

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa,
16th January, 1935.

SECRETNO. 740WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATORS IN CANADAReport

Unable to lease a hall in Ottawa, Tim Buck spoke from the steps of the "Little Theatre" on 11th January to about 800 people. Owing to the cold weather the speeches were brief. Buck intends to return later on.

Three representatives went from Canada to attend the Student World Congress Against War and Fascism which was held in Brussels at the end of December, 1934.

Many of the British Columbia relief camp workers have returned to their camps. The relief strikers in Calgary declined the terms offered by the Civic authorities but have created no trouble. The grain strike in the Vegreville and Mundare Districts has died a natural death.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

I. Tim Buck in Ottawa

Tim Buck arrived in Ottawa, Ont., on 11th January, 1935. Arrangements were made for him to speak in the "Little Theatre" the same evening. Later [3<#] the management of this theatre decided not to allow the meeting to be held in their theatre. The local comrades were unable to lease any suitable hall for the evening and appealed to the Chief of Police for permission to hold an open air meeting. This application was refused by the Chief of Police but subsequently granted by the Police Commission of the city.

At 8:30 the same evening a crowd of about 800 assembled in front of the "Little Theatre" in very cold weather to hear Buck speak. Joe Wallace urged every worker who is interested in free speech to write to the papers protesting against the action of Czar Bennett and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in preventing them from obtaining a hall in which to meet. He also appealed for support for the Canadian Labour Defence League.

After a short harangue from Fred Rose, a Jew from Montreal, Buck appeared on the steps of the "Little Theatre" and was warmly received. The chief points in his address were:

When he arrived in Toronto from Kingston a crowd of 5,000 met him and held up the traffic for two hours. By turning out to an open air meeting in sub-zero weather the workers of Ottawa were displaying even greater enthusiasm for their cause.

The workers cannot afford like Mr. Bennett to hire the radio and he even frustrates their attempts to obtain a hall. It won't be long until the workers will have the finest halls in Ottawa and every other city available for their use.

Mr. Bennett is not afraid of Buck, it is the workers he fears and with good reason. When Mr. Bennett put the Communists in gaol he sought to kill Communism: he had succeeded in waking the workers up.

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Buck said he was speaking as a representative of the Canadian Labour Defence League for the Noranda miners who, because they organized and struck, were given vicious gaol sentences. Buck admitted he is Secretary of the Communist Party of Canada and said he would come back to Ottawa in about two weeks' time when he will speak as Secretary of the Communist Party of Canada and will expound their programme.

Buck referred to Mr. Bennett and General MacBrien as little Czars and added, "You know what happened to another Czar".

After the next election Mr. Bennett will have to listen to Communists across the floor of the House of Commons.

2. Sam Carr Speaks in Montreal

[§<#] The Montreal (Que.) District of the Communist Party held a District Conference on 5th January, 1935. Sam Carr was present representing the National Bureau of the Party. The main speakers were Fred Rose and Sam Carr. Both stressed the need of forming a United Front on the basis of the immediate demands. The forming of a United Front was put to the fore as the most important and outstanding task of the Communist Party at the present time. Sam Carr stated that though the Communist Party is now working opening, the underground apparatus and system must be kept intact as it is expected that the Government authorities will attack the Party in the near future. Another important item which the conference discussed was the matter of organizing the textile and steel industries. This also was named as one of the important tasks of the Communist Party. Sam Carr stated that great strikes may be expected in the textile industry in Canada before the coming spring. He stressed the need of all groups having a comrade ready to operate among the textile workers. Sam Carr was favourably impressed with the conditions in Montreal and district as reported at this conference.

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3. "The Worker"

[§<deletion: name] in a discussion at Montreal, Que., recently, stated that beginning on 1st February The Worker is to be issued three times per week and that a new form of delivery will be initiated. In the future when a Worker bundle arrives in a certain area it will not be distributed through [§<#] the Communist Party units. Instead, certain comrades will deliver the paper in the districts allotted to them. This, he pointed out, will save postage. The

distributors will be paid on the basis of one cent per delivery. [deletion: name] further stated that the Montreal quota for The Worker is 630 copies per issue and that the total circulation throughout Canada is 17,000 per issue. The total cost of publishing The Worker, both issues, at 17,000 copies per edition with a total of 10 pages is \$650 per week, [deletion: word] of this \$250 goes to the printers and the balance includes salaries, postage and the upkeep of the editorial office.

