

## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa,  
23rd January, 1935.

**SECRET**NO. 741WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATORS IN CANADAReport

Some of the delegates, who have just returned from a visit to the U.S.S.R. with the Friends of the Soviet Union party, addressed large meetings in Winnipeg and Vancouver. There was much favourable comment on the progress which has been made in Russia.

Paul Delisle, a member of the Central Executive Committee and head of the Communist Party in Montreal, died recently. This young French-Canadian received some training in Russia and was regarded as the chief Communist propagandist among the French-speaking people.

The Unemployment Insurance Congress, which was to have been held in Ottawa on 3rd February, has been postponed to 17th February next.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERALI. Tim Buck and the C.L.D.L. in Montreal

The Prince Arthur Hall in Montreal, Que., was the scene of a mass meeting held under the auspices of the Canadian Labour Defence League on 12th January. The meeting was staged in protest against the conviction [deletion: 1 line] of the Noranda mine strikers. The audience, representative of many nationalities, numbered approximately, 1000. The French-Canadians formed a large and conspicuous part of it. The speakers were J. S. Wallace, a man named Blackshaw, Tim Buck and Brouillette, the latter speaking in French.

Blackshaw, representing the League Against War and Fascism, said that one-tenth of the population of Canada were getting nine-tenths of the profits whilst nine-tenths of the population were living on one-tenth of the profits. He urged that the nine-tenths -- the working class -- should struggle to obtain their just share.

Brouillette dealt with the aims and objects of the Canadian Labour Defence League. He urged the French-Canadians to forget about nationality and unite with their fellow workers under the leadership of such men as Tim Buck. He stated that no matter to what country a worker went the Red Aid would look after him. He condemned the Arcand and David Bills of the Province of Quebec and characterized Section 98 of the Criminal Code as a tool of the Capitalist class. At the conclusion of his speech he shouted, "Vive le Communisme".

J. S. Wallace referred to what he termed a successful meeting in Ottawa in front of the "Little Theatre" on 11th January. He made a strong appeal for funds saying that the money would be used to appeal the cases of the Noranda strikers.

Tremendous applause greeted Tim Buck when he arose to speak. He dealt extensively with the history of the labour movement making special reference to the movement among the miners and lumber workers in Northern Ontario and Quebec.

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He said that the Noranda strike was the first general strike of the metal miners. He asserted that up to 1927 there were only a few branches of the Communist Party in existence throughout Northern Ontario and Quebec but today the party has many units functioning throughout that part of the country. There was a time, he said, when it was almost impossible to hold a meeting in any of the Northern mining towns but conditions are different today. He asserted that on his recent tour throughout Northern Ontario and Quebec hundreds of people met him at the station and cheerfully carried him to the city. Further, that the meetings he addressed were well attended, in fact, in some places the halls could not hold the audience. He explained how the lumber workers' strike originated in Northern Quebec and how the strikers remained solid even when threatened by the police. He also dealt extensively with the Noranda strike and the events leading up to it. He said today as a result of the strike 900 are without employment as they were replaced by 2,000 "scabs" who, being unskilled, are not able to perform the work done previously by the miners who have been locked out. He predicted that in a year from now these same miners in greater numbers will be fighting again. He alleged that the sentence handed out to the Noranda strikers marked the beginning of the Government's attack on the working class. In conclusion, he said that only a militant revolutionary mass will be able to better conditions and finally overthrow the Capitalist Government and establish a Soviet Government in its place.

The meeting ended with the singing of "The International" and three cheers for Tim Buck and three boos for Taschereau.

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## 2. Big F.S.U. Meeting in Vancouver

[✂#] One of the largest meetings ever sponsored by the Friends of the Soviet Union in Vancouver, B.C. was held in the Auditorium on Sunday, 13th January, to receive the reports of

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the three Vancouver delegates recently returned from the Soviet Union. Comrade Fox acted as Chairman and the attendance numbered approximately 3,000. Many persons were unable to gain admittance and to

take care of them an over flow meeting was held in the Eagles Hall. Members of the Workers Sports Association in their uniform were present in the Auditorium and the platform was decorated with a large, red banner on which were emblazoned the words "Defend the Soviet Union".

The three delegates, Tom Russell of the Vancouver and District Waterfront Workers Union, M. McKinnon of the Lumber Workers Industrial Union, and Pete Munro of the B.C. Electric Railway, painted a picture of a country where workers reign supreme; a country where the worker is honoured and the drone is dishonoured; where conditions of the workers are steadily being bettered and are now far ahead of those prevalent in Capitalistic countries; where there is no unemployment and there is plenty of money to spend.

