

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

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SECRET

NO. 724

WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATORS IN CANADAReport

The National Committee of the Co-operative Commonwealth Youth Movement issued a rather non-committal and somewhat evasive statement with regard to the proposal of the Young Communist League of Canada for joint action against war and in defence of the Soviet Union. Determined in its efforts to force the National Committee of the Co-operative Commonwealth Youth Movement into active participation, the Central Committee of the Young Communist League has replied with another "United Front" proposal based on a definite line of action.

Thousands of workers inspected the Soviet motorship "Kim" while docked in Montreal harbour recently.

[2]

APPENDICESTable of ContentsAPPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

Paragraph No.	1 — The Y.C.L. and the C.C.Y.M.
" "	2 — The motorship "Kim" at Montreal
" "	3 — Campaign for <u>The Worker</u>
" "	4 — W.U.L. paper changes its name
" "	5 — International Youth Day in Canada
" "	6 — C.P. of C. seeks to develop Canadian-born leaders
" "	7 — Malcolm Bruce on tour
	(a) In Montreal
	(b) " Sudbury
	(c) " Port Arthur
	(d) " Winnipeg

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

- " " 8 — BRITISH COLUMBIA
C.P. of C. propaganda scheme among British sailors fails
William Bennett returns to Vancouver
Communist movement in Victoria weak
- " " 9 — ALBERTA
Notes
C.L.D.L. at Calgary without funds
Communists at Eagle protest tax collections
Edmonton C.L.D.L. is being reorganized
- " " 10 — ONTARIO
[☞deletion: 1 line]
A. E. Smith at Port Arthur
Revolutionary spirit at Nipigon grows
C.H.W.C. organized at London
Oscar Morgan, Manager of Young Worker
- " " 11 — QUEBEC
Montreal Needle Trades strike near collapse
" Furniture Workers' strike defeated
M. Garber refuses to defend strikers
New branch of F.S.U. organized at Montreal
[☞deletion: 1 line]
[☞deletion: blank]
Strike planned by Montreal Students League
Beckie Buhay Ewen speaks at Verdun
- " " 12 — THE MARITIME PROVINCES
[☞deletion: 1 line]

[3]

APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

**1. The Y.C.L. of Canada and the Co-operative
Commonwealth Youth Movement**

[☞#]

On 22nd August the Central Committee of the Young Communist League of Canada sent a telegram to the National Committee of the Co-operative Commonwealth Youth Movement urging the formation of a "united front" against war and Fascism and particularly the bombarding of

the Japanese Government with resolutions protesting against Japan's "aggressive attitude against Soviet Russia". The National Committee of the Co-operative Commonwealth Youth Movement replied with a carefully worded statement which reads:-

"At the First National Convention of the Co-operative Commonwealth Youth Movement a resolution was passed recommending the formation of anti-war organizations and another resolution pledging friendship to the Soviet Union.

"It is the opinion of the National Executive of the Co-operative Commonwealth Youth Movement which was delegated by the convention to deal with matters in connection with war and Fascism and the daily struggle in the economic field, that resolutions reprimanding Japan for her aggressive attitude against Soviet Russia are ineffective gestures. We believe that the most effective method of combatting Fascism, war and unfavorable economic conditions is to concentrate on injustice within Canada. If we are to be effective in combatting the manifestations of capitalist injustice and the threat of an impending fascism we must concentrate our energies on things which directly affect citizens of Canada.

"In our opinion there is a great opportunity for youth to combat actively fascism and economic injustice. We feel that the youth of Canada must counteract such legislation as the Special Powers Act in British Columbia, any movement on the part of governments to lower the standard of living of relief recipients below its present wretched level, incarceration of young men in camps where conditions are to say the least, barbarous. In short, in demanding that capitalism either take care of the wreckage for which it is responsible (which it obviously cannot do) or give place to the new social order in which personality and well being of the race will be maintained and rebuilt. If any of the local units of the Co-operative Commonwealth Youth Movement feel that they can make their efforts more effective by collaborating with other youth groups with a similar object in view, they may do so".

