

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa,

21st November, 1934.

SECRETNO. 733WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATORS IN CANADAReport

There have been no disturbances in the Calgary relief workers' strike. The city are paying relief according to the revised scale but have not yet cut any recipient off relief for refusing to work. The farmers' strike in the Mundare District is still in force. No further police intervention has been required.

Contrary to expectation in Nova Scotia the United Mine Workers secured 538 more votes than the revolutionary union, the Amalgamated Mine Workers of Nova Scotia.

Becky Buhay and Mrs. Tim Buck came to Ottawa on 10th November to interview the Minister of Justice with reference to the release from Kingston Penitentiary of Tim Buck. They got no satisfaction.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

1. Sam Carr In Winnipeg

A mass meeting in the Regent Theatre, sponsored by the Communist Party, climaxed the 17th anniversary of the Russian Revolution in the [✂ #]City of Winnipeg, Man. The theatre was filled to capacity, many could gain admittance and had to be turned away. The program consisted of musical numbers and an address delivered by Sam Carr of Toronto, recently released from Kingston Penitentiary. Included in the program was also a scene from the play "Eight Men Speak". Alderman Jacob Penner conducted the meeting.

Sam Carr, in a lengthy address, reviewed the various stages of development in Soviet Russia under the Soviet regime, commencing with the October Revolution, and summing up he compared present conditions there with those of other countries. He claimed that whereas Soviet Russia's industries are working day and night, those of Capitalist countries are partly shut down. He also stressed the complete utilization of the machine in Soviet Russia contrasting this method of production with the tendencies which he claimed were in evidence in Capitalist countries to replace the machine by manual labour. He particularly referred to the City of Montreal where, he alleged, the City Council had refused to purchase a machine for removing snow in the streets in order to create employment.

The celebration concluded with the singing of "The International" and three cheers for each, the Soviet Russia, Tim Buck and the Communist Party of Canada.

A telegram was read announcing that Mabel Marlowe, Bill Ross and James Coleman were found guilty at The Pas and were awaiting their sentences.

2. Tom Ewen Speaks In Halifax

☞ #] Tom Ewen addressed a mass meeting held under the auspices of the Workers Unity League in the School for the Blind in Halifax, N.S., on 5th November. Roscoe A. Filmore,

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of Centreville, N.S., acted as Chairman, there being approximately 150 people in attendance.

Tom Ewen thanked the audience for their welcome and the reception and then proceeded to describe conditions in the Kingston Penitentiary. The reason he was in Halifax, he said, was not because the Bennett Government had suddenly become philanthropic, but because the pressure brought to bear by the working class for his release had been too great to resist. "In 1932 the Capitalistic class had undertaken the task of proving he and his associates to be criminals", he said. "The late Mr. Justice Wright, who convicted them, and who since 'has gone somewhere else', had declared them to be not ordinary criminals, but ones guilty of a detestable crime". Ewen remarked that the Warden of Kingston Penitentiary had warned them when they were admitted that they were going to be specially watched and if they started anything they would be severely dealt with. "Therefore," said he, "they did not start out with even the ordinary status of a convict". They were Communists and therefore deadly. The Bennett Government made its first mistake", he said, "when it put eight Communists into Kingston penitentiary. Their very presence stirred up the 1,000 inmates to protest against conditions and ask for a change". Describing the riots, Ewen remarked: "The soldiers were told that they were not going up against an enemy such as they met in the war. They were not going up against men, but a pack of mad dogs, and to shoot to kill. Fortunately", he said, "the Officer Commanding knew better".

Speaking of Nova Scotia and the situation among the miners, Ewen stated that the miners of the province were being faced with an organization which had sacrificed all the principles of a trade union. "The United Mine Workers", he said, "was a machine which had sold itself body and soul to the mine owners of Nova Scotia". He asserted that he and his associates were fighting the United Mine Workers with the hope of breaking it once and for all, and of building up the Amalgamated Mine Workers Union of Nova Scotia.

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He made a strong plea for organization of industrial workers in every phase of activity, in order that the workers might secure a share of what they produced.

3. The U.M.W.A. Versus The A.M.W. Of N.S.

[* #] The plebiscite conducted throughout the mining area of Nova Scotia to determine as to what union shall enjoy the "check-off" gave the United Mine Workers of America, District 26, an overall majority of 538 ballots over the Amalgamated Mine Workers of Nova Scotia. The total vote for the province gave the United Mine Workers of America 6,604 cards and the Amalgamated Mine Workers Union of Nova Scotia 6,066. The United Mine Workers of America will retain "check-off" privileges at the mines of the Dominion Coal Company, the Bras d'Or Coal Company, the Inverness Coal Company, Acadia, Springhill and River Hebert while the Amalgamated Mine Workers Union will control the Scotia Mines on the North side, Princess and Florence, also the collieries of the Indian Coal Company. The not very large majority cast for the United Mine Workers demonstrates the gains made by the Amalgamated Mine Workers during the past few weeks, particularly in the mainland territory. Several protests have been filed by both the United Mine Workers of America and the Amalgamated Mine Workers of Nova Scotia alleging the irregularities in the ballot. It is generally agreed that the fight over the "check-off" has not definitely settled the dual union question in the Nova Scotia coal fields.

