

## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 9th January, 1935.

SECRETNO. 739

## WEEKLY SUMMARY

## REPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS

## AND AGITATORS IN CANADA

Report

As was only to be expected the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party of Canada has reversed the decision of the District Executive Committee in Cape Breton, N.S., expelling J. B. MacLachlan and two others. McLachlan is an old and tried Communist who would not be dismissed without good and sufficient cause.

Some uneasiness was felt in Vancouver when nearly a thousand men from the unemployed camps arrived just before Christmas. These men were provided for temporarily and many are now going to the camps. They created no disturbance.

The National Unemployed Council have called a Congress on Unemployment and Social Insurance to be held in Ottawa, commencing on 3rd February, 1935.

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[2]

APPENDICES

## Table of Contents

## APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

## Paragraph No. 1. Tim Buck's Meetings

## (A) In Toronto -

Addresses Jewish Labour League  
J.B. Salsberg, Stewart Smith, S. Lifshitz,  
S. Carr

## (B) In Montreal-

Big Meeting Held in the Stadium  
Fred Rose, J. S. Wallace, George Hincks,  
E. Godin, M. Armstrong, H. Murphy,  
S. Scarlett

Assistance from R. L. Calder and Louis Kon

(C) In Sudbury -

Speaks Under Auspices of C.L.D.L.

" " 2. The F.S.U. Delegation to Russia

(A) A Party in Montreal -

S. Scarlett, [~~deletion: 4 lines~~]

(B) Mass Meeting in Toronto -

Several Delegates Speak

#### APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

" " 3. BRITISH COLUMBIA

B.C. Relief Camp Workers Union

George Kelly and Others Speak

[~~deletion: 1/2 line~~] Go To Nanaimo

Arthur Evans Is On Tour

Another Sheet To Be Published at Lund, B.C.

Communist School Incurs a Deficit

" " 4. ALBERTA

The Calgary Unemployed

Murdoch Clark Addresses Meeting

Edmonton Unemployed Asked to Support Calgary

" " 5. SASKATCHEWAN

Saskatchewan Association of Unemployed

" " 6. MANITOBA

John Navizowski

Todowymazu Meeting

M. Shatulsky and M. Leschynski

Navizowsky Gives an Account of His Trip to

Russia

F.U.L. in Winnipeg and Alberta Farmers' Strike

[3]

" " 7. ONTARIO

Congress on Unemployment and social Insurance

To Be Held in Ottawa, 3-2-35

Communist Figures, Toronto Civic Elections

Tim Buck's Itinerary, N. Ontario.

Central News Bureau for Toronto

Darbininku Zodis to Appear Weekly

Stewart Smith Replaces L. Morris in

The Worker

Yapaus Subscription Campaign

Film "Ten Days That Shook The World" Banned  
at Sudbury

" 8. QUEBEC

[F129M\$deletion: 3 lines]

" 9. THE MARITIME PROVINCES

Jim McLachlan

Expulsion Order Is Vetoed

[&deletion: name] Plans Reorganization

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[4]

APPENDIX NO. 1: GENERAL

1. Tim Buck's Meetings

(A) In Toronto

Tim Buck was the main speaker at a meeting held at the Strand Theatre, Toronto, Ont., under the joint auspices of the Jewish Labour League and [&#] the Jewish Communist Election Committee on 23rd December, 1934. Buck spoke for an hour. He said:-

"In 1928 I was told by General Draper that he would watch me closely and would take the smile away from my face. I can declare now to General Draper and his representatives in this hall that I still wear that smile".

He thanked the Jewish organizations for the financial support they had rendered whilst he was in jail. "I was happy in jail", he said, "getting cheerful news day by day regarding the growth of our organizations and the rising wave of the revolutionary movement. I laughed at the stupidity of R. B. Bennett and Guthrie who kept me in jail". In speaking of conditions in Kingston Penitentiary Buck remarked, "A Warden praised Hitler because he (Hitler) hates Jews".

Buck, in speaking of Fascism and the approaching danger of war, cited the Right Honourable R. B. Bennett's speech at Halifax and the inquiry into the spreads of prices and mass buying as a prelude to Fascism in Canada. He concluded his speech with an appeal for support for the Communist candidates running in the Toronto Municipal elections.

The meeting was also addressed by J. B. Salsberg, Stewart Smith, S. Lifshitz, Sam Carr and a Co-operative Commonwealth Federation representative named Frank Regan.

