

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

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WEEKLY SUMMARY

REPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS

AND AGITATORS IN CANADA

Report

The report of the Tenth Convention of the Lumber Workers' Industrial Union of Canada indicates that this Communist controlled organization now has a membership of approximately 10,000 embracing roughly one-fifth of the workers employed in the lumbering industry of Canada.

Dr. Kurt Rosenfeld and Aneurin Bevan issued a joint statement on their departure from Canada urging the workers of Canada to fight against war and Fascism.

Sam Carr is making strong efforts to reorganize the system of distribution of The Worker with a view to placing it on a firmer basis.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

1. The Xth National Convention of the Lumber

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Workers' Industrial Union of Canada

The Lumber Workers' Industrial Union of Canada held its Tenth National Convention in the Trades and Labour Council Hall at Port Arthur, Ont., on 25th and 26th August, with the districts represented as follows:-

British Columbia	4,000 members	5 delegates		
Northern Ontario & Western Quebec	4,000	"	10	"
Western Ontario	1,500	"	7	"

Central Ontario	100	"	1	"
TOTAL	9,600	"	23	"

Jack Gillbanks, Makela, Salo and Kullick represented the Central Executive Committee.

There were also present 16 fraternal delegates representing various other Communist controlled organizations including the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association, the Finnish Organization of Canada, the Farmers' Unity League, the Women's Labour League, the Young Communist League and the International Co-operative Society of Port Arthur.

Jack Gillbanks opened the convention and, in the course of his opening speech, recounted the history of the union. He traced the growth of the union from a small group to one of the biggest affiliates of the Workers' Unity League with approximately 10,000 members throughout the Dominion.

Following his opening address a Presidium was elected consisting of delegates Delaney, Levasseur, French-Canadians from Northern Ontario and Western Quebec; Niemi, a Finn, from Timmins, Ont.; and Gillbanks and Makela from the Central Committee. Tim Buck and Tom Ewen were elected Honorary Members.

Makela, on behalf of the Central Committee, submitted the main report which disclosed that the union

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succeeded in organizing approximately one-fifth of the workers employed in the lumbering industry of Canada. He also dealt with the various struggles conducted by the union and emphasized the need of intensified organization work with a view to organizing the majority of the lumber workers into the union.

A.T. Hill, recently released from Kingston Penitentiary, attended the convention as a representative of the Communist Party of Canada. He delivered a lengthy address in the course of which he dealt with the political situation and the necessity for strengthening the union in preparation for further and greater struggles, strikes, etc.

J. Taylor, representing the Workers Unity League, spoke on the activities of that organization. He claimed that the Workers' Unity League has made considerable progress throughout the country.

The convention decided to draw up industrial codes for the lumbering industry in contrast to the codes of wages and conditions sponsored by the Provincial Governments which, it was claimed, did not consider the welfare of the workers. The convention further decided to carry on an intensive

campaign among the lumber workers of Quebec Province paying particular attention to the French-Canadians and to establish stronger relations between the Lumber Workers' Industrial Union and the Pulp and Paper Workers' Union.

Resolutions calling for the establishment of trade relations with Soviet Russia, the repeal of Section 98 of the Criminal Code, and the release of the imprisoned Communists were passed.

The convention also decided to move the National Headquarters of the union from Port Arthur to Timmins.

William Delaney, Timmins, was elected National President; U. Makela, Port Arthur, M. McKinnon, Vancouver, and R. Levasseur, Rouyn, Que., National Vice Presidents;

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Carl Palmgren, Vancouver, National Secretary-Treasurer. The National Executive Board elected by the convention comprises J. Gillbanks, Port Arthur; E. Woodland, W. Niemi, W. Delaney, Timmins; J. Brady, Kapuskasing; H. David and C. Palmgren, Vancouver.

A noteworthy feature of this convention was the presence of a number of French-Canadian delegates. It has been intimated that in future French and English will be the official language of the union.

