

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, August 29th, 1934.

SECRET

NO. 721

WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATORS IN CANADAReport

During his recent visit to Blairmore, Alberta, A.E. Smith dedicated and declared open the new "Tim Buck Boulevard". The ceremony was conducted in true Communist fashion.

Malcolm Bruce is reported to be going to Vancouver on a visit. Later he is expected to go to Nova Scotia to take charge of Communist activities there.

It is likely that the rivalry between the Mine Workers Union of Canada and the Home Local Unions in the Crow's Nest Pass will be settled shortly. The M.W.U.C. is threatening to call a strike if the vote goes against this Union.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERALI. A.E. Smith on tour(b) In Vancouver

[3<#] A.E. Smith received a very enthusiastic reception by approximately 1500 attending a mass meeting held under the auspices of the Canadian Labour Defence League at Moose Hall, Vancouver, on the 13th August.

Smith in his speech lasting nearly 3 hours dealt mainly and extensively with the persecution and imprisonment of the leaders of the Communist Party of Canada. During his speech, he launched the usual attack on the present social system prevailing in Canada. The Prime Minister, The Hon. R.B. Bennett, the Minister of Justice, as well as the leaders of the Canadian Commonwealth Federation came in for some very harsh criticism. Referring to the imprisonment of the eight communists in Kingston Penitentiary, Smith said:-

"It was a very dangerous procedure to lock up eight communists with eight hundred convicts. By the time they were through, there were eight hundred communists and the "Red Flag", learned via the "grape vine" route, was a popular song in that pen."

Following a stirring appeal to the audience to demand the immediate release of Tim Buck and Tom Ewen, Smith remarked:-

"Communism comes to the world today not as a painless remedy of problems, but as the only remedy."

In concluding, Smith appealed for subscriptions for the Canadian Labour Defence League in aid of those recently discharged from Kingston. The audience responded to the extent of \$67.93.

(c) In Victoria

[3<#] Continuing his tour, A.E. Smith addressed a meeting of the Canadian Labour Defence League in the Chamber of Commerce Auditorium at Victoria, B.C., on the 14th August, there being approximately 350 persons present.

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The subject of his speech centered around the present tasks of the Canadian Labour Defence League, among which he stressed the struggle for the legality of the Communist Party of Canada; the immediate release of Tim Buck and Tom Ewen; and the repeal of Section 98 of the Criminal Code.

He was very bitter in his denunciation of the Prime Minister of Canada, contending that very few of Mr. Bennett's election promises had been fulfilled. He asserted that the Canadian Labour Defence League was not the Communist Party, but works in harmony with it, because they believe in the policy and principles of Communism. He urged his listeners to demand a thorough investigation into the shooting of Tim Buck. He further asserted that it was a well known fact that a guard fired several shots into Buck's cell and that Ormond was aware of what was taking place at the time.

He urged and proposed a "United Front" on a national scale with a view to attacking Capitalism and with the ultimate aim of overthrowing it. He said:- "The only solution is the complete victory of the Working Class!" We do not propose to buy the Capitalist Class, or sing them out; but, we propose to throw them out!"

(c) In Blairmore

Returning East via the Crow's Nest Pass, Smith took part in an unusual ceremony in Blairmore. The following account of the opening of "Tim Buck Boulevard", Blairmore, appeared in The Worker on the 28th August:-

"Blairmore, Bellevue, Coleman and Michel miners turned out in great numbers to greet A.E. Smith, general secretary of the Canadian Labor Defense League, on the occasion of his meeting here. They greeted him with a parade and banners. A newly built boulevard was opened by A.E. Smith who broke a red ribbon and dedicated the street "Tim Buck Boulevard." Big meetings sent to the Minister of Justice wires demanding the release of Tim Buck and Tom Ewen from Kingston prison, as did also the Blairmore town council. Tom Uphill, Labor M.P.P. from Fernie, B.C., addressed the meeting. Mayor Knight of Blairmore presided."