Stewart Smith, in the course of his speech, intimated that this Municipal election might be the last one in which the Communist Party would

participate. He was given to understand that before the next Municipal election Fascism would rule.

The meeting was attended by approximately 1,500 and two extra halls were required to accommodate those who could

[5]

not be accommodated in the Strand Theatre. The audience was predominantly Jewish.

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### (B) In Montreal

[✂#] The Montreal Stadium, corner of Ontario and Delormier Sts., Montreal, Que., on the night of 28th December, was the scene of the largest Communist meeting ever staged in the city. The meeting was held under the auspices of the District Committee of the Communist Party of Canada: the purpose being to welcome Tim Buck to Montreal. It was attended by approximately 10,000 people, of whom fifty per cent were French-Canadians. Another estimate places the French attendance at a lower figure. The meeting was presided over by two Chairmen, Fred Rose, speaking in English, and Nadeau, in French.

Fred Rose, in his opening remarks, stated that in spite of all obstacles placed in the way of getting a suitable meeting hall the large turnout indicated that unity of the workers in Montreal is being achieved. The greatest achievement in the City of Montreal, he claimed, was the winning over of many French-Canadian workers to the Communist Party. He boasted of an increase in membership of two hundred per cent. He expressed thanks to R. L. Calder, George Hincks and Louis Kon for their efforts in securing the Stadium for the evening. Fred Rose then introduced Tim Buck. Tremendous applause followed by the singing of "The International" greeted the introduction.

Preceding Tim Buck short addresses were given by J. S. Wallace, speaking on behalf of the Canadian Labour Defence League; a French-Canadian named Bouillette, who extended greetings to Tim Buck in the name of the French-Canadian unemployed; George Hincks, who welcomed Buck in the name of the ex-service men; Emil Godin, speaking in French for the Societie Humanitaire; Max Armstrong, speaking as a friend and comrade; Madame Lebrun, who spoke in French in the name of the "exploited women" in

[6]

Quebec; Harvey Murphy, as the representative of the Workers Unity League; Derosiers, of the French Young Communist League; and Sam Scarlett, representing the Friends of the Soviet Union.

Sam Scarlett stated that he had a message from the Soviet Union. He remarked that he had the honour of attending the 7th November celebration in Moscow. "During the parade of a million workers in the Red Square", he said, "the Commander-in-Chief of the Red Army addressed the Red Army saying that their task was not only the task of defending the U.S.S.R. but that they would also be confronted with the task of defending the proletariat all over the world". Scarlett maintained that while the workers in Canada are starving and the standard of their living is being lowered, in the Soviet Union there is a shortage of workers and the standard of living is being gradually improved.

George Hincks said that there were many war veterans who today would not fight again for so-called democracy. These war veterans, he said, have pledged themselves to the cause that Tim Buck represents. These same veterans, he continued, have developed "trigger fingers" and they would use these "trigger fingers" in the interest of the working class when the occasion arises. (Tremendous applause.)

Emil Godin, in the course of his brief remarks, pleaded with the French-Canadians to forget their prejudices against other nationalities and unite in the fight against the owning class.

Upon rising to speak Tim Buck was greeted with tremendous applause and cheering, followed by the singing of "The International". Tim Buck, in his introduction stated that he had been requested by the Executive of the Communist International to convey their best wishes and greetings to the Quebec workers. He then addressed the audience briefly in French. He intimated that within a month or so he will be able to address French-Canadians in their own language. Buck said that the Communist Party of Canada refuses to go underground

[7]

and defies the present Government to do something about it. He felt certain that the ruling class dare not do anything as long as mass pressure is exerted. As long as this mass pressure prevails, he said, the Communist Party will fight in the open.

Buck briefly reviewed events leading up to the arrest and imprisonment of the eight Communist Party leaders. He also recounted some of his experiences in Kingston Penitentiary. He said that the workers must not be fooled by the release of those leaders from Kingston. It was not due to a "change of heart" on the part of the Prime Minister of Canada but that they were released because of the mass pressure brought to bear by the working

class of Canada. Buck predicted a new year full of struggle. "The coming year will go down in the history of the working class movement as a year of great struggles", he said.

Alex Gauld appealed for funds. The collection netted \$362.70.