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2. The "National Miners' Bulletin"

The first issue of the National Miners' Bulletin published by the Provisional Committee of the National Miners' Federation of Canada at Glace Bay, N.S., is off the press and in circulation. Thus another paper has been added to the long list of revolutionary publications in Canada. It is a small size monthly sheet of eight pages and its contents are chiefly devoted to the "struggle" of the Canadian miners. It is being printed by "The Broadside Printing Company" of Glace Bay, N.S., and its Managing Editor is Jim Madden also of Glace Bay. Of this (August) issue 5,000 copies have been printed and distributed among the miners in various parts of Canada. Its purpose is described in the only editorial appearing in this issue which declares, in part:-

"The National Miners' Bulletin, in this, its first issue, wishes to state its mission in life. This paper has come into existence as a direct result of the National Miners' Conference, which met in Montreal in July of this year. That conference of coal and metal miners from all over Canada met to devise means for greater and better co-operation among themselves in their struggles for a living. They decided two things: (1) That an

attempt should be made to build a Canadian Miners' Federation; and (a) That a national miners' paper should be published to carry on the work of building the federation. Hence this paper was born.

"This paper will be carried on, on the basis of the class struggle. It will help to its utmost the struggles of the miners all over Canada to maintain and better their standard of living.

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It will expose as best it can every traitorous act against the miners by reformist leaders who preach co-operation with the boss class. It will defend all the jailed working class victims arising out of the class struggle, and it shall co-operate to its utmost with the entire militant working class of Canada and the world over in their day, today, struggles for the ultimate overthrow of hated and hateful capitalism and for the emancipation of our class. We are frankly militant, and honestly believe that history dictates that only through continual struggle can the workers improve their conditions of life, both on and off the job".

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3. "La Vie Ouvriere" Urges Civic War and a Soviet Canada

La Vie Ouvriere published on 25th August contains an editorial dealing with the 20th anniversary of the World War. A translation of a portion of this editorial reads:-

"If we wish to convert the imperialist war into a civil war it is necessary that those who want this should have experience, for what would you think of an army who without any preparation should attempt a move against an enemy who is well prepared? Our watchword, comrade workers, therefore must be: FOR THE DEFENCE OF THE SOVIET UNION OF SOVIET CHINA. CHANGE THE IMPERIALIST WAR INTO A CIVIL WAR! FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SOVIET CANADA!"

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4. Reorganization of "The Worker"

Sam Carr, recently appointed General Manager of The Worker, has circularized all distributors of the paper throughout the country with a view to reorganizing the entire system of distribution.

Since the first issue of The Worker as a twice-weekly its circulation has dropped about 500 per week. The management, however, expected a drop since it will take a while for the various localities to reorganize the circulation apparatus to fill the needs of the twice-weekly.

The management reports that the cost of publishing the paper now amounts to \$350 a week.

[8]

S. M. L. Bruce Touring Canada

[9<#]

M. L. Bruce, recently released from Kingston Penitentiary, has embarked on a speaking and general organization tour on behalf of The Worker and the Canadian Labour Defence League. His itinerary, as published in The Worker for 1st September, is as follows:-

- Montreal — arrives 10.30 p.m., C.N.R.,
1st September. (Meetings on
evenings of 2nd and 3rd.)
- Sudbury — arrives C.P.R., 6.10 a.m., 5th
September.
- Port Arthur — arrives 10.00 p.m., 6th
September. (Meetings arranged
for 7th.)
- Winnipeg — arrives 7.45 p.m., 8th September.
(Stays until 15th. September.)
- Regina — arrives 7.00 a.m., 16th September.
(Stays until 19th.)
- Moose Jaw — arrives 8.20 a.m., 20th
September.
- Medicine Hat — arrives 4.45 p.m., 21st
September.
- Calgary — arrives 10.10 p.m., 22nd September.
(Stays until 7th October.)
- Kamloops — arrives 1.30 p.m., 9th October.
- Vancouver — arrives 10.30 p.m., 10th October.

