

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 22nd August, 1934.

SECRETNO. 720WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS
AND AGITATORS IN CANADAReport

Aneurin Bevan and Dr. Kurt Rosenfeld addressed large meetings in Vancouver, Calgary and Winnipeg recently. Both are accomplished speakers, and Bevan showed himself to be an able collector.

The present standing of Revolutionary Organizations in Winnipeg indicates that on the whole, the cause of Communism has made a slight advance. Some of the Societies, notably the Workers' International Relief, have failed to come up to expectations.

The Students' League of Canada held its first National Convention in Toronto on 6th and 7th August, 1934. This League proposes to publish a paper to be called "Student Front".

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APPENDIX NO. 1: GENERAL

1. Aneurin Bevan and Dr. Kurt Rosenfeld

~~10~~ Aneurin Bevan and Dr. Kurt Rosenfeld addressed an anti-war and anti-Fascist meeting in Calgary, Alta., on 12th August. Alderman Parkyn acted as Chairman. He said that he felt that it was the highest honour yet accorded him to be asked to preside over a meeting to be addressed by two such distinguished speakers.

Bevan spoke first. He said that he and Dr. Rosenfeld had come to New York to attend a large convention held for the purpose of arousing public sympathy for the political prisoners in Germany. He said that it was due to public sympathy and mass pressure that the Communists who had been held on charges of setting fire to the Reichstag had been freed. They wish to stir up further assistance and sympathy for Ernst Thaelmann and seven thousand other political prisoners who are now being held in goal without trial.

Speaking of Fascism, Bevan said that after the War, when depression was at its worst, people watched the Russian experiment with interest. The Capitalist class had no new tricks with which to interest the public. Members of the British Government became alarmed as they did not know how the future would turn out. Then someone suggested Fascism by means of which they hoped to bolster up Capitalism. They watched the experiment in Italy and thought they detected in this movement the last ray of hope for keeping the Capitalist class on its feet. He then referred to Germany under the Hitler regime, the complete suppression of freedom, speech, and religion. On first gaining power Hitler appealed to the middle class who had suffered most because of the War. Hitler assured the middle class that they were the salt of the earth and

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had not received adequate reward for what they had accomplished. He blamed the Jews very largely for this. The result was the German people rose en masse against the Jews.

Bevan referred to the middle class in any country as just dust which when wetted can be moulded into any shape desired. He asserted that the real leaders of any nation could only come from the working class. Once working class leadership is established the middle class will be set aside and the crushing of the Capitalist class will be accomplished.

Bevan said that after the War England was pro-German and anti-French. Then the British Secret Service detected the storm clouds gathering and warned the British Government that the German working class was building up a very strong organizations secretly, and would soon be ready to overthrow the Hitler Government and a workers' government would be formed. He predicted that Austria would follow suit also Poland, Finland and Hungary and finally the whole of Europe. In the end the whole Capitalist system would be overthrown. The English Government had turned anti-German not so much because of fear of the Hitler Government but because they realized the strength of the Revolutionary Movement in Germany. England is only a stone's throw from Europe and if the European countries follow Russia's lead England will be compelled to follow suit. He went on to explain that America and Canada cannot afford to hold aloof and that their future will be influenced by events in Europe.

The speaker appealed for funds to support his campaign and the collection was announced as amounting to \$113.07. At the conclusion of his speech Bevan was loudly applauded.

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Rosenfeld spoke mostly in German and his remarks had to be translated into English. His speech was on very much the same lines as that of Bevan.

At the conclusion of Rosenfeld's speech George Palmer spoke for 10 minutes and appealed to everyone, especially the working class, to join workers' organizations, to disregard class and racial feeling and form a United Front for the overthrow of Fascism and the right of free speech, free organization and free beliefs.

[3<#] Bevan and Rosenfeld delivered very similar speeches in Winnipeg on the 14th August. On this occasion, Bevan said in addition that Hindenburg did not like Hitler; on the other hand Hindenburg saw the end of capitalism approaching and was working to save the Capitalists at the instigation of the war industrialists. Now the workers everywhere realize that Hitler's policy means terror in the highest degree. On the other hand, in the U.S.S.R. revolution had brought a change for the better. The only people in Russia who had suffered since the Revolution were Czarists.