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### (C) In Sudbury

[§<#] Tim Buck held a meeting in the Labour Temple at 189 Spruce St., Sudbury, Ont., under the auspices of the Canadian Labour Defence League on the night of 2nd January, 1935. Approximately 750 persons were in attendance, half of whom were Anglo-Saxons. During his lecture he displayed three bullets which, he said, he had dug out of the wall of his cell in Kingston Penitentiary. He asserted that 17 shots were fired into his cell by prison guards under orders of the Government.

In reviewing the Communist movement in the various countries he stated that England was the only country at the present time where the Communist Party was not very strong. He predicted, however, that great changes may be expected in England during 1935.

The collection taken at this meeting amounted to \$88.42.

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[8]

## 2. The F.S.U. Delegation to Russia

### (A) A Party in Montreal

A beer party was given at the home of George Hincks in Montreal, Que., [§<#] on the evening of 20th December in honour of some of the delegates recently returned from the Soviet Union. The party was attended by Sam Scarlett, [§<deletion: 3 lines] Various short talks were given on the recent visit to the U.S.S.R. and on general Friends of the Soviet Union work in Canada.

[§<deletion: name] stated that the Friends of the Soviet Union in Canada are now in debt to the extent of \$750 as a result of sending the delegation to the Soviet Union. He remarked that the money must be raised and repaid to various sympathizers from whom the money had been borrowed. He urged all delegates who are to lecture throughout the Dominion to see that all profits from these lectures are sent to the National Office in order that he debt may be paid. He also urged the delegates to organize branches in all localities where they speak. He said that recent experience has shown that it is very easy to organize branches of the Friends of the Soviet Union. He said about a week ago a speaker had given a lecture on the Soviet Union

in St. Catharines, Ont., and as a result of this lecture 32 members had been signed up and a branch of the organization formed.

[redacted] also stressed the importance of winning over [redacted] to the "Left" movement. In this connection [redacted] remarked that one of the greatest achievements of the delegation had been the winning over of [redacted] He said that on the morning the delegation left Montreal for the Soviet Union some members were in favour of leaving [redacted] behind, but evidently it was decided to take a chance on him. [redacted] thought that [redacted] had already turned "Left" and anticipated that through him many

[9]

French-Canadians will be won over to the Friends of the Soviet Union.

[redacted] reported that before leaving the Soviet Union the delegates had had a conference with Kalinen and other Soviet leaders. They had been reminded at this conference that it was now their task to organize thousands of workers in Canada to prevent war being waged against the Soviet Union that they must always bring out the slogan "Defend the Soviet Union". [redacted] said that the delegates pledged themselves to do this.

[redacted: 3/4 line] of the Friends of the Soviet Union, stated that the local branch was \$250 in debt on this delegation. He went on to say that the organization was now in a position to win over many French-Canadians but were faced with the difficulty of securing suitable halls for meeting purposes. It was decided that Sam Scarlett and [redacted] should remain in Montreal and give a few lectures with the object of raising funds for the organization.

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### (B) Mass Meeting in Toronto

[redacted#]

A mass meeting was held in Toronto, Ont., under the auspices of the Friends of the Soviet Union on 28th December, 1934, in the Oddfellows Hall. This was a welcome to the Canadian workers' delegation which returned recently from a visit to the Soviet Union. The following members of this delegation were present: Jack Cowan, Louis Krakauer, P. Munro, T. Russel, Joseph Peon and T. Mountford. William Sidney was Chairman and explained that Sam Scarlett, who is engaged elsewhere, would be unable to speak that evening but will address a special meeting at some later date.

The first speaker was Cowan, the leader of the delegation to Russia. He said that there were two attitudes prevalent in Canada towards the Soviet Union. Firstly, those who,

[10]

like Premier Bennett and his reactionary allies, are opposed to anything to do with Russia. They placed embargoes on Russian imports, they negotiated with the enemies of the Soviet Union to upset the plans of socialist construction in Russia. The other attitude is that represented by the Friends of the Soviet Union which is friendly. The bourgeois press has circulated all kinds of lies about Russia so the delegation set out to find out for themselves what conditions in the Soviet Union really are. Cowan said that this was the best delegation which had ever left Canada as representatives were included from all over the country and included men of various races who are employed in different industries. He mentioned that the French-Canadian representative, Peon, was undecided in his own mind about Russia when he left Canada. Peon has returned a confirmed Communist. The delegation were given a very cordial welcome in Leningrad and Moscow. They had travelled 4,000 miles and had seen a great deal. Everyone has plenty of food and there is a wonderful thirst for knowledge everywhere. The Russian Communist Party consists of about two million people. While everybody would like to join, every applicant is carefully investigated before being accepted. He praised loudly the Soviet jail system which he described as "houses of correction". He finished up by urging them to concentrate on the United Front of all workers in support of the Soviet Union.

