

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa,
28th December, 1934.

SECRETNO. 738WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATORS IN CANADAReport[~~3~~ deletion: 4 1/4 lines]

About 900 men from relief camps in British Columbia have drifted in to Vancouver. They declared they would not return to the camps under present conditions: they particularly objected to the "black list" which has been established. Despite these assertions the latest reports indicate a good percentage are going back to the camps without any bother.

The delegation which went to Russia under the auspices of the Friends of the Soviet Union has returned to Canada. They have addressed meetings in Halifax and Montreal.

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[X deletion: 1 line]

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[X deletion: 2 lines]

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERALI. Scott Nearing in Winnipeg

Professor Scott Nearing delivered a series of lectures in the City of Winnipeg, Man., recently. The lectures were arranged by the Winnipeg [✂ #]Conference Against War and Fascism.

On 14th December he lectured on "What Is Happening In Russia" at the Central United Church; there being about 500 people present, with A. W. Atwater, President of the conference, occupying the chair. The audience was predominantly Communistic.

Scott Nearing was introduced by the Chairman as a most prominent authority on world economics. Nearing, in his preface, divided the entire European Continent into two distinct sections -- Western Europe, the old world, which he termed the Capitalist order full of incurable ailments, being in a state of decomposition, and Eastern Europe, the new world, under the new order and in a state of rapid development under the Bolshevik regime. He contended that people in Soviet Russia are on the up-grade while the people of the rest of the world are on the decline. Generally speaking, his lecture was a eulogy of Soviet Russia and the progress made under Bolshevism.

On the night of 15th December Scott Nearing delivered a lecture at the Plebs Hall on "The New Social Order", there being over 300 present including a few professional men, teachers, and business men. C. W. Foster occupied the chair. The lecture is reported to have been a very interesting one, presented in a very concise and scientific manner. After sketching the feudal period he dealt with the advance of what he termed the industrial revolution, from handcraft to mechanized production. He featured the struggle of the forces of different elements involved in the process of development of civilization on to the present standard, the effect of inventions bringing about the different changes saying that

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the greatest economic change must necessarily take place in the near future. "Nothing can stop progress. Progress may be impeded for some short period but the trend is strengthened and becomes much stronger; emperors, kings presidents and Government elite, history shows, have fallen down like leaves off the trees", he said. Nearing's contention was that Capitalism is doomed to failure. He quoted history and statistics to illustrate his contention. He admitted that the present crisis on the American Continent, both in the U.S.A. and Canada, is not as severe as has been noticed in Europe.

On the afternoon of 16th December he spoke on "Empire, War And Revolution" at the Starland Theatre. There were nearly 1,000 people present with Alderman Jacob Penner presiding over the meeting.

Referring to a remark made by the Chairman about the "powder barrel" of Europe, Nearing said that setting light to the fuse is being delayed and postponed waiting for the proper occasion which, when it arrives, will not require a serious provocation. "In the meantime", he said, "the war imperialists try to keep the anxiety of the masses at a low level and so far the working masses do not know against whom they will be put to fight. Whether English will have to shoot at the French or Germans or the French be sent against Germany or Britain but it is almost certain that all will point the muzzles of their guns finally against the Soviet Union". He quoted from General Smuts' speech made recently in which he sounded a warning to the masses not to talk so much about the coming war in order to illustrate that continuous talk of war brings war. Commenting on the speech of General Smuts, Nearing said, "It means as much to say to the masses, 'Why should you people worry about war. Do not worry, we will call you when you will be needed when we are ready. In the meantime, play baseball and rest at ease. Leave it to us to worry about it'. As to the preparedness Nearing said that two imperialist powers are preparing for war, Germany and Japan, while four

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others, France, Italy, Britain and the United States of America are quite ready. The lecturer then read excerpts from a speech made by Stalin, commenting on the speech of General Smuts in which he (Stalin) maintained that mere talk can never bring war, that the chief factors of war are economic crisis caused by high profiteering, aggressive policies for colonial expansion, the incentive for greater accumulation of profits, acute rivalry in the world's market and greater exploitation. Nearing gave an elaborate illustration of the causes of war for the past 400 years, beginning around the time of Holland's supremacy on the sea and colonial expansion. He analyzed the results of the last war and contended that the wars during the past were nothing but one continuous war, a series of robberies, that the short periods of peace were nothing but Armistices and breeding periods. "Only Soviet Russia is earnestly desiring peace", he contended. Replying to a question as to whether the Red Army and the Soviet Union would help any nation in the next war, he said that Soviet Russia will not assist anybody, expecting to have enough to do to defend herself.

