

## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa,  
13th February, 1935.

**SECRET**NO. 744WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATORS IN CANADAReport

The Conference on Unemployment Insurance is due to open in Ottawa on 17th February. The Civic authorities have agreed to allow Tim Buck to speak in the Coliseum on 16th or 18th February.

The strike among the miners at Springhill, N.S., has been settled. All the local miners, except four, have joined the United Mine Workers of America Union and work has been resumed.

The Communist Council at Blairmore, Alta., has been re-elected en bloc.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERALI. Tim Buck(a) At Windsor

[3<#] The Communist Party at Windsor, Ont., held a mass meeting in the Empire Theatre on the evening of 2nd February, with Tim Buck as the principal speaker. The 800 people who were in attendance filled the theatre to capacity. Loud speakers were installed at the entrance thus making it possible to hear the address for some distance outside the theatre. Tom Raycraft acted as Chairman and the preliminary speakers were George Ketcheson, representing the Young Communist League; Mrs. Georgina Ketcheson, representing the Communist women of the Border Cities; A. Seal, of the Canadian Labour Defence League; Sam Scarlett, of Toronto, who is now in the Border Cities doing campaign work for the Communist Party; and Messrs. Spence, Emory, Cochrane and Newbury who represented various unemployed groups. These speakers each confined themselves to a time limit of 10 minutes and their speeches were in the nature of a welcome to Tim Buck.

Tim Buck spoke for the better part of two hours. He opened his speech by criticizing the Prime Minister, Mr. R. B. Bennett, and his "reform policy". He termed the Unemployment Insurance Bill sponsored by the Canadian Government as a fake. He said that it was purely a Capitalist measure and assured the audience that the Communist Party would fight to have a non-contributory insurance established. Speaking of the activities of the Communist Party and its status Buck said, "Bennett, Guthrie, MacBrien, Price and Draper and all the heads of Capitalism can declare that we are illegal until they are black in the face but we will not stay underground". He also exhibited a bullet which he said he had dug out of the wall of his cell. He asserted that they attempted to shoot him and remarked, "I'm telling you this to show you what a political prisoner is up against in a Capitalist jail". He said that he

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and his comrades were released from Kingston Penitentiary solely because of the mass pressure brought to bear by the working class of Canada.

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(b) At Kitchener

[3<#] Tim Buck addressed a well attended meeting in the Market Building at Kitchener, Ont., on the night of 31st January. This was Tim Buck's first visit to this city since his release from Kingston Penitentiary. The meeting

was held under the auspices of the Kitchener Section of the Communist Party of Canada. One of the features of this mass meeting was the presence of a section of 50 Young Pioneers and also the Kitchener Unemployed Association.

Buck's speech was largely an attack upon the "reform policies" of the Prime Minister of Canada. Buck also sounded a call for unity of all workers for non-contributory unemployment insurance.

A local representative made a strong appeal on behalf of the Communist Party to the workers present to join the ranks of the Communist Party. It has been reported since that as a result of his appeal five new members have been taken into the Party.

Following the mass meeting a reception was given for Tim Buck attended by approximately 100 people.

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## 2. Malcolm Bruce in Regina

[9<#] Malcolm Bruce addressed a rather enthusiastic gathering of about 300 people in the Unity Centre, Headquarters of the Regina Union of Unemployed at Regina, Sask., on 3rd February. He severely criticized the Canadian Government, particularly the Prime Minister, on their attitude towards the unemployed. He warned the audience to beware of what lay behind the Unemployed Insurance Bill as sponsored by the Government. He

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called it a fake and maintained that it was the first step on the road to Fascism. He also condemned the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation leaders for supporting the Government in that respect. A considerable portion of his speech was devoted to what he termed the spread of Fascism in Canada and the dangers arising therefrom. He predicted a Fascist Government for Canada in the near future which, he said, will have the support of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation leaders.

Bruce remarked that he was on his way to Vancouver and that he would endeavour to take in Calgary and Regina on his return to the east. He said that he has to be in Ottawa to attend the Unemployment Insurance Congress.

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### 3. Winnipeg Council Favours Non-Contributory

#### Unemployment Insurance

[3<#] The Winnipeg (Man.) City Council went on record as favouring non-contributory unemployment insurance after a hectic debate lasting over an hour at a recent Council meeting. The motion was sponsored by the two Communist Aldermen Jacob Penner and M. J. Forkin and were supported in their fight by all the Independent Labour Party Aldermen except Alderman Lowe who stated that he had to vote against the motion because the Central Committee of his organization had consistently advocated a contributory type. He remarked, however, that he was sorry he had to do so. The deciding vote was cast by the Acting-Mayor Blumberg, also an Independent Labour Party representative. The Communists seem quite elated over this victory.

