

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa,

5th September, 1934.

SECRETNO. 722WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATORS IN CANADAReport

Particulars of the Seventh National Congress of the Communist Party of Canada held in Toronto from 23rd to 28th July, 1934, are only coming out now. This meeting was arranged and conducted with much secrecy.

The National Convention of the Workers' Unity League, which was to have been held on 1st September, was postponed until next spring, due to the number of other conventions which have met recently.

The Communists hoped to persuade the Trades and Labour Council to arrange a joint demonstration on Labour Day which the "Reds" hoped to monopolize. Their proposal was rejected.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

1. The Seventh National Congress, C.P. of C.

[#] The Communist Party of Canada held its Seventh National Congress in the City of Toronto, Ont., on 23rd to 28th July, 1934. It was attended by approximately 50 delegates from every section of Canada including a delegate from the Communist Party of the U.S.A. The proceedings were held behind closed doors in an atmosphere of secrecy. Being cognizant of the Party's illegal status in the Province of Ontario all the necessary precautions were taken prior and immediately following the convention in order to let the delegates arrive and depart in safety.

A general and very carefully worded report appearing in the 25th August edition of The Worker declares that this congress was the most fruitful and successful ever held, that the Party, cleaned from all renegades and opportunist elements, now stands firmly united on the policy of the Communist International and is proving itself worthy of its "glorious" name. This report declares, in part:-

"The Seventh Convention finds the Communist Party of Canada a completely united party. The opportunists have been completely routed and cleaned out from the party. The remnants of opportunist tendencies in practice, of passivity in struggle, of federalism in organization, of dickering with the reformist tops, of factionalism, as well as 'leftist' variations of opportunism are being steadily overcome. The party stands united on the line of the Communist International. The party ranks stand united around the Bolshevik leadership of the Communist Party of

Canada. It has increased its membership. It has begun to penetrate the industries. It has fearlessly withstood the attacks of the ruling class. It has greatly learned how to carry on mass work under illegal conditions. It has built up a whole cadre of leaders throughout the country. It has led mass campaigns into which it has drawn not only tens but hundreds of thousands. It has become the consistent fighter for the workers' needs in all spheres of struggle. It has built up mass organizations and greatly spread its influence. It is on the road to becoming a really mass Bolshevik party of the Canadian working class. We are far from satisfied with the work we have done so far. We must increase our work by many times and overcome many weaknesses. But we have made great successes in comparison with 1929 (Sixth Congress). These successes were possible only because in 1929 we defeated the opportunist theories and elements

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in our ranks and fully adopted the line of the Communist International.

"The Commissions have finished their work. The discussion has been concluded. The resolution has been unanimously adopted. The Central Committee has been elected. Our Seventh Convention, which marks a historic step of the Communist Party of Canada in the direction of a really mass Bolshevik party of the Canadian working class, on the road to winning the majority of the working class of Canada for the revolutionary overthrow of Capitalism stands adjourned. Towards a Soviet Canada".

The Manifesto of the convention containing approximately 4,000 words and which was published in *The Worker* for 29th August urges a "United Front" of the workers and the impoverished middle class people of Canada against poverty, Fascism and war; it condemns the social-reformist leaders of the American Federation of Labour, the All-Canadian Congress of Labour and the Canadian Commonwealth Federation for their "peaceful", "civilized" and "constitutional" methods, characterizing same as agencies of Capitalism and builders of Fascism; and declares that the program of the Communist Party, the establishment of a Soviet Canada, is the only way out of the crisis. The Manifesto also proclaims that Canada is ripe for Socialism. In this regard the Communist Party declares:-

The Communist Party declares that all the material conditions exist in Canada for a Socialist society, a society which could at once provide in abundance for the need of all and lead to unlimited well-being for the entire population. We declare that the suffering of the masses, the growing brutal terror and imminent war are due to the fact that the small parasitic Capitalist class owns and controls all the productive forces.....