Bruce will spend from 8th to 15th September in Winnipeg, Man., and during his stay there will pay particular attention to the railroad situation in addition to addressing a number of mass meetings.

6. Dr. Kurt Rosenfeld and Aneurin Bevan

Issue Joint Statement to Canadian Workers

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On the eve of their departure from Canada, Dr. Kurt Rosenfeld and Aneurin Bevan, M.P., released a joint statement headed "Will the Canadian Working Class Defeat War and Fascism?" in which they urge the Canadian working class to create a united front against war and Fascism. After recording their appreciation of the conditions in Canada, the statement declares:-

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"It is imperative that the workers should be saved from being infected by the decay, hopelessness and defeatism which is the stench arising from the decomposing body of capitalism.

"As their hope in a revival of capitalism dies, their hope in socialism must live; as the structure of capitalism crumbles the workers' organizations must assemble itself and grow strong. By this integration of the workers' spirit and organization at one and the same time, the people as a whole will, as it were, catch a glimpse of the dim outline of the New Society.

"How can this be accomplished except by co-operation amongst all the various organizations of the working class? If the impulse towards unity cannot conquer the workers' own organization it will never conquer society.

"The need, therefore, of the Canadian movement is united effort and in the satisfaction of this need they will find salvation.

"We would suggest that all the different elements in the movement should try to find common ground on some immediate and particular issues. On no account at this stage should attempts be made to achieve agreement on theoretical questions. Let the united front have certain victories to its credit before it ventures into such dangerous territory.

"What the questions are upon which united effort can best be attained we are in no position to judge. All we can say is that they should be concrete and if possible immediately attainable.

"There is one platform upon which immediate agreement can be realized - against Fascism and war. We urge our Canadian comrades to form anti-Fascist and anti-war councils at once all over the country. Make the congress in October a success. This has been accomplished in France where a United Front has been formed between the Socialists and Communists. The French Socialists, benefitting by the German experience realize that the persecution and destruction of the communists merely exposes their won flank to attack. The same realization

is dawning upon the whole European movement and an extension of the United Front can be confidently predicted.

“By propaganda and every means of protest help our German comrades; and by building an invincible United Front of all workers in Canada, reap where our german comrades have sown, and save Canada from the Gethsemane of Fascism”.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

7. The Relief Camp Workers' Union

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The Relief Camp Workers' Union, British Columbia District, held a conference at Salmon Arm, on 19th August, with 12 delegates representing various camps throughout the district in attendance. The main feature of the proceedings was the discussion on and the subsequent adoption of the main resolution which was submitted to the conference by the District Bureau. This resolution, which is to be submitted to the camp workers for their approval, decrees that the Camp Workers' Union combat the National Defence camps by placing before the workers an organizational program based on trade union rates of wages and recognition of the Camp Workers' Union and Camp Committees. The program includes, in the form of demands, a five-day week, seven hours per day, 40 per hour and the right to hold meetings and organize in the relief camps. The program also advocates strict opposition to military control in the camps and suggests demonstrations and strikes in November. The resolution also urges the camp workers to fight against war and Fascism.

M. McLeod, who gave a report on behalf of the District Bureau, stressed the need of building up the union and its official organ, The B.C. Relief Camp Worker. He reported that the financial standing of the union was bad, that the organization was indebted to the amount of \$72. He also reported a decided decrease in the membership of the union which he attributed to the fact that its members are transients and constantly on the move.

The convention, after passing a number of other resolutions such as demanding the immediate release of Tim Buck and Tom Ewen, etc., elected a new District Bureau consisting of Comrades Holmes, MacKenzie and MacLeod. The

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question of electing a District Organizer was left in the hands of the bureau.

[✂#]

The German Workers' and Farmers' Club of Vancouver, B.C., held a public meeting in the Orange Hall on the evening of Sunday, 26th August. The meeting was called primarily in an endeavour to enlist support for the defence of Ernst Thaelmann, imprisoned German Communist leader.