Russell, in opening, extended greetings from the workers of the U.S.S.R. to the working class of Canada. He dealt particularly with conditions under which longshoremen in the Soviet Union were working and compared them with the conditions existing in Canada and the United States. In concluding, he emphasized the fact that affairs in the Soviet Union were being conducted for the good of the worker under the leadership of the Communist Party.

M. McKinnon described visits made by himself to various lumber camps in Northern Russia. There he found conditions to be much better than in Canada. He drew a glowing picture of life in the Soviet lumber camps stating that during the summer months there was no logging but the loggers' pay went on just the same. He found the peasants in the Ukraine very happy and contented saying that they were healthy and had plenty to eat contrary to the reports given in the Capitalist press.

Speaking of the Red Army in Russia he stated that he had witnessed the parade celebrating the 17th anniversary of the

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Russian Revolution. He said that the army paraded without arms, followed by thousands of workers from the factories who carried rifles. "You can imagine what would happen in this country", he said, "if a thing like that should happen--soldiers unarmed and workers with rifles. There would be a lot of politicians measured for overalls". McKinnon found no evidence of slave labour or starvation anywhere in Russia. In fact, he remarked that the opposite prevails, that everybody is well fed and happy.

Pete Munro spoke on the transportation system in Russia. He featured the transportation system of Moscow, particularly the subway system which is under construction now. He said that the children were in the best of health and had the best of care. He said that the Russian workers could not understand why the workers in other countries should starve when there

was plenty to eat. "Only Capitalist countries could be foolish enough to permit starvation in the midst of plenty", he said.

At the conclusion of the meeting an appeal for funds was made by Breffet, of the Friends of the Soviet Union, and the collection netted \$283.44.

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### 3. Enoch Williams and Tom Mountford in Winnipeg

[&#] The Friends of the Soviet Union in Winnipeg, Man., held a meeting in the Trades Hall on James Street, on 13th January, to receive the reports of Tom Mountford and Enoch Williams who returned with the delegation to the Soviet Union recently. Alderman Jacob Penner acted as Chairman and, in the course of his opening remarks, defended the Soviet Union against the slanderous remarks made against her.

Tom Mountford spoke first. He conveyed revolutionary greetings from the workers of the U.S.S.R. to the workers of Winnipeg. He said, "Not just complimentary greeting but greetings of revolution and struggle". He explained at length

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the trip from Canada to the U.S.S.R. and how much better they were treated on the Soviet ship than on the Canadian boat, how they were received in Leningrad, his trip through the factories, the collective farms and the various cities. He had much praise for the U.S.S.R. In comparing conditions in the Soviet Union with those in this country he at times broke in denouncing the Prime Minister of Canada and his Government for their treatment of the unemployed in Canada.

Enoch Williams was not quite as enthusiastic as T. Mountford. He spoke in a much broader sense outlining his visit to the mines, schools, prisons and recounted the great parade of troops and workers passing through the Red Square in Moscow. He asserted that a quarter of a million troops are stationed in and around Moscow, all armed. He said that in addition to the Red Army there is the workers' army, that every factory has an armoury and every worker is drilled and taught to use arms. Before leaving the U.S.S.R. they had promised that they would, on their return to Canada, work towards building up a socialist state to defend the workers against Capitalism and to defend the Soviet Union.

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#### 4. Canadian League Against War and Fascism

[3<#] A. A. McLeod, Chairman of the National Committee of the Canadian League Against War and Fascism, will begin a country-wide speaking tour shortly. The league is also planning to launch a campaign for funds with which to carry on the work against war and Fascism in Canada. The first edition of the league's official magazine "Fight" is now being prepared under the editorship of Fred Hodgson.

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[9]

### APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

#### I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

##### 5. M. Bruce and T. Buck Expected in B.C. Shortly

Malcolm Bruce has written to a friend in Vancouver saying that he [3<#] expects to be out in British Columbia again shortly in order to prepare for the forthcoming Federal election. He also expects that Tim Buck will be in Vancouver about the first week in February.

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[3<#] It is reported from Vancouver, B.C., that instructions are being given to the men returning to the relief camps in British Columbia to endeavour to get themselves "black listed". It is thought that if the Provincial or City authorities provide for men who are evicted from the camps all men in the camps should endeavour to get themselves sent away and thus the camps would be automatically shut down.