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This statement brought forth a reply from the Central Committee of the Young Communist League in which definite united action between the Co-operative Commonwealth Youth Movement and the Young Communist League is further advocated on the basis of:-

- (a) The fight for immediate relief and unemployment insurance.
- (b) The fight against the government's and employers' attack upon strikes.

- (c) To fight against the attack of the American Federation of Labor misleaders against the Workers' Unity League. And
- (d) The organization of the young workers into militant industrial unions.

The letter says:-

"We can fully agree with you that resolutions are no good in themselves unless they are backed by deeds—by action. Our proposals for joint action make it possible for your organization to pass from resolutions to deeds. Would it not be holding back the war plans of Canadian and Japanese imperialism, if we were to jointly develop actions in Vancouver on docks, against the shipment of scrap iron, nickel and other war materials to Japan? Would not demonstrations and meetings help to arouse the youth of Canada to support the Soviet Union? Obviously such actions would be a step forward. You state, however, that they are 'ineffective gestures'. But by remaining silent at the present moment, when Japanese imperialism, with the support of British imperialism and in alliance with German and Polish imperialism, is preparing for an attack upon the Soviet Union, you are objectively aiding them in their war plans. One cannot be silent at such a period in the history of the international working class."

In conclusion the letter states:-

"We again propose that your National Committee discuss our proposals for common and joint action and instruct our District Committee in Saskatchewan to open negotiations with you on the above proposals".

While the question of forming a "united front" with the Young Communist League is somewhat evaded by the national Executive of the Co-operative Commonwealth Youth Movement, it will be noted that the various branches are at liberty to co-operate with any groups that have a similar object in view.

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2. The Soviet Motorship "Kim" at Montreal

[✂#] The Soviet motorship "Kim" (Young Communist International) bearing a cargo of potash docked in Montreal (Que.) harbour on 1st September, and from the day she arrived was visited by thousands of people, most of whom were foreigners of Slavic origin. It is reported that 6,000 persons attempted to get aboard the boat on one particular day. Being named after the Young Communist International and manned largely by members of the Young

Communist League of Russia, the Young Communist League of Canada at Montreal utilized the occasion for propaganda purposes.

On 5th September the captain and the crew of the boat were given a reception in St. Martin's Hall on Montcalm Street at which the captain and some of the crew presented greetings from the Russian comrades. These greetings were interpreted from the Russian into the English and French by [deletion: blank] who had been in daily contact with the Russians during their stay in Montreal.

[X#]

3. "The Worker" Campaign

The month of October will witness another drive on behalf of The Worker now appearing as a twice weekly. The object of this drive is to raise (a) 3,000 new subscriptions, (b) 7,000 increase in bundle orders, and (c) \$5,000 for the Worker Press Fund. It is reported that the present total circulation of this paper is approximately 13,000 per issue of which only about 3,000 copies are covered by individual subscriptions. A systematic canvass of each locality is to take place with a view to gaining the objective of this drive.

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4. W.U.L. Changes Name of Paper

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A new monthly publication entitled Unity has appeared replacing Workers Unity, the official organ of the Workers' Unity League. The first edition of this new publication for the month of September contains articles by J. B. McLachlan, Charles M. Stewart, Nick Thatchuk, J. B. Salsberg, Harvey Murphy and other leading Communists.

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5. Y.C.L. Celebrates International Youth Day

Mass meetings and banquets held by the Young Communist League of Canada at various points throughout the country on 1st September marked the celebration of the 20th anniversary of International Youth Day. In some instances the celebration was a complete failure.

In the City of Toronto, Ont., it was planned to hold a parade and mass meeting at Queen's Park but a heavy rain interfered with the arrangements and the parade and open-air mass meeting were called off. In the evening, however, in celebration of the day a banquet was held at 7 Brunswick

Avenue. Walter Wiggins, Secretary of the Farmers' Unity League, brought greetings and gave a brief account of conditions under which the farming youth were forced to work. He stressed the need for organization in rural districts and the co-operation of the city and country workers. Sam Carr traced the growth of the International Youth Day and the trend towards Fascism which, he claimed, was a means of prolonging the reign of finance capital.