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### 4. C.P. of C. and C.C.F. Hold Joint Meeting

[3<#] An audience which filled the Colonial Theatre in Vancouver, B.C., on the night of 27th January listened to a battery of speakers from the Communist Party of Canada and the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation in a United Front meeting protesting the disfranchisement of the relief camp workers.

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Sam Shearer acted as Chairman.

The first speaker was a youth by the name of Gabriel, representing the Young Socialist League. He alleged that the disfranchisement of relief camp workers had been brought by the Prime Minister, Mr. R. B. Bennett.

Tom Shaw, of the Single Unemployed Men's Protective Association, representing the camp workers, reported that 18 men had arrived in town from De Roche Camp as the result of poor conditions there. He further reported that the number of men of the National Defence relief camps throughout British Columbia totalled over 7,400. "Many people think", he said, "that the camp workers lost out in the last strike but do not realize that each man went back as an organizer and time will tell".

George Drayton brought greetings from the Communist Party and lauded the United Front formed by the Communist Party and the Socialist Party.

A. M. Stephen, of the Socialist Party of Canada, introduced a resolution demanding the repeal of the disfranchisement clause in the Federal Election

Act. The resolution was passed unanimously and ordered to be sent to the Prime Minister at Ottawa.

E. Winch, M.L.A., representing the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, spoke on the need of a United Front in order to have the relief camp workers enfranchised.

McKendrick, representing the Canadian Labour Defence League, made an appeal on behalf of his organization. He urged that all workers' organizations join the United Front.

The meeting terminated with the singing of the "Red Flag".

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### 5. Congress on Unemployment Insurance

[3<#] Recent reports would indicate that delegates have been appointed at all the important points throughout Canada to attend the forthcoming Congress on Unemployment Insurance which will open in Ottawa, Ont., on 17th February. While the

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representation from Western Canada will be confined to one or two delegates from each city, the representation from Eastern Canada will be quite heavy.

The Worker for 9th February announces the Agenda of this congress. It reads as follows:-

#### FIRST GENERAL SESSION

SUNDAY, FEB. 17

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Speech of welcome by Ottawa Conference--30 minutes.

Election of Chairman.

Presentation of Agenda and Rules.

Election of Committees. (a) Resolution Committee of 15; (b) Credentials Committee of 5; (c) Ways and Means Committee of 15.

2.30 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Report by Ewart G. Humphreys, National Executive Secretary on "Social and Unemployment Insurance, the Purpose of this Congress".

Sub-sessions of Trade Unions, Unemployed Organizations, Farmers, Women, Children, Youth, Professionals, Churches.

8 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Trade Union and other speakers on subject of insurance and greetings.

## SECOND GENERAL SESSION

MONDAY, FEB. 18

10 a.m. to 12 noon

Reports on Unemployment and Social Insurance, by leaders of sub-sessions which met day before. 30 minutes each.

1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Discussions of main report and of sub reports on Unemployment and Social Insurance. One and half hours.

Election of delegation to visit government.

8 p.m. to 10.30 p.m.

Report of delegation to government.

Report of Credentials Committee.

## THIRD GENERAL SESSION

TUESDAY, FEB. 19

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Organizational report of National Unemployment Council and discussion of this report.

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4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Financial report of N.U.C. by Ruth Bader and J.W. Philpott.

Election of National Council.

Adoption of Program of Action.

Adjournment.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCESI. BRITISH COLUMBIA6. Returned Delegates at E.S.U. Meeting

[9<#] Tom Russell, Pete Munro and Mack McKinnon were the speakers at a meeting held under the auspices of the Friends of the Soviet Union in Vancouver, B.C., in the Moose Hall on 29th January. The meeting opened as usual with the singing of "The International". The meeting, which was attended by approximately 1,700 persons, was presided over by Breffet of

the Friends of the Soviet Union who made an appeal for funds to held to defray the expenses of the delegates' tour of the province.

Russell's speech consisted mainly of an attack on Mr. J. W. de B. Farris' speech given at the annual banquet of the Vancouver Board of Trade on 18th January. Russell thought it a curious thing that Mr. Farris should make a speech belittling the U.S.S.R. just after the delegates had returned from that country.

Pete Munro also spoke in an antagonistic manner of Mr. Farris' speech charging that he represented the interests of the Capitalist class and therefore could not be taken very seriously by the working class. Munro recounted his visit to Moscow and depicted the grand march of the Soviet Army and armed workers on the occasion of the 7th November celebration in the Red Square in Moscow.