Rosenfeld denounced Hitler bitterly and urged his hearers to resist to the limit any attempt to establish Nazism in Canada. The collection under the able leadership of Bevan amounted to \$215.00.

[✂#] These two speakers addressed an audience estimated at one thousand in Vancouver on 10th August. Trevor Maguire and A.E. Smith were on the platform, also Mayor Taylor. The Mayor in answer to some interrupters said he was opposed to war and Fascism and Nazism: he is also against the Red Element and the Communists, and while in office intends to maintain law and order as well as he can. The collection was said to reach \$289.15. There is no doubt that Bevan is a wizard at collecting money as the contributions at these meetings indicate clearly.

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Dr. Rosenfeld is a member of the Executive Committee of the Workers' International Relief.

2. Revolutionary Organizations in Winnipeg

[✂#] A report has been received from Winnipeg, Man., giving the present standing of the various revolutionary organizations at work in that district.

The Workers' Unity League. The revolutionary trade union movement of the Communist Party has made inroads into various industries, workshops and the transportation systems without making any very pronounced advancement. The league has suffered a loss in the departure of Joe Forkin who has gone over to the Canadian Labour Defence League.

The Farmers' Unity League and the Lumber Workers' Industrial Union are of no importance in this district.

The Neighbourhood Council movement has made no progress due to the efficient way in which the relief situation has been handled.

The same remark applies to the Single Men's Protective Association and the Camp Workers' Union.

The Workers' International Relief has fallen down badly in their part in recent strikes. They were quite unable to live up to their promises. [✂deletion: blank] had to shoulder the blame and has been replaced by [✂deletion: blank]

The Canadian Labour Defence League has been overhauled. [✂deletion: 2 1/2 lines]

The Young Communist League is almost at a standstill, and the Workers Ex-Service Men's League exists in name only.

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The Anti-Fascist League has grown rapidly but there has been a split. A number of the members who resented Communist control have formed a separate section.

The children's movement is progressing slowly but effectively. The children are being taught that Communism is their religion. They are given a careful schooling and are instructed to hate the churches, the State and all classes of society.

The financing of the revolutionary movement is a carefully guarded secret. There is reason to suppose that expenditure has exceeded income, a state of affairs which cannot continue indefinitely.

Speaking generally, it is said that the Communists are becoming bolder and, while the Communist Party does not appear to have made much advancement, they have persistently endeavoured to bore into industry, the homes, the churches and all walks of life. They are recovering from the Toronto trials and do not seem to fear a prison sentence at all, serving a jail sentence being regarded merely as part of their duty. They are taught to believe that mass pressure will be used to shorten jail sentences and the release of the Communists who are serving a term in Kingston is quoted as a splendid example of what mass pressure can accomplish. The one thing they fear is deportation.

3. The Students' League of Canada

[✂#] The Student League of Canada held its first National Convention in Toronto, Ont., on 6th and 7th August. It followed on the heels of the Youth Congress Against War and Fascism. There were 21 delegates present of whom eight were from Toronto, five from Montreal, and the rest from Nova Scotia, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. There

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were also present five fraternal delegates from the National Student League of the United States of America, and Frank Meyer, of the International Union of Revolutionary students who, it is alleged, was expelled from the London School of Economics recently and ordered to leave England. During the discussion it was revealed that the Montreal Student League has now a membership of 800 and is organizing the students of Montreal. One of the principal features of the convention was a discussion centering around the question of war and Fascism. It was pointed out that the principal activity of the Student League should centre around that question.

The convention endorsed the manifesto of the Canadian Youth Congress Against War and Fascism and decided that one of the major tasks for the coming year among the students was the setting up of the broadest possible anti-war and anti-Fascist movement in the schools.

It was also decided to issue a paper to be known as Student Front.

