

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa,

14th November, 1934.

SECRETNO. 732WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATORS IN CANADAReport

The meetings held in Montreal and Toronto to commemorate the 17th anniversary of the Russian Revolution were a great success in both instances.

The Amalgamated Mine Workers of Nova Scotia are making a determined and apparently successful attempt to win over to their union those at present belonging to the United Mine Workers of America.

The Calgary relief workers came out on strike on 5th November. The Communists have directed that no disturbances are to be created until after the Municipal elections which will be held on 23rd instant.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

I. Two Anniversary Meetings

(A) Toronto

[✂ #] A combined concert and meeting was held in the Massey Hall, Toronto, Ont., on 7th November to celebrate the 17th anniversary of the Russian Revolution. Approximately 3,500 attended and about seventy-five per cent of these were of foreign extraction. A number had to be turned away as the hall was full. The platform was decorated with a number of sketches of Karl Marx, Stalin, Lenin and Tim Buck drawn by the Progressive Arts Club.

The Chairman, Meyer Klig, opened the meeting by informing the audience that one of the requirements of Massey Hall is that the National Anthem be played. He instructed the audience to remain seated while this was being done. Immediately afterwards "The International" was played whereupon everyone stood up and taking the time from A. E. Smith stood with clenched right fist raised shoulder high.

The first speaker was M. Korol, of the Young Communist League, who spoke of the great achievements in Russia since the revolution.

Sam Carr followed. He read out a long cablegram from the workers of the Soviet Union to the workers in Toronto containing greetings and best wishes.

Then Stewart Smith, the speaker of the evening, appeared. He was given an ovation seldom equalled in Toronto. This man is described as every bit as good a speaker as his father, A. E. Smith, and Tim Buck and possibly even more effective. Stewart Smith commenced by describing conditions in Russia where, he asserts, there is no unemployment. It is because the

power is in the hands of the working class of Russia that makes Russia such a good country to live in. In speaking of Canada he said that the poor farmers are being bled, the poor man's wages cut, and there is general suffering among the working classes. He then dealt with preparations

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for war and announced that the Communist Party of Canada would stop war and would also end the depression within 24 hours. This would be done by opening up all factories and putting the unemployed to work. There would be no overproduction as the workers would be allowed to make use of the products they turn out. He announced that three years ago the Bennett Government tried to break the leaders of the Communist Party by placing them in jail and at the same time outlawing the Party itself. The result has been that the leaders have emerged more determined Communists than when they went to jail and the Communist Party has trebled its membership in the last three years. All political parties were abused and the speaker said that the country would only prosper under one government and that the government of the working class, the Communist Party of Canada.

Our report says that this meeting was one of the most openly Communist to be held in Toronto for some time.

[✂ #]

(B) Montreal

A mass meeting was held in the Prince Arthur Hall, Montreal, Que., on 7th November to commemorate the 17th anniversary of the forming of the Soviet Union. The main hall was packed to capacity and an overflow meeting was arranged at the Hungarian Hall in the Prince Arthur Building. Altogether about 1,500 people were present.

The principal speaker was M. Erlich of Toronto, Ont. He made a long comparison between conditions in Canada and the Soviet Union today. The only solution of the workers' struggle in Canada is a Soviet Canada. He offered revolutionary greetings to the Red Army, the Communist Party of Russia, and Stalin. He was very warmly applauded by the crowd.

The Progressive Arts Club produced a playlet entitled "On The Nankin Road". This piece stressed the brutal treatment the Chinese workers received from the British Government. The play was well received.

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The Young Pioneers presented a massed chant which was also loudly applauded.

At the overflow meeting A. G. Paul spoke on the unemployed situation. He said that his own son had died from the results of blood poisoning from a wound in his leg. The boy would have lived if he had received proper medical attention.

Dave Kashton, of the Young Communist League, was the next speaker. He was not well prepared and his speech was chiefly an appeal to the younger element to take their part in the working class struggle.

The collections amounted to about \$70.

Our report says that while there was a large foreign element in the audience there were also a large number of Canadians of the better class, such as office workers, in the hall. These anniversary meetings generally attract a capacity audience in Prince Arthur Hall.

2. A.M.W. of N.S. Is Making Progress

[3< #]

Recent reports from Cape Breton, N.S., would indicate that the miners of the Cumberland Country Sub-District of District 26, United Mine Workers of America, are deserting their organization and are joining the Amalgamated Mine Workers of Nova Scotia. This Sub-District includes Springhill, Joggins and River Hebert.