4. Relief Camp Strikers in B.C.

[deletion: #] Recent information received from Vancouver, B.C., would indicate that the majority of the men who came to Vancouver from the relief camps conducted by the Department of National Defence have now applied for re-registration. Many of these men, however, have failed to report for medical examination which is necessary prior to their leaving for the camps. Temporary relief is being extended from day to day until arrangements have been completed for the transportation of the men back to the camps.

5. World Congress Against War & Fascism

[deletion: #] The Canadian delegates attending the Student World Congress Against War and Fascism, which opened in Brussels, Belgium, on 29th December, 1934, are M. Laxer of McGill University, Montreal, Kenneth Woodsworth and Majorie Drummond of the University of Toronto.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

[deletion: #] [deletion: 1/4 page]

[deletion: #] The Vancouver (B.C.) and District Waterfront Workers Association will hold its regular semi-annual meeting on 11th January, and on the following day a regular election of officers will be held. An attempt is being made by the Communists to unseat Secretary Walker and elect a complete slate of "Left" Wing officers.

[#] The Provincial Workers Council sponsored a mass meeting in the Royal Theatre, Vancouver, B.C., on the evening of 6th January. Gibbons, Secretary of the Provincial Workers Council, Burnaby Branch, stated that a conference had been held early in the day which had been attended by 61 delegates representing 24 Organizations. He also mentioned that nine of the 61 delegates were Chinese and 14 were women representatives. In the course of his speech he referred to Mayor G. G. McGeer as a Fascist recently put in power to enforce the Special Powers Act. "This man is dangerous", Gibbons said, "and we must watch him closely".

A man named Rowland, of the Coquitlam Branch of the Provincial Workers Council, spoke briefly of the conditions suffered by the farmers and relief workers in Coquitlam and

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Yarrow Districts and urged a continue fight for better conditions.

Kelly, of the B.C. Relief Camp Workers Union, prophesied that it would not be very long before they will be able to bring all relief workers into Vancouver and abolish the camps entirely. "There is only one political party in Canada at the head of the camp workers' struggle for freedom and that is the Communist Party", he concluded.

A Chinese named Low spoke briefly on conditions in Chinatown. He mentioned that 15 years ago in Canada he was referred to as a "chink" but now today they call him "comrade".

Mildred Fembach and Mary Johnson of South Vancouver and North Vancouver, respectively, also spoke briefly on conditions among the women and girls in their respective districts.

Lealess, prominent Communist, praised the work of the B.C. Joint Committee and explained that the initiative in forming this committee was taken by the Provincial Workers Council.

An enthusiastic audience of about 1,000 people attended the meeting.

II. ALBERTA

7. The Calgary Relief Strikers

[#] A mass meeting of striking unemployed relief workers was held in Calgary, Alta., on 2nd January in the Victoria Pavilion, attended by approximately 700 persons. The meeting was held under the auspices of the Central Council and the object being to vote on the question of whether or not to accept the new quota of relief offered by the City Council. Several speakers addressed the meeting including Mel Parkyn, son of Alderman

Parkyn, Peat of the Unemployed Ex-Service Men's Association, Corry Campbell, Johnson, Pat Lenihan, George Palmer and Alderman Parkyn.

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At the conclusion of the meeting the vote taken was one hundred per cent in favour of continuing the strike and refusing the new relief scale. In addition to declining the scale offered the meeting reiterated the demand for a twenty-five per cent increase over and above the old relief scale.

[X#] [Xdeletion: 1/4 page]

[X#] Charles Stewart left Edmonton, Alta., for Calgary on 17th December, 1934, and following a short stay there proceeded on to Toronto, Ont.

III. SASKATCHEWAN

8. P. Munro and T. Russell in Regina

[X#] The Friends of the Soviet Union held a meeting in Regina, Sask., on 4th January. This meeting was addressed by Pete Munro and T. Russell, who have just returned from a visit to the U.S.S.R. About 500 people heard these two delegates give an enthusiastic account of present conditions in Russia. Both speakers said that they had no connection with the Communist Party and were merely ordinary citizens. These two delegates are scheduled to address meetings at other places in the West en route to Vancouver, B.C.