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[3<#] Members of the Street Railway Men's Union in Vancouver, B.C., cast their ballots on 8th January on the question of whether or not to accept a compromise of a 2½[cents] per hour increase offered by the company as against the 5[cents] demand by the union. The vote stood 711 in favour and 533 against accepting the offer of the company. The Communists and radicals in the union opposed the offer. The Communists, however, look upon the result of the vote as an indication of the growth of the revolutionary movement within this union.

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[3<#] Al Parkin, Editor of The Lumber Worker, left Vancouver, B.C., on 11th January for a tour of Vancouver Island for the purpose of establishing

correspondence for the paper. He is to meet McKinnon, one of the members of the delegation recently returned from the Soviet Union, in Nanaimo on the 18th and they will proceed together to Victoria taking in way points.

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[10]

George Drayton of Vancouver, B.C., has been appointed Editor of The B.C. Workers News. He has been relieved of all other duties so that he can devote all his attention to this paper. [3<#]deletion: 4 words] have been appointed as his assistants. The District Bureau of the Communist Party in [3<#] Vancouver has sent a directive to the press unit instructing them to use the same apparatus in the distribution of this new paper as they are now using in the Toronto Worker.

[3<#] The first issue of this paper is scheduled to appear on 18th January. The campaign for this paper, which started in April of last year, netted the sum of \$653.24.

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## II. ALBERTA

### 6. Mass Meeting of Relief Workers in Calgary

[3<#] A mass meeting of relief workers took place at the Victoria Pavilion, Calgary, Alta., in the afternoon of 13th January. The hall was packed to capacity, and Tom Betteridge, Mrs. Whitman, F. Peat and one named Burgess were the speakers.

Tom Betteridge spoke on the Noranda strike and presented a resolution protesting the imprisonment and contemplated deportation of the strikers.

Mrs. Whitman gave a talk on the relief situation and criticized Prime Minister Bennett and his relief policy. She appealed to all women on relief to join some organization, to fight for better living conditions for themselves and children.

F. Peat criticized Colonel Sanders and informed the meeting that he had told Colonel Sanders what he thought of him and that Colonel Sanders had taken it. He advocated a picket line along militant lines that would be capable of picketing places effectively. He maintained that if the police do not start any trouble there would not be any but if it was necessary they would defend themselves at all costs.

Burgess, of The Alberta newspaper, spoke on behalf of the strikers at this plant stating that at present they were able

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to picket the job themselves.

In the course of the evening another meeting was held at the Laurendeau Hall with George Moore in the chair. Kid Burns (McDonald), the first speaker, gave a short talk on the strike. He maintained that there were 1,200 men being prepared for strike duty.

John Stokaluk also spoke explaining the Trades and Industry Act of Alberta. He maintained that it was an Act to still further down the working class and to facilitate the speeding up of industry at the expense of the working class.

L. Anderson, the last speaker, spoke on the coming Dominion and Provincial elections and explained how the Communists would manage affairs when taking over power. He hinted that Pat Lenihan would run in the Provincial election.

Several relief recipients working at the Tuxedo Park were attacked on the night of 10th January while flooring the rink. It appears that about 20 strikers attacked an old man aged 50, dragged him off the ice and maltreated him, leaving him lying on the ground. Charges of "assault" are being laid against some of the strikers, amongst whom was Murdoch Clark.

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[3<#] Two meetings were held in Calgary, Alta., to receive the reports of T. Munro and P. Russell, members of the delegation to the Soviet Union, on the night of 7th January. The meetings were held under the auspices of the Workers Unity League in the Unemployed Married men's hall.

T. Munro spoke in the upper hall and Russell in the lower. Both eulogized Soviet Russia, particularly the Red Army which, they claimed, was 20 million strong.

Both meetings were well attended.

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[3<#] The Provincial Unemployed Council at Calgary, Alta. has called a Provincial Unemployed Delegate Conference to be held in Calgary on 19th and 20th January. The purpose of this conference is to reorganize the Provincial Unemployed Council

[12]

and elect delegates for the Ottawa (Ont.) Unemployed Congress.

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The Edmonton (Alta.) Unemployed Married Men's Association, Central Branch, met on 5th January and elected a slate of officers for the ensuing year. The slate, which was proposed by the Communist fraction

[X#] and unanimously endorsed by the meeting, included the following persons:-

President  
 Vice-President  
 General Secretary  
 Secretary Treasurer  
 Recording Secretary  
 Chairman of Grievance Committee  
 Chairman of Educational Committee  
 Social Chairman  
 Chairman of Investigation Committee

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### III. SASKATCHEWAN

#### 7. Notes

[X#] It is reported from Estevan, Sask., that an attempt is being made to organize all the miners in the Estevan and Bienfait District to join the Mine Workers Union of Canada. The ultimate aim will probably be to merge this organization with the Miners Federation of Canada.