A referendum of the organized miners of Nova Scotia will be held on 15th November to determine whether the United Mine Workers of America, District 26, or the Amalgamated Mine Workers of Nova Scotia will be recognized by the coal operators of the Government as the "official" union empowered to apply the check-off, i.e., the collection of dues from the wage dockets.

A vote at Springhill on the issue of the check-off rights resulted in a majority of 531 for the Amalgamated Mine Workers Union. This is construed by the Communists as being tantamount to a recognition of the policy and program of the

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Amalgamated Mine Workers Union. It is anticipated that the vast majority of miners who are now members of the United Mine Workers of America in the Cumberland District will swing over to the radical Amalgamated Mine Workers of Nova Scotia.

The break in the ranks of the United Mine Workers of America in the Cumberland District will hasten disintegration of the whole of the United Mine Workers of America organization in Nova Scotia.

[X deletion: 3/4 page]

[7]

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4. Nova Scotia Conference Against War And Fascism

[X #] The Nova Scotia Conference Against War and Fascism held an all-day session in the Unemployed Workers Hall, Ashby, Sydney, N.S., on 4th November. About 30 people were present including [X deletion: 3 3/4 lines]

[X deletion: 1/4 line] who was a delegate to the Canadian Congress Against War and Fascism in Toronto, Ont., gave a lengthy report on the congress. He stated that the congress was not a meeting of Communists or even controlled by Communists as the Capitalist press gave out but every class was represented including Co-operative Commonwealth Federation leaders, trade unionists, religious bodies, Socialists and Communists. He expressed regret that the movement against war and Fascism was late in starting in Canada. He declared that the agitation must be strengthened and all classes of people drawn into the movement. He urged that "Councils Against War and Fascism" be set up in as many districts as possible.

[8]

[X deletion: 1/4 line] spoke on the needs of more militant and persevering action on the part of the committees in building up this movement. He urged that all keep "hammering away" so as to let the masses know that a movement against war and Fascism is alive in Canada.

[X deletion: blank] spoke on the rise of Fascism in Canada citing the imprisonment of the Communist Party leaders as one of the outstanding achievements of Fascism in the country.

[X deletion: blank] spoke on the "Anarchy of Capitalist Production". He also stressed the need for a militant anti-war and anti-Fascist movement.

The conference decided to change the name "Nova Scotia Conference Against War and Fascism" to "Nova Scotia Councils Against War and Fascism" affiliated to the Canadian League Against War and Fascism.

5. Malcolm Bruce

[X #]

Malcolm Bruce addressed an audience that packed the Miners Hall in Canmore, Alta., on the evening of 1st November. He recounted his ex-

periences in Kingston Penitentiary, describing particularly the riots and the attempted shooting of Tim Buck. He was very guarded in his speech.

On 29th October Bruce spoke in the Miners Hall in Lethbridge, Alta., before a small crowd.

The chief speaker was [3< deletion: 1/4 line] who dealt at some length with the closing down of No. 6 mine at Hardieville.

Bruce himself only spoke briefly. He admitted that he his now a stronger Communist than ever before. He referred to his imprisonment and tried to explain the injustice of it all. He said that he is no criminal and was only doing all in his power to help his fellow workers.

[9]

6. Matthew Popowich

Matthew Popowich spoke to a capacity audience in the local Mine Workers Hall at Coalhurst, Alta., on the evening of 30th October. He [3< #]spoke in the Ukrainian language for about 20 minutes and then in English, his subject being the conditions in Kingston Penitentiary and the alleged shooting of Tim Buck.

Popowich arrived in Coalhurst from Calgary where he had been attending the Convention of the Mine Workers Union of Canada.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

7. The Longshore and Waterfront Transport Workers of Canada

[3< #]

The Marine Workers Industrial League, Canadian Section of the International of Seamen and Harbour Workers, in Vancouver, B.C., is making a determined effort to weld all longshore and seamen's organizations into one body which will be under the control of the radicals. This organization is known as the Longshore and Waterfront Transport Workers of Canada and is to include the longshoremen of Vancouver, New Westminster, Victoria, Alberni, and also the deck hands, oilers, firemen, stewards and freight handlers of the British Columbia ports. The Federated Seafarers

Union at Vancouver has recently voted 109 to two in favour of joining this organization. The Canadian Amalgamated Association of Seamen voted 96 for and 20 against joining; the unorganized seamen, firemen and stewards voted 266 for and 10 against; while the Marine Workers Industrial League, which sponsored this movement, voted 146 for and three against joining this organization.