The next speaker was Louis Krakauer (Krakover). He said they left Canada thinking of the young Canadians deprived of education, without work, sent to relief camps where they worked for 20 cents a day and are trained for war where they will be murdered. In the Soviet Union they found youth taking part in every kind of activity. Young men are learning all kinds of trades and are playing an important part in the socialist construction. Their pleasure is also catered for.

He was greatly impressed with the display put on by the Red Army in Moscow during the 17th anniversary celebration. In Canada everybody hates the Army because it is an instrument

[11]

in the hands of the Capitalists and is used against the workers. In Russia everybody loves the Red Army. The leader, Voroshilov, because he is worker himself who fought during the revolution. The Red Army not only defends the Soviet Union but helps the industrial workers when work is



behind schedule. He exhorted them all to prepare to help the Red Army in time of war. In the Soviet Union it is an honour to be a worker. Everyone thinks of work and nothing else. In Canada it is a shame to be a worker. Everybody here looks down upon the labourer with contempt. Only those who exploit the workers and do nothing are honoured.

Short speeches were also delivered by Munro and Russel from Vancouver, and Mountford from the interior of British Columbia. They were all most complimentary in their references to Russia and asserted that conditions there compare extremely favourably with the existing state of affairs in Canada.

Tom Ewen, Secretary of the Workers Unity League, attacked Capitalism, praised conditions in Russia and urged the workers to unite. He declared that only through the revolutionary movement under Communistic leadership can the workers come successfully through the crisis. The rest of his speech was propaganda for the Communist Party of Canada and the establishing of a Soviet in Canada.

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[12]

## APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

### I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

#### 3. B.C. Relief Camp Workers Union

[\*#] The B.C. Relief Camp Workers Union held a mass meeting in the Royal Theatre, Vancouver, B.C., on 30th December, 1934; over 1,200 persons being present, and McLeod presided over the meeting. Speeches were given by Thompson, Shaw, Penny Cook, W. Black, O'Neill, Salonen, Jackson, Kelly, Holmes, George Drayton and Cumber. The subject of their speeches centered around the question of the relief camp strike.

George Kelly, of the B.C. Relief Camp Workers Union, stated that they had at the present time approximately 1,300 camp workers organized in the city of Vancouver. He predicted that in March or April of 1935 there would be 5,000 relief camp workers in Vancouver in an endeavour to abolish the camps altogether. When asked as to why all the camps had not come out in support of the present strike Kelly answered that it was owing to the poor travelling conditions and the very poor system of communication that exists between camps. He concluded his speech by an attack upon the Department of National Defence and also the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

A number of men from various camps drifted into Vancouver at Christmas time. Arrangements were made to provide for them temporarily. Some have returned to the camps and more are reported to be going.

Their chief complaint is the keeping of a "black list" at the camps, and the attempt to make the camps "military". The situation in Vancouver caused some apprehension but there has not been any disorder.

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[X#] [Xdeletion: names] left Vancouver, B.C., for Nanaimo on an organizational tour amongst the Island miners recently. Before leaving the city, during a conference, Evans protested strongly against the action of the National Office in taking away organizers who had shown exceptional abilities.

[13]

He was referring to [Xdeletion: name] who was taken out to go to the Clinton School, and also [Xdeletion: name] who worked amongst the Cumberland men and prepared the ground for the recent strike. The question of producing a mimeographed paper for the miners is being considered.

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[X#] Arthur Evans, recently released from Oakalla Jail, is to tour through the Okanagan Valley and across the upper country towards Prince Rupert, B.C., from where he is to go to Vancouver Island. He is due to speak at a meeting in Princeton on 1st January.

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[X#] [Xdeletion: 1/2 line] has acquired a Gestetner machine and will issue yet another one of those sheets for which Vancouver is famous.

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[X#] The school conducted by the Communist Party at Vancouver, B.C., in the Clinton Hall concluded recently, with a deficit of about \$25. A dance was held in the Ukrainian Labour Temple in order to raise funds to pay for this deficit. At the close of the school a mimeographed sheet entitled "Red Students Voice" was run off and distributed. It was edited by [Xdeletion: name] one of the students at the school.

