# ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa.

20th December, 1934.

## SECRET

#### NO. 737

## **WEEKLY SUMMARY**

# REPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS

# **AND AGITATORS IN CANADA**

# Report

The Communists are hoping to make the meeting which Tim Buck will address in Montreal on 28th December equal in every way to the very successful gathering held in Toronto recently. They are having trouble to secure a hall.

The defeat of all the Communist Aldermen at East Windsor in the recent Municipal elections was an unpleasant surprise for the comrades.

Merchants in the various towns in the Vegreville District are finding that the farmers' strike is interfering with the Christmas trade. Their opposition to continuing the strike may go a long way to bringing it to an end. Conditions in Calgary remain unchanged.

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# APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

#### 1. Tim Buck

#### (A) Addresses C.L.D.L. in Toronto

A banquet and concert was given by the Canadian Labour Defence League in Toronto, Ont., in honour of Tim Buck at the Hygeia Hall on the [\* #]evening of 7th December. Following the banquet A. E. Smith introduced Tim Buck, who spoke on the change of tactics by the Canadian Government in combatting the Communist movement in Canada.

"A few years ago", Buck said, "the bosses thought that the revolutionary movement would be stopped if they cut off its head, so they sent us to Kingston Penitentiary". "But", he remarked, "they could not stop the movement. Now they have decided to change the tactics. Instead of attacking the leadership of the revolutionary movement they are terrorizing the rank and file, especially the foreign born workers". He pointed out that in Kingston Penitentiary, as well as in the higher circles of the Government, a new plan is being prepared against foreign born radicals. In this connection Buck remarked, "If they succeed in scaring the foreign born radicals and prevent them from organizing by jailing and deporting them the best propaganda won't help and will not hold them in the labour movement". Buck cited the convictions of the 18 miners at Amos recently as an example of the new tactics. He maintained that the fight against deportation and mass arrests of the rank and file will be more important than the fight for the release of the Communist Party leaders. He remarked, "We must organize delegations, mass meetings, demonstrations and strikes against deportation".

Buck's speech was well received but not as enthusiastically as expected. There were about 400 people present.

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## 2. Malcolm Bruce

**[**₩ #]

#### (A) In Edmonton

Approximately 700 people attended a public meeting of the Canadian Labour Defence League in Edmonton, Alta., on 28th November. The hall was crowded and a large number of people were unable to get in. Ben Swanky acted as Chairman and in opening the meeting outlined the history of the Communist Party, the arrests and trial of its leaders and their subsequent release from Kingston Penitentiary. He extended greetings to Malcolm Bruce, who was scheduled as the principal speaker at this meeting.

J. A. MacPherson, the first speaker, extended greetings on behalf of the Unemployed Married Men's Association and outlined the activities of the Communist Party

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leaders in the revolutionary working class movement.

Fred Yaniw, from Mundare, spoke briefly on behalf of the Mundare grain strikers and the Grain Strike Committee. He praised the strike action of the farmers in Northern, Central and Eastern Alberta and urged the industrial workers in the centres to come to the support of the striking farmers.

- J. Lakeman, speaking on behalf of the Communist Party, dealt with the history and developments of the Communist Party. He praised the activities of the leaders who were arrested and imprisoned in Kingston Penitentiary.
- K. Morris, local Young Communist League Organizer, spoke on the youth movement and its contributions towards the class struggle.

Malcolm Bruce expressed his appreciation of all the workers had done for him and his comrades in an endeavour to have them released. He sketched the history of the Communist Party, the arrest of its leaders who, he said, were convicted on frame-up charges, and then gave a review of conditions in Kingston Penitentiary paying special attention to the so-called attempted murder of Tim Buck. He also briefly reviewed the economic conditions in Great Britain, Canada, Germany and Austria comparing same with those in the U.S.S.R. He scored the Capitalist system in general and the administration in Ottawa and the Prime Minister, R. B. Bennett, in particular. Concluding his speech he appealed to the audience to join the

Canadian Labour Defence League and continue the struggle towards the ultimate goal, a Soviet Canada.