McKinnon issued a challenge to Mr. Farris to debate with him at any time that it could be mutually arranged. He spoke on trade unionism and social insurance in the Soviet Union. Generally speaking, he painted a glowing picture of Russia under Communist Rule.

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[\*#] The Vancouver (B.C.) Branch of the Canadian Labour Defence League held a meeting at 122A Hastings Street on 29th January. Alexander Kinlock acted as Chairman; the subject under discussion being the alleged frame-up of one Macaulay, a relief

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camp worker from the interior of the province.

A man named Wallace, speaking on behalf of the Relief Camp Workers Union, contended that conditions in the relief camps were considerably worse than before the strike. He said that unless something was done soon the camp workers would all be forced to come back into the city.

Macaulay, who stated that he was a relief camp worker from Camp 441, Princeton, B.C., announced that he had recently been released on a \$6,000 bail which had been put up by the Canadian Labour Defence League. He then proceeded to relate his arrest and the alleged brutal treatment which he received from the British Columbia Provincial Police. He alleged that he was brutally beaten by two members of the said Police Force for the sole reason that he distributed working class literature in the camp.

The third and last speaker, McKendrick, dwelt on the tactics allegedly used by the authorities in connection with the Macaulay case. He said that the tactics were the same as those employed in the Arthur Evans' case. He then went on to relate the active part the Canadian Labour Defence League

played in this case by raising this large amount of bail and hiring a counsel to defend Macaulay.

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## II. ALBERTA

### 7. Communists All Re-Elected at Blairmore

[✂#] The revolutionary slate for all Civic offices in the Town of Blairmore, Alta., was returned by acclamation. Thus the Red Mayor, William Knight, is re-elected, J. Aschader, J. Krokosky, A. Olson, Jr., are returned to the Town Council, S. Patterson, A. Bosetti and the first women's candidate, Mrs. Bazille, are returned to the School Board.

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Tom Mountford and E. Williams, two of the delegates returned from the Soviet Union recently, arrived in Edmonton, Alta., on 25th January and [✂#] spoke at a meeting in the King Edward Park Community League Hall on the same evening.

They also addressed a mass meeting held under the auspices of the Friends of the Soviet Union on the evening of 27th January in the Gem Theatre. The latter was attended by approximately 400 people with Dr. F. Crang in the chair; their speeches being for the most part a repetition of their remarks made on previous occasions.

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[✂#] The Edmonton (Alta.) Section of the Canadian League Against War and Fascism held a conference at the Masonic Temple on 24th January. There were 53 delegates present representing 40 local organizations. The various reports submitted stressed the need for further organization work in the city with a view to forming a number of branches of this league in the Edmonton District.

Speeches were given by J. Lakeman, H. Johnson and J. Nicholson dealing with conditions in the relief camps. These speakers appealed to the delegates to submit protest resolutions to the Premier of Alberta and the Chairman of the Provincial Relief Commission.

The Reverend Carl Storm gave a talk on war and Fascism.

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[✂#] A meeting of the Central Branch of the Unemployed Married Men's Association of Edmonton, Alta., held on 26th January voted unanimously

for non-contributory unemployment insurance. The principal speakers sponsoring the adoption of this resolution were O. C. Doolan and J. Lakeman.

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### III. MANITOBA

#### 8. Professor Charles Kuntz

Professor Charles Kuntz addressed a public meeting in the Peretz Hall at Winnipeg, Man., on 29th January. The meeting, which was held under [S<#] the auspices of the local branch of "Icor", was well attended, in fact, hundreds of persons had to be turned away on account of lack of accommodation. Biro-Bidjan and the progress made by the Jewish colony in that part of the Soviet Union formed the subject of his lecture. The Jewish colony, which now numbers approximately 40,000 souls, is a very prosperous one, he asserted. There are automobile roads and the colony is equipped with the most up-to-date tractors, combines and other agricultural machinery, and the thousands of acres of land which comprise this colony abound in grain, live stock and bees. He said that the Jews there have lost their national clanishness and have welcomed into their midst people of other racial origin with whom they live like brothers. The lecturer said that the U.S.S.R. was challenging the whole world and was progressing in socialist construction by leaps and bounds.

During the meeting a large amount of Communist literature was circulated and sold. The Peretz Hall, known as the Independent Labour Party centre among the Jewish element in the north end of Winnipeg, has never permitted the sale of Communist literature hitherto. It was surprising, therefore, to see Communist literature sold freely at this meeting.

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[S<#] The Manitoba Unemployed Association held a general meeting at 130 Princess St., Winnipeg, Man., on 5th February. Heated discussion and arguments marked the proceedings. It was a fight between the radical and the moderate elements but the outcome of the meeting showed beyond doubt that the radicals are in control of the organization.