In the Glace Bay-New Waterford area the total count gave the United Mine Workers of America 3,956 and the Amalgamated Mine Workers Union 3,283, a majority of 673 for the former.

In the Sydney Mines District the Amalgamated Mine Workers Union received a total of 1,726 cards as against 200 turned in for the United Mine Workers.

At Inverness the United Mine Workers received 611 as against none for the rival union.

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4. Pulpwood Cutters' Strike. Sault Ste. Marie District.

The strike among the pulpwood cutters in the Sault Ste. Marie District [* #] has come to an end. The strikers were weakening; they could not prevent men going to work, so the strike organizers have planned what they term

"an organized retreat". The firm stand taken by the Abitibi Pulp and Paper Company has helped materially in terminating this strike.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

5. B.C. League Against War And Fascism

[8] #] About 200 people attended a meeting of the British Columbia League Against War and Fascism in the Aberdeen School, Vancouver, B.C., on 9th November. The Chairman was the Reverend J. Hacker from South Vancouver.

Sam Shearer, a member of the Trades and Labour Council, spoke at length on the possibilities of another war. He alleged that the causes of war were nationalism and greed.

David Case dwelt at length on the subject of Fascism, stating that Fascism had already obtained a strong foothold in Canada.

Mrs. W. Wilson, a delegate to the recent Canadian Congress Against War and Fascism, gave a brief report of the work of that congress.

The last speaker, J. Oliver, a logger from the Alberni Pacific Lumber Camp at Port Alberni, gave a short report on how the strike was first started, intimating that the blame lay with the management of the company.

[8] #] The Workers Ex-Service Men's League in Vancouver, B.C., held a public meeting in the Royal Theatre on 11th November. Approximately 1,000 people were in attendance and the speakers were Mrs. Wilson, Breffet, O'Neill, Williamson, Mabbit and Holmes.

Mrs. Wilson, recently returned from the Toronto Congress Against War and Fascism, launched a general attack against Fascism in Canada, referring particularly to the Arcand Bill in Quebec and the Special Powers Act in British Columbia as evidence of the growth of Fascism in this country.

Breffet, a member of the Workers Ex-Service Men's League, dealt with conditions in the U.S.S.R. He attempted to show that the conditions there were far ahead of those in

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any other country in regard to industry and production in general.

O'Neill, in a short speech, bitterly attacked the Canadian Legion for refusing to send representatives to this meeting. He classed the leaders of the Canadian Legion as parasites.

Williamson appealed to all ex-service men to support the Workers Ex-Service Men's League, claiming that it was only organization which would be able to get justice for the ex-soldiers.

William Mabbit, a representative from the Provincial Workers' Council in Burnaby, devoted most of his time to a criticism of the leaders of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation.

Holmes, of the Workers International Relief, spoke of the strike at the Alberni Pacific Lumber Company camp at Port Alberni and also of the miners' strike at Cumberland, stating that Fascism was rampant at both these places and that the companies involved were being given strong police protection. He appealed for support for the workers at these places.

[✂ #] The terms offered by the management of the Canadian Collieries at Cumberland, B.C., have been rejected by the men. The rejected offer which by an eight cents per shift increase would bring the wages of local haulers into line with the Nanaimo rate of \$4.30 per shift was barely given consideration. The management has decided to keep the mines open until 30th November for employees who wish to work. Maintenance men, office workers and the crew at Union Bay will continue their duties until 30th November. If the maintenance men are withdrawn the mines at Cumberland will close indefinitely. Should this happen Cumberland will exist in name only, becoming one of the ghost towns of British Columbia.

[10]

[✂ deletion: 1/4 line] recently returned from the Miners' Convention in Calgary, Alta., has been sent by the [✂ deletion: 2/3 line] in Vancouver, B.C., to Cumberland to assist in the miners' strike there. On his arrival there he despatched an "S.O.S." call for funds and the Vancouver [✂ deletion: blank] is now endeavouring to raise \$200 immediately to be sent to Cumberland.