The Communists at all times proclaim the basic, indisputable truth that the terrible catastrophe of poverty, Fascism and war which Capitalism is bringing can only be finally overcome by the revolution and the establishment of working class power. All the deception of the social reformist of a promise of 'Socialism through Parliament' is only a device for maintaining Capitalism and rendering the masses helpless before increasing Capitalist misery. It is not the working class which chooses revolution; it is the forcible and violent rule of capital which makes revolution the only way out of poverty, war and terror. But Capitalism does not collapse of itself; the revolutionary way out must be fought for and won. The furious anti-working class terror of the Capitalist Governments directed in the first place against the Communist Party cannot weaken one iota the great

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revolutionary, working class aims for which our party stands and fights; but, on the contrary, this terror and repression is answered by our party raising higher the great banner of working class emancipation, the banner of proletarian revolution."

Regarding the program of the Communist Party and that of the working class, the Manifesto says:-

"The Communist Party declares that the only program which meets Canadian conditions is the revolutionary program. The Communist Party program is no 'un-Canadian' It is the program upon which the great masses of French-Canadian workers find common ground with the toilers of all other nationalities in Canada against the common oppressor of all toilers, the Canadian and French-Canadian Capitalists. It is the only program which can turn the rich, new country of Canada from a paradise of monopoly capital into a land of well-being and happiness for the masses. Only the Communist Party under present-day conditions and class relationship carries forward the Canadian revolutionary traditions of one hundred years ago, when the only way out of feudalism and the abolition of the Family Compact was found in the revolution The Communist Party declares that there is no way out except the way of revolutionary mass struggle against Capitalism and the final overthrow of Capitalism."

Under the sub-heading "What a Workers' and Farmers' Government will do" the Manifesto proclaims:-

"The establishment of the revolutionary Workers' and Farmers' Government will immediately release the productive forces of the people from Capitalist control and organize them for socialist production. Only then will planned economy become possible. The industries

and banks will be taken from the hands of the criminal Capitalist pirates and robbers. The socialist reorganization of industry will immediately provide abundance for all. In a planned scientific manner the productive forces will be rapidly extended, opening out an unlimited horizon of the improvement of the material well-being of society. This is no utopian dram as the Capitalists declare but is a practical scientific possibility

.....

“The toiling farmers will be guaranteed the possession of the land - all the mortgages, indebtedness and taxes of poor farmers, which make the present 'ownership of land' for the toiling farmers a mere cloak for Capitalist robbery will be abolished

“Only the revolutionary Workers' and Farmers' Government will bring democracy for the masses of Canadian people. The present so-called 'democracy' in which the state imposes the will of the small minority of capitalist exploiters upon the masses by its arms of force and violence is nothing but the concealed dictatorship of the Capitalists. The form of the new government will be the revolutionary workers' and farmers' councils, the Soviet Government. It will be democracy for the masses but a stern dictatorship against the Capitalists who today own and control the whole nation”.

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The Manifesto concludes with the following appeal:-

“Workers and toiling farmers. Organize and fight the Capitalist 'way-out' which means the perpetuation of Capitalism at the cost of wage cuts, speed up, mass unemployment, poverty, war and Fascism. The Communist Party calls upon all workers, farmers and impoverished middle class people to build and strengthen the united fighting front in strikes and demonstrations against wage cuts, for wage increases, for unemployment insurance, for the needs of life for the toilers. We call upon all workers and toiling farmers, upon all fighters for Socialism to join the Communist Party. The struggle for Soviet Canada is the way out of poverty, Fascism and war. It is the way to an international classless society, World Communism”.

There is a campaign on foot now to legalize the Communist Party of Canada. The publishing of the Manifesto and report of the Seventh Convention appears to be part of this campaign and has been done in order to test the attitude of the authorities. The party is making a determinate effort to come out into the open as it has been acknowledged by its leaders that the activities of the party have been greatly handicapped since it became an unlawful association in December, 1931. It is possible that the leaders found some encouragement in certain recent pronouncements made by the

newly elected Attorney General of Ontario touching upon the matter of radical activities within the province which prompted them to take this step.