On the night of the 16th Nearing lectured at the Peretz Hall on "What Next In Germany". The audience, numbering approximately 400, was

predominantly Jewish. Fred Doner, who is actively connected with the Independent Labour Party, presided over the meeting.

Nearing began by summing up the progress and prosperity of the German Empire since the Franco-Prussian war. He said that since that war Germany developed and enjoyed prosperity until the last world war and that although she presumably was the loser she was able to revive remarkably. He maintained that had it not been for the world crisis which caused the governmental changes and rise of Fascism Germany would have nearly recovered from the last war. Hitler, he said, came to power by false promises. He said that Hitler aroused antagonism against the Jews for the purpose of

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diverting the minds of the Germany people. Outside of this Hitler himself had nothing more against the Jews and was glad to have them to serve his purpose, Nearing maintained. He further stated that there are still many Jews left in Germany who gave Hitler money and are quite safe. He portrayed Hitler as a great and skilful organizer a master of mass psychology and as a man who, after obtaining power, knows how to hang on to it. He said that Hitler is trying to avoid all possibility of war, that he wants peace by all possible means, and that if he can keep out of trouble for another two or three years Hitler's position will be strong enough for the next 10 years. The Communist organizations which, he said, were in hiding, have not the slightest chance to organize a revolt under present conditions. "Unless something happens in Europe which would involve Germany in a war", he said, "nothing can be started". He contended that Fascism was checked in France and Great Britain and thought that the masses in the American Continent would never allow it to rise.

The subject of his fifth and last lecture in the James Street Labour Hall on 17th December was "Crumbling Of The British Empire". He declared that unemployment had increased, profits and production had declined, population had increased and the old colonial system was breaking up into a series of self-governing Dominions. One factor which would delay the break-up, Nearing pointed out, was the activity of the ruling class of Great Britain in the affairs of the State; others were the spirit of compromise and the idea of the working class that theirs was a humble position in the scheme of things.

Discussing the national election in Great Britain in 1931 Nearing said "he never saw a flock of sheep more cleverly herded into the fold than the masses were by the leaders of the National Government movement and their representatives on the newspapers". He maintained that Britain is no exception to the general trend of Capitalist rise and

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decline but pointed out that the decline of Capitalism in Great Britain was much slower than on the Continent.

2. F.S.U. Delegation Returns From Russia

(A) Meeting in Halifax

[✂ #] The Canadian delegation to the U.S.S.R. arrived in Halifax, N.S., from the Soviet Union on 15th December.

On the 16th a mass meeting was held under the auspices of the Friends of the Soviet Union in St. Patricks Hall, Halifax, at which speeches were given by T. Mountford, Enoch Williams and Angus McKenzie.

Thomas E. Mountford dealt extensively with collective farming in the U.S.S.R. comparing same with the farming system in Canada.

Enoch Williams, of Blairmore, took for his subject "The Mining Industry of the Soviet Union" and made a strong appeal to the audience to join the Friends of the Soviet Union.

Angus McKenzie, of Cape Breton, N.S., recounted some of the impressions obtained whilst in the Soviet Union. He seemed very proud of the fact that he was able to sit next to the head of the Red Army at a conference which he attended in Moscow. McKenzie asserted that there was a time when Russia was afraid of an attack but today is ready and prepared to meet the whole Capitalist world. He stated that he returned to Canada a firm believer in Communism and that hereafter he would devote his whole time to the working class movement. He also appealed to those present to join the Friends of the Soviet Union.

The meeting, which had for its object the formation of a branch of the Friends of the Soviet Union, was attended by approximately 600 persons.

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(B) Meeting in Montreal

Approximately 5,000 people attended a mass meeting held under the auspices of the Friends of the Soviet Union in the Stadium, Montreal, Que., on 20th December. The audience was predominantly French Canadian, and

[✂ #] the meeting was presided over by George Hincks and Emil Godin. Revolutionary French songs were sung by the Societe Humanitaire before the opening and "The International" was rendered at the beginning and conclusion of the meeting.