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Our report says that after the opening of this Boulevard, A.E. Smith made a long speech. He was introduced by Harvey Murphy, Organizer of the Mine Workers' Union of Canada. Murphy gave an outline of Smith's life and his remarks were received with applause. Smith spoke almost exclusively of Tim Buck whom he described as; "The outstanding man of Canadian Politics at the present time." As the collection taken up did not come up to Smith's expectations, he passed the hat around himself with the result that \$53.00, was gathered for the fund which is being established to bring back to health the comrades who were recently released from Kingston.

2. Southern Ontario District C.L.D.L. Plenum

[3<#]

The Southern Ontario District of the Canadian Labour Defence League held a plenum in the Don Hall, Toronto, on the 19th August, the purpose of which was to review past activities, formulate new plans and to elect delegates to the forthcoming National Conference to be held on the 22nd and 23rd September. There were 74 delegates present and the conference was presided over by [3<deletion: blank]

The various reports submitted revealed many shortcomings. It was alleged that the District Central Committee had not functioned properly, that it had not met since the last conference, and that nearly all the work had been thrown on the shoulders of a few members. It was also said that, although every effort was made to give effect to the plans set out by the last conference, these plans had not been acted upon by the branches. It was also charged that the literature sent out to the branches has not been paid for and much of the money which has been collected has not been turned in.

The reports showed that the Organization has now a total membership of 3000; 1280 of whom are paid up members. There were 1494 new members enrolled since January, 1933, and

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750 since January 1934. The District comprises now 62 branches and the composition of the membership is at least 70% foreign born. The plenum, despite all the shortcomings, recorded considerable progress, particularly in the field of propaganda. It was reported that about 2,000,000 leaflets were distributed through the District Office. Meetings, particularly those held in connection with the A.E. Smith sedition case, were well attended. It is estimated that at least 50,000 people attended the various meetings in the city of Toronto alone.

Mrs. Tom Ewen, (B. Buhay), one of the leading delegates in attendance, spoke on some of the vital tasks confronting the Organization, and outlined the campaigns that had been carried on by the Canadian Labour Defence League since the last convention.

Malcolm Bruce delivered an address in which he urged that it was the duty of every member to work for the enlargement of the Organization. He was opposed to the abolition of jails, saying, - "We will not do away with jails immediately, for we will keep these men who have tortured us in them, and show them what it means to be forced behind gray walls."

The plenum passed a number of resolutions, dealing with the tasks confronting the League in the District. Regarding the question of electing

delegates for the National Conference, it was decided that this should be left in the hands of the various branches throughout the district.

3. Malcolm Bruce

A recent report from Windsor, Ontario, states that Malcolm Bruce, who has left Windsor for Toronto, is planning to proceed to Vancouver in the near future. He is to enjoy a short holiday in Vancouver and then proceed to Nova Scotia to supervise Communist party Affairs there.

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The report also mentioned that the Central Executive of the Communist Party were extremely anxious to have Bruce resume his former position as Editor of The Worker, but on account of his long imprisonment, Bruce does not care to resume inside work.

4. Young Communist International Appeal

In response to a call issued by the Young Communist International, addressed to the employed and unemployed youth, young peasants, soldiers and sailors of the world, arrangements are being made by the Young Communist League of Canada to celebrate "International Youth Day" on the 1st September.

The appeal issued by the Executive Committee of the Young Communist International reads in part as follows:-

COMRADES! YOUNG WORKERS!

"Today the danger of a new imperialist war and the threat to the fatherland of the world proletariat is extremely serious.

You yourselves can see how fully the war factories are working. You can see every day parades and army manouvres.

You are called on to "defend the fatherland." What fatherland? The fatherland where the hangmen of the working class - Hitler, Mussolini, and Pilsudski rule? The fatherland where you are shot down with or without trial for daring to ask for bread! The fatherland where five times as much is spent on the upkeep of a police dog as on a worker's child! The Fatherland which is not able to either feed or educate the youth!

"Is it worth dying for such a fatherland?"

"We proletarian youth, like all the toilers love our proletarian Germany, beautiful Italy, France and England, and it is precisely because of this love, because of our right to live, our right to use all the benefits and values created by the hands of our fathers, that WE MUST TAKE IT AWAY FROM THE BOURGEOISIE! We will only defend it when it is really our fatherland!

COMRADES! YOUNG WORKERS, PEASANTS, SOLDIERS!