[✂ #] A new organization known as the Seafarers Industrial Union has been formed in Vancouver, B.C., recently. The tentative officers are:-

President	--	M. Pierce
Vice-President	--	J. Wolfe

Secretary

Treasurer

--

P. Driscoll

Organizers

--

Donaldson, Russell, Wolfe

February 3rd, 1935, has been named as the date for the first convention. Overtures are being made to the Merchant Service Guild with a view to securing an agreement with them for mutual aid in the event of disputation with employers.

II. ALBERTA

[✂ #]

6. Canadian League Against War And Fascism

The Canadian League Against War and Fascism held a concert meeting at the Masonic Temple in Edmonton, Alta., on Sunday, 4th November. S. Bowcott acted as Chairman and S. A. G. Barnes, Miss Margaret Crang, the Reverend A. E. Black and the Reverend Carl A. Storm of Boston, U.S.A., were the speakers.

The first speaker, the Reverend A. E. Black of the Central United Church, gave an illustration of the horrors enacted during the Great War and the scientific instruments that are being invented for use in future wars. He scored the Capitalist class whom he blamed for bringing about wars. He concluded his talk by saying that when another war comes, the safest place to go will be over the Soviet boundary under the refuge of the Soviet Government.

[11]

Miss Margaret Crang, Civic Alderman, and a member of the Anti-War and Anti-Fascist Provisional National Committee, gave a report on the Toronto Congress which she attended as the official delegate from Edmonton.

S. A. G. Barnes, Chairman of the Edmonton School Board, also reported on the Toronto Congress which he attended as a delegate from Edmonton.

The Reverend Carl A. Storm, of the Boston Unitarian Church, condemned the Capitalists for their Fascist action towards the working class in general and dealt with the history of Fascism in Germany and Italy. He condemned the new deal in the U.S.A.

[✂ deletion: 1/3 page]

[✂ #] The 17th anniversary of the October Revolution was celebrated by the Communists in Calgary, Alta., on the evening of 7th November. Two meetings were held, one in the Labour Temple on 11th Avenue, and the other in the Ukrainian Labour Temple. The principal speakers were T. C. Sims and George Palmer, who spoke on Russia and their experiences gained while in that country. They all spoke in glowing terms of the wonders of the Soviet Union, and predicted that the time was not far off when Canada would throw off the yoke of Capitalism and become a Soviet Canada.

[12]

The Unemployed Men's Association of Forrest Lawn and Albert Park near Calgary, Alta., called a meeting on 3rd November at which it was [✂ #] decided to come out on strike and to demand 50 cents per hour for relief work. On 5th November only three men out of 37 married unemployed reported for work. The relief project was picketed and the strike is being continued.

[✂ #] A farmers' strike has been called in the Mundare (Alta.) District to protest against unfair grading of grain at the local elevators, low prices and to insist on the installation of grain cleaners. Farmers attempting to sell grain have been picketed. In one instance, a farmer who continued on his way to the elevator after being warned by pickets had his load overturned by a hostile crowd. Ten of these were subsequently arrested and charged with "assault on a Peace Officer," "assault on the driver of the load of grain", "intimidation and mischief". Since this episode there has been no further trouble. The farmers' strike is being assisted by local Communists.

III. MANITOBA

7. C.L.D.L. Meeting At The Pas

[✂ #] The local branch of the Canadian Labour Defence League in The Pas, Man., held a mass meeting in the Lyric Theatre on 28th October. The principal speaker was Mabel Marlowe. Short speeches were also delivered by Jim Coleman, Bill Ross and Alex Stewart. The speakers appealed to the audience for financial support, to assist in the defence of those awaiting trial at Flin Flon. Mabel Marlowe spoke very bitterly of existing conditions at the Hudson's Bay Mining and Smelting Company at Flin Flon describing

the company as being a part of the Great War machine to be used by the Capitalist class in future wars.

[13]

As a result of agitation carried on by Workers Unity League organizers, a series of meetings were held recently in Kenora, Ont., at which the question of calling a strike in the Department of National

[✂ #] Defence relief camps was discussed. At a meeting held on 9th November, which was attended by approximately 125 people, plans were formulated to demand that the wages paid by the Department of National Defence be raised from 25 cents to 35 cents per hour, thus putting the wages on the same level as the Dufferin Company are paying on the Fort Francis Highway.

[✂ #] [✂ deletion: blank] has returned from the East and is now actively engaged in reorganizing the needle trades workers in Winnipeg, Man., with a view to calling another strike.

IV. ONTARIO

8. [✂ deletion: 1 line]

[✂ deletion: 1/3 page]

[✂ #] The 17th anniversary of the Russian Revolution was celebrated by the Ottawa (Ont.) Communists at a concert mass meeting at 523 Arlington Avenue on the night of 11th November. The hall was packed to capacity and the speakers were Mrs. Buck, Beckie Buhay Ewen and Hudobiak.

Mrs. Buck spoke of her husband in Kingston Penitentiary.