## (B) In Saskatoon

[34 #] Malcolm Bruce addressed a meeting in the Regent Hall, Saskatoon, Sask., on 1st December. He was introduced by George King, Secretary of the local branch of the Canadian Labour Defence League. Bruce gave a description of life in Kingston Penitentiary during the riots, and described the

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punishment meted out. He said that on the same day that he and his comrades were sentenced, eight councillors of York Township were found guilty of stealing public funds to the amount of \$135,000 and none of them were given more than 18 months in jail. Communists were sentenced to five years each. The case of the dictatorship of the working class is now stronger than ever.

Bruce also attended a banquet held in honour of Tim Buck, which was presided over by George Ploss, a well-known local Communist.

# (C) In Winnipeg

[\* #] Malcolm Bruce addressed a meeting of the Canadian Labour Defence League in the Regent Theatre, Winnipeg, Man., on 9th December. The attendance was about 300, and the purpose of the meeting was to call attention to the recent sentences imposed on the Flin Flon strikers.

Malcolm Bruce touched briefly on the heavy sentences imposed on Mabel Marlowe, Cecil Zukin (alias Bill Ross) and the other Flin Flon strikers, urging strongly to bring pressure to bear upon the Government in order to have the convicted parties released.

He then spoke in a rather spirited manner about Fascism and what he termed "the imperialist attitude towards the slaughtering of the workers in a new war". Canada, he asserted was well on the way to Fascism. The Marketing Bill, the Central Bank, the mass buying inquiry and the relief camps were copied from German Fascism, he claimed. He strongly attacked the United Farmers of Alberta Government, the Liberal Governments in British Columbia and Ontario and the Bracken Government in Manitoba, claiming that they were all like the "Tory" Government in Ottawa. "The task of the bourgeoisie government is to prevent the Communist Party from leading the workers. They are trying to kill and smash the

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Communist Party but we must keep mobilizing the workers regardless of political or religious views for the final establishment of a Soviet Canada", he said. He alleged that Canada is preparing for war. Certain preparations that are being made now are indications that there will be a war between England the U.S.A. in the near future.

# 3. Professor Scott Nearing

[ Professor Scott Nearing delivered a lecture under the auspices of the Saturday Night Club in the Windsor Hotel, Montreal, Que., on 10th December. There were between 700 and 800 people present, mostly Jews with a few Poles, Ukrainians and Russians. Nearing spoke about "Europe in 1935" but his whole lecture was a continual glorification of Soviet Russia. He compared conditions there with the famine, strife and depression which exists in other Western European countries. He remarked that he has been five times in Russia. On the occasion of each visit he detects notable progress. During his last visit to Moscow he was hardly able to find his way about because of the modern improvements in the way of new buildings, new factories, subways, etc., which had been constructed. During the course of his lecture no reference was made to Canada or the United States which is characteristic of Nearing as, if at all possible, he avoids reference to the country in which he happens to find himself for the moment.

#### 4. C.P. Election Conference in Toronto

★ #] The Communist Party in Toronto, Ont., held an Election Conference at the Labour Temple on 7th December. M. Erlich, Secretary of the conference, reported that attempts had been made to establish a United Front with the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation for the Municipal elections: that

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several meetings had been held between leading Communists and members of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation which eventually led to a conference at the Young Men's Christian Association Hall between Erlich, Stewart O. Smith and J. B. Salsberg on the one hand, and Reverend Ben Spence, James McArthur Connor and William Dennison, of the Toronto Regional Council of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, on the

other. At this conference a United Front program was submitted to the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation representatives who informed the Communist represention that they would have to submit the whole matter to the Regional Council of their organization. The program submitted by the Communists included non-contributory unemployment insurance, a twenty-five per cent increase in relief in cash, no evictions, regular monthly payment of rents, union rates of pay, no taxes on homes of unemployed, and to fight in the City Council against any signs of Fascism. Erlich reported that, according to the latest information in his possession, the Regional Committee of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation refused to take any action one way or the other.