"The Executive Committee of the Young Communist International sends you a fighting call to come out on to the streets on September 1st, on demonstrations, to organize strikes and revolutionary activity as a protest against the war which is in preparation, against the militarization and fascistation of the youth! We call on all the toiling youth, irrespective of the organizations to which they belong at the present time.

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COMRADES! YOUNG SOCIALIST WORKERS!

"The Young Communist International calls on you all to act jointly with the Y.C.I. on September 1st Against War and Fascism, defense of the U.S.S.R. for the liberation of Comrade Thaelmann, Paul Walisch and all other prisoners of international reaction.

"We call on you to organize joint demonstrations actions and strikes on International Youth Day. We call on you to form joint youth committees for the struggle for the release of Comrade Thaelmann and the prisoners of capital. We call on you to form a united front of struggle of the toiling youth against hunger, want, fascism and war.

5. Bevan & Rosenfeld in Montreal

[✂#]

Dr. Kurt Rosenfeld and Aneurin Bevan, M.P., addressed a mass meeting held under the auspices of the Montreal League against War and Fascism in the Mount Royal arena, Montreal, on the evening of the 24th August. The meeting was ably presided over by [✂deletion: blank] of the Canadian Labour Defence League and despite the inclemency of the weather the attendance numbered approximately two thousand persons.

Reporting on this meeting our observers remarks:- "The first speaker was Dr. Kurt Rosenfeld. His speech was a general attack on the Nazi rule in Germany and in particular against Hitler. The fact of his speech being in German necessitated a translation being made and this, rather naturally, took the fire out of his utterances.

Some considerable applause was accorded this speaker but his speech conveyed the impression of an ageing man.

The next speaker, Aneurin Bevan, is a very different proposition. He has inherited the evangelical fervour of his Welsh forbears and knows how to use it in the Communist cause. A decidedly gifted speaker. He aroused his audience to a pitch of enthusiasm which was remarkable for

its unanimity when one considers that the audience consisted of French and English elements.

Bevan's speech was confined almost entirely to a savage attack on Hitler as symbolical of the Fascist spirit. He pictured, to a receptive

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audience, the overthrow of the nazi regime as meaning the commencement of a united Europe under Soviet rule. The following are some of the utterances made by Bevan during the course of his speech:-

"I demand that the Communist Party, its affiliated organizations, and all right thinking persons, no matter what their religious beliefs may be, unite in assisting the German working class to bring about the uprising and revolution which will destroy Hitler."

"If the working class of Germany comes into power, and it shall most assuredly triumph, it will mean a Communist Europe in as much as Germany, united with Russia, will absorb the lesser nations by means of contagion if not by conquest."

"One of the primary objects of this campaign is to unite the working classes of the British Empire and the United States of America in such a broad front of opposition that when Germany comes to either England or America for money with which to save the Nazi regime, neither of these countries dare lend this assistance in face of the storm of protest that will be raised."

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APPENDIX NO. 11: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

6. The Friends of the Soviet Union in Vancouver

[X#]

The Friends of the Soviet Union (English Bay Branch), Vancouver, held a meeting at 710 Davie Street on the evening of the 19th August. [Xdeletion: blank] of the Workers Ex-Service Men's League acted as chairman, and the speakers were [Xdeletion: 1/2 line]

[Xdeletion: blank] of the Lumber Workers' Industrial Union chose as his subject, - "Russian Dictatorship", and explained to the audience the difference between the Russian system of government and those of other countries. He said the only way out for the workers in North America is through a soviet Dictatorship, which, he maintained, would solve all economic problems.

The next speaker, [deletion: blank] urged the audience to purchase all the Soviet literature they possibly could in order to learn what is happening in the U.S.S.R. He warned his listeners not to believe all that appears in the Capitalist Press which takes great pleasure in defaming the Russian Government at every possible opportunity.

[deletion: blank] the last speaker, in a short address appealed for financial support to help in sending three delegates from British Columbia to Soviet Russia this Fall.

[#] A report from Vancouver states that organizational activity of the Communist Party at that point is at a very low ebb, and that within the Communist Party Circle there is considerable friction and very much criticism in the Bolshevik manner on every member, by every member of the Bureau.