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[X#] [Xdeletion: name] arrived in the Bienfait (Sask.) District recently to organize on behalf of the Young Communist League and the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association.

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[X#] A meeting of unemployed held in Saskatoon, Sask., on 2nd January elected the following delegates to attend the Provincial Unemployed Conference to be held in Regina on 20th January:-

[13]

- Fraternal & Protective Association
- Unemployed Ex-Service Men's Association
- Nutana Welfare Ass'n.
- Saskatoon Workers Ass'n.

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[X#]

About 350 persons attended a meeting of the Friends of the Soviet Union held in McIntyre's Rose Room, Moose Jaw, Sask., on 5th January. P.C. Munro, recently returned from the Soviet Union, was the principal speaker.

Mrs. F. Bowes and George Ford also spoke briefly eulogizing the Soviet Union.

P. C. Munro gave a concise resume of conditions in Soviet Russia. He stated that he would prefer living in Canada if Canada was a Soviet State.

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#### IV. MANITOBA

##### 8. Isidore Minster and the W.U.L., Winnipeg

[✂#] Isidore Minster is now actively engaged in reorganizing the Workers Unity League in Winnipeg, Man. He is investigating conditions in garment factories to see what can be done when the busy season opens. On 16th January he addressed a meeting of the Needle Trades Union at the Liberty Temple.

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[✂#] The Young Communist League in Winnipeg, Man., together with the Progressive Arts Club and the Workers Sports Association staged a concert meeting at the Ukrainian Labour Temple on the night of 15th January to commemorate the death of Lenin, Liebnicht and Luxemburg. The program consisted of acrobatics by the Sports Association, recitations by the Pioneers and Progressive Arts Club, and an anti-war scene staged by a group of seven members of the latter.

Two speakers addressed the meeting, one a young man named Bill Litvin who described the life and work of the above named three revolutionary leaders, and Harry Binder who urged

[14]

the audience to follow the example of Lenin, Liebnicht and Luxemburg.

The concert was conducted by D. Rosen who appealed for the support of The Young Worker, chief organ of the Young Communist League.

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[✂#] The Communists in Winnipeg, Man., are now making a strong effort to get the unemployed single men to join the ranks of the Single Unemployed Men's Protective Association. Jacob Penner and M. J. Forkin, Communist Aldermen, recently visited the Water Street Dining Hall and published information that conditions were very unsanitary, that there was insufficient bedding and the food was unpalatable. This visit was made for propaganda purposes and to draw the unemployed into the organization. It

is anticipated that before very long all transient single men will be members of this organization. It is proposed to bring sufficient single men into the city and, when they have gathered in sufficient numbers, to put on a demonstration which will make the authorities sit up and take notice.

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[&#] A summary of the financial statement of the Workers Benevolent Association for the fourth quarter, 1st October -- 31st December, 1934, as published in the 10th January, 1935 edition of the Ukrainian Labour News, reads as follows:-

Total income	\$15,281.28
" expenses	<u>11,206.83</u>
Cash on hand	<u>\$ 4,074.45</u>
Cash at end of 1934	<u>\$96,468.85</u>

The total cash on hand at the end of 1934 shows an increase of \$13,064.70 over the previous year.

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[&#] Boulter, a Communist candidate in the recent Civic elections in Port Arthur, Ont., received 741 votes. This is an increase of 100 over last year. The increase is considered by the Communists a distinct gain and a straight Communist vote for

[15]

last year Boulter ran as a Labour candidate, while this year he ran as a Communist.

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[&#] Charles Stewart, recently appointed Secretary of the District Council of the Canadian Labour Defence League at Port Arthur, Ont., was the principal speaker at a meeting of the Unemployed Protective Association in the Ukrainian Labour Temple at Fort William, Ont., on 10th January. He urged the unemployed to refuse to go to work in the relief camps for \$5 a month. He further urged that the railway stations be picketed in order to prevent unemployed workers leaving town for the camps. The meeting was attended by about 400 people, and speeches were also given by D. Rybak and R. Skutka.

[&#] On 12th January a demonstration was staged at the Canadian National Railway station, Fort William, against the shipment of a number of unemployed men to the Government relief camp at Sioux Lookout. The police, using their batons freely, succeeded in dispersing the demon-

strations. Many were injured and three demonstrators -- Tony Plakin, Ludvik Kisiel and Frank Tumens -- were arrested.