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## II. ALBERTA

### 4. The Calgary Unemployed

[X#] The Unemployed Married Men's Association and Central Council of Unemployed in Calgary, Alta., held a mass meeting on 27th December to

vote on whether or not to accept the new relief quota offered by the City Council; whether to call off the strike or to continue same.

Murdoch Clark addressed the meeting at great length pointing out that the only ones who would benefit under the new

[14]

scale as proposed by the City Council would be those with large families. He also pointed out that under the new scale the relief recipients would not get clothing, medicine or hospitalization. He contended that the whole scheme is made to fool the unemployed into accepting it. He urged the unemployed to come out stronger than ever and demand a monthly cash allowance for clothes and incidentals and an increase in the relief level for small families.

It was pointed out by one of the speakers that the new scale of relief would go into effect on 31st December and that the incoming City Council would not give any relief unless the recipients turn out to work.

The meeting voted overwhelmingly in favour of continuing the strike and to demand a twenty-five per cent increase over the old quota. It is now felt that the relief strike in Calgary will continue an indefinite period with the possibility of a supporting relief strike taking place in Edmonton early in the new year.

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[3<#] At a recent meeting of the Unemployed Married Men's Association of Edmonton, Alta., a letter was received from the Provincial Unemployed Council of Calgary appealing for support and urging the Edmonton unemployed to prepare for the Unemployed Convention which is to take place in the City of Edmonton on 15th January. It is expected that at this Unemployed Convention delegates will be appointed to the Unemployed Congress to be held in Ottawa, Ont., on 3rd February.

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### III. SASKATCHEWAN

#### 5. Saskatchewan Association of Unemployed

[3<#] A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Saskatchewan Association of Unemployed was held at Regina recently. [3<deletion: name] was the principal speaker. It was decided to call a conference of all the unemployed branches in the Province

[15]

shortly with a view to electing the delegates to the Ottawa Congress on Unemployment and Social Insurance.

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#### IV. MANITOBA

##### 6. John Navizowsky.

[✂#] Todowymazu, the Society for the Liberation of Western Ukraine, held a mass meeting in the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association Hall, Winnipeg, Man., on 30th December, 1934. M. Shatulski presided and explained the meeting was held to raise funds for the Todowymazu Society to send to their brethren in the Western Ukraine.

M. Leschynski said that the terrorist rule of the Polish bourgeoisie, which is just the same as Fascism, is causing much suffering. During the last four years has sent over \$14,000.00 to help those oppressed.

After the collection, which realized \$19.47, John Navizowski spoke. He left Winnipeg very secretly in October and was sent as a delegate to the Congress of the Communist International. Navizowsky apparently left Canada before notice was received that this congress had been postponed to the spring of 1935. He brought greetings from the workers in the Soviet Union. He said he knew he had been criticized adversely for disappearing mysteriously, but declared he was under no obligation to ask for leave and that he always will be very loyal to the Communist cause. He was amazed at the advancement made in Russia, where there is work for all and everyone is at work. He also visited France, Germany, Poland and England and asserted conditions in the U.S.S.R. are far ahead of what is found in any of these other countries. He also said that Ivan Sembay and Irchan were really traitors to the Communist cause and had been found out. Irchan was given a chance to work with his pen but he could not or would not espouse Communism and was sentenced to 10 years hard labour. Sembay committed suicide rather than face it all.

[16]

He announced he will deliver a series of lectures about Russia later on.

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[✂#] The leaders of the Farmers Unity League at Winnipeg, Man., are very much displeased with the outcome of the farmers' strike in Alberta. They contend that the local leaders in charge of the strike showed very poor leadership and organizing ability. They are now discussing ways and means of clearing up the situation and putting men in charge of the field work who are more capable. The claim is being made that as a result of this strike the

movement has received a set back from which it will take some time to recover. It was hoped that the strike would spread to other districts and it was the intention to utilize same in order to get the farmers interested in the revolutionary movement.

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V. ONTARIO

7. Congress on Unemployment and Social Insurance

[3<#] Using the National Unemployed Council as a medium, the Communist leaders have issued a call for a Congress on Unemployment and Social Insurance to be held in Ottawa, Ont., commencing on 3rd February. The congress, it is proposed, will formulate demand for unemployment and social insurance and will agree on the methods to be adopted to carry forward the fight for these demands. It will seek the establishment of a united movement of all those who sympathize with and support this cause. While the Communist controlled unemployed organizations and "Left" trade unions will constitute the back-bone of this congress, it is hoped that other organizations and individuals sympathetic to the scheme of unemployment insurance will be represented. While it is expected that the bulk of the delegates will be from Eastern Canada, preparations are being undertaken by all Western Provincial Unemployed Councils to have

[17]

at least one delegate at the congress.