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APPENDIX NO. 11: REPORTS BY PROVINCES1. BRITISH COLUMBIA4. A.E. Smith in Vancouver

[§#] Approximately four hundred people attended a picnic meeting held by the Canadian Labour Defence League of Vancouver, B.C., in Hastings Park on the evening of the 12th August.

A.E. Smith, who received a very enthusiastic reception, was the principal speaker. He spoke on the "Class Struggle". He expressed a hope that by the 19th August, Tim Buck and Tom Ewen would be out on parole.

[§#] The Canadian Labour Defence League at New Westminster, B.C., held a public meeting in the Edison Theatre on the evening of the 12th August. Bert Samson presided over the meeting and the speaker was A.E. Smith, General Secretary of the League.

A.E. Smith in his tirade against the present Government referred to the leaders of the Liberal and Conservative Parties as, - "A bunch of crooks and rascals", blaming them for the misery and starvation existing today. He proudly proclaimed himself a Communist and hoped that the workers would forgive him for having been a preacher.

He gave a brief account of some of the delegations on which he had been a member, referring particularly to his interview with Prime Minister, The Hon. R.B. Bennett, in connection with the release of the 8 Communists in Kingston Penitentiary. Hew requested the audience to support the movement for the release of Tim Buck and Tom Ewen who, he stated, were in a terrible condition physically. He characterized the leaders of the Canadian Commonwealth Federation as, "A bunch of dirty traitors to the working class". A resolution demanding the release of Tim Buck and Tom Ewen was put to the meeting and passed unanimously by the audience numbering approximately 400.

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11. ALBERTA5. [§deletion: blank]

[§#] [§deletion: 1/2 line] are in the Crow's Nest Pass working in the interests of the Mine Workers' Union of Canada. The Mine Workers' Union of Canada is most anxious to enlist all those miners who are at present members of the Blairmore Miners' Union which is a Home Local. The Mine Workers' Union of Canada has made various threats as to what will happen if the Blairmore miners do not come into the Mine Workers' Union

of Canada. Both unions are awaiting the return of [deletion: 1/2 line] who is away on a holiday. The company will unquestionably want to see both unions kept going as in any negotiations which they carry on with the miners they generally endeavour to play one union against the other.

A Tag Day held by the Workers' International Relief in Edmonton on the 11th August netted the Organization the sum of \$33.00.

Intermittent rain showers interfered with a picnic held by the Communist Party at Edmonton on the 12th August, north of the Royal Alexandra Hospital. The profit received from it amounted to only about \$50.00.

The anti-war and anti-Fascist mass meeting staged in the market Square in the City of Edmonton, Alta., on the evening of 4th August did not come up to the expectations of the Communist Party leaders. It was poorly attended, only about 250 persons were present. O.C. Doolan acted as Chairman, and the speakers were Mrs. Ringwood, a member of the Executive Committee of the Canadian Civil Liberties Protective Association, Alderman Miss Margaret Crang, the Reverend A.E. Black, Minister of the Central United Church, J. Lakeman of the Communist Party of Canada, Alderman Rice Sheppherd, and

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D. Hogart, Communist Party Organizer for the Scandinavian Branch. The Reverend A. T. Mackintosh and Irvine were also scheduled to speak but for some unknown reasons did not attend.

Anti-war resolutions and a resolution demanding the immediate release of Tim Buck and Tom Ewen were passed.

[deletion: 1/2 line] On Sunday, 5th August, a well attended meeting and parade was held by the Communist organizations of the Smoky Lake District, in the Village of Smoky Lake, Alta. Speeches were made in the Market Square between the hours of 2:00 and 5:30 P.M. The demonstrators then paraded to the Municipal Building where further speeches were made. The crowd was orderly throughout and no disturbances were noted. Approximately 900 people attended.

III. SASKATCHEWAN

[✂#] 6. Anti-War & Anti-Fascist Demonstration at Kamsack

On 4th August a demonstration of farmers and workers took place in the Town of Kamsack, Sask., protesting against war and Fascism. It is alleged that about 500 men, women and youths took part in this demonstration which was organized by the Farmers' Unity League in conjunction with the Communist Party and the Young Communist League in that district. Fred Ganong of Sturgis, Sask., opened the meeting and introduced the first speaker, Tom Hallmark, a young Englishman, who was instrumental in organizing the meeting.