[✂ #] [✂ deletion: blank] was the main speaker at a meeting of miners in Cumberland, B.C., on 26th October. It was one of the series of meetings held in connection with the negotiations between the miners and the operators regarding a new wage agreement. [✂ deletion: blank] informed the Cumberland miners that the miners generally are now more powerfully organized in Canada and that the Miners' Convention in Calgary, Alta., held on 22nd October, pledged full support to the miners in Cumberland.

At a subsequent meeting held on 31st October the miners of Cumberland, by a vote 264 to 222, decided against a strike and it is expected that an agreement with the company will be signed shortly.

[11]

A dispatch appearing in The Worker, for 7th November, says that 420 Cumberland miners struck solid on 4th November for a five per cent

[✂ #] increase.

[✂ deletion: 1/3 line] of Vancouver, B.C., who is now touring the [✂ #] province in the interests of the Canadian Labour Defence League, addressed a mass meeting in the Grand Theatre, Fernie, B.C., on 26th October.

He spoke on the present economic conditions and advocated the abolition of the Capitalist system and the establishment of a workers' government.

His address was well received.

II. ALBERTA

[✂ #] 8. Calgary Relief Workers on Strike

On 1st November the Calgary (Alta.) City Council, after a heated debate, decided by a majority of one to cut the relief rates.

On 3rd November the Unemployed Married Men's Association, after a series of meetings, voted in favour of a strike of all relief recipients to commence on the morning of the 5th in protest against the action of the

City Council. Decisions to strike were also made at meetings of the Unemployed Married Men's Protective Association, Unemployed Ex-Service Men's Association and Calgary Workers' Federation

On the morning of the 5th more than 300 married unemployed men, after reporting for work as usual, laid down their tools and joined the strike. Pickets were posted and strike leaders issued orders for strict discipline in order to avoid disorders.

The strike leaders claim that the strike would be ninety-eight per cent effective and that more than 2,700 married unemployed will be directly affected.

The Workers International Relief are preparing to feed those on strike if necessary. Trucks are being sent out

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round the country collecting food stuff from sympathetic farmers.

A mass meeting held on 6th November was addressed by [✂ deletion: blank] National Secretary of the Workers Unity League, Toronto, Ont., who urged the workers to unite in this struggle in order to bring the strike to a successful conclusion.

The question of calling all school children affected by the relief cut out on strike is being considered, also the question of extending the strike throughout the province. No trouble is expected, however, until after the Civic election, which will take place on 22nd November.

[✂ deletion: 1/2 page]

[✂ #] The Edmonton (Alta.) local Communist Party held a mass meeting at the Gem Theatre, Edmonton, on 28th October. The meeting was called for the purpose of discussing the United Front proposal made by the Communist Party to the

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Canadian Labour Party and its rejection by the latter. The Communist Party in Edmonton recently wrote to the Edmonton Central Council of the Labour Party proposing a United Front in the forthcoming Civic elections. This proposal was turned down.

[✂ deletion: 1/2 line] were the principal speakers. They condemned the "reactionary" leadership of the Labour Party and appealed to the audience to support the Communist candidates in the forthcoming Civic elections.

III. SASKATCHEWAN**9. Communist Candidates In Civic Elections**

[3< #] William Taylor and Cyril Harding have been nominated by the Communist Party in Saskatoon, Sask., as candidates for Alderman in the Civic elections to take place on 26th November. They will use the election campaign to rally the unemployed for a fifteen per cent increase in cash relief and an open voucher system for clothing. The employed workers will be called upon to organize against wage cuts.

[3< #] T. McManus has been selected by the Communists in Regina, Sask., as candidate for Alderman in the forthcoming Municipal elections. In the last election he was a candidate on a United Front ticket polling 1,660 votes. This year he is running as a straight Communist.

IV. MANITOBA**[3< #] 10. Funeral Of M. Lenartowich**

The death of M. Lenartowich at Winnipeg, Man., is a distinct loss to the revolutionary movement, especially in the City of Winnipeg. He was energetic, possessed of all the qualities of leadership and his contributions to the revolutionary press under the pen-name of "Kvestia" were many.

