

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 15th August, 1934

SECRET

NO. 719

WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATORS IN CANADAReport

The anti-war demonstrations on 4th August were a failure everywhere. The Youth Congress Against War and Fascism decided to form a permanent organization and a national committee was elected.

The strike at Stellarton has been settled and the miners are at work again. At Flin Flon conditions are not quite normal.

[~~deletion: 2/3 line~~] have gone back to the Crow's Nest Pass to carry on propaganda work for the Mine Workers' Union of Canada. The membership of the Mine Workers' Union of Canada is said to be increasing in this district.

[2]

APPENDICESTable of ContentsAPPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

Paragraph No.	1 — The Youth Congress Against War and Fascism Held in Toronto, 4th & 5th August, 1934 Representation Communist Element Predominates Stanley Ryerson & Peter Hunter, Warren Gilroy Sam Carr Speaks National Committee Elected Foundation of a Permanent Organization Laid Canadian Congress Called for 5th & 6th October, 1934
" "	2 — Anti-War Demonstrations

- (a) Vancouver
 [deletion: blank] & Trevor Maguire
 A Poorly Organized Show
- (b) Edmonton
 Play "The Music of Hell" Is Staged
- (c) Calgary
 Parade Is Put On
 A. E. Smith, George Palmer, R. Wooton,
 C. Boone, Etc.
- (d) Winnipeg
 Meeting On The Market Square
 Jacob Penner & Andrew Bilecki Head
 Parade
 Two Batteries of Speakers
- (e) Montreal
 Meeting in Fletcher's Field
 G. Hincks, D. Kashton, Alex Gauld,
 Ouellette, D. Sinclair
- (f) Sydney, N.S.
 Mass Meeting in Casino Theatre
 M. A. McKenzie, G. McEachern, D. MacKay,
 S. Furlet, J. B. McLachlan
 Meeting Did Not Come Up To Expectations

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

- 3 — BRITISH COLUMBIA
 The Vancouver Longshoremen
 May Reach Terms With B.C. Shipping
 Federation
 Single Unemployed Men's Protective
 Association
 [deletion: 1 line]
 F.S.U. at English Bay
 [deletion: 1 line]
 The Women's Labour League
 [deletion: 1 line]
 The B.C. Workers News Will Not Be
 Published
 The Unemployed At New Westminster

- Paragraph No. 4 — ALBERTA
 Some New Communists
 Women's Auxiliary & Youth Section Of
 The Unemployed Married Men's
 Association
 Names Of The Committee
 Communist Summer School, Lake Majeau
 J. M. Matheson, J. Holopeter, S.
 Centazzo, Dr. Timbres
 [Xdeletion: 1 line]
 Unemployed Relief Strike Postponed In
 Edmonton
 May Strike In Calgary
 [Xdeletion: 1 line] In
 Crow's Nest Pass
 M.W.U.C. Is Making Progress
 " Convention, Calgary, 10-9-34
 [Xdeletion: blank] Is Back In Canmore
 " " 5 — QUEBEC
 [Xdeletion: blank] Back In Montreal
 [Xdeletion: blank] Talks With B. Buhay
 Montreal C.L.D.L. Is Lagging Behind
 [Xdeletion: 1 line]
 [Xdeletion: 1 line]
 [Xdeletion: 1 line]
Le Crochet
 Window Cleaners Branch of W.U.L.
 [Xdeletion: 1 line]
 " " 6 — THE MARITIME PROVINCES
 Strike At Stellarton
 Cause Of Strike
 Pickets Are Active
 11 Arrests Made
 Work Is Now Resumed
-

[4]

APPENDIX NO. I: GENERALI. The Youth Conference Against War and Fascism

[3c#] The Youth Congress Against War and Fascism took place in the Central Technical School, Toronto, Ont., on 4th and 5th August. According to the Credentials Committee's report there were 226 delegates in attendance representing various organizations throughout Canada with an alleged aggregate membership of over one hundred thousand.

Delegates from Toronto and environs formed over fifty per cent of the representation; Montreal furnished a delegation of 32; London seven delegates; the Border Cities six; Hamilton six; and Winnipeg sent three delegates. Delegates, real and fictitious, from other parts of Canada made up the balance.