[X#] [Xdeletion: 1/3 page]

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The Young Worker for 27th August features a statement issued by the Central Committee of the Young Communist League addressed to "Young Workers, Young Farmers, Students, Members of the Co-operative Commonwealth Youth Movement" in which attention is directed to the arrest of Soviet citizens by the Government of Manchoukuo and in which it is claimed that "Japan, supported by Great Britain and Germany is moving with seven league boots towards war against the Soviet Union - the fatherland of the workers and poor farmers of the entire world". Every worker is urged to rally to the defence of the Soviet Union, to demonstrate against Japan, to picket the Japanese Consulates, to stop any shipments of war material and food to Japan, to demonstrate and strike in docks and on ships that load, store, and carry goods to Japan.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

3. Notes

[X#] The British Columbia Section of the Workers Ex-Service Men's League has initiated a movement to demand the administration of relief to all Ex-Service Men by the Department of Civil Re-Establishment regardless of whether the recipient is a pensioner or not. It is felt that the single ex-service men, now in relief camps or on city relief, would benefit by this arrangement to the extent of about \$2.50 to \$3.00 per month, and, more important from a Communist point of view, the men would be more accessible for propaganda in the city and available for the occasional demonstration during the coming winter.

[#] A recent report from Vancouver, B.C., would indicate that a settlement between the Shipping Federation and its employees may be arrived at in the near future. At present a small negotiating committee consisting of six men are dealing with [deletion: 1/4 line] of the federation regarding working conditions and dispatching. Considerable progress has been recorded and it is felt that an agreement will be reached before long.

[#] A motion to form a United Front and demonstrate with the radicals on Labour Day, 3rd September, was overwhelmingly defeated at a recent meeting of the Vancouver (B.C.) Trades and Labour Council. The Communists in the city have popularized the idea of demonstrating on Labour Day with the intention to steal the show.

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II. ALBERTA

4. A.E. Smith in Edmonton

[#] A. E. Smith, National Secretary of the Canadian Labour Defence League, arrived in Edmonton, Alta., on the morning of 19th August and was met at the station by a reception committee of 23 persons and 50 others including a number of women and children. He was taken to the Empire Hotel, and, during his stay in Edmonton, was boarded at the Venice Cafe. The management of this cafe supplied Smith with free meals during his sojourn in that city.

Smith was the principal speaker at a Communist picnic held under the Auspices of the Unemployed Married Men's Association of Edmonton at Borden Park in the course of the afternoon. In his talk he scored the Capitalist class and the Government of Canada, alleging that they used every means at their disposal to suppress the working class. He praised the Soviet system in Russia under the leadership of the Communist Party and appealed for a "United Front" of the working class against the policies of the Capitalists in Canada. Hitler and Mussolini came in for the usual share of criticism and were accused by Smith of having betrayed the workers of those countries. He predicted a Soviet State of government all over the world in the near future and urged the Canadian workers to be prepared for this eventuality in order that the Communist Party policy may be adopted in Canada and the Soviet Government established.

Smith also addressed a meeting held in the Albion Hall in the course of the evening. It was attended by approximately 600 people and was held

under the auspices of the Unemployed Married Men's Association. The subject of his address on this occasion was similar to that of his afternoon speech.

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On 20th August A. E. Smith attended a meeting of the Edmonton (Alta.) Relief Strike Defence Committee of the Canadian Labour Defence League in the Albion Hall. The meeting was attended by 27 official delegates from various local radical organizations, three representatives of the International Operating Engineers' Union and approximately 350 people. In addressing the conference A. E. Smith explained the aims, constitutions and strength of the Canadian Labour Defence League and the International Red Aid. He scored the present Capitalistic system of justice in general claiming that it was based upon force, violence and fraud. He asserted that the strikers were wrongfully arrested, and suggested that mass protest demonstrations be held. As a result of A. E. Smith's appeal for increased membership 20 members of the Unemployed Married Men's Association joined the Canadian Labour Defence League.

On 21st August A. E. Smith gave a general report on the Canadian Labour Defence League and the International Red Aid to a general membership meeting of the Edmonton Branch of the league. He maintained that the workers today are organized better than ever before and that they must continue to organize and assist every attack of the Capitalists until the final emancipation.

[X#] A. E. Smith addressed a poorly attended meeting of the Canadian Labour Defence League at Fernie, B.C., in the Market Square on 7th August. His speech included the usual attack upon the Capitalist system in general and Section 98 of the Criminal Code in particular.

[X#] [Xdeletion: blank] of Edmonton, Alta., addressed a meeting of the Farmers' Unity League in the Community Hall at Rich Valley, Alta., on 18th August; his subject being "War and Fascism". He urged the farmers to organize on a

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"United Front" basis against war and Fascism in Canada. He also stressed the need for a Committee Against War and Fascism in that particular

district. A considerable portion of his time was spent in an endeavour to explain the conditions in Germany, Italy and Austria where, he claimed, Fascism has gained the upper hand.