George Hincks outlined the aims and objects of the Friends of the Soviet Union and the part it played in sending the delegates to the U.S.S.R.

Jack Cowan, leader of the Canadian delegation to the Soviet Union, was the first speaker. He said that they went to Soviet Russia as ambassadors and were received as such; that they went there to find out for themselves what were the existing conditions and to get to know the truth about Russia. He said that newspaper reports about starvation in the Ukraine which were circulated in 1932 were not true. He maintained that every one in Russia has plenty to eat, that prosperity reigns everywhere.

J. Peon spoke for about half an hour in French. He thanked the workers of Montreal for the trip they had given him and said that he left Canada as a Roman Catholic and returned as one. He accused the Canadian newspapers for distorting facts about religion in the Soviet Union. He asserted that religious congregations in Soviet Russia were given complete freedom. He also spoke of the subway construction at Moscow and of the power developments in Odessa and Leningrad. He praised the excellent street car service of Leningrad and Moscow and eulogized life there generally.

Enoch Williams, of Blairmore, Alta., who was introduced by George Hincks as the representative of the only Communist city in Canada, spoke on the social insurance system in vogue in the Soviet Union.

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Thomas E. Mountford, of Cranbrook, B.C., gave a brief outline of the Parliamentary system in the U.S.S.R., explaining how the Communist Party functions.

N. Nadeau, another delegate from Montreal, briefly addressed the meeting in French, drawing a rosy picture of conditions in Soviet Russia.

Louis Krakover, a delegate from Toronto, Ont., and Tom Russell, of Vancouver, B.C., also spoke briefly eulogizing the Soviet Union.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

3. The B.C. Relief Camps

[✂ #] The unemployment situation in Vancouver, B.C., has become somewhat complicated as a result of the influx of striking relief camp workers. It is reported that there are now 900 strikers in the city without means of support. Public sympathy seems in favour of the relief camp men. The great majority

of the strikers is comprised of youths ranging between the ages of 17 and 25. Private citizens are making efforts to provide food and shelter during the holiday season. To date the strikers remain adamant in their decision that they will not return to camp under the old conditions. The immediate issue upon which the men hold firmly seems to be the so-called "black-list" system allegedly in vogue in the relief camps operated by the Department of National Defence.

[☞ #] Arthur H. Evans has been released from the Oakalla Jail. A banquet was tended to him in the Orange Hall, Vancouver, and Evans delivered an address lasting about 35 minutes. He said nothing of much importance.

Evans is to be attached to the B.C. Branch of the Canadian Labour Defence League for a period of three months. He will proceed on a speaking tour in the interior of British Columbia shortly. Evans objected to the scheme and suggested that he should be loaned to the Canadian Labour Defence League for one month only and should then go back into the trade union mass organization.

[☞ #] The Relief Officer for Nanaimo (B.C.) and District and the local Government Employment Bureau official were held prisoners in their office on 11th December by a mob of over 100 men and women. Trouble started when men on relief went to

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obtain their cheques and when they saw that \$5.25 allowed for a second adult had been deducted they refused to accept the cheques. The two officials, after having been held prisoners for two days, were finally released by the police.

II. ALBERTA

4. Relief Workers' Strike in Calgary

[☞ #] The strike situation at Calgary, Alta., remains unchanged. The Communists are making every effort to preserve unity and are urging the relief recipients to more activity. With the exception of small shopping parades and picket lines no untoward events have taken place. On the afternoon of 19th December the strikers crowded Woolworth's and Kresge's stores but a detachment of City Police kept the strikers on the move.

[X #] At a mass meeting of the Unemployed Married Men's Association, held on 18th December, [X deletion: 1/4 line] gave a talk on unity and promised the meeting that the Communist Party had something new to put up to the members in order to put more vigour into the strike. [X deletion: blank] asserted that there was no such thing as a peaceful strike. He urged the reorganization of the four unemployed association, viz: the Unemployed Ex-Service Men, the Married Men's Protective Association, the Federation of Labour and the Unemployed Married Men's Association into one organization under a new name. No action, however, was taken in that regard.

[X #] [X deletion: 1/4 line] having served his two months' sentence in Fort Saskatchewan Provincial Jail, has been sent by the Farmers Unity League, Edmonton (Alta.) District, into the rural points for the purpose of organizing for the league. He has instructed to endeavour to obtain as many delegates as possible from rural points to attend a District Conference

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of the Farmers Unity League in Edmonton on 21st December.