After hearing and discussing the report submitted by Erlich, the conference decided to approach the local ward associations and clubs affiliated to the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation in an endeavour to establish a unity from below on a ward basis.

The conference then proceeded to consider the nominations of candidates. The complete slate of Communist nominees for the Toronto Civic elections is as follows:-

Mayor				A. E. Smith
Board of Control				Mrs. Alice Buck
Alderman, Ward 1				T. Cooney
**		**	2	T. James
**		"	4	Meyer Klig
"		**	5	Stewart O. Smith
**		n	6	H. Stephenson
"		**	8	A. Hambleton
Schoo	ol Bo	ard -		
		Ward	1 1	H. Bell
"	**	**	2	Mrs. S. Smith
"	"	"	4	J. B. Salsberg
				roı

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# APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

# 5. George Glen Speaks To W.E.L., Vancouver

The Workers Ex-Service Men's League in Vancouver, B.C., held a meeting in the hall of the Single Unemployed Men's Protective Association [\*#] on 4th December. Approximately 200 attended, and Comrade Chivers occupied the chair.

Paddy O'Neil briefly outlined the aims and objects of the league and made a strong appeal for new members.

The main speaker of the evening, George Glen, spoke of the role of the soldier in peace time and during war. The soldier, he claimed, was the most useless thing on earth during peace time. He, however, found encouragement in the fact that some of the younger soldiers who had fought during the last war were now beginning to think for themselves and are joining the Workers Ex-Service Men's League. He characterized the league as a good revolutionary organization. In a bitter attack against patriotism Glen stated that "Canadians were fighting under the most despicable rag flown in the breeze today". He said, "There is only one flag worth while fighting for and that is the Red Flag of the worker which covers one-sixth of the world's surface". He accused the Canadian Legion, the Great War Veterans Association and the Army and Navy Veterans Association for doing very little for the benefit of their members.

[≯ #] "The Student", organ of the Student League of Canada published at Toronto, Ont., in its December, 1934 issue, contains the following item:-

"At the last meeting of the Varsity Radical Club, at the University of British Columbia, the members decided to join the Student League of Canada. This organization, now in its second year, has established the reputation of being one of the most active student organizations at the university. It is a welcome addition to our ranks".

[10]

Seventh December witnessed a series of strikes in relief camps conducted by the Department of National Defence throughout British Columbia. As a result of these strikes some 500 men arrived in Vancouver from various relief camps adjacent to the city on 11th December. The latest advices from Edmonton would indicate that approximately 200 single men arrived in that city since the strike. At the request of Chief Constable Cameron, of the City of Vancouver, the Attorney General in Victoria has

[★ #]eron, of the City of Vancouver, the Attorney General in Victoria has authorized the issue of a week's supply of bed and meal tickets until such time as the authorities could decide what procedure to follow regarding the influx of these relief camp workers.

[\* #] A delegation representing the B.C. Joint Committees on Unemployment visited Victoria on 7th December and interviewed the Provincial Govern-

ment in the course of the afternoon. Through its spokesman, Robert Lealess, prominent Communist leader, the delegation presented a petition endorsed by 30,635 persons and 65 organizations setting out a list of proposed changes in the relief system as follows:-

- (1) Direct relief be immediately increased fifty per cent of the present Government's scale plus rent allowance, with the forty per cent allowance for fuel, clothing and light, and that the scale be made applicable in all sections of the province to be administered by Provincial and not Municipal authorities. All relief to be paid in cash.
- (2) That a food allowance of 45 cents per day be granted to all single persons.

While the interview took place some 500 unemployed of Victoria stood on the steps of the Legislative Building listening to speeches from their leaders who urged stronger organizations among the unemployed.

Premier Pattullo, after listening to a series of speeches delivered by William Black, Mrs. A. Beaumont, W.A. Fitzer, Yvonne Gillard and Mrs. G. McConan, stated to the delegation that the Government could not possibly accede to

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their proposals which would cost \$6,200,000 a year in addition to the \$7,730,000 now being spent on relief.