[3<#] In conformity with the policy of the Edmonton (Alta.) Branch of the Communist Party to create public sentiment against the Jasper relief camp project for married men, a group of about 100 members of the Communist Party and the Unemployed Married Men's Association met at the Canadian National Railway Station on 25th August and attempted to persuade about 35 unemployed married men who were en route to the Jasper camp to remain in Edmonton. They were successful in persuading a small number of them to remain behind. It has been decided by the members of the Unemployed Married Men's Association that no member of this organization shall go to Jasper until such time as the Civic and Provincial relief authorities grant further demands which are being presented by the association.

[3<#] The Unemployed Married Men's Association of Edmonton, Alta., held a business meeting at the Albion Hall on 25th August. Approximately 225 members attended. O.C. Doolan acted as Chairman. Among the various matters discussed was the question of the Jasper-Banff relief camps. It was decided that a committee consisting of O.C. Doolan, J. M. Matheson and Mossel go to the next City Council meeting and present a resolution embodying the proposals and demands of the men going to the camps.

J. A. MacPherson, Chairman of the Unemployed Married Men's Association, Dramatic Section, appealed to the meeting to donate \$3 to be sent to the Progressive Arts Club at Toronto, Ont., for copies of "Eight Men Speak".

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The Canmore (Alta.) Miners' Union, which is affiliated with the Mine Workers' Union of Canada, called a strike at the Canmore Coal Company Limited mine on the morning of 27th August. The strike was called for the [3<#] purpose of enforcing the "check-off" system and to test the strength of the union and the feeling of the men.

III. MANITOBA5. A. Campbell Reports on Flin Flon Strike

[X#]

The Winnipeg (Man.) District Central Council of the Canadian Labour Defence League met on 25th August. Among the reports submitted was one from [Xdeletion: 1/4 line] who was sent to Flin Flon some time ago to make the necessary preparation for the defence of those arrested during the strike.

In his written report [Xdeletion: blank] stated that he arrived at Flin Flon on 18th August, and that he met with great difficulty in his work, that a large number of those who promised to appear as witnesses had left the district and were now scattered all over the country. He also stated that those remaining at Flin Flon were rather doubtful about giving evidence for the defence, as those who were still working at the mine were afraid to give evidence for fear of losing their jobs. He also claimed that no preparation had been made by the Canadian Labour Defence League at Flin Flon in connection with the defence of those arrested, that [Xdeletion: blank] had done nothing during her stay at Flin Flon in the interest of those arrested, and that it looked like a hopeless task.

[Xdeletion: blank] reported to the meeting that 30,000 pamphlets describing the Flin Flon strike had been printed and were ready for distribution. She said that the type for this pamphlet was set by the Russian Press (Russian Workers Farmers Clubs) and the printing was done by the Ukrainian Labour Temple, at a total cost of \$75. She further stated

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that the pamphlet had received the endorsement of the National Office, that it would be distributed over a wide area and that additional copies could be procured if it was found necessary.

The council decided to launch a three months' plan to recruit 1,000 new members into the league. For this purpose it was suggested that each member start a private letter campaign to interest their friends and draw them into the organization. The council also agreed that [Xdeletion: blank] should commence her Western tour the first week in October with Brandon as the first stop, the purpose of the tour being to collect funds and solicit support on behalf of those arrested in connection with the Flin Flon strike.

IV. ONTARIO

6. Tom Hill Visits Kirkland Lake

A. T. Hill arrived at Kirkland Lake Ont., on 22nd August. He was met at the Swastika Station by about 300 workers who carried several banners and singing the "International". From the station the crowd accompanied by Hill marched to Kirkland Lake where an official reception was staged at the Ukrainian Hall. In the course of the evening a meeting was held outdoor, attended by approximately 700 workers, which Hill addressed. In the course of his speech Hill maintained that the Capitalists could not crush the Communist movement by throwing its leaders in prison. He repeated the assertion that he and the Communist Party leaders had been released as a result of the mass pressure brought to bear by the Canadian working class.