The League Against War and Fascism, Vancouver, B.C., with an alleged membership of 30,000 was the largest single organization represented with one delegate in attendance. The next largest section was the Canadian Labour Defence League, represented by the National Executive Committee, which claimed a membership of 14,000. Four delegates represented the Lumber Workers Industrial Union of Canada, claiming 11,500 members, whereas the Finnish Organization of Canada which was credited with 5,000 members sent only one delegate. The Workers' Sports Organization of Canada, represented by six delegates, was credited with a membership of 5,195. Among the other more prominent organizations represented were the Students League of Canada (four branches), Friends of the Soviet Union, Council of Unemployed, Toronto, Farmers' Unity League, Young Communist League of Canada, Mine Workers Union of Canada and the Humanitarian Association. There was also a fraternal delegate present from the Youth Section of the United States League Against War and Fascism in the person of Comrade Lerner.

[5]

The figures presented by the Credentials Committee regarding the numerical strength of the various organizations represented seem, in many instances, greatly exaggerated. It must be noted that the majority of the organizations were not youth organizations but adult organizations controlled by the Communist Party of Canada.

The proceedings of the Congress were completely dominated by the Communist element. It is estimated that at least seventy-five per cent of the organizations represented were organizations which are controlled by the Communist Party and the Young Communist League.

The Chairman of the Congress was Stanley Ryerson of Toronto and Peter Hunter acted as Secretary. The principal speakers were Sam Carr, recently released from Kingston prison, Warren Gilroy, a lawyer practicing law in the City of Toronto, and Peter Hunter. Comrade Lerner of New York City brought greetings from the Youth Section of the American League Against War and Fascism and gave a short speech on the growth and development of the anti-war and anti-Fascist movement in the United States of America. A Japanese named Ogi presented greetings from the Japanese Labour News published in Toronto. Stanley Ryerson delivered greetings from the Youth Section of the League Against War and Fascism of France. A coloured girl from Nova Scotia and several other delegates also spoke briefly, submitting greetings. Greetings were also read from many countries including a wire from Henri Barbusse, France.

Warren Gilroy of the Ward 5 Independent Labour Party of Toronto, who seem to have a particular grudge against the Mayor and the Chief Constable of Toronto, attacked conditions in Toronto and Canada and stressed the need for the Congress to carry on intensive educational work among the Canadian youth, as thousands of young people in Canada who are opposed to war in abstract ways do not

[6]

appreciate the causes of Imperialist war and have only a hazy idea of what Fascism is. He characterized the Capitalist press and the present educational system as the chief organs of bigotry, hatred and national pride which, he said, were the methods used to induce workers to become "mass murderers". He urged unity and organization not only in the fight against war but also for the overthrow of Capitalism.

Sam Carr, in a very able address, continually punctuated by rounds of applause, presented the Communist Party position on war and Fascism. He spoke as the representative of the Communist Party of Canada and ended with a quotation from Stalin, which evidently met with the approval of the great majority of those present. "Revolution may come without war. But let us say that war shall never come without revolution".

Peter Hunter, Secretary of the Initiative Committee and delegate to the International Youth Congress Against War and Fascism in Paris, made the main report which furnished the subject of discussion during the sessions. After dealing with the international developments he spent a considerable part of his report tracing the development of Fascism in Canada. He characterized the David and Arcand Acts in Quebec, the Special Powers Act in British Columbia, and other similar acts as pieces of legislation of Fascist tendencies.

A lengthy manifesto, which had been prepared by the Initiative Committee under the guidance of the Communist Party, was submitted to the Congress and adopted. It provides the basis for a "United Front" in the fight against war and Fascism. A number of resolutions were passed, including resolutions demanding the release of Ernst Thaelmann, the release of Tim Buck, Tom Ewen and Arthur Evans, and the repeal of Section 98 of the Criminal Code.

[7]

A National Committee of 33 was elected with a board of nine. Stanley Ryerson was named the National Chairman and Peter Hunter Secretary. The Congress laid the foundation for a permanent organization which eventually will become the Youth Section of the "All-Canada League Against War and Fascism" when such body is formed. A Congress will be held for this purpose in the City of Toronto next October and the National Committee appointed at this Congress is to work in conjunction with a special Initiative Committee of adults with a view to making the October Congress a success and thus realizing the formation of the "All-Canada League Against War and Fascism".

