

## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

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**SECRET**

NO. 736

**WEEKLY SUMMARY****REPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS****AND AGITATORS IN CANADA****Report**

It is likely that the success of Tim Buck's big meeting in Toronto will induce the Communists to capitalise Buck and send him out on tour as a means of raising money.

The relief workers' strike in Calgary and the farmers' strike in the Vegreville District continue but show signs of breaking up.

The [✂ deletion: 3/4 line] in Montreal proposes to publish a new newspaper to be called La Tribune.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERALI. Tim Buck at Maple Leaf Gardens, Toronto

A huge rally in the Maple Leaf Gardens, Toronto, Ont., on the evening [✂ #]of 2nd December climaxed Tim Buck's return to the revolutionary [✂ #]movement. A crowd of 17,000 packed the Maple Leaf Gardens, the largest [✂ #]indoor auditorium in Canada, and several thousand people had to be turned away. The meeting was well organized and constituted one of the largest ever held in Toronto or in all Canada.

The doors of the auditorium opened at 6:30 P.M. and at 7:00 o'clock the hall was full. The meeting started at 7:30 o'clock. Huge streamers with slogans dotted the arena and behind the speakers' platform was a monstrous

picture of Lenin and Stalin almost 40 feet long and 30 feet high. It was a contribution from the Progressive Arts Club. The stage was occupied by representatives of various organizations in Toronto and adjacent cities. One whole section was occupied by red capped Young Communist League members who with the cheers, pennants and banners made themselves very conspicuous. The Young Pioneers, picturesque in their uniform also occupied a whole section.

On the platform were baskets of red carnations and red roses and a wreath with long, red streamers. It was announced after the meeting that the flowers would be sent to the Christie Street Hospital for disabled veterans.

At 7:15 from one of the entrances on the right members of the Toronto section of the Workers Sports Association of Canada, the men in white gym uniform and the women in black skirts with knitted, maroon sweaters, entered and proceeded in single file to the rear of the arena forming two single lines from the gate to the rear of the arena. They served as a body guard for Tim Buck. A roar of cheers arose as Tim Buck appeared in the entrance. Amid cheers he

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was carried shoulder high by two members of the Sports Association down the aisles to the stage with the members of the Sports Association marching behind him in single file.

J. B. Salsberg, of the Workers Unity League, opened the meeting. With a few remarks he introduced the Chairman of the evening, Stewart Smith, who explained that the meeting "would have to be opened by playing 'God Save The King'". An electrical organ broke forth with the first bars of the National Anthem. There was booing and hissing.

The speakers of the evening, in addition to Tim Buck, were A. E. Smith, Mrs. E. Morton, Leslie Morris, John Boychuk, Tom Ewen, Sam Carr, Tom Montague and Bill Kashton. They brought revolutionary greetings to Tim Buck from their respective organizations.

A. E. Smith sketched the activities of the Canadian Labour Defence League. He claimed that the Canadian Labour Defence League was not a part of the Communist Party but that it tries very hard to follow the policy laid down by the Communist Party.

William Kashton, National Secretary of the Young Communist League, the second speaker, exhorted the youth to greater struggle against war and Fascism. At this juncture the meeting, amid cheers, passed resolutions demanding the release of all "class war" prisoners in Canada, freedom for the Spanish anti-Fascist worker and the release of Tom Mooney. A delegation of the Young Pioneers then marched to the stage and three young girls

got up on the platform and shook hands with Tim Buck. One spoke into the microphone, "We are not too young to fight, we can help".

Sam Carr had been given the task of organizing the collection. When he called for money to defray the \$750 rent and other expenses in connection with the meeting, bills poured in, the total was \$2,112. Carr stated that all monies over and above the expenses, which totalled \$1,300, would be

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turned over to the Communist Party of Canada.