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11. ALBERTA

7. The Situation in the Crow's Nest Pass

[#] As previously reported, officials of the Mine Workers Union of Canada are making a determined effort to sign up all the miners in the Crow's Nest Pass.

At the Greenhill Collieries of Blairmore, Alberta, a vote is to be taken on the 25th August to determine if the miners are to continue allegiance to the home local or to join the M.W.U.C. A threat has been made that if all the miners do not come into the M.W.U.C., a strike will be called, and those who are unwilling to join the M.W.U.C. will be run out of town. It is considered that the latter step will not be taken. There is one peculiar feature of the Blairmore situation. The list of men who are eligible for employment in the mines is kept by [deletion: blank] secretary of the M.W.U.C. Local, who boasts that he practically engages and discharges the men at the Greenhill Collieries.

At Coleman the situation is quiet, as this camp has enjoyed better earnings this year than at any time since 1919. It is reported that there is a good membership in the M.W.U.C., but none of the Red meetings are well attended. This is probably due to the fact that the operators will have nothing to do with the M.W.U.C.

At Hillcrest the M.W.U.C. state openly that they intend to organize this camp. The operators on the other hand state freely that they will have no dealings with the Red Union. At present, the operators have what amounts to an individual agreement with each miner. The miners have the right of

form committees to meet the operators to discuss matters pertaining to the mine. The M.W.U.C. are endeavouring to secure sufficient support from towns in British Columbia as far west as Fernie to warrant the chartering of a special train to bring members of the Red

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Organizations to Hillcrest for a monster picnic to be held at Hillcrest on Labour Day.

The Mohawk mine at Maple leaf is working fairly steadily. There is some dissension at the present time, probably due to Organizers of the Red Union.

It is likely that this whole matter will be settled in the near future as to whether the miners in the Crow's Nest Pass will all join the M.W.U.C. or continue to belong to whatever union they may select.

[#] About 250 members of the Unemployed Married Men's Association of Calgary staged a parade from Victoria Park to the City Hall on the 20th August in protest against the proposed relief cut which is to take effect on the first of September.

Following the parade, a meeting was held in the Unemployed Ex-Service Men's Hall, which was addressed by [deletion: 1 1/4 lines] At this meeting it was decided that the Central Council call a strike before the relief cut takes effect.

[#] [deletion: blank] addressing a meeting under the auspices of the Unemployed Married Men's Association of Edmonton, in the Albion Hall, on the 12th August, stated that a thorough house cleaning of the Communist Party would take place shortly. It is the intention to expel all reactionary elements and place the leadership of the Party in the hands of the militants.

[deletion: 4 lines]

[14]

The District Central Council of the Canadian Labour Defence League, Alberta District, is now constituted as follows:-

| | |
|-----------|-------------------|
| "Calgary: | [deletion: blank] |
| Edmonton: | [deletion: blank] |

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| Drumheller: | [ɾdeletion: blank] |
| Lethbridge: | [ɾdeletion: blank] |
| Crow's Nest Pass: | [ɾdeletion: blank] |
| Canmore: | [ɾdeletion: blank] |
| Northern Alberta: | [ɾdeletion: blank] |

III. MANITOBA

8. C.L.D.L. Meeting in Winnipeg

[ɾ#] A meeting of the Canadian Labour Defence League of Winnipeg held in the Market Square on the 19th August was attended by only about 300 people. The speakers were Alderman J. Penner, James Coleman and Mable Marlowe.

The subject of Penner's address centered around the legality of the Communist Party. He contended that because of its character, as the only true leader of the working class, always openly exposing the capitalist politicians, The Rt. Hon. Mr. Bennett found it necessary to declare the party illegal, and imprison its leaders. He urged the workers to organize and put up an intensive struggle for its re-instatement as a legal working class organization.

James Coleman dealt with the recent Flin Flon Strike. He said that the strike, although seemingly settled, is not settled; workers will sooner or later come out and strike again. He bitterly condemned Premier Bracken and the Attorney-General of Manitoba for sending the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to Flin Flon. He also described and condemned the tactics adopted by the authorities in dealing with the strike.