At this banquet a fairly large sum of money was raised for the Chemnitz (Germany) District of the Young Communist League.

Several truck loads of young people had arrived in Toronto from Stratford and Kitchener to participate in the celebration.

[7]

At Montreal, Que., the day was celebrated with the holding of an open-air meeting at Fletcher's Field and with a banquet later in the evening.

At London, Ont., the Young Communist League and the Young Socialist League jointly celebrated International Youth Day with an open-air demonstration at the Market Square which was attended by approximately 150 members' and sympathizers.

[§&#] At Winnipeg, Man., in celebration of the day the Young Communist League held a mass meeting in the Market Square. It was poorly attended, there being only approximately 150 persons present. The meeting was conducted by a young girl, the daughter of [§&deletion: blank] ex-Communist Alderman, and the speakers were [§&deletion: 1 1/4 line] The chief topics under discussion were the stand that the working class youth must take against war and Fascism and the horrors of the last World War. The youthful speakers were very emphatic in their denunciation of war preparation and the Capitalist system in general which, they claimed, was in a state of decomposition.

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6. C.P. of C. Prefers Canadian-BornLeaders

It has been learned that instructions have been sent out by the Communist Party to all its branches and subsidiary organizations to the effect that Canadian-born Communist Party members must be placed in positions of leadership wherever possible, even if they are not highly class conscious and politically developed.

 [8]
7. Malcolm Bruce on Tour(a) At Montreal

[S<#]

About 200 Communists greeted Malcolm L. Bruce on his arrival at the Windsor Station, Montreal, Que., on the night of 1st September. He was accompanied by Beckie Buhay Ewen.

During his stay in Montreal Bruce addressed a number of mass meetings. On the afternoon of 2nd September he spoke to a large gathering of needle trades workers in the Mount Royal Arena. He received a thundering ovation from the crowd numbering over 3,000. Bruce, in the course of his speech, dealt principally with the local strike situation. He pointed out the dangers of arbitration, the vital necessity of mass picketing, the great need of supporting the Canadian Labour Defence League in its efforts to cope with the situation resulting from the strike, i.e., mass arrests, etc., and pleaded for unity in the ranks of the strikers.

On the same night he addressed a meeting in Verdun, Que., held under the auspices of the Verdun Workers' Association. The hall was packed and Bruce was given a very enthusiastic reception.

On the following day, 3rd September, a reception was given Bruce by the French Canadian workers of "Association Humanitaire" at the St. Martin's Club.

At all meetings resolutions and wires demanding the release of Buck, Ewen and Evans were passed and forwarded to Ottawa.

(b) In Sudbury

[S<#]

M. L. Bruce arrived at Sudbury, Ont., on 5th September and in the course of the evening addressed a mass meeting at the Ukrainian Hall.

Billings, Chairman of the meeting, extended greetings to Bruce on behalf of the

[9]

Sudbury District Council of the Canadian Labour Defence League. Comrade Romanko greeted him on behalf of the Workers' Unity League, Sula on behalf of Vapaus, and Comrade Burns in the name of the Young Communist League.

Bruce thanked the workers for the support they had given the Canadian Labour Defence League in its campaign for the release of himself and his comrades, and presented greetings from Tim Buck and Ewen. He claimed that it was due to the mass pressure which was brought to bear by the workers of Canada that he and the others were released from Kingston Penitentiary. He urged the workers to continue the fight for the release of Tim Buck and Tom Ewen and for a Soviet Canada.

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(c) In Port Arthur

Malcolm Bruce, on his arrival at Port Arthur, Ont., was met by a crowd of between 400 and 500 people and presented with several bouquets of flowers. He entered an automobile and was driven slowly to the Barton and Fisher Hall followed by the mob. There he delivered a speech the subject of which centered around the imprisonment of the Communist Party leaders, the riots at the Kingston Penitentiary, and the continued imprisonment of Tim Buck and Tom Ewen.