A speaker, whose name could not be ascertained but who claimed to be the Secretary of the German Workers' Club in Winnipeg, Man., recounted the good work which had been accomplished by Thaelmann in Germany prior to his arrest by the nazis. Dealing with the present day conditions in Germany he remarked that the workers there were being forced to register a Nazi vote whether they believed in the system or not. It was suggested by the speaker that demonstrations be staged on the docks in the City of Vancouver when German boats came into the harbour, and in conclusion expressed the hope that with the support of the workers in Canada and in other countries a Soviet Germany will be established.

The attendance numbered approximately 500, and the meeting adjourned with the singing of the "International."

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The B.C. Lumber Worker, organ of the Lumber Workers' Industrial Union, and one of the many mimeographed radical papers produced in British Columbia, is to appear in printed form commencing on 1st September. Trevor Maguire is to assist Parkins in the make-up.

[✂#] [✂deletion: blank] formerly an ardent worker in the International of Seamen and Harbour Workers at Vancouver, B.C., and particularly active in the recent picketing of

[12]

the S.S. "Kingsley", has quit the organization. His resignation will, no doubt, weaken this organization considerably.

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At a meeting of the Vancouver and New Westminster (B.C.) District Trades and Labour Council held on 21st August a resolution was presented by Local No. 213 of the Electrical Workers which proposed that the

Canadian Government arrange with Russia to accept dissatisfied Canadian citizens with Communist tendencies. The Executive Committee of the council recommended acceptance of the resolution but following a very heated discussion on the motion the council defeated the resolution by a vote of 32 to 30. Among the ones attacking the resolution were delegates [deletion: 1 line] all of whom are known to be either Communists or strongly sympathetic towards the Communist movement.

[#] [deletion: blank] a newspaper pressman employed on the staff of the Vancouver Daily Province, was the principal speaker at a meeting for the Friends of the Soviet Union (English Bay Branch) at Vancouver, B.C., on 26th August.

[deletion: blank] in the course of his lengthy address on "Trade Unionism", charged that the Vancouver and New Westminster District Trades and Labour Council had deviated from its original policy so much that it was, in his opinion, merely acting as an agent for the Government and not at all in the interests of the labour union. Touching upon the general industrial plans of the U.S.S.R. he told his audience of the tremendous progress made in the Soviet Union, the tremendous increase that had taken place during the past two or three years in connection with the production

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of textiles and other products in general. In conclusion he remarked that three delegates would be leaving British Columbia for the Soviet Union together with others from different parts of Canada and the United States of America to take part in the 17th anniversary of the October Revolution in Moscow.

[#] Trevor Maguire is now making every effort to disassociate himself with the B.C. League Against War and Fascism. He has initiated a movement with a view to holding a conference of the league, on 21st September, at which he expects to have someone else appointed as Organizer in his place.

[#] A. E. Smith, General Secretary of the Canadian Labour Defence League, recently headed a delegation which interviewed the Deputy Attorney General of British Columbia and represented a demand for the release of Arthur Evans, who has been convicted under Section 98 of the Criminal Code and who is now serving time in the British Columbia Provincial Jail.

II. ALBERTA

8. Radicals in Control of Canmore Miners' Union

[3<#]

The Pit Head strike at the Canmore Coal Company's mine at Canmore, Alta., which was called for the purpose to force one of the miners employed to pay his union fees in conformity with the "check-off" system, was called off on 28th August after payment of their dues by the employee involved.

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The officials of the Canmore Miners' Union, who are acting under instructions from the leaders of the Mine Workers' Union of Canada, have now submitted certain demands

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to the company challenging the latter's right to engage and discharge workers. These demands constitute a contravention of the provision contained in the existing agreement between the union and the company. The union officials have definitely stated that they will take direct action if their demands are not met. [3<deletion: blank] Organizer of the Mine Workers' Union of Canada, has been in Canmore recently and it is suspected that he is the guiding force behind the action of the union officials.