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Mable Marlowe, the last speaker, also dealt with the Flin Flon Strike, describing more fully the arrest of the strike leaders. She also commented on the conditions in Headingly Jail, asserting that Jack Stewart, W. Skinner and G. Gislason had been put into a black hole on various occasions.

Following her speech the text of a wire message was read at the meeting and approved to be sent to the newly elected Liberal Government of Ontario, demanding the immediate release of Tim Buck and Tom Ewen and the re-instatement of the Communist Party.

[ɾ#] The financial situation of the Canadian Labour Defence League of the Winnipeg district was discussed at a meeting of its district executive on the 19th August.

The discussion disclosed that the numerous arrests at Winnipeg and Flin Flon had depleted the treasury completely. It was revealed that the district owes the National Office over \$500.00, and that [deletion: blank] of Winnipeg, who is the League's counsel, had an outstanding account of \$1000.00. The promises made by the Western Miners to donate \$1.00 each per week for the Flin Flon strike have as yet not been fulfilled, only \$6.00 having been collected from this source. The League, it was stated, required \$500.00 for the purchase of the transcript of evidence given at the trial of those arrested at Flin Flon in connection with the strike.

[#] Rumours, which have been current in Ukrainian circles lately to the effect that M. Irchan, Ukrainian playwright and author, and at one time the idol of the Ukrainian Revolutionaries of Canada, had been arrested in Ukraine for counter-revolutionary activities, have now been confirmed.

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John Naviziwski, writing in the name of the Editor in the Ukrainian Labour News on the 18th August under the caption of, - "What of M. Irchan and J. Sembay", informs the readers that Irchan had been arrested following an address given by Popoff at a recent convention of Soviet Authors in Kharkov, Ukraine, during which Irchan was accused of being a counter-revolutionary author with a Ukrainian Nationalistic inclination. Naviziwski explained that when Irchan was working for the proletariat, he was held in high esteem but, "when he rolled into the counter revolutionary mud, he must be treated accordingly." Naviziwski then directed the readers to an article appearing in the same issue on Joseph Stalin's address on nationalistic problems, given at the congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in January, 1934.

A rumour to the effect that J. Sembay, who was deported from Canada in 1932, under Section 41 of the Immigration Act, has also been arrested in Kharkov under similar circumstances as Irchan has not been confirmed. John Naviziwski in his article is withholding any remarks concerning Sembay.

[#] The Winnipeg Shoe Repair Association, which was formed about a year ago, has now come completely under the influence of the Communist Party. This is the result of steady and continuous agitation conducted by the Organizers of the Workers' Unity League.

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IV. ONTARIO

9. The W.E.L. at Windsor

[§<#]

The regular meeting of the Windsor, (Ont.), Workers Ex-Service Men's League was held on the 14th August, with 14 members in attendance.

The [§<deletion: 2/3 line] presented a report covering the status of the Workers Ex-Service Men's League in various parts of Canada. He pointed out many mistakes that have been made in the past and recommended a complete re-organization of the local branch. In concluding his remarks, he said that the National Convention of the League would be held in the Border Cities.

[§<deletion: blank] pointed out that veterans who are members of the United Veterans' Forum sponsored by the Workers Ex-Service Men's League have been led to believe that the Workers Ex-Service Men's League is a Communist organization and, hence, have refrained from becoming active in the League's affairs. He alleged that this condition has been brought about by the fact that a Canadian labour Defence League Charter has been allowed to remain on the walls of the meeting hall.

Before adjournment, a motion was passed stipulating that a re-organization meeting be held on the 21st August.

Following the meeting [§<deletion: blank] who has been appointed Organizer of the League, was heard to remark that he had been instructed by the National Organizer, Tom Montague, to remain in the Border Cities indefinitely. He predicted that, if he is to remain in the Border Cities, many important changes will be made.

[§<#] The executive committee of the National Unemployed Council has released H. Sula from his duties of National Secretary, and has appointed Ewart G. Humphries in his place.

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This action has been taken at the request of National Committee of the Finnish Organization of Canada, which allotted him a place on the editorial staff of "Vaupas."