[✂#] The Provisional Committee for a Canadian Congress Against War and Fascism has appealed to all trade union organizations, cultural groups, fraternal organizations and Co-operative Commonwealth Federation clubs urging them to unite in this movement against war and Fascism and to send delegates to a National Congress to be held in Toronto, Ont., on 5th and 6th October, 1934. The purpose of this forthcoming congress is to adopt a definite program and establish a permanent organization in Canada.

2. Anti-War Demonstrations

[✂#]

(a) Vancouver

The attempted 4th August anti-war and anti-Fascist demonstration on Cambie Street Grounds in the City of Vancouver, B.C., was a complete failure. As the radicals attempted to congregate in the vicinity of Cambie Street Grounds they were dispersed by the police. Failing in their attempt to make use of the grounds the would-be demonstrators began to crowd the sidewalks in the neighbourhood of

[8]

Victory Square where [deletion: blank] of the Single Unemployed Men's Protective Association, and Trevor Maguire commenced to harangue the crowd. The City Mounted Police immediately dispersed the crowd and cleared the grounds. Following this no further attempts to congregate were made, the demonstrators being content to march up and down the nearby streets. In spite of much propaganda the demonstration showed signs of having been very poorly organized.

(b) Edmonton

[deletion: #]

As part of the campaign against war and Fascism the Unemployed Married Men's Association of Edmonton, Alta., staged a five-act play entitled "The Music of Hell" in the Albion Hall on 3rd August. This anti-war play was written and directed by [deletion: 1/4 line] and the cast was made up of members from the Unemployed Married Men's Association and its Youth Section.

(c) Calgary

[deletion: #]

The 4th August demonstration in Calgary, Alta., sponsored and organized by the local Communist Party Branch, attracted only about 300 participants. The paraders carrying banners assembled at Third Street, East, and marched to Victoria Park where a mass meeting was held. Conspicuous in the parade were A. E. Smith, George Palmer, Ralph Wooton, Cecil Boone, "Red" Axelson, John O'Sullivan, Pat Lenihan, Bob Squires, Charles Kilcup, Charles Stewart and several others of the more prominent members of revolutionary organizations in Calgary.

The meeting in the park was presided over by Cecil Boone, and the speakers were George Palmer, Ralph Wooton, Axelson and A. E. Smith.

[9]

A. E. Smith presented in a general talk on the Capitalist system stressing its crisis and predicting that its collapse is inevitable and near.

(d) Winnipeg

[deletion: #]

The anti-war demonstration held in the City of Winnipeg, Man., on 4th August, was not what it was expected to be. Despite extensive preparations

only about 2,000 participated in the demonstration. The demonstrators assembled in the Market Square at approximately 7:30 P.M. and from there staged a parade through certain sections of the city and returned to the point of assembly where a meeting took place. The march was headed by Alderman Jacob Penner and Andrew Bilecki. Immediately behind them about 150 Young Pioneers and Young Communist League members followed. The Progressive Arts Clubs' members with their banner as well as the Workers Unity League formed a conspicuous section of the parade.

The meeting in the Market Square was addressed from two trucks which served as platforms. Norman Penner, son of Alderman Jacob Penner, representing the Young Pioneers, Bill Ross, L. Vassil and C. Hitchins addressed the meeting from one platform. Another battery of speakers consisting of Alderman Jacob Penner, M. Kazor, Mabel Marlowe and James Coleman addressed the gathering from the second truck. The meeting lasted one hour and 10 minutes and concluded with the singing of "The International".

[10]

(e) Montreal

[✂#] Approximately 2,500 people were attracted to an anti-war and anti-Fascist mass meeting held under the auspices of the Young Communist League in Fletcher's Field, Montreal, Que., on 4th August. The speakers were George Hincks, Dave Kashton, Alex Gauld and Ouellette with Dave Sinclair acting as Chairman. The meeting showed signs of considerable enthusiasm. An appeal for funds netted the sum of \$35.

(f) Sydney, N.S.