[3<#] Approximately 400 people attended a meeting of the Unemployed Married Men's Association of Edmonton, Alta., in the Albion Hall on 26th August. J. Kohler acted as Chairman, and J. Lakeman and A. E. Smith were the speakers.

J. Lakeman criticized the Jasper-Banff married men's relief camps project contending that the Provincial and Civic Governments were trying to break up the homes of the married unemployed. He urged his listeners to boycott this proposition.

A. E. Smith confined his remarks almost exclusively to the growth of Fascism. He stated that the crisis of the capitalist system has brought terrible hardships to the majority of the Canadian people and that the "parasitic" ruling class and its government are destroying the people's economic forces by obliging them to exist on starvation rations, perform forceful labour in militarized relief camps, etc., and causing horrible sufferings for them. He remarked that "Bennett, King and Woodsworth are deceiving the masses in order to suppress the rising struggle, but with militant leadership a solution will come in the same way that the Russian workers found, a solution which gives them freedom from unemployment and wage cuts".

Smith contended that the Communist Party of Canada is the only party which has fought and is fighting

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for working class unity, for the establishment of the working class state and for freedom and happiness.

[§<#] [§<deletion: 5 lines]

III. MANITOBA

9. National Unemployed Council Formed at Souris

[§<#]

On 10 August a delegation consisting of [§<deletion: 3/4 line] representing the Canadian Labour Defence League and the Unemployed Council of Brandon, visited Souris, Man., for the purpose of organizing the unemployed of this town. A meeting was held in the Orange Hall at which they explained to the audience, numbering approximately 65, the purpose, aims and objects of the National Unemployed Councils movement. The meeting passed a resolution in favour of forming a branch of the Unemployed Councils in Souris and then proceeded to elect its officers and Executive Committee. [§<deletion: blank] was elected President; [§<deletion: blank] Secretary-Treasurer; and [§<deletion: 1 1/3 lines] executive members.

On 24th August [§<deletion: 1/2 line] Thorley again visited Souris and spoke at a public meeting at the Orange Hall in the course of the evening. The speakers endeavoured to create the impression that the National Unemployed Councils movement has no connection whatsoever with the Communist Party of Canada. It is reported that the newly formed branch of the National Unemployed Councils at Souris has a membership of approximately 70.

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[§<#] [§<deletion: blank] is being used extensively as a speaker in connection with a series of meetings held in different sections of Winnipeg, Man., by the Canadian Labour Defence League in an active campaign for funds for the defence of the arrested Flin Flon strikers.

[§<#] The District Central Committee of the Canadian Labour Defence League of Winnipeg, Man., met on the afternoon of 1st September. There was a great deal of discussion chief among which was the reception for Malcolm Bruce and the arranging of meetings during his stay in Winnipeg. It was decided that he be met at the Canadian Pacific Railway depot by members of the District Central Committee and that all the revolutionary organizations be urged to turn out to give him a rousing reception.

The committee also discussed the pending trial of the Flin Flon strikers. Information had been received that the trial would take place at the end of October. [§<deletion: blank] a Canadian Labour Defence League lawyer, requested that he alone be allowed to conduct and direct the defence. After much discussion it was decided to refuse his request and those on trial are to conduct their own defence in order to bring out the history of the strike and take advantage of the trials for propaganda purposes. [§<deletion: blank] is meeting with great difficulties in compiling the evidence and arranging witnesses for the trial.

IV. ONTARIO

10. The C.P. and W.E.S.L. in Ontario

[§<#] The Provincial Communist Party fraction of the Workers Ex-Service Men's League for Ontario held a conference at 184 Spadina Avenue, Toronto, Ont., on 25 th August, with 14 members present. [§<deletion: blank] acted as Chairman. With the exception of three delegates who were from Windsor, Hamilton

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and St. Catharines, all the members were from Toronto and York County. A general discussion on the work of the league revealed that a new branch of the Workers Ex-Service Men's League with 16 members was formed recently at St. Catharines. It was further disclosed that, with the exception of the Toronto and Windsor Branches, most of the branches in the province have either become extinct or have a very small membership.