[§<#] The Communists of Ottawa have succeeded in organizing a branch of the Food Workers Industrial Union (Restaurant Section) recently. It is reported that over ten members have joined this Union, and [§<deletion: 2/3 line]

[#] Kanadai Magyar Munkas (Canadian Hungarian Worker) in its August the 16th Issue makes the announcement that beginning with next issue, the paper would appear as a twice weekly, containing six pages. It is also announced that a total of \$1900.74, has been collected in various parts of Canada towards the publication of the paper as a twice weekly.

V. QUEBEC

10. Paul Delisle speaks to F.S.U.

[#] Paul Delisle was the speaker at a meeting of The Friends of the Soviet Union, in the Lavoie Hall, Montreal, on the 16th August, there being about 150 people present, and the meeting was presided over by Larocque.

Speaking in French, Delisle selected as his subject, - "The Capitalist State and the Proletarian State of the Soviet Union." He contended that capitalism was now on its last legs and doomed to die. The last resort of capitalism he said, was war, but capitalists were now a little afraid to put rifles in the hands of proletarian. He contended that at one time France was ready to declare war on the Soviet Union, but was afraid of England and Germany. "Now", he said, "France was ready to assist the Soviet Union, if the latter country was attacked by Japan, but the Soviet Union was well able to defend herself if attacked." He asserted that Stalin was not a

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dictator but that he received his instructions from the executive committee and the Communist Party of the U.S.S.R. He then proceeded to quote various statistics relating to the Industrial progress made in the Soviet Union.

[#deletion: 1/3 page]

[#] The Canadian Labour Defence League, Montreal, held an open air meeting at Fletchers Field on the 13th August, with approximately 300 people in attendance.

Miss Ferneyhough, the chairman, in opening the meeting drew a comparison between the Capitalist leaders and the Communist leaders of Tim Buck and Tom Ewen type. She eulogized Tim Buck and Tom Ewen, characterizing them as the true leaders of the working class.

The speakers were a man named Powell who spoke in French, and Alex Gauld. Their speeches failed to arouse any great amount of enthusiasm.

During the course of the meeting a resolution was passed to the effect that a wire demanding the release of Tim Buck and Tom Ewen, the repeal of Section 98 and the

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legalizing of the Communist Party be sent to the Minister of Justice at Ottawa. The whole atmosphere of the meeting suggested a lack of organization and the attitude of the listeners was rather apathetic.

[X<#] A report from Montreal states that the "Right" or "Moderate" element has seceded from the Anti-War and Anti-Fascist Movement, thus weakening the Youth Movement against War and Fascism considerably. The Communist Party has decided to take what is left of its Youth Conference and link it up with the Adult Anti-War and Anti-Fascist Conference now in the process of formation. The Anti-War and Anti-Fascist mass meeting, scheduled to take place on the 28th August and at which [X<deletion: 1/4 line] was to have been the main speaker, has been postponed to the evening of the 6th September.

[X<#] In accordance with the general policy of the Communist Party of Canada, an effort is now being made by its Montreal Branch to start an Adult Anti-Fascist and Anti-War Movement in the City of Montreal, with a view to linking it up with the Youth Movement already organized. [X<deletion: 1/4 line] of Toronto is due in Montreal shortly and will help in the organizing of the Adult Movement. He is to address a mass meeting in the auditorium hall on the 28th August. [X<deletion: blank] has been appointed to act as secretary for both the youth and adult conferences.

[X<deletion: 3 lines]

[21]

[X<#] A branch of the Workers Ex-Service Men's League was formed at a meeting held in the Ukrainian Hall at Lachine, Quebec, on the 22nd August. Twenty-six ex-service men were in attendance, and the meeting was

presided over by [deletion: blank] who gave a brief outline of the constitution of the League.

[deletion: blank] gave an outline of the Workers Ex-Service Men's League as a whole, taking particular care to emphasize that it was a militant working class organization. He devoted a great part of his time to criticising other Veteran Associations, especially the Canadian Legion. His speech was very well received.

[deletion: blank] also spoke on the subject of impending war. He contended that a war was likely to take place at any time and urged the audience to fight against war, saying that it was the duty of all workers to do so.

VI. The Maritime Provinces

[deletion: blank]

[deletion: 5 1/2 lines]