[<#] Malcolm Bruce and Alice Buck, wife of Tim Buck, addressed two meetings under the auspices of the Canadian Labour Defence League in the City of London, Ont., on 27th

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August. Strong demands for a United Front in the struggle against war and Fascism and to secure the release of Tim Buck and Tom Ewen featured their speeches. As a result of these meetings 19 workers joined the Canadian Labour Defence League.

[<#] The Third National Convention of the Workers' Unity League, which was to have taken place in Toronto, Ont., commencing 1st September, has been postponed until some time in the spring of 1935. It is announced that an Enlarged Plenum of the Executive Committee will be held instead in the City of Toronto, commencing 1st September. The postponement of the National Convention has been due to the fact that the Lumber Workers' Industrial Union, the Mine Workers' Union of Canada and the Furniture and Wood Workers' Union will all soon have national conferences which would conflict with the holding of the convention.

[<#] [<deletion: blank] National Secretary of the Workers Ex-Service Men's league, arrived in Windsor, Ont., on 18th August, and announced that he would call a special meeting of the Communist party fraction of the league on 20th August.

The meeting took place as announced, but [redacted] did not put in an appearance. [redacted: 1/2 line] assistant, who has been in charge of Communist affairs in the Border Cities since the departure of [redacted: 1/4 line] defended his chief by explaining that [redacted] had been forced to proceed to Detroit, Mich., on important party business.

The question of reorganizing the Windsor Branch of the Workers Ex-Service Men's League occupied the major portion of the discussion. It was decided to hold a general election of officers on 21 August, and to propose the following candidates for the various respective positions:-

[17]

Chairman	— [redacted]
Secretary	— [redacted]
Financial Secretary	— [redacted]
Chairman of Grievance Committee	— [redacted]
Entertainment	— [redacted]
Organization	— [redacted]

The meeting also arranged to have [redacted: 3/4 line] proceed to Toronto, in company with [redacted: 1/3 line] for the purpose of attending a Provincial Workers Ex-Service Men's League fraction meeting. It was also decided to request the District Bureau at Toronto to allow [redacted] to remain in the Border Cities indefinitely.

[redacted: 1/4 page]

[redacted] The Borba for 22nd August announces that the recent campaign conducted by the Jugo Slav Workers and Farmers Clubs in protest against the imprisonment of a number of Communists in Jugo Slavia has resulted in the collection of 20,000 signatures endorsing a petition which is being forwarded to the Jugo Slav Consul in Canada. The campaign, it is stated, was supported by the Canadian labour Defence League.

[redacted] A Tag Day conducted by the striking employees of the Williams Shoe Company at Brampton, Ont., on 18th August, realized the sum of \$243.52.

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V. QUEBEC7. Dressmakers' Strike in Montreal

[§#] Approximately 3,000 employees of the dressmaking industry at Montreal, Que., responded to a strike call issued by the Communist controlled Needle Trades Workers' Industrial Union and came out on strike on 22nd August. The Strike Committee under the leadership of [§deletion: 1/2 line] has rented the Auditorium Hall for the duration of the strike. Mass meetings are being held daily and the morale of the strikers is high. A surprising feature of the strike is the enthusiastic support rendered by the French-Canadian female employees, who constitute from fifty to sixty per cent of the strikers. There have been several disturbances resulting in the arrest of at least a dozen strikers who have been charged with "intimidation". The demands advanced by the strikers include a 44-hour week and a general increase in wages for all classes of employees. The minimum wage demands range from \$30 per week for pressers down to \$12.50 for finishers and unskilled labourers. The demands also include recognition of the union.

[§#] At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Workers Ex-Service Men's League, Montreal, Que., held on 26th August, it was decided to write a letter to [§deletion: 1/4 line] of the Workers' Unity League, Toronto, asking for an explanation as to why it is impossible for the Montreal Branch of the Workers Ex-Service Men's League to establish contact with the National Office. In the course of the discussion preceding this decision, it was pointed out that [§deletion: blank] the National Secretary of the Workers' Ex-Service Men's League, has ignored all correspondence from Montreal and has, more or less, refused to have any dealings with the Montreal Branch.

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It was reported that a group meeting of eight was held in the Rosemount District for the purpose of reviewing the possibilities of setting up a separate branch of the league in this particular district.

[§#] [§deletion: 1/3 page]