Stewart Smith then spoke and greeted Tim Buck officially in the name of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Canada and on concluding introduced the next speaker, Tim Buck. A roar of cheers greeted his announcement. The massed orchestra in attendance broke into "The International", immediately caught up by the crowd. A wave of right hands rose into the "Red Front" salute. Buck approached the microphone singing and saluting. The song ended, Tim buck waved for silence. He accepted the greetings and paid tribute to the work of those who had built the Communist Party while the eight had been incarcerated in Kingston Penitentiary. He presented to the audience these people in the person of Stewart Smith who had "carried on for him while he was away". He also thanked his wife, Alice Buck, for the work she had done and paid special tribute to the fight led by the Canadian Labour Defence League to free him and his associates. "The only reason that we Kingston prisoners are out is because we had the mass support of hundreds of thousands of people throughout Canada", he said. He then remarked:-

"We have been released from Kingston just in time to take our part in the greatest movement that the working class of Canada has ever been called upon to undertake--the building of class unity against fascism and imperialist war.

"There is no longer any question among the leaders of capitalism as to whether there will be another war. The question now is how soon they can make ready for it. We hear a great deal today about the growth of the fascist idea. There is no such thing, it is simply the abolition of all democratic form and the smashing of working class organizations.

"Very soon, we in Canada will be forced to face the naked question, either to stand with the bosses for war, or against the capitalists and to say: 'Down with imperialist war; on with the fight for socialism'.

"No final victory has been won tonight. What we can celebrate is a new and tremendous awakening of the Canadian working class. There is no time to lose. If we want the chance to fight for the proletarian dictatorship tomorrow, we must be prepared to join the fight against reaction today.

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"We Communists believe that it is possible in Canada, without forgetting our doctrinal differences, for all trade unions and for all parties of the working class and progressive middle class parties to join in the fight against reaction and to build a strong united front for this fight".

Buck frankly defied the law enforcing authorities to use Section 98 of the Criminal Code again. He said:-

"When we were sentenced, the Communist Party was declared illegal. For almost three years the Party has worked underground.

"This great movement cannot remain underground. Price, Henry, Bennett say we are illegal. I say we are no longer illegal, the Communist Party is no longer underground. Here we stand!

"If you want to use your Section 98, you can get the biggest bag in your life right here (indicating the many well known leaders on the platform with him). It is not a light thing to defy the capitalist class. We can only defy them successfully with your support.

"Are you willing to strive to draw your organization into this fight against reaction and against the coming war? (Great shouts of 'Aye'.) If you will do that we can laugh at the Mounties. We can laugh at their Section 98. They are helpless against a united working class. This is not only a question for Toronto, it is for the whole of Canada, and for the whole capitalist world.

"The Communist Party must always remain young, if only because capitalist society is aged and decaying. The time is short. A tremendous change may take place in Canada after the next Federal election. A tremendous change will take place in Canada after the next Imperial War Conference next year. Let me quote from Lenin, shortly before the Revolution: 'There is no time to spare. Delay means death'. This can almost apply to us here".

Buck continually stressed the growth of the Communist Party and the movement in the years following the arrest and imprisonment of its leaders. He said:-

"In 1931 we had a small party and a great economic situation. These men (Bennett, Price, Williams, etc..) are so stupid that they thought by putting a few people in jail to break an idea which is sweeping over the world. A few more death blows like this and we shall be well on the way to socialism.

"The judge who sentenced us to Kingston is dead, but the Communist Party is not only alive but stronger than ever. For every sapling that they

uprooted there has grown an oak. For every tree a forest and this forest which now confronts them is the united front".

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Dealing with his life and conditions in Kingston Penitentiary he charged, "The whole prison system of Canada stinks, it is rotten. It is nothing but a den of vice and corruption". He said, "Youngsters go into that place in their teens, healthy, clean and active because they stole something, but when they leave they are unclean and filthy". Buck claimed that the eight Communist leaders received particular attention when they entered the penitentiary. He alleged that they were thrown into "the hole". "We were not the losers", he asserted. "Political gangsters at Ottawa were the losers. We found out a multitude of facts concerning the graft, corruption, perversion and cheating under the administration which I can assure them it would have been better for them that we had never had". He rapped General Ormond and the Wardens. "Although some of the under-Wardens were good sorts they were sorely brow-beaten and insulted by the superiors", he said. He denounced Premier Bennett and other members of the Canadian Government and said that the release of himself and his comrades was a sign that the Government was almost beaten and that it realizes now that it was in the wrong when it sent the Communist leaders to prison in 1931. "When we went to Kingston", he said, "there were not five prisoners who knew there was a labour movement. Today every man knows of the Canadian Labour Defence League, about the Communist Party, and a considerable portion of them, not only understand, but deeply sympathizes with the working class". Buck paid tribute to certain of the prisoners of Kingston who, he said, were simply the victims of the system and were driven to crime by it. "There are two categories in Kingston Penitentiary, on the one hand the perverts, the drug addicts and the wealthy bond-swindlers, they all got the best of treatment from the authorities, they are the rats. The others are at least men, the minority of them the ones called the dangerous types, the gangsters and gunmen were the