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IV. MANITOBA

9. Ukrainian Revolutionary Papers Criticized

John Navizowsky, on his recent visit to Moscow, [Xdeletion: 2 lines] The Ukrainian Voice and The Canadian Farmer. The latter Ukrainian [X#] nationalistic newspapers, both weeklies, have considerably increased their circulation in the last year. It is reported that The Ukrainian Voice has a circulation of about 12,000 and The Canadian Farmer about 15,000. Much space has been given these two papers for anti-Communist propaganda. [Xdeletion: 3 lines]

[#] Whilst in Winnipeg, Man., Professor Scot Nearing held conferences with the leaders of the organization which is opposed to Fascism and war. He is reported to have instructed them in the tactics to be adopted against war and Fascism and also what they should do when war breaks out. Nearing is reported to have said that the next World War for the first time in the history of the labour movement will be met not only by a United Front of workers but by a United Front directed from a central planning body. Behind the United Front there will be a unified plan and general staff directing operations. This staff will have a complete chart of bridges, highways, stores and provisions, clothing and munitions, so that when war is declared and the masses get armed they will be in a position to handle the situation in their own interest.

[#] The Russian Workers Club in Winnipeg, Man., staged a revolutionary play at the Ukrainian Labour Temple, on 5th January, called "Czapayeff". The play is taken from the novel

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of the same name and the players were drawn from the Russian Workers Club. The attendance was fair, about 400 being present. The reason this play was shown at the Ukrainian Labour Temple was on account of the Russian Workers Club Hall not having sufficient accommodation.

[#] Charles Stewart addressed a meeting of the Unemployed Protective Association of Port Arthur, Ont., on 5th January. He spoke on the unemployed organizations in existence in Calgary, Alta., and claimed that it was due to the efficient organizations that they have there that the unemployed are in a position to have their demands met. He urged the Port Arthur unemployed to become organized and fight for unemployment insurance and against Fascism.

[#] The Lumber Workers Industrial Union in the Port Arthur (Ont.) District has been remarkably quiet during the past month. There are rumours circulating that the leaders will endeavour to call a strike in the bush camps throughout the district about the middle of January.

V. ONTARIO

[X#] [Xdeletion: 1/4 page]

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[X#] T. E. Mountford and E. Williams, members of the delegation recently returned from the Soviet Union, addressed about 125 persons in the Finn Hall, Nipigon, Ont., on 7th January. Both recounted some of their experiences while in the Soviet Union, and proved themselves incompetent speakers.

[X#] A. E. Smith was the principal speaker at a Canadian Labour Defence League meeting in the Empire Theatre, Windsor, Ont., on 5th January. Fred Brimacombe acted as Chairman and the attendance numbered approximately 600 people, the majority of whom were of foreign extraction.

Smith spoke for about two hours. It was the usual tirade against Capitalism and against public men such as J. Simpson, Mayor elect of Toronto, Premier R. B. Bennett and others. Referring to the activities of the Canadian Labour Defence League he asserted that the men of foreign extraction who are being tried in the courts received stiffer sentences than those of French or English extraction.

At the close of his speech resolutions were passed protesting the imprisonment of the Noranda miners who were recently convicted at Amos, Que.

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A new branch of the Hungarian Workers Clubs known as Unit 36 has been formed at Chatham, Ont., recently, with an initial membership of 30.

[X#] An Organizer from Windsor named Sporba was instrumental in forming this branch.

VI. QUEBEC11. Tim Buck to Visit Montreal Again

[X#] The Secretariat of the Canadian Labour Defence League in Montreal, Que., met on 3rd January with [Xdeletion: 1 1/4 lines] attending. A letter

was read from the National Office of the Canadian Labour Defence League stating that Tim Buck was making a tour of Northern Ontario in the interests of the Noranda mine strikers who were convicted at Amos recently. The letter stated that Tim Buck would be available in Montreal on 12th January. The letter also stated that the National Office intends to appeal only one of the Noranda cases as a test case for the rest of those who had been convicted.