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[3<#] The following tables show the number of votes cast for the Communist candidates in the recent Toronto (Ont.) Municipal election as compared with the results obtained in 1934.

MAYOR

<u>1935</u>	<u>1934</u>
A. E. Smith .. 4,767	A. E. Smith .. 8,325

BOARD OF CONTROL

<u>1935</u>	<u>1934</u>
Mrs. Tim Buck .. 9,935	Mrs. Tim Buck.. 9,767

ALDERMEN

1935	1934
Ward 1. Thomas Cooney .. 865	(no candidate)
" 2. Thomas James ... 465	John A. Murray .. 444
" 4. Meyer Klig ..... 1,068	Meyer Klig ..... 934
" 5. Stewart Smith ...1,871	A. N. Willicombe.. 938
" 6. H. Stephenson....1,576	E. J. Mosur .....1,299
" 8. A. Hambleton .... 445	(no candidate)

BOARD OF EDUCATION

1935	1934
" 1. H. Bell..... 1,056	F. H. Love.....1,143
" 2. Mrs. Stewart Smith..... 1,235	Thomas James ..... 883
" 4. J. B. Salsberg.. 1,106	J. Blugerman..... 720

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[✂#] The itinerary of Tim Buck's tour of Northern Ontario and Quebec on behalf of the imprisoned Noranda miners and under the auspices of the Canadian Labour Defence League is as follows:

Sudbury -	2nd January
North Bay -	3rd "
Timmins and South	
Porcupine -	4th & 5th January
Kirkland Lake-	6th January
Rouyn and Noranda-	7th "
Ottawa -	9th "

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[18]

A Central News Bureau has recently been organized in the City of Toronto, Ont., to be known as the "Association Labour Press". It is the

[✂#] intention to centralize all the events in Canada and abroad, mailing out daily and weekly summaries of these events to all its members. The "Associated Labour Press" is located at 209 Wilson Bdg., Toronto, and is under the management of Fred Hodgson.

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[✂#] The Lithuanian Communist paper Darbininku Zodis ("The Workers World") is to appear weekly commencing in January, 1935. The results of the subscription campaign conducted on behalf of this paper for the last six

weeks made this step possible. It is reported that \$684.91 has been collected so far and 140 new subscribers obtained.

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[✂#] A change has been made in the Editorship of The Worker. Leslie Morris has been replaced by Stewart Smith while Malcolm Bruce will retain his position as Editor-in-Chief of the paper. Leslie Morris, it is said, has been granted leave of absence on account of ill health.

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[✂#] Vapaus, in its 18th December, 1934 issue, analyses the results of the subscription campaign conducted on behalf of this paper during the month of November. It says that a total of 2,248 subscriptions have been secured. The objective was 1,200. Of the subscriptions obtained 1,123 were new subscriptions and 1,125 renewals. Commenting on this campaign Vapaus remarks:-

“The result of the drive is another proof that the Finnish toilers in Canada realize that a revolutionary United Front is the only means by which to better their conditions”.

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[19]

[✂#] The Sudbury (Ont.) Police Commission instructed the Chief Constable that the film “Ten Days That Shook The World” could not be publicly shown in the Town of Sudbury. The Mayor told a delegation that Attorney General Roebuck had given the Sudbury Police Commission the right to ban the film if it so desired.

## VI. QUEBEC

[✂deletion: 1/2 page]

[✂#]

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## VII. THE MARITIME PROVINCES

### 9. Jim McLachlan

[✂#] The Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party in Toronto, Ont., has vetoed the action of the District Executive Committee in Cape Breton, N.S., expelling J. B. McLachlan, [✂deletion: 1/2 line]

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[20]

[deletion: name] who has just returned from the Friends of the Soviet Union trip to Russia, has nothing but praise for the Bolshevik systems. In [deletion: #] Russia they are all working and are happy: they feel they are working for themselves. [deletion: name] is quite enthusiastic and is anxious to rid the Communist movement in Nova Scotia of all who are not energetic workers for the cause.

Phil Luck has lost prestige by his conduct and by his dispute with McLachlan. [deletion: name] reported that he received many enquiries for Jim McLachlan in Russia, where he is rated highly. McLachlan has the support of the local "Reds" in his fight with Luck.

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