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(d) In Winnipeg

On the evening of 8th September over 1,000 people gathered at the Canadian Pacific Railway depot at Winnipeg, Man., to welcome Malcolm Bruce. The Canadian Pacific Railway officials had made special arrangements in order that passengers could get through the station unhindered. Malcolm Bruce was last to step off the train. When he appeared a deafening roar of cheers greeted him, followed

[10]

by the singing of "The International". He was escorted by representatives of different organizations to a waiting automobile which was decorated with banners bearing greetings and then followed by the mob slowly drove to the Market Square where he was scheduled to address an open-air

meeting. At the Market Square Mabel Marlowe greeted him in the name of the revolutionary working class section of Winnipeg. She was followed by Saul Simkin who welcomed Bruce in the name of the Communist Party of Canada.

Speaking from a gaily decorated platform Bruce explained that he was deeply moved by the enthusiastic reception accorded him. He accepted it in the name of the entire working class and its leadership, and in return conveyed greetings from the two leaders of the Communist Party of Canada, Tim Buck and Tom Ewen incarcerated at Kingston. He also assured the audience of his relentless determination to continue to serve the working class in the fight against Capitalism and for the establishment of a Soviet Canada and congratulated the Winnipeg workers on the splendid support they had given the Canadian Labour Defence League. Following a general review of the revolutionary movement he urged the workers to rally to the support of the Canadian Labour Defence League in its fight for the release of other class war prisoners.

The meeting, which was a very enthusiastic and impressive affair, concluded with the singing of "The International".

[9<#] Speaking at a mass meeting in the Market Square, held under the auspices of the Unemployed Association on 10th September, in protest against recent cuts in relief grants, Bruce bitterly criticized the relief administration and the Municipal, Provincial and Federal Governments.

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He characterized their methods as highly contemptible and abominable. He urged the workers and their wives to demand a considerable increase instead of accepting a cut, and warned them if they refused to struggle they would be still further subdued.

The meeting, attended by about 800 men and women, gave Bruce a very attentive hearing.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCESI. BRITISH COLUMBIA8. Scheme to Spread Propaganda Among British Sailors Fails

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The Communist Party of Vancouver, B.C., had a large number of post cards printed for the purpose of spreading radical propaganda among the crews of the British warships visiting Vancouver recently. The post cards were addressed to "all petty officers and lower ratings aboard the British battleships (to all workers in uniform)" and bore the inscription:-

"THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CANADA GREETES YOU IN THE NAME OF THE WORKERS AND LABORING FARMERS OF CANADA. WE CALL UPON YOU TO UPHOLD THE TRADITION OF THE MILITANT NAVYMEN WHO MADE HISTORY AT INVERGORDON. FOLLOW THEIR EXAMPLE AS THE ANSWER TO FASCISM AND IMPERIALIST WAR. JOIN THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF GREAT BRITAIN. LONG LIVE THE SPIRIT OF INVERGORDON".

They were, however, unsuccessful in distributing many of these cards.

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William Bennett returned to Vancouver, B.C., from his campaign in Victoria on 8th September. In conversation, when questioned on the progress of the revolutionary movement in the City of Victoria, Bennett said, "If we were to depend on Victoria's leadership for the revolution the Pattullo Work and Wages Government would be safe for the next thousand years". He expressed his disappointment in one young fellow named [Xdeletion: blank] a young person with East Indian blood, who as Bennett remarked "appears to be more interested in Bourgeoise poster art than he is in the proletarian revolution". Bennett also remarked that the unemployment organization is practically non-existent in Victoria and that the anti-war and anti-Fascist movement was stolen from the Communist Party by the Anglican Church.

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II. ALBERTA9. Notes

[X#] The Canadian Labour Defence League in Calgary, Alta., is suffering from a lack of finances at the present time. It has become increasingly difficult to raise funds and many members of the organization have declared their intention of withdrawing from the organization.

[X#] About 100 Communists gathered in the vicinity of the Municipal Office of the Eagle (Alta.) Municipality and elected six delegates who were sent to interview the council in protest against forced collections of taxes, etc. [Xdeletion: 1/4 line] a former Member of the Alberta Legislature, acted as spokesman for the delegation. The Municipal Council assured the delegates that no hardships would be imposed on any poor farmers.