The Political Bureau as well as the District Bureau of the Communist Party were severely criticized for their failure to recognize the importance of organizing the veterans. It was pointed out that the least experienced Party Organizers had been allotted to Workers Ex-Service Men's League work and those detailed were not permitted to devote all of their time to this particular task but had to delve into everything from Workers' Unity League activities to the unemployed movement led by the National Council

of Unemployed. The opinion was expressed that the revolutionary movement is growing fast, so much so that the Political Bureau of the Communist Party cannot keep pace with the developments. The conference deplored the lack of suitable Organizers.

The conference frankly admitted the many mistakes of the past year. Many suggestions were made with a view to overcoming these shortcomings. It was decided that delegates [~~deletion: 1/4 line~~] draw up resolutions embodying the sentiment of the conference and present same to the District Bureau at this meeting on 31st August. They are to stress particularly that the Political Bureau and the District Bureau devote more energy to the building up of the Workers Ex-Service Men's League.

The conference further agreed to hold an Eastern Canada Convention of the Workers Ex-Service Men's League at Windsor, Ont., on 11th, 12th and 13th September, at which the organization is to be completely reorganized and put on a firmer basis.

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Three distinct parades marked the "Labour Day" celebration this year in the City of Toronto, Ont., on 3rd September. In addition to the parade staged by the unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor and [~~deletion: 1/4 line~~] that held by the all-Canadian unions, the Workers' Unity League, contrary [~~deletion: 1/4 line~~] to previous practice, also staged a parade which outstripped in size and in importance the two others.

After assembling in the Allan Gardens at the corner of Carlton and Sherbourne Streets, the Workers' Unity League parade headed by the Brass Band of the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association proceeded along College Street to University Avenue, thence south to the Exhibition Grounds entering same by the "Princes Gate". The marchers headed by the National Executive Committee of the Workers' Unity League numbered approximately 2,500. Included in the parade were not only unions affiliated with the Workers' Unity League but also various other revolutionary organizations such as the Canadian Labour Defence League and revolutionary organizations from towns and cities outside of Toronto. On entering the "Princes Gate" the band played "Arise Ye Prisoners of Starvation" which caused considerable comment and resentment among the spectators. One of the most noteworthy sections of the parade was that composed of strikers at the Granatstein Waste Product Plant. The Worker was represented by a float bearing the slogan "For a Daily Worker" and carrying copies of the paper which were distributed en route to the bystanders.

Hundreds of banners and placards portraying the aims of the revolutionary movement were carried by the demonstrators.

[X#] The National Office of the Canadian Labour Defence League at Toronto, Ont., has informed its branches in the Province of Ontario that John Boychuk, recently released

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from Kingston Penitentiary, will embark on a speaking tour of a number of points in Eastern Canada. He will endeavour to raise finances for the Canadian Labour Defence League and to build up the organization. He will also work to assist and strengthen the Ukrainian mass organizations. His special mission though is to press the campaign for the release of Tim Buck and Tom Ewen.

V. QUEBEC

[X#] 11. District Conference of C.L.D.L.

The Montreal (Que.) District of the Canadian Labour Defence League held a District Conference on 2nd September. It was attended by 33 delegates representing all branches in the district. [Xdeletion: blank] acted as Secretary and Chairman. Beckie Buhay and Malcolm Bruce were present representing the National Office.

[Xdeletion: blank] gave a short report on the situation in general and a brief outline of the work performed in the district during the past six months. He reported that some new members had been won over to the league and that the branches generally had displayed more activity especially the French-Canadian and the Anglo Saxon Branches. This gain, however, has been offset by a considerable decrease in the membership of both the Verdun and the Rosemount Branches. He reported that the latter two branches have now practically no members and are not functioning. He also reported that the spectacular mass meetings which had been held throughout the city had not been capitalized properly for organizational purposes. He also admitted that as far as the various national campaigns were concerned the Montreal District had been lagging behind the other districts, especially in the campaign against Section 98 and in the one for the release of Tim Buck and Tom Ewen.