[✂#]

The anti-war and anti-Fascist demonstration in Sydney, N.S., took the form of a mass meeting held in the Casino Theatre on 5th August. It was held under the auspices of the "Nova Scotia Conference Against War and Fascism" and the attendance numbered approximately 75 people. M. A. McKenzie acted as Chairman, and the speakers were George McEachern, Dan McKay, Steve Furler and J. B. McLachlan. Fascism in general and its growth in Canada was the topic of their speeches.

Resolutions demanding the immediate release of Tim Buck, Tom Ewen and all class war prisoners, freedom for those arrested in strikes by the Quebec Government, legality of the Communist Party and condemning

deportation of foreign-born strikers were passed and forwarded to the authorities concerned.

The demonstration was a decided failure considering the extensive preparations preceding same.

[11]

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

3. The Vancouver Longshoremen

[§<#] With the announcement that the longshoremen's strike in the United States Pacific Coast ports had come to an end, the ban against American ships discharging cargo in the Vancouver (B.C.) port has now been lifted and it is reported that the organized Vancouver longshoremen will now handle all cargoes.

The dispute between the British Columbia Shipping Federation and the Vancouver and District Waterfront Workers' Association will be settled satisfactorily in the near future according to present indications. The Shipping Federation membership with the possible exception of the Canadian Pacific Railway and perhaps the Terminal Dock and Warehouse Company are willing to give an increase in pay. Negotiating committees of the federation and the longshoremen's association have resumed conferences. The federation has drafted a new agreement based largely on the majority finding of the Conciliation Board; it proposes a five-year agreement whereas the men's committee insists on a one-year agreement. The federation now proposes that the association agree not to take on additional men without written consent of the federation, that such men to work on probation for six months and then become permanent members after having been passed by a joint committee of the federation and the association.

[§<#] The Single Unemployed Men's Protective Association, Vancouver, B.C., held a meeting at 52 1/2 Cordova Street on 3rd August. [§<deletion: blank] acted as Chairman, and the speakers were [§<deletion: 1/2 line]

[§<deletion: blank] spoke at length on the American Federation

[12]

of Labor and its affiliations; he also dealt with the All-Canadian Congress of Labour, and the Workers' Unity League. He roundly condemned the

international trade unions, as well as the All-Canadian Congress of Labour and eulogized the Workers' Unity League.

[deletion: blank] of the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association, recently returned to Vancouver from Regina, Sask., where he attended the Conference of Toiling Farmers, spoke at length on the new Marketing Act, claiming that it was of no value to the poor farmers in British Columbia.

[deletion: blank] in summing up the remarks of the two speakers, stressed the need for the establishment of a new system under the dictatorship of the proletariat.

[#] Only about 50 people attended a meeting of the English Bay branch of the Friends of the Soviet Union at Vancouver, B.C., on the evening of 29th July. [deletion:blank] acted as Chairman, and the speakers of the evening were [deletion: 1/3 line]

[deletion: blank] the first speaker, lectured on current events touching on the subject of patriotism of which she said that there was far too much of it today in Canada. She quoted extensively from a book by Beverly Nichols on internationalism and the building of a new social order.

[deletion: blank] spoke on the proposed delegation to the Soviet Union, asserting that three delegates will be chosen from British Columbia.

[#] Approximately 200 people attended a meeting of the Canadian Labour Defence League at Vancouver, B.C., in the Ukrainian Labour Temple on 30th July. C. W. Bass, representing the Unemployed Councils, gave a lecture on the

[13]

new plan of the British Columbia Provincial Government of working out relief. He urged the audience to refuse to comply with the Government regulations. He also appealed for support for the anti-war demonstration on 4th August. Trevor Maguire also spoke on his favourite subject "Hunger, War and Fascism".

[#] A meeting of the Women's Labour League was held in Vancouver, B.C., on 29th July for the purpose of discussing war and Fascism. [deletion: blank] the first speaker, condemned war strongly.

She was followed by [deletion: blank] who recently returned to Vancouver from Switzerland. She brought greetings to the meeting from

[deletion: 1 line] She reported that Zurcher is still active in revolutionary circles, and that [deletion: blank] and her husband are in Spain. She announced that Fascism is losing out in Europe and particularly in Switzerland.

