines] The outcome of this meeting was that [§deletion: blank] headed a delegation representative of the Labour Party, the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, the Canadian Labour Defence League and the Workers Ex-Service Men's League which visited the Executive Committee of the City of Montreal on 25th July to request "free speech" in the city parks of Montreal. As a result of this interview the city authorities granted the right to hold meetings in four of the city parks: viz, Marguerite Bourgeoys, Morgan, Jarry and Molson.

[§#] The first open-air meeting since the parks of Montreal, Que., were thrown open by the city authorities was held in the Marguerite Bourgois Park on the evening of 27th July. It was held under the auspices of the Young

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Communist League and attracted about 400 people.

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[§deletion: 4 lines]

[§#] It is reported from Montreal, Que., that the Needle Trades Workers' Industrial Union is contemplating calling a strike in the clothing industry on about 15th August.

[✂#] On the evening of 22nd July a welcome banquet was staged for Sam Carr and Matthew Popovich in the Carmen Sylva Hall on St. Lawrence Boulevard, Montreal, Que. Only about 250 people were present which is considered a rather poor showing. From a financial point of view it was a failure as the gross income amounted to only \$54, whereas the expenses were \$49.

[✂#] [~~deletion: 1 line~~] Que., stated that the Friends of the Soviet Union organization is now raising funds for the National Workers' Delegation that is to visit the Soviet Union next October. Ten delegates are expected to go. The Montreal quota is \$900 and if this money can be raised it is expected to send Three French-Canadian delegates, one longshoreman, a textile worker and one railroad worker.