Other speakers were W.E. Wiggins, National Secretary of the Farmers' Unity League, J. Makarevich of Winnipeg, Man., and Victor Kaft of Verigin, Sask., the last two speaking in Russian.

Following the speech making the meeting voted in favour of parading through the town as a protest against the present war preparations, Fascism and hunger. On return to the point where the meeting was held a resolution was

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adopted expressing condemnation of the war makers and Fascists and pledging everyone to organize along with his neighbours against imperialist war and to make the next war, when it comes, a means of taking the power away from the war makers and placing it in the hands of the working class.

[✂#] The annual convention of the United Farmers of Canada, Saskatchewan Section, held in the City of Saskatoon, Sask., on 24th, 25th and 26th July, accepted the proposal of Walter Wiggins, National Secretary of the Farmers' Unity League, for joint committees of action in the struggle for adequate and increased relief for farmers. Walter Wiggins was given an enthusiastic reception and his proposal was heartily received by the delegates. A resolution drawn up by the National Office of the Farmers' Unity League which embodied Walter Wiggins' proposals, was carried unanimously by the convention. The acceptance of the proposal for joint action with the Farmers' Unity League is being looked upon by the Communists as a decided step to the left.

[✂#] An attempt is to be made by the Communist Party and the Young Communist League at Regina, Sask., to work amongst the members of the

Regina Unemployed Union in an endeavour to oust the present leadership of the organization. It is felt that the present leaders of this union will make every endeavour to deep the Communists on the outside.

IV. MANITOBA

7. [redacted] goes to Flin Flon

[redacted] A Winnipeg (Man.) report states that [redacted] alias [redacted] had been instructed to proceed to The Pas and Flin Flon in order to secure witnesses for the defence of those arrested during the Flin Flon strike.

[14]

V. ONTARIO

8. L.W.I.U. Conference at Port Arthur

[redacted] The Western Ontario District of the Lumber Workers' Industrial Union held a two day's conference at Port Arthur on the 4th and 6th August. There were twenty-three delegates present, fifteen of whom were from various camps, seven were local delegates and one was from the Finnish Organization. There were also two delegates from the Women's Auxiliary in attendance.

Comrade Makela, secretary of the district, presented the main report. He dealt with the international, political and economical situation in its relation to the lumbering industry and its influence upon the workers employed therein. He maintained that an upward trend in industry was only evident in the branches manufacturing war material. In order to overcome the crisis, the Capitalists, he asserted, prepare for a new war. He also spoke of the danger of a Capitalists' War against the Soviet Union. His report indicated that, in spite of certain shortcomings, the Lumber Workers' Industrial Union has made considerable progress since the previous convention.

Comrade Salo spoke on the significance of the united front. He pointed out that the leaders of the Industrial Workers of the World have refused to accept the united front proposal of the Workers' Unity League, despite the fact that the rank and file of that organization approved of it. It was resolved to combat the program and policy of the Industrial Workers of the World where it differs from that of the Lumber Workers' Industry Union.

The conference approved of the sending of two lumber workers' delegates to the Soviet Union next October, and elected a district committee consisting of 17 members.

The conference also passed resolutions demanding the release of the Hungarian Communist Rakozzi, imprisoned in

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Hungary; Thaelman and Torgler and other Communists imprisoned in Germany; Tim Buck and Tom Ewen imprisoned in Kingston Penitentiary, and the six lumber workers who participated in the Rouyn Strike now incarcerated at Ville Marie, Que.