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## V. ONTARIO

### 9. Unemployment Insurance Congress Postponed

[X#] The Unemployment Insurance Congress has been postponed from 3rd to 17th February. According to an announcement made by E. Humphries of the National Unemployed Council, this two weeks' postponement was necessary in order to give the local and Provincial Councils more time to make the proper preparations.

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[X#] In order to off-set the counter-revolutionary and anti-Soviet Russia propaganda, which is being spread by some of the Finnish workers who have returned from Soviet Karelia, the Finnish Organization of Canada has instituted a campaign with the object in view of sending a delegation to Soviet Karelia.

[16]

The delegation will consists of five workers, the majority of whom will be drafted from the lumber industry. It is to leave Canada in time to arrive in Soviet Karelia during the early part of next March. After studying conditions in Karelia the delegates will return to Canada and inform the Canadian workers regarding the conditions there. In order to finance this trip the Finnish Organization of Canada is collecting \$1,000.00.

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[X#] [Xdeletion: 2 words] prominent Workers Unity League Organizer, is now in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., to act as Communist Party Organizer for that district. He will be known as the representative of the Steel and Metal Workers Industrial Union for the Sault Ste. Marie District.

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[X#] A joint meeting of the Executive Committees of the Ukrainian mass organization of Ottawa, Ont., on 14th January, elected a committee of three -- [Xdeletion: 3 names] -- to make the necessary preparations for the coming Ottawa Congress on Unemployment.

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[X#] [Xdeletion: 3 lines]

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[#] The Lithuanian Communist paper Darbininku Zodis, in its 11th January, 1935 issue, announces the official result of the drive conducted on behalf of this paper. It states that a total of \$1,464.80 has been collected and 264 new subscribers. The paper is now issued once a week.

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## VI. QUEBEC

### 10. Death of Paul Delisle

[#] Paul Delisle, a member of the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party of Canada and local leader of

[17]

the Communist Party in Montreal, particularly among the French workers, died in the Royal Victoria Hospital, Montreal, Que., on 13th January, 1935. The funeral took place on the afternoon of 15th January. A crowd of about 2,500 attended the funeral. Among the pall bearers were Tim Buck, Sam Carr and Fred Rose.

Brief, Communist funeral orations were given by Rose, Buck, Carr and others in front of the Crematories in the cemetery ground. Buck stated that he represented the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Canada, of which Paul Delisle was a member. All speakers praised the deceased highly for the part he played in the revolutionary movement.

His death will prove a great loss to the Communist Party as he was the recognized leader of the movement among the French-Canadians. He spent 14 months studying in Moscow in 1933-4.

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[#] Sam Carr was the principal speaker at a meeting held under the auspices of the Rosemount Tenants League, Montreal, Que., on 11th January. His speech was largely an attack on the Right Honourable R. B. Bennett, Premier Taschereau and Mayor Houde. He severely criticized Mr. Bennett's "reform policy". He asked how Premier Bennett could be expected to attack Capitalism when he was on the Directorate of over 100 companies. He stated that Mr. Bennett was the second largest shareholder in the Royal Bank of Canada and that during the last four years Mr. Bennett had made over 13 million dollars from investments.

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[X#] The District Central Council of the Canadian Labour Defence League in Montreal, Que., met on 12th January. [Xdeletion: name] reported on his visit to Ottawa and on the Tim Buck meeting.

Among the many items under discussion was a letter from the National Office at Toronto asking the Montreal District to visit [Xdeletion: name], and ask him whether he would undertake to handle the Noranda cases together with [Xdeletion: name]

[18]

It was decided that [Xdeletion: name] visit [Xdeletion: name] and solicit his help.

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## VII. THE MARITIME PROVINCES

### 11. Mass Meeting in Sydney, N.S.

[X#] Approximately 150 people attended a mass meeting in the Casino Theatre, Sydney, N.S., on 13th January to hear M.A. McKenzie, steel worker delegate recently returned from the Soviet Union. George McEachern acted as Chairman.

Dan McKay spoke for about 30 minutes condemning the present Capitalist system in Canada which, he alleged, forces the workers to suffer and starve in the midst of plenty. He stressed the need of unity and organization of the working class before they can commence to fight the master class.

M. A. McKenzie spoke for about two hours answering questions which had been placed before him before he went to Russia. The questions related chiefly to the working and living conditions of the workers in the U.S.S.R. He quoted statistics showing the increase in wages and in production in an endeavour to show that the workers in Soviet Russia not only earn more money but are far better off in every respect than the workers in Capitalist countries. In conclusion, he urged the steel workers of Sydney to organize and fight "Dosco" for increased wages and better working conditions.

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