[deletion: blank] of the Canadian Labour Defence League, spoke at length on the horrors of the last war and the plight of the returned men, and appealed for a good turnout on 4th August. (The demonstration on 4th August was an utter failure.)

[#] The proposed British Columbia Workers' News is not to appear. Instructions have been issued by the National Executive Committee of the Communist Party at Toronto, Ont., to withhold publication of this proposed paper. The reason for the change in policy, apparently, is due to the fact that The Worker now appears twice a week.

[#] Approximately 200 unemployed invaded the City Council Chamber at New Westminster, B.C., on 1st August, in

[14]

support of a delegation of five representing the Unemployed Workers' Union who went there to submit their demands to the city authorities. The demonstration arose out of a new scheme recently put into effect by the Provincial authorities whereby relief recipients must now work for any relief given them. The demands of the delegation, which was headed by Tom Shaw, were:-

- (1) That scrip be granted to those on strike.
- (2) That 50 an hour be paid for work done.
- (3) That those on relief be given a \$15 increase.

The demands were flatly turned down by the City Council, and the Mayor made it clear that no relief would be given to men who would not work on projects allotted to them, nor would there be any change in the council's policy on relief matters.

II. ALBERTA

4. Some New Communists

[✂#] The Communist Party leaders at Edmonton, Alta., have succeeded in drawing into the movement a number of the middle class business people in the city through their anti-war and anti-Fascist movement. On 24th July the Women's Auxiliary and the Youth Branch of the Unemployed Married Men's Association held a mass Conference on War and Fascism in the Memorial Hall with approximately 250 delegates in attendance. There were a number of delegates from bona fide labour organizations present, and the principal speakers were Sam Rosen, Miss Margaret Crang, labour Alderman, Dr. Harry Timbres, George Salter and James Holopeter. The subject of the various addresses given centered around the question of "Fascism and War". A committee to further the work of this conference was appointed consisting of the following individuals:-

[15]

Jan Lakeman	George Salter
Mrs. J. Levine	Mrs. Beauchamp
T. Tweeter	R. C. Mason
Mrs. R. C. Mason	Dr. Harry Timbres
J. Eisenbraun	L. Hartman
J. Jensen	W. Doskoch
J. Holopeter	Mrs. I. Ringwood
Miss M. Crang	Dr. F. Crang
E. Feeley	W. Strojich

This committee will be responsible for the publishing of leaflets against war and Fascism and is to call anti-war meetings at which delegates from labour organizations, charity movements, religious bodies, etc., are to be requested to attend.

[✂#] Representatives of the Edmonton (Alta.) Sub-District Bureau of the Communist Party visited Rich Valley to locate a site for the Communist Summer School. A site has been chosen at Lake Majeau and it is expected that 60 children will be sent there from Edmonton and that approximately 30 children will attend from the Rich Valley District. Classes will be held in the Rich Valley Community Hall and at the farm of [✂deletion: blank] the school to commence about 6th August.

[§<#] On 29th July the Unemployed Married Men's Association of Edmonton, Alta., held a meeting at the Albion Hall which was attended by approximately 300 people. J. M. Matheson acted as Chairman, and the speakers were J. Holopeter, S. Centazzo and Dr. Harry Timbres.

Holopeter spoke on the Nation Recovery Act and on conditions in the United States of America. He alleged that President Roosevelt brought the National Recovery Act into being to benefit the Capitalists and not the workers.

Centazzo devoted most of his time to criticizing the United Mine Workers of America alleging that it was a reactionary organization and not at all operating in the

[16]

interests of its membership. He eulogized the Mine Workers' Union of Canada giving it credit for a number of victories in the industrial struggle.

Dr. Harry Timbres spoke on conditions in Soviet Russia alleging that the country is on the road to prosperity, that there was no unemployment there and that the people are all actively engaged in the economic reconstruction of the country.

[§<deletion: 1/5 page]

[§<#] At a meeting of the Communist Party of Canada fraction of the Unemployed Married Men's Association, Edmonton, Alta., held in the Workers' Unity League office on 4th August it was decided to postpone indefinitely the proposed relief strike. At this meeting [§<deletion: 3/4 line] of the Communist Party, reported that Calgary is preparing for a strike against the relief cut which is anticipated in that city.