[\* #] An overflow meeting was held under the auspices of the B.C. Joint Committee on Unemployment in the Royal Theatre, Vancouver, on 9th December. One named Gibbons acted as Chairman, Robert Lealess, J. H. Fitzer and M. Shaw were the speakers reporting on the interview between the delegation and the Premier of British Columbia at Victoria.

Comrade Shaw, of the B.C. Relief Camp Workers Union, characterized the interview as a "buck passing" contest between Mr. Pattullo and the Honourable George Pearson, Minister of Labour. Shaw contended that hundreds of men in the relief camps were using aliases in order to get any relief at all. He condemned the militarization of the Department of National Defence camps and referred particularly to the statement made by a committee representing the Department of National Defence who were present at the interview with Premier Pattullo. He branded the statement made by the National Defence representatives to Premier Pattullo that there was no such thing as militarization of camps as a falsehood. Shaw said, "I am standing here on this platform to brand General Ashton as a damned liar and you workers all know it".

J. H. Fitzer, in recounting the interview with Premier Pattullo, explained the demands which the delegation submitted to him. He concluded with an appeal for more members for the Single Unemployed Men's Protective Association and better organization among the unemployed generally.

Robert Lealess, of the Communist Party, who headed the delegation, gave his version of what happened at the interview between the delegation and the Premier. He announced that the B.C. Joint Committee on Unemployment was going to hold a special meeting to find out what action could be taken in order to better relief conditions.

[12]

The International of Seamen and Harbour Workers at Vancouver, B.C., held an organizational meeting at 233 Main Street, on 2nd December.

Oscar Salonen, the Chairman, outlined the purpose of this meeting stating that it was the first of a series of meetings to be held in an attempt [\* #]to organize the longshoremen on the Pacific Coast. He pointed out to those present how easy it is to obtain concessions when the employers realize that the workers were organized.

Bob Lealess dealt at length with the question of trade unionism. He criticized severely the American Federation of Labor and the All-Canadian Congress of Labour. He eulogized the efforts made by the Workers Unity League, claiming that seventy-five per cent of the strikes in Canada had been led and conducted by the Workers Unity League, ninety per cent of which had been successfully concluded. In this connection he referred particularly to the strike of the lumber workers on Vancouver Island and the recent strike of the mine workers at Cumberland, B.C., which, he claimed, were great victories. He stated that the Workers Unity League was the only union in Canada which was of any use to the workers, that the Communist Party did not run the union but only showed the right leadership.

Ivan Emery and a man named Hunt also spoke, urging organization of the waterfront workers under the leadership of the Workers Unity League.

The attendance numbered around 175 persons.

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[13]

The mimeographed paper Marine Workers Ahoy, organ of the Marine Workers Industrial League in Vancouver, B.C., is to be replaced by a printed paper under the heading of Ship And Dock. It will be printed at the [3 #]Broadway Printers, 151 East Eighth Avenue, and its Editor will be George Brown.

#### II. ALBERTA

#### 6. Anti-War and Anti-Fascist Committee

**[\*** #]

The Edmonton (Alta.) Anti-War and Anti-Fascist Committee held a conference at the Masonic Temple on 6th December. The Credentials Committee through [34 deletion: 1/4 line] announced the presence of 95 delegates representing 55 various local organizations. Included in this representation were four trade unions, four churches, two community leagues, two Co-operative Commonwealth Federation clubs, a few women's organizations and all the radical mass organizations of Edmonton.

(\* deletion: blank) the Chairman, urged immediate preparedness. He remarked that if it were not for the fear of internal revolution war would have started long ago.

[\* deletion: 3/4 line] gave brief reports on the First Canadian Congress Against War and Fascism, held in Toronto, Ont., on 6th and 7th October.

[\* deletion: 1/4 line] speaking on behalf of the Communist Party, dealt with the danger of Fascism and urged the adoption of the Communist Party policy towards war.

[\* deletion: 1/2 line] also urged the adoption of the Communist Party policy.

[\* deletion: blank] spoke on behalf of the young Communist League.