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ones with whom we were classified". Buck blamed General Ormond, Superintendent of Penitentiaries, for the troubles at Kingston Penitentiary. General Ormond, Buck charged, broke a promise which he had made to the prisoners on 18th October. According to Buck, General Ormond made a speech in each cell block in which he assured the prisoners that they would be given half an hour's exercise a day. Instead, Buck alleged, the men were taken out singly for punishment. As a demonstration, Buck asserted, the convicts hammered on their bars with their tin cups and demanded their

regular exercise. "There was no violence, no speeches and no agitation", Buck insisted. "A few minutes after gas bombs were exploded and volleys poured in". This, he said, took place in the north end of the prison. Buck and Ewen were confined in the south wing where no rioting took place at all. Buck explained then a group of guards approached south block "D", in which he and Ewen were confined, with dozens of others. Carefully taking aim through a window three floors below Buck's cell the guards fired at him repeatedly, finally running off in triumph shouting that they had got him, Buck alleged. "The whole rear wall of my cell was splashed and spattered with bullets", Buck told his hearers. "In the words of an old imperialist veteran in the same block", Buck said, "it was no accident but damned good shooting when you realized that they put six rifle bullets within a space of 11 by 16 inches fired at an angle and from three floors below. When finally the Government sent Inspectors down to investigate the shooting they did everything they could to prove that it had not been done. But try as they would they could not find a single rat among the men in our block, not a single one who would deny that the shots had been fired, not a single one who would say that there had been any rioting in our cell block", Buck said. He continued, "Though they searched high and low for the evidence they were not able to locate a rifle bullet which I had dug out from the solid stone in which it

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was embedded two inches deep. They had no idea of the loyalty of the other prisoners, one of whom took it out with him while they were searching me for it". "They were not shooting at Tim Buck at Kingston, they were shooting at the working class", he shouted.

Leslie Morris, Editor of The Worker, spoke in behalf of 36 revolutionary papers published in Canada.

Arthur Mould, of London, President of the Ontario Labour Party, spoke on behalf of his party, and Tom Montague spoke for the veterans of Canada and pledged the support of thousands of them to Tim Buck.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCESI. BRITISH COLUMBIA

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The united front expressed in the Provincial Workers' Council in Vancouver, B.C., is growing. Fear has been expressed by some of the leaders of the Communist Party that the latter will not be able to control and lead this movement properly and that it will be used as a recruiting agency of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation. Commenting on this movement Leales recently remarked:-

"History is repeating itself in that the Party is building an organization to turn it over in running order to the first reformist outfit that comes along".

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II. ALBERTA4. Tim Buck Is Expected In Calgary

[✂ #] Tim Buck will probably visit Calgary, Alta., shortly. While there he is expected to reorganize all the local Communist affiliations.

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[✂ #] The radical element in the Murray Mine at East Coulee, Alta., have shown considerable activity during the past month with a view to calling the miners out on strike because of the refusal of the company to recognize the Mine Workers Union of Canada. The situation came somewhat to a head on 24th November when the company laid off 12 of the most active agitators who attempted to recruit the miners into the union. Following the dismissal of the 12 agitators a meeting took place at which the question of a strike was put to a vote. The majority of the miners voted to remain at work and thus endorse the company's action in dismissing the agitators.

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### III. MANITOBA

#### 5. The W.E.L. In Winnipeg

[✂ #] The Workers Ex-Service Men's League in Winnipeg, Man., is practically defunct. They have no headquarters and the few remaining members have given up the task of trying

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to build it up, claiming that it is almost impossible to get ex-service men interested in this organization. The Communist leaders were disappointed in the work performed by this organization in the recent Municipal election, claiming that it was of very little use in the campaign and that their influence among the ex-service men in Winnipeg amounted to nothing. The disintegration of this organization is primarily due to the appointment of [✂ deletion: 1/2 line] in place of [✂ deletion: 1/3 line] is not at all popular with ex-service men.