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He was Editor of the Working Woman, the official organ of the Women's Section of the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association, and was one of the outstanding Organizers of the Communist Party in Winnipeg.

His funeral took place on 3rd November. It was a pompous affair held in the Ukrainian Labour Temple, attended by a crowd of over 2,000. It was a typical Communist funeral utilized for propaganda purposes.

Alderman Jacob Penner read a number of telegrams from various points of Canada. S. Simkin, representing the Communist Party of Canada, delivered an exhortation on the "terrible loss to the Party of this man", and urged that the workers should, by hundreds and thousands, strive to fill the vacancy created by his death. P. Lysec presented a sketch of the deceased's life. Joe Forkin and Harry Binder generally eulogized the deceased's contributions to the revolutionary movement.

The funeral procession left the Ukrainian Labour Temple and proceeded to the Market Square where the band of the Workers Benevolent Association played a funeral march, followed by the singing of the "International". The crowd which assembled there nearly filled the square.

The body was then placed in the hearse and taken to the Brooklands Cemetery.

[§ #] The District Central Council of the Canadian Labour Defence League in Winnipeg, Man., received a letter from [§ deletion: 1/4 line] saying that the total money collected during [§ deletion: blank] tour amounted to only \$54. [§ deletion: blank] pleaded for funds and a program of agitation, demanding the withdrawal of all charges against those arrested during the Flin Flon strike. [§ deletion: blank] also stated that fresh charges had been laid against [§ deletion: 1/3 line] and that the prosecution had a strong battery of legal talent headed by Mr. McLean of the Attorney General's Department. [§ deletion: blank] also asked for a Court Reporter to be sent to Flin Flon as well as a Workers' Jury.

[15]

After some discussion the Central Council decided to send a stenographer to Flin Flon, but no funds. It was pointed out that all the available money would have to be given to [§ deletion: blank] the Lawyer for the defence.

[§ #] The strike at the International Bakery at Winnipeg, Man., was a complete failure. The strikers have gone back to work without obtaining any concessions whatever.

V. ONTARIO

11. New Auxiliary Of The C.L.D.L.

[§ #]

The National Office of the Canadian Labour Defence League in Toronto, Ont., forwarded instructions to the Winnipeg Office to organize an auxiliary to be known as Ex-Class War Prisoners League. The qualifications for membership in this league are that he or she must have served three or more months in jail as political prisoners. Their duties will be to assist the Canadian Labour Defence League in taking care of those in jail and their dependents; to issue propaganda against prison treatment; to meet

those coming out of jail and recruit them into the league; and also to associate with and educate those on trial who are likely to be sent to prison for a term. It will also be their duty to act as organizers in jails to prevent losing those who have served a term for the revolutionary activities; in short, to retain all those who have been convicted as a result of their activities in the revolutionary movement.

[✂ #] The National Executive Board of the Workers Unity League has selected 17th November as National Unemployment Day. It is to mark the starting point for a drive to organize unemployed and employed workers for the Workers' Unemployment Bill, leading up to a National Congress in Ottawa, Ont., in the early part of 1935.

[16]

The Young Pioneers of Canada pledged themselves some time ago to collect 5,000 pennies and to speak to 5,000 workers in behalf of Ernest Thaelmann, imprisoned leader of the Communist Party of Germany.

[✂ #] They have thus far collected over 7,000 pennies and have handed over \$50 to the Canadian Labour Defence League to be forwarded to the party concerned.

[✂ #] A meeting of the League Against War and Fascism was held on the night of 4th November at [✂ deletion: blank] residence in Ottawa, Ont.; about 35 were present, most of whom were young people. An Executive Committee of six was elected.

[✂ #] [✂ deletion: 1/4 line] is expected to arrive in Ottawa, Ont., on 13th November. He is to address a mass meeting in the hall at the corner of Lebreton and Plymouth Streets on 15th November.

[✂ #] The management of Darbininku Zodis (The Workers' Word) has launched a campaign with a view to putting the paper on a weekly basis, commencing 1st January, 1935. The object is to raise \$1,000 and to obtain 300 additional subscribers.

As part of this campaign a concert and meeting was staged on 4th November at 6 Denison Street, Toronto, Ont. There were present delegates

from the Russian Workers and Farmers Club of Toronto, the Yugo Slav Workers Club, the Hungarian Workers Club and Polish Workers Club. The attendance numbered approximately 300.