III. SASKATCHEWAN

5. Notes

[X deletion: 1/2 line] have been active recently in the Wood Mountain [X #] and Assiniboia (Sask.) Districts agitating for increased relief under the auspices of the Farmers Unity League. Gordon Shunaman is active in the Crane Valley (Sask.) District organizing for the Youth League Against War and Fascism.

[X #] [X deletion: 1/4 line] has moved to Regina, Sask., and addressed a meeting of the unemployed in the Ukrainian Labour Temple on 14th December. His speech was short, and he urged the unemployed to organize into one strong union.

[X #] [X deletion: 1/4 line] addressed a meeting of the Saskatoon (Sask.) Ex-Service Men's Association on the night of 10th December. He sug-

gested unity of action for the purpose of forcing the authorities to grant higher relief rates. He received little or no support from the members present and was practically told not to meddle with Saskatoon affairs.

[✂ #] At a meeting of the Union of Unemployed held in the Ukrainian Labour Temple, Regina, Sask., on 14th December, [✂ deletion: 1/4 line] stated that it was the intention to organize the unemployed of Regina, Saskatoon, Moose Jaw and other centres into one organization and to send a delegation to the Provincial Government some time after the New Year to place the grievances of the unemployed before the Government.

[✂ deletion: 1/4 line] of Saskatoon also spoke at this meeting stating that he had come to Regina to find out if

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[✂ deletion: blank] was really the leader and representative of the Regina unemployed. He found ample confirmation of this in the enthusiasm displayed at the meeting.

IV. ONTARIO

6. Leslie Morris and "The Worker"

[✂ #] Leslie Morris has written to Trevor Maguire asking for further contributions for The Worker. Morris complains that he and Pat Forkin are running The Worker and are not receiving any help from the men recently released from Kingston. He is particularly bitter with regard to Bruce who is not giving any assistance at all although supposed to be officially connected with the production of this paper. Morris is expecting to make a trip Overseas shortly with his wife.

[✂ #] [✂ deletion: 1/4 line] a member of the Victoria Student Christian Movement at the University of Toronto, (Ont.) and also an active member of the Anti-War Society, has been selected to attend the forthcoming World Student Congress Against War and Fascism at Brussels, Belgium. [✂ deletion: 1/4 line] appears to be a popular student at the Toronto University and his candidature has been endorsed by a number of student bodies including several branches of the Student Christian Movement, the Student League of Canada, the Mathematics and Physics Society and the Student Branch of the Friends of the Soviet Union. The Press Clubs and the undergraduate paper gave quite a bit of publicity to the campaign.

[X #] [X deletion: 4 lines]

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[X deletion: 3 2/3 lines]

[X #] Joe Derry, a member of the Young Communist League, appeared in County Court before Judge O'Connell in Toronto, Ont., on 13th December, on a charge laid against him in April, 1933, under Section 98 of the Criminal Code for being a member of an unlawful association. No evidence was submitted and the case dismissed.

V. QUEBEC

7. [X deletion: blank] Transferred to Montreal

[X #]

[X deletion: 2 2/3 lines] The Workers Unity League has been evicted from 3505 St. Lawrence Boulevard for non-payment of rent. They now have their office together with the Industrial Union at 1207 University Street.

[X #] [X deletion: 1/3 page]

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[X deletion: 2 1/2 lines]

[X #] An attempt was made on the morning of 19th December to hold a mass demonstration on Champs de Mars by the Montreal (Que.) unemployed. It is reported that about 1,000 participated but the City Police kept the mob continually on the move. The object of this demonstration was to get the Mayor to address the gathering on the question of the \$1.00 per day scheme but Mayor Houde refused to put in an appearance.

[X #] [X deletion: 6 lines]

[X #] [X deletion: 1/3 line] recently stated that "her middle-class group" raised the money and paid for the printing of the French edition of "What The Communist Party Stands For". Two thousand copies of this pamphlet have been printed at a cost of \$225.

[X #] [X deletion: 7 lines]

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[X deletion: 6 lines]

VI. THE MARITIME PROVINCES

8. [X deletion: 1 line]

[X #] [X deletion: 6 1/2 lines]