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[✂ #] The 5th anniversary of the opening of the Polish Labour Temple in Winnipeg, Man., was celebrated on the evening of 2nd December. The program consisted of musical and vocal selections as well as brief speeches from representatives from various organizations.

W. Dutkiewicz, Editor of Głos Pracy, made a strong appeal to the audience for funds. He pointed out the importance of having a building and the difficulties and hardships in connection with maintaining same. He remarked that the temple signifies the contributions made by the Polish workers towards building up the revolutionary movement in Canada.

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### IV. ONTARIO

#### 6. Tom Hill

[✂ #] A. T. Hill was the principal speaker at the 17th anniversary celebration at Finland, Ont., on 13th November. He spoke of the menace of war and Fascism in Canada and urged the audience to join the anti-Fascist movement. Part of his speech was devoted to conditions in the Kingston Penitentiary. On this occasion he spoke in Finnish.

On the evening of the 14th he again addressed a meeting, this time speaking in English. On this occasion

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he dealt with the illegal status of the Communist Party of Canada. He urged the release of Tim Buck and other "class war" prisoners and the repeal of Section 98 of the Criminal Code. He attacked the newly elected Liberal Government of Ontario, claiming that the conditions of the workers are growing steadily worse under its rule.

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[✂ #] The Furniture Workers Industrial Union of Canada, one of the chief and most active affiliates of the Workers Unity League, held a two-day conference at Stratford, Ont., on 23rd and 24th November. Among the various resolutions passed was one urging the Canadian Government to assume diplomatic and trade relationship with the Soviet Union. Another resolution demanded the repeal of Section 98 of the Criminal Code. The conference also endorsed the eight-hour working day, and a five-day week.

Victor Valin, of Toronto, was elected National Chairman, and Reggie Ranton, of Stratford, General Secretary-Treasurer.

The conference also resolved to transfer the National Headquarters of the union from Stratford to Toronto.

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[✂ #] The Jugo Slavian Clubs held a District Conference in Hamilton, Ont., on 10th November. Reports were presented on past activities and plans elaborated for future work. The latter centre around the slogan: "Every member an active member".

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[✂ #] The Worker, of 8th December, 1934, reporting the result of the Municipal elections in East Windsor, Ont., says:-

"A bitter fight was waged at East Windsor today in the course of the Municipal elections. A gallant stand was made by the labour front candidates, but the 'anti-Communist' slate, backed by the business interests, was victorious owing to the intensive campaign launched by the reactionary election machine thru the press and church. Special services were being held this morning and all day yesterday through the offices of the auto corporations.

"The anti-Communist slate gained nine seats. Communist Alderman Raycraft, Morris and Taylor were unseated in this vicious campaign."

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V. QUEBEC7. A New French Newspaper

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[✂ #] A proposed demonstration at the German Consulate in Montreal, Que., on 1st December did not materialize, the wet weather no doubt having something to do with it. About 15 to 20 people turned up but were told by a member of the City Police Red Squad that the Consul would not see any of them. The small crowd then dispersed without any trouble.

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VI. THE MARITIME PROVINCES

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[✂ #] An injunction granted on 24th November by His Lordship, Mr. Justice Doull, Halifax, N.S., restraining the Dominion Coal Company from discontinuing the "check-off" of dues for members of the Amalgamated Mine Workers Union came up for hearing before him at the Supreme Court in Halifax on 29th November and His Lordship dissolved the injunction. In consequence, the Dominion Coal Company gave effect to the result of the plebiscite and as from 1st December, 1934, no "check-off" of dues will be made from the pay of the members of the Amalgamated Mine Workers Union. This means that from that date the company will only recognize the one union, viz, the United Mine Workers of America. It is rumoured that the Amalgamated Mine Workers Union will carry the matter further and will also take court action against parties who were guilty of forging names to the "check-off" cards in favour of the United Mine Workers Union so that the latter would have a majority.

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