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## IV. ONTARIO

9. Women's Section, League Against War & Fascism

The Women's Section of the Canadian League Against War and Fascism at Toronto, Ont., held a mass meeting on 1st February in the Oddfellows Hall. Mrs. Celentin M. Barr, of Milwaukee, Wis., U.S.A., a delegate [3<#] to the Paris Congress Against War and Fascism, and who spent some time in Germany investigating conditions in the so-called concentration camps, was the principal speaker. A. A. McLeod and Mrs. E. Morton, the latter also a delegate to the Paris Congress, also spoke.

Mrs. Barr's speech was typically anti-war. She claimed that war was an uncivilized method of solving international problems and urged the women to refuse to give their sons for the next war. Speaking on Germany she contended that Germany went Fascist because of the German Socialists, intellectuals and other organizations embracing the middle class people were afraid to unite with the Communists. She warned against a repetition of such a step in Canada and pleaded generally for unity in the struggle against war and Fascism.

A. A. McLeod, Chairman of the National Committee Against War and Fascism, denounced Prime Minister R. B. Bennett's "reform policies", stating that his Unemployment Insurance Bill will pauperize the Canadian people, that these reforms were intended to catch votes. He also warned the audience of Fascism *not so much dressed up in brown, blue and black shirts but Fascism expressed in Parliament*. He said that if the Opposition leader, Mr. McKenzie King, were in power he, too, would follow the Fascist Line.

The speeches were well received by the audience, numbering about 500 people.

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[3<#] The Noranda Flin Flon Defence Committee of the Canadian Labour Defence League at Hamilton, Ont., held a mass meeting in the Auditorium of the Hamilton Labour Temple on 3rd

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February. About 300 people attended, with E. Smith in the chair.

The chief speaker was Tom Ewen. He spoke at great length on the conditions of the Noranda and Flin Flon mines, stating that he, personally, was brought in touch with the conditions under which the workers have to live in those mines. He asserted that the Noranda miners came out on strike against lack of safety devices, speed-up and intolerable working conditions generally. He said because these miners had demanded better working conditions the bosses made brutal attacks on them and through the courts

a number of them were sentenced to imprisonment and recommended for deportation.

The meeting was also addressed by Bob Rowatt, prominent Co-operative Commonwealth Federation member of Hamilton, who spoke for about 10 minutes asking the members of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation to aid the miners; J. Fred Reed, who spoke along similar lines; and Sam Lawrence, M.L.A. for East Hamilton, who spoke for about 20 minutes on matters pertaining to city relief and what the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation is doing for the down-trodden foreigners.

The meeting closed with the singing of "The International".

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[#] Professor Charles Kuntz addressed a public meeting under the auspices of "Icor" at 450 Spadina Ave., Toronto, Ont., on 3rd February; his subject being "The Soviet Biro-Bidjan". On the whole his speech was a repetition of the lectures given in Winnipeg and Vancouver. He praised Biro-Bidjan as the best place for Jewish people to live. His lecture was well received by the 500 people who attended.

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#### V. QUEBEC

[#] 10 [deletion: 2 words] Meetings Yield Profit

[deletion: name] recently stated that 1,150 tickets were sold for the [deletion: 2 words] meeting which took place in the Windsor Hotel, Montreal, Que., on 22nd January. The Saturday Night club which sponsored the meeting made a net profit of approximately \$300. [deletion: 2 words] received \$200 for the lecture. A substantial part of the net earnings will be donated to the Communist Party [deletion: 3 words] said and the rest will be kept to further the anti-Fascist and anti-war work in Montreal. The Saturday Night Club, which now meets semi-monthly in the Central Young Men's Christian Association Hall, Drummond Street, has practically assumed the leadership of the anti-Fascist and anti-war campaign and is making considerable progress in the building up of a United Front on this issue.

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[X#] [Xdeletion: 1/2 line] of the Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union, arrived in Montreal, Que., on 28th January. He is to remain there for about one week. The purpose of his visit is to reorganize the active members in his union in preparation for the coming needle trades season. In a discussion with [Xdeletion: line] stated that it has been decided to have two paid French Organizers in the dressmakers' field. A woman named [Xdeletion: name] has been selected for one of the positions at a salary of \$15 per week which has been guaranteed by the Toronto Office. [Xdeletion: 3/4 line] in Montreal at a salary of not less than \$10 per week which has also been guaranteed by the National Office. No definite salary has been fixed for [Xdeletion: 1/2 line] in the French field at the present time.

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