The [\* deletion: 1/3 line] depicted Fascism as a menace leading to war and pointed out that in order to prevent war Fascism must be fought.

[★ deletion: 3/4 line] also spoke briefly.

[14]

The conference endorsed all of the proposals submitted by the Edmonton Sub-District Bureau of the Communist Party. It also elected an Organization Committee of 10 as follows:-

[★ deletion: 3/4 page]

[\* #] G.H. Salter, Communist Party candidate for Alderman in the recent Edmonton (Alta.) Municipal elections, received 2,683 votes. Last year he polled 1,400 votes.

[15]

## III. SASKATCHEWAN

## 7. T. G. McManus and the Unemployed

[\*\* deletion: 1/4 line] addressed a meeting of the Saskatchewan Association of Unemployed in the St. Regis Hall, Regina, on the evening of [\*\* #]6th December. He spoke at length on the necessity of organizing the unemployed on a Provincial basis into one association. He said that organization work should be carried on in all towns and villages throughout the province and thought that when all the unemployed were in one organization they would not need to be afraid of the "Mounties" but would organize a "hunger march" on Regina.

## IV. MANITOBA

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# 8. "Voice of Labor" to Cease Publication

The <u>Voice of Labor</u>, Communist weekly, after 36 weeks of uninterrupted publication in the City of Winnipeg, Man., has been withdrawn. The decision to cease publication was made by the Editorial and Business Committees in view of the difficulties encountered in financing the paper. The subscribers have been circularized and requested to give their support to <u>The Worker</u> which is to appear twice weekly shortly. Arrangements have been made whereby unexpired subscriptions to the <u>Voice of Labor</u> will be recognized by <u>The Worker</u> Management Committee. It is felt that one of the reasons underlying the withdrawal of this paper from circulation was that it interfered with the expansion of the central organ of the Communist Party, <u>The Worker</u>.

[ #] Glos Pracy, in its 15th December issue, boasts of the growth of the paper. It remarks how the paper has grown from a semi-monthly in 1932 to a weekly of eight pages today. It also announces the total monies collected in the recent press campaign which was \$1,221.86.

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[16]

The Relief Camp Workers Union in Fort William, Ont., held a meeting on 7th December. [34 deletion: 1/2 line] acted as Chairman, and the principal speaker of the evening was [34 deletion: blank] The meeting appointed five delegates with instructions to proceed to the City Hall at

[3< #]10:00 A.M. on 8th December to ask for three meals per day at 25 cents per meal and 20 cents per day for clothing and lodging.

[\* deletion: blank] reporting for the delegation at a meeting held on 8th December, stated that the Mayor had turned down their request. He then urged stronger organization in order to get their demands granted. [\* deletion: blank] also urged the audience to refuse to go to the relief camps.

The meeting was attended by about 80 men.

[34] At a Communist Election Conference held in Port Arthur, Ont., on 9th December, Garfield Boulter and D. S. Reid were named as candidates for the City Council in the coming Municipal election on 1st January, 1935.

# V. ONTARIO

## 9. Communist Aldermen Defeated at East Windsor

[\*#] The Communist Aldermen Raycraft, Morris and Taylor at East Windsor, Ont., were all unseated in the recent Municipal elections. This, apparently, was due to a determined effort made by the anti-Communist citizens of this city to combat Communism.

The Labour nominee, Bennett, in Windsor, whose candidature for Mayor was endorsed and supported by the Communist Party, was elected as Mayor in succession to David Croll, who has been appointed Minister of Public Welfare in the Ontario Provincial Cabinet. Bennett had endorsed the proposals of the Communist Election Committee.

Mrs. Georgina Ketcheson, Communist Party nominee

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for Alderman in the recent Windsor Municipal elections, polled 1,150 votes.

The objective of \$5,000 for the sustaining fund of <u>The Worker</u> in the recent campaign was reached and surpassed. A total of \$5,650.20 was

[\* #]subscribed. The best work in this drive was performed by the Thunder Bay and Southern Ontario Districts. These districts were each awarded a banner in recognition of the work performed. In the Port Arthur District the Relief Camp Workers Union won the competition, having raised nearly \$125 from the relief camp workers. E. Suksi was in charge of the campaign at Port Arthur and Era Grey, of Toronto, led the campaign in the Southern Ontario District.