[§<#] The Communist Party leaders in Calgary, Alta., are now concentrating their efforts with a view to calling a strike of the Calgary unemployed. Letters have been sent to all members of the Unemployed Married Men's Association asking them to state immediately whether they are in favour of a strike or not. Should the majority of the members of the association declare themselves in favour of a strike action is to be taken immediately. Hope is being entertained by the Communist leaders that employees

[17]

of the packing plants may also be influenced to join the strike, especially the Union Packing Plant with whom good contact has been maintained.

[X#] [Xdeletion: blank] has returned to the Crow's Nest Pass and has again assumed a leading role in the Mine Workers' Union of Canada. He, together with [Xdeletion: 1/2 line] and several other Organizers, addressed open-air mass meetings throughout the Pass on 27th July.

Reports from points in the Crow's Nest Pass would indicate that the revolutionary union, the Mine Workers' Union of Canada, is making steady progress and is absorbing many of the members of the Home Local, the independent union. At Blairmore, Alta., the Mine Workers' Union of Canada has submitted an ultimatum to the Home Local members giving them two weeks in which to join the Mine Workers' Union. If necessary the Mine Workers' Union will impress the company that its members do not intend to work in the same mine with other union members.

[X#] The Mine Workers' Union of Canada has sent out a call to all locals for the Ninth Annual Convention to be held in Calgary, Alta., commencing on 10th September, 1934. One of the important issues which will engage the attention of this convention will be the proposed National Miners' Federation of Canada.

[X#] [Xdeletion: blank] recently active in the Flin Flon (Man.) strike where he acted as an Organizer of the Mine Workers' Union of Canada, has returned to Canmore, Alta. On 5th August he addressed a meeting of the Mine Workers' Union, Canmore, on the Flin Flon strike. He claimed that the inability of the Mine Workers' Union of Canada to win

[18]

the strike was due to the timidity of the English-speaking miners and the returned soldiers. [Xdeletion: blank] it is reported, will visit Calgary, Saunders and other mining towns in the near future.

III. QUEBEC

5. [Xdeletion: blank] Back in Montreal

[X#] [Xdeletion: blank] has returned to Montreal, Que., and attended a meeting of the Secretariat of the Montreal Canadian Labour Defence

League on the evening of 7th August. The meeting was also attended by [deletion: 1 1/3 line] A brief report was submitted by [deletion: blank] on a discussion she had had with Beckie Buhay Ewen in Toronto regarding organizational matters in the Montreal District. She stated that it is the opinion of the National Office in Toronto that the Montreal District is lagging far behind other districts much smaller in size. Further, that the Montreal District has failed to carry the campaign for the release of Tim Buck and Tom Ewen to a successful conclusion.

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[19]

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[deletion: #] Workers' Unity League Organizers have succeeded in forming a Union of Window Cleaners in the City of Montreal, Que. Efforts will be made to bring about a strike as soon as the union is sufficiently organized.

[deletion: #] [deletion: 1 1/3 lines] to organize the Furniture Workers' Union. It is reported that the Furniture Workers' Union in Montreal has now a membership of approximately 220 and that preparations are being made for a general strike in the near future. It is expected that about 500 furniture workers will come out on strike.

IV. THE MARITIME PROVINCES

6. Strike at Stellarton

There has been a strike among the employees at the Allan and Albion shafts of the Acadia Coal Company at Stellarton, N.S. An employee named [deletion: 2/3 line] the roof of which was leaking badly. [deletion: blank] went to the Manager for the liquidators and asked for some material with which to repair the roof. When his

[20]

request was refused he became abusive and was promptly dismissed. The other miners decided to call a strike because [Xdeletion: blank] was discharged.

Additional police were sent to Stellarton in anticipation of trouble with the pickets. On one occasion those on picket duty ran some of the company employees into the nearby lake and ducked them. Pickets, on another occasion, threw stones at the police when they were escorting maintenance men to work. Eleven men have been indicted charged under Section 87 of the Criminal Code.

Work has been resumed in the mines. There was some apprehension that the two unions, the Amalgamated Mine Workers of Nova Scotia and the United Mine Workers of America, might call a further strike to protest against the arrest of the ringleaders, who are now awaiting trial. This has not been done and there is little likelihood of any further strike at the present time.