[X#] The Communist Party in Edmonton, Alta., has been active for the past week in an endeavour to draw into the Canadian Labour Defence League members of other organizations for the purpose of strengthening it. The Canadian Labour Defence League is now in the process of reorganization.

III. ONTARIO

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[X#] A. E. Smith, National Secretary of the Canadian Labour Defence League, did not address any meetings in Winnipeg, Man., on his return from the West but went on direct to Fort William, Ont., where he addressed a mass meeting on the evening of 2nd September. In the course of his address he indulged in the usual tirade against the Canadian Government holding it responsible for the imprisonment of Tim buck et al.

[3<#] A dispatch from Nipigon, Ont., appearing in Vapaus for 7th September, declares that the class fight spirit among the workers there is growing and that the workers are beginning to realize that the promises made by the Liberal Government of Ontario were merely to fool the workers.

[3<#] A new branch of the Canadian Hungarian Workers' Club was recently organized at London, Ont., by Joe Tirpak, General Secretary. This new branch has a membership of 17 and is known as Unit No. 34.

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Oscar Morgan has been appointed Business Manager of The Young
 [3<#]Worker replacing Jim Watts, who has been released for other activity.

IV. QUEBEC

11. Montreal Needle Trade Strike Weakening

[3<#] A recent report from Montreal, Que., would indicate that the general strike of needle trades workers conducted by the Needle Trades Workers' Industrial Union of Canada seems doomed to a major defeat. Picketing has become noticeably weak and strike leaders are frantically trying to negotiate a settlement; the "Right" element in the Dresscutters' Union and many girls have returned to work. Lack of finances also complicated matters. As a result of the strike the Needle Trades Workers' Industrial Union finds itself heavily in debt and considerably weaker both in prestige and organizationally. Strike leaders now admit that the preparations which had been made were totally inadequate as it was not anticipated that so large a number would answer the strike call. The strike has cost the union over \$4,000 thus far, half of which was received from Toronto.

[3<#] The strike of furniture workers at the Progress Brand Bedding Company at Montreal, Que., has been defeated. The 130 workers effected are returning to work in a disorganized fashion. [3<deletion: blank] Workers' Unity League Organizer, who is now in Montreal, states that he will make every effort to bring about a general furniture workers' strike shortly and expressed hope that it will involve between 600 and 700 workers employed in the furniture industry of this city. He apparently is out to make as much trouble as possible but it is not likely that he will

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meet with the same success in Montreal that has attended his efforts elsewhere.

[#] At a meeting of the Canadian Labour Defence League Secretariat at Montreal, Que., held on 6th September it was stated that [deletion: 1/3 line] for the league, has been complaining once more about not being paid for his services. [deletion: blank] has also declared that he would not handle any more strike cases for he had agreed to handle only Canadian Labour Defence League cases of a political character. This attitude of [deletion: blank] complicates matters especially in view of the numerous arrests made at Montreal recently in connection with the strike in the needle trades industry.

[#] It has been reported that the French Branch of the Friends of the Soviet Union at Montreal, Que., has established a small branch at 1412 De Bullion Street where meetings are held every two weeks. Efforts are also being made to establish another group in the north end of the city on St. Hubert Street.

[#] [deletion: 1/5 page]

[#] The Montreal (Que.) Branch of the Finnish Organization of Canada held a meeting on 4th September at which it was decided to popularize the forthcoming Congress Against War and Fascism which is to be held in Toronto, Ont., early in October.

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The Students League of Montreal, Que., which is completely dominated by the Young Communist League, has called a mass meeting of parents to [#] be held on the evening of 14th September at the Central Young Men's Christian Association Hall to protest against the raising of school fees and as part of the preparations for a general students' strike. It is reported that the Young Communist League has been successful in penetrating several schools including the Verdun High School, Montreal High School, Com-

mercial High School and the Baron Byng High School. Its influence is particularly strong in the latter which is a Jewish institution.

[#] Beckie Buhay Ewen addressed an open-air meeting in the Woodlands Park, Verdun, Que., on the night of 3rd September. The audience numbered approximately 1,000.

V. THE MARITIME PROVINCES

12. C.P. Reorganized at Sydney, N.S.

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