While the drive for the sustaining fund was quite a success the campaign for an increase in the circulation was somewhat disappointing. The objective in this regard was 3,000 new subscriptions. Only 761 were obtained.

The perspective of the Management Committee of <u>The Worker</u> at present is to issue the paper three times weekly, commencing in January, 1935.

[ \* #] A E. Smith arrived in Ottawa, Ont., on the evening of 5th December and visited the Department of Immigration on the morning of the following day.

He also addressed a meeting on the night of 6th December at 523 Arlington Avenue at which he stressed the necessity of drawing French-Canadians into the movement and the creation of a United Front.

[\* #] [\* deletion: 1/4 line] addressed an audience of about 50 persons at Huckell's Hall, Ottawa, Ont., on the night of 11th December; his subject being "Fourteen Million Fighters for Freedom". [\* deletion: blank] occupied the chair.

[18]

The Lithuanian Communist organization in Canada, known as the [\* deletion: I line], has a total membership of approximately 350, divided into five branches, all of which are situated in the Province of Ontario. Toronto, [\* #]the largest branch, has 250 members. The branches are distributed as follows:-

Toronto	250 members
Hamilton	50 "
Brampton	20 "
Guelph	20 "
Windsor	10 "

A three months' drive has been launched beginning on 1st November to obtain 75 new members and to organize new branches. The cash balance in the bank to the credit of this society exceeds \$5,000.

## VI. OUEBEC

## 10. C.L.D.L. Meeting in Montreal

**[**₩#]

A meeting of the Canadian Labour Defence League in Montreal, Que., held on 10th December adopted the following plan of action in the interest of the Noranda strikers recently convicted at Amos, Province of Quebec:-

- (1) Protest delegation to visit Premier Taschereau on the morning of 18th December.
- (2) Protest resolutions to be sent to the Honourable Guthrie, the Honourable Gordon and Premier Taschereau against the sentences, particularly against the deportation of the foreign born strikers.
- (3) All Consult Generals concerned to be visited. They will be urged to protest against the discrimination against foreign workers in Canada.
- (4) Delegations to visit all Liberal M.L.A.'s with protests against the Taschereau "Police Terror".
- (5) The formation of a United Front Conference on this issue.
- (6) Committees to visit all Canadian Labour Defence League branches and "Left" mass organizations, with appeals for funds to carry on the campaign and send relief to the prisoners.

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(7) 25,000 copies to be printed of a Canadian Labour Defence League manifesto on the Noranda cases. These to be distributed in trade unions, at factory gates and from door to door.

[ deletion: blank] and a Jugo Slav, who were delegated by the executive to rent the St. James Market Hall for 18th December, reported that the building had been refused to them by the city authorities.

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## VII. THE MARITIME PROVINCES

## 11. [ deletion: blank] Visits Halifax

- [★ #] [★ deletion: blank] of Cape Breton, visited Halifax, N.S., recently and attended a meeting in the home of [★ deletion: blank] during the afternoon of 1st December. He informed the meeting that he had come to Halifax to continue the work started by [★ deletion: 1/4 line] some time ago in connection with organizing the Youth Congress Against War and Fascism. He requested those in attendance to compile a list of names of the people who attended the meeting addressed by [★ deletion: 1/4 line] when she visited Halifax.
- [≫ #] On 2nd December a meeting was held under the auspices of the [≫ deletion: 1/4 line] groups at which [≫ deletion: 1/4 line] was the principal speaker. He gave a complete outline of the history of the [≫ deletion: 1/2 line] explaining its aims and objects and what was being expected from the members. He also dealt briefly with the arrests and imprisonment of the members of the [≫ deletion: 3/4 line] in 1931. He asserted that there are now [≫ deletion: blank] of [≫ deletion: blank] organized in the Province of Nova Scotia.

[20]

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