After a short discussion the Secretariat decided to utilize Tim Buck while in Montreal in the interests of the work in the Anglo-Saxon field. It was also decided that an attempt should be made to secure the Notre Dame de Grace Community Hall for a meeting on 12th January. Further, that in the event of this hall not being available the Prince Arthur Hall be rented. It was further decided that Tim Buck should deliver a lecture at the Carmen Sylva Hall on the afternoon of 13th January and that in the evening of the same day he should address a meeting in Rosemount.

[§<#] At a meeting of the Campaign Committee of the Canadian Labour Defence League in Montreal, Que., held on 7th January, it was reported by [§<deletion: name] that the Notre Dame de Grace Community Hall was not available for a mass meeting on 12th January and that the only hall available was the Prince Arthur

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Hall. It was, therefore, decided that the Prince Arthur Hall be hired for a Noranda protest mass meeting with Tim Buck as the main speaker on 12th January. It was also decided that Tim Buck speak in Verdun on the Noranda issue on the following day, 13th January. An attempt will be made to secure the largest hall available in Verdun. In this connection it was agreed to print and distribute 5,000 leaflets on the Noranda issue. It was reported that no attempts have as yet been made to form a United Front with the Trades and Labour Council, churches, Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, etc., on the Noranda issue. It was, therefore, decided that delegations visiting these organizations should invite them to participate in the mass meeting of 12th January.

[§<#] [§<deletion: 1/4 page]

[§<#] At a meeting of the Montreal (Que.) Canadian Labour Defence League Secretariat on 8th January [§<deletion: name] reported that he had hired the Labour Temple Hall for a series of 15 Canadian Labour Defence League meetings, the rental being \$3 per meeting. It is intended to hold one meeting per week, the first meeting to take place on 16th January.

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[deletion: 6 lines]

VII. THE MARITIME PROVINCES

12. [deletion: 4 words]

[#] [deletion: name] of the Executive Board of the Workers Unity League, arrived at Glace Bay, N.S., on 2nd January. He has replaced [deletion: name] of the Communist Party who has been recalled to Toronto, Ont. [deletion: name] is also assisting [deletion: name] directing the affairs of the Amalgamated Mine Workers Union of Nova Scotia.

[#] [deletion: name] left Sydney, N.S., for Toronto, Ont., on the evening of 8th January. It is unlikely that he will return to Cape Breton. It is reported that [deletion: name] who is now in the City of Montreal, Que., will take his place as [deletion: name] of the Communist Party in Cape Breton.

[#] A mass meeting was held at the Strand Theatre, Sydney, N.S., on 6th January to hear the report of M.A. McKenzie, steel workers' delegate recently returned from the U.S.S.R. About 700 people were present at the beginning of the meeting but the audience dwindled down to about half before it ended. Apparently some of the audience did not like the bombastic attitude of M. A. McKenzie, the principal speaker.

McKenzie spoke for about an hour and a half. The major portion of his speech was devoted to an attack on a series of speeches made recently by the Prime Minister of Canada. He compared the Prime Minister to Hitler and said that he endeavours to fool the working class. He warned the audience not to listen

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to the "siren song" of the Prime Minister because Hitler sang the same song two years ago in Germany rather successfully. Reporting on what he saw in Russia he dealt almost exclusively with the history of pre-revolutionary Russia describing in detail the cathedrals, statues, monuments and palaces he had seen. He spent only about five minutes in describing the present-day conditions. Only in a general way and in very few words did he touch on

present-day conditions there. He declared that religion was not persecuted in Russia. McKenzie's speech displeased the local "Reds".

In addition to M. A. McKenzie, short talks were also given by Forman Waye, Thomas C. Sims and Robert Stewart. The latter pleaded for unity of the coal miners and the steel workers of Nova Scotia. He also sponsored a resolution to be sent to the Premier of Nova Scotia asking that an executive officer of the Amalgamated Mine Workers of Nova Scotia be allowed to attend the wage negotiations between the Dominion Steel Corporation and the United Mine Workers of America. Stewart was well received and left a good impression with the audience.