Beckie Buhay spoke on the national situation of the organizational needs for Montreal. She stated that during

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the past year the league, in the course of its various campaigns, had come before millions of people and had won over thousands of new sympathizers. She stated that in connection with the A. E. Smith campaign which followed his arrest on a charge of "seditious libel" two million leaflets and pamphlets had been distributed. He also asserted that a correct "United Front" policy had been applied which had been nearly instrumental in smashing the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation. She claimed that in the Toronto District alone more than 400 Co-operative Commonwealth Federation members had been won over to the Canadian Labour Defence League. Beckie Buhay intimated that despite the fact that thousands of new members had been recruited throughout the country the general membership was less today than it was a year ago.

Dealing with the financial situation she asserted that owing to increased strike activity all the districts have been forced to use all available money for expenses incurred in connection with the trials of strikers. As a result, she stated, a financial crisis now exists in the National Office and fear is being entertained that it will have to be closed down if funds were not forthcoming very soon. She also stated that the printer who publishes The Labor Defender had not been paid for the past two issues and that he had refused to print another issue unless he receives payment for the other two.

The conference decided, following a general discussion, to fulfill the following tasks within the next three months:-

- (1) 250 New members to be won over to the Montreal Branch of the Canadian Labour Defence League.
- (2) Seven new branches to be started up, four of which are to be French-Canadian.
- (3) 25,000 Signatures to be obtained for the Right to Strike and Picket Campaign.

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- (4) 25 Mass meetings to be held — of an agitational and propaganda nature.
- (5) Membership to be consolidated, and all members to be fully paid up in dues.

The election of a new District Central Council marked the conclusion of the conference. The new council includes the following: [~~3~~deletion: 2 1/4 lines] (of the Ottawa District), one French-Canadian and one Russian not yet appointed. The conference also decided to send 12 local delegates to the national Plenum of the Canadian Labour Defence League which will

be held in Toronto, Ont., on 29th and 30th August. Six of these delegates are to be French-Canadians.

[X#] The French Branch of the Friends of the Soviet Union at Montreal, Que., held a public meeting in the Lavoie Hall on 30th August. [Xdeletion: blank] presided, and a man named [Xdeletion: blank] a Socialist with leanings towards Communism, was the speaker. He spoke on the Capitalist system as compared with the Communist system of Soviet Russia. He traced the origin of Capitalism maintaining that it was a system of exploitation and that the workers were now beginning to realize that production should be for their benefit and not for the benefit of the Capitalists. He lauded Lenin and his efforts in connection with the Russian Revolution.

[Xdeletion: blank] also spoke briefly and remarked that Japan would soon attack Soviet Russia, in all probability before the spring of 1935.

[X#] The needle trades strike conducted by the Needle Trades Workers' Industrial Union in the City of Montreal, Que., continues. The morale of the strikers is still high

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but doubt is expressed if they will hold out much longer.

It is reported that about 35 of the smaller shops have expressed their willingness to sign agreements. It is alleged, however, that the larger shops have refused to consider the strikers' terms.

Not a very good feeling exists between the Canadian Labour Defence League and the strikers. Members of the Industrial Union and the Dresscutters' Union are considerably behind in their dues for the Canadian Labour Defence League but at the same time these unions expect the Canadian Labour Defence League to stand all the expenses when strikers are arrested. At a joint committee meeting of the Defence Section held in Montreal on 30th August it was decided that the unions must raise the money for the registration of bail bonds if any more strikers are arrested.

[X#] A strike has been declared by the Furniture Workers' Union, an affiliate of the Workers' Unity League, at the Progress Brand Bedding Company, Montreal, involving approximately 125 of its employees, and an attempt is being made to turn it into a general strike of furniture workers.