[14]

Beckie Buhay eulogized the achievements of the Soviet Union and urged the workers to organize.

Hudobiak spoke on the 1917-October Revolution in Russia.

[✂ #] The Ukrainian Labour Joint Committee held a concert and mass meeting at 300 Bathurst Street, Toronto, Ont., on 11th November commemorating

the 12th anniversary of the execution of Sheremeta and his two associates by the Polish authorities. The concert consisted of revolutionary songs, Communist recitations and a play "The Twelve". Amongst the songs rendered by the mixed choirs were "Red Communards", "Long Live Soviet Russia" and "The Internationale".

A man named Bobesuk spoke on the life of the three Polish Communists who, he said, had given their lives for the emancipation of Ukrainian workers and farmers from the yoke of Polish Capitalists. He said, "We must follow in their footsteps, increase our work until the Capitalist system is destroyed, and the Soviet form of Government is established throughout the world". The second part of his speech was devoted to the 17th anniversary of the Russian Revolution.

The attendance numbered approximately 650 people.

[☞ #] The American Lithuanian Workers Literary Society, Toronto (Ont.) Branch, held a business meeting on 6th November, followed by a mass meeting in commemoration of the 17th anniversary of the Russian Revolution.

V. Strazhevichus introduced W. Raila who spoke on Soviet Russia's industrial and social achievements. He pointed out that Russia is leading the world in several industries. He maintained that the convicts in Russia are living better than the Canadian workers on relief. His speech was well received by the audience, numbering approximately 120.

[15]

V. QUEBEC

9. Notes

[☞ #] A. E. Smith, during his recent stay in Montreal, Que., succeeded in collecting \$115 for the Noranda strikers' trial. Most of this amount was collected from "Left" organizations.

[☞ #] Professor Scott Nearing is to give a series of lectures under the auspices of the Saturday Night Club in the Windsor Hotel (York Room), Montreal, Que., on 8th to 11th December. His subject will be "These Critical Times".

[X #] [X deletion: 1/3 line] was the subject of discussion at a meeting of the Canadian Labour Defence League Secretariat in Montreal, Que., on 8th November. It was alleged that [X deletion: 1/4 line] was not doing sufficient work in the office and that [X deletion: blank] was generally irresponsible. [X deletion: blank] agreed that [X deletion: blank] was not as efficient as [X deletion: blank] might be, and expressed the wish to leave the Canadian Labour Defence League office and enter another field in the revolutionary movement. It was decided that for the time being [X deletion: blank] should remain in her present position until another [X deletion: blank] could be trained for the work, and that an endeavour would be made to transfer [X deletion: blank] either as a special correspondent for The Worker or Secretary of the Workers International Relief.

[X #] [X deletion: 9 lines]

[16]

[X deletion: 3 1/4 lines]

[X #] J. S. Wallace informed a meeting of the Secretariat of the Canadian Labour Defence League in Montreal, Que., that [X deletion: 1/2 line] would not be coming to Montreal to address the mass meeting at the Atwater Market Hall on 20th November. It was, therefore, decided that, in addition to Tom Ewen, the following would address the meeting: J. S. Wallace, [X deletion: 1/2 line]

In regard to publicity, it was decided to print and distribute 20,000 leaflets in French and English and that the meeting be also advertised in the daily newspapers.

VI. THE MARITIME PROVINCES

10. Sentences For Rioting at Stellarton Last August

[X #]

The 11 Communists who were arrested in connection with the riots at Stellarton, N.S., last August appeared before His Lordship Mr. Justice Hall and jury of the Supreme Court of Nova Scotia at Pictou on 24th October, charged with being "members of an unlawful assembly." They were convicted and sentenced to imprisonment in the Pictou County Jail, as follows:-

[X deletion: blank]	3 months
[X deletion: blank] (Case 1)	3 "
[X deletion: blank] (Case 2)	2 "

[X deletion: blank]	2	"
[X deletion: blank]	2	"
[X deletion: blank]	4	"
[X deletion: blank] (Case 1)	2	"
[X deletion: blank] (Case 2)	1	"
[X deletion: blank]	2	"
[X deletion: blank]	4	"
[X deletion: blank]	4	"
[X deletion: blank]	2	"
[X deletion: blank]	3	"

[17]

Approximately 100 people attended a meeting of the Workers Unity League in the St. Patrick's Hall in Halifax, N.S., on 6th November. The [X #] meeting was called in an endeavour to organize the local branch of the league. [X deletion: blank] acted as Chairman, and speeches were delivered by [X deletion: 1/2 line] and Tom Ewen.

Tom Ewen, in the course of a short speech, dealt with the need for organization. He strongly condemned the American Federation of Labor and urged the audience to join the Workers Unity League.