Vladas Strazhevichus, known as the founder of Darbininku Zodis, was the principal speaker. He dealt with the history of the paper and its importance to the Lithuanian workers in Canada. He pointed out that its aim is to organize the Lithuanian workers and draw them into the revolutionary organizations for the overthrow of Capitalist society and the establishment of a Soviet Government in Canada.

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The collection taken at this meeting amounted to \$156.70.

- [✂ #] An editorial appearing in the 1st November issue of Borba criticizes recent attempts to organize the Serbian workers in Canada into a separate organization for Serbians only. The predominant element in the Jugo Slavian Clubs in Canada are the Croatians; the Serbian workers are in the minority and constitute what might be termed the moderate wing of the organization. This new movement, at present in its agitational stage, aims to create an organization of Serbian workers along moderate lines. It seems to be supported by the nationalistically inclined Serbian element.

- [✂ #] The first number of "The Student", official organ of the Students League of Canada, is off the press and now in circulation. It is published in Toronto, Ont., and the Editorial board consists of Sally Lunn, Editor-in-Chief, Patterson, Art Editor, S. Ryerson, M. Wayman, A. B. Stein, Irving Kotler, and I. Tepperman. Lawrence Crawford, A. McRobert and H. Lubetsky constitute the Business Management.

This issue contains the program of the Students League of Canada and several articles, the more important of which deal with Fascism and the recent strike of students in the City of Montreal, Que.

- [✂ #] The committee responsible for the publishing of Kanadai Magyar Munkas met on 3rd November and discussed the campaign which is now on foot to increase the circulation of this paper. It was decided to send the following members of the committee on the road:-

Magyar -- to Niagara Peninsula district
 Hunyady -- to Port Arthur and district
 Mike Turk -- to Toronto and district

A. Shaeffer -- to the districts from Brantford to Windsor
 A. Juhasz -- to Montreal and district

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VI. QUEBEC

12. A. E. Smith In Montreal

[# #]

A. E. Smith, General Secretary of the Canadian Labour Defence League, has left Toronto, Ont., on 31st October on a tour which will take him through the Northern Ontario District and as far east as Montreal, Que. The purpose of the tour is to raise funds for the defence of the miners and lumber workers who will face the court in Amos, Que., shortly.

[# #] A. E. Smith attended a meeting of the District Central Council of the Canadian Labour Defence League at Montreal, Que., on 3rd November. Smith had come to Montreal for the purpose of interviewing [# deletion: blank] Canadian Labour Defence League counsel, in connection with the Noranda strike cases. Smith informed the council that [# deletion: blank] demanded \$500 in cash in advance to handle the Noranda cases which are to commence in Amos, Que., on 13th November. Previous to coming to Montreal Smith stopped at Timmins, Kirkland Lake and Rouyn. He said that he was able to raise \$410 most of which came from the Timmins District. Of this Smith gave [# deletion: blank] \$320 as a retaining fee and promised [# deletion: blank] another \$180 before he leaves for Amos. Smith stated that \$1,000 would be needed for the Noranda cases. Of this amount the quota for the Montreal District is \$100, Port Arthur \$100, Vancouver \$100, Toronto \$200, and Timmins \$500.

Wallace stated that as far as the Montreal District was concerned it would be impossible for the membership to raise that quota. It was then agreed that Smith would only visit the Ukrainian and Finnish mass organizations in Montreal in the hope of raising funds. Smith is also to make an appeal at the meeting of the Saturday Night Club and he agreed to give twenty-five per cent of all money collected from this source to the Montreal District Office.

[19]

The Secretariat of the Canadian Labour Defence League in Montreal, Que., held a meeting on 1st November with [X deletion: 1 1/2 line] in attendance. The principal item of business under discussion was the [X #] proposed mass meeting in the Atwater Market Hall on the 20th November. It was said that the total expenses in connection with this meeting would amount to approximately \$200. Another item under discussion was the forthcoming Canadian Labour Defence League United Front Conference scheduled for 9th November. It was decided to send invitations to all trade unions in the City of Montreal.

[X #] [X deletion: 9 lines]

[X #] [X deletion: 1/4 line] who was released from Bordeaux Jail last year after serving a year's sentence on a charge of "sedition", has been expelled from the Communist Party and all affiliated organizations for failing to take an active part therein. He is now completely out of the revolutionary movement.