[3<#] The Northern Ontario District of the Lumber Workers' Industrial Union held its annual convention in Ansonville, Ont., recently with 22 delegates from various branches and camps in attendance. The representation was augmented by the five members of the District Executive Council and representatives from other revolutionary organizations. The District Executive Council's Secretary, Woodland, acted as convener and William Lehtinen presented a report on behalf of the executive Council. The report disclosed that during the past year 13 strikes had been conducted in the district, most of which were only a partial success. The lumber workers' strike at Rouyn, Que., it was admitted, was a failure on account of the insufficient preparations and lack of leadership. The report also mentioned that during and after the strikes the Lumber Workers' Industrial Union had gained about 6,000 new members, 4,000 of whom retained [3<deletion: 1/3 page]

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Following the election of a District Executive Council of eight, it was decided that the headquarters of the District Council remain in Timmins, Ont.

The convention passed and dispatched resolutions demanding the release of Comrade Raketti and Jeanne Corbin, and the release of Tim Buck and Tom Ewen. Another resolution demanding the release of Ernst Thaelmann was passed and dispatched to the Government in Germany.

[3<#] Queen's Park, Toronto, Ont., on the night of 13th August was the scene of a mass meeting held under the auspices of the Canadian Labour Defence League in protest against the imprisonment of Tim Buck and Tom Ewen. W. Dekker, the Chairman, in opening the meeting stated that the seven leaders of the Communist Party of Canada had been sent to jail in 1931 in an endeavour to outlaw the Communist Party. He said that these men had been the victims of much torture and that two of them had been given longer

sentences after being framed on charges of causing a riot in the penitentiary. He claimed that it was only through the mass protest of the workers of Canada that five of these men were now out on parole.

Mrs. Tom Ewen (Beckie Buhay) and John Boychuk were the principal speakers. The subject of their addresses centered around the question of Section 98 and the legality of the Communist Party of Canada.

A man, who claimed to be a member of the Workers' Unity League and whose name has not been ascertained, took the platform and in a brief speech attacked Mayor Stewart for not issuing a permit for the "hunger marches". He also stressed the need for unity and, in closing, said:-

"We of the Communist Party want the workers to see our side of things. We of the Communist Party want to be able to go out and solicit members for the Communist Party freely. We of the Communist Party want the workers to unite into a mass formation of workers and fight to overthrow the present system, and establish a Soviet Canada".

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[§<#] A meeting of the Workers' Unity League Council for the Border Cities district was held on 9th August with 14 members present. [§<deletion: 1/3 line] occupied the chair. The various reports submitted would indicate that the Shop Committee functioning in the Ford plant is 30 members strong, and that the committee is divided into five groups of six members each.

It was also revealed that some organizing work has been carried on among female employees of the Windsor Wiping Cloth Company.

A delegate named [§<deletion: blank] reported that there is no activity among the employees of the Windsor Bedding Company. He stated that any employee who is seen conversing with any of those who have been discharged as a result of the strike is immediately discharged in turn with the result that those who are employed are fearful of indulging in any activities.

The financial report showed that the council is in debt to the amount of \$64. After some discussion, it was decided to hold an international picnic for the purpose of raising funds.

[§<#] Brampton, Ont., was the scene of some disturbances on 13th August when strikers of the Williams Shoe Factory assaulted a number of employees when they emerged from the building. The participants in the fight resorted not only to sticks and stones but used cauliflowers, tomatoes and even eggs as missiles. Bruises and broken windows resulted from the fracas.

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VI. QUEBEC

9. Notes

[deletion: 1/4 page]

[#] As a result of disorder occurring during a meeting held by the Rosemount Tenants' League in Molson's Park, Montreal, on the evening of the 8th August, the privilege of holding open air meetings has been suspended by the City Executive, pending a report from the Police Director.

[deletion: 1/2 page]

[#] The joint strike of the Needle Trades Industrial Union and the Dress Cutters' Union is scheduled to commence on the morning of 22nd August. About 30 large factories and 60 small shops employing a total of between 3,000 and 4,000 employees will be affected.

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[deletion: 1/2 page]

VII. The Maritime Provinces

[#] 10. [deletion: blank]

[deletion: 1/4 page]

A Correction

In the Summary dated 15th August 1934, there was a paragraph headed "Strike at Stellarton". It was said that the strike was brought on by the dismissal of an employee of the Acadia Coal Company named [deletion: blank] This is a mistake: the miner who was discharged is named [deletion: 3/4 line]
