

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa,

20th February, 1935.

SECRETNO. 745WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATORS IN CANADAReport

The Congress on Unemployment Insurance assembled in Ottawa on 17th February. Fourteen delegates from this congress interviewed the Prime Minister on 18th instant.

Tim Buck addressed an audience estimated at between four and five thousand in the Coliseum in Ottawa on 18th February. It is reported today that the collection amounted to only \$125, which will leave promoters with a deficit of \$75.

[~~deletion: 1 1/2 lines~~] A statement has appeared in the press that Buck will be a candidate in North Winnipeg Constituency at the forthcoming Dominion election.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL**1. Speeches by Tim Buck****(a) In Niagara Falls**

[deletion] Tim Buck addressed an audience of over 1,200 people in the Prince of Wales Hall, Niagara Falls, Ont., on the evening of 11th February. The meeting was held under the auspices of the unemployed of Niagara Falls and vicinity, and presided over by W.E. Lear of Stamford. In opening the meeting the Chairman explained to the audience that the terms under which the hall had been hired stipulated that the meeting be opened by the playing of "God Save The King". The National Anthem was then played by an orchestra in attendance but was very coldly received by the audience. This was followed by "The International" which was sung with considerable enthusiasm.

Tim Buck, upon being introduced by the Chairman, was loudly applauded. Following an appeal for funds which netted over \$160, he spoke on his life in Kingston Penitentiary. He said that he was not arrested and convicted because of what he had said but because the program of the Communist Party of Canada contemplates violence. He stressed the necessity for unity among the workers, employed and unemployed, and attributed his release from prison entirely to the pressure applied by the working class. He outlined the progress made by the Communist Party since its inception and compared his audiences of the day with those of 10 years ago. He said that the progress was particularly noticeable in the Province of Quebec. He derided the Prime Minister's solicitude toward the welfare of the unemployed as a shame saying that the proposed unemployment insurance has been devised solely in the interests of the industrialists. Referring to the shooting affair at Kingston he said that it was a murderous

attempt on his life. He exhibited what he claimed were bullets dug from the wall of his prison cell.

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The audience was drawn largely from the local foreign elements although many of those present were of British origin. The meeting broke up in an orderly manner.

(b) In Hamilton

[3<#] The Communists of Hamilton, Ont., officially welcomed Tim Buck to that city at a mass meeting held on 10th February in the Alexander Academy. The meeting was held under the auspices of the Communist Party of Canada and signalled the opening of the Communist Party of Canada Federal election campaign in this city. The chair was occupied by James Beatie and the meeting opened with the singing of the "Red Flag" by the audience numbering approximately 2,500. Conspicuous among the audience were about 150 members of the Young Pioneers decked out in red berets and red blouses. These children made themselves conspicuous by the rendering of the various Pioneer War Cries.

David Arnott, of the Hamilton Section of the Communist Party, spoke for about 15 minutes extending greetings to Tim Buck and stating that the Communist Party in Hamilton has made considerable progress during the past year or so.

Peter Boychuk, representing the Hamilton Section of the Young Communist League, also spoke extending greetings to Tim Buck on behalf of his organization. He gave a brief outline of the activities of the Young Communist League in this district and called on all young workers to join the league.

Speaking through a microphone Tim Buck first of all thanked the Hamilton Communists and workers for the welcome extended to him. He remarked that when he last spoke in Hamilton in 1928, 200 people attended his meeting. The fact that there were over 2,000 people present at this meeting, he said, was an example of the growth of Communism. Commenting on the two years and nine months he had served in the penitentiary Buck declared that "Bennett and Price and that gang of

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parasites had done the Party more good than harm". He declared that the release of himself and his comrades from Kingston Penitentiary had not been the result of a change of policy on the part of Mr. Bennett but was the

result of the mass pressure brought to bear by the Canadian working class. Commenting on the "reform program" of the Prime Minister he stated that it was a change from the iron heel to soft soap and that the proposed Unemployment Insurance Bill was merely an attempt to shift the cost of relief from the shoulders of the Government to the low wage earning workers. A great part of his time was devoted to exposition of Fascism in Europe and its manifestation in Canada. He asserted that he took no part in the riots in Kingston Penitentiary but was shot at 11 times. In conclusion he urged the workers to press on towards victory under Karl Marx' slogan, "Workers of the world unite, you have nothing to lose but your chains!"

The collection taken at this meeting amounted to \$221 leaving a net profit of approximately \$100. It was announced at this meeting that David Arnott would be the standard bearer of the Communist Party in the forthcoming Federal elections for the Hamilton Riding.

(c) In Toronto

[9<#] Tim Buck addressed a mass meeting held under the auspices of the Noranda Farber Defence Committee at Toronto, Ont., in the Labour Lyceum, 346 Spadina Avenue on 13th February. About 500 people attended.

Tim Buck dwelt mostly on the conditions under which the miners at Noranda have to work, describing same as being the worst in North America. He attacked the Government for permitting the Royal Canadian Air Force and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to co-operate with the Noranda and Flin Flon Mining Companies. He had great praise for the courage and militancy shown by the striking miners. Referring to the

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"reform policies" of Mr. Bennett he said that these reforms contain the same promises that Hitler and Mussolini made in their countries. Mr. Bennett, he explained, asks the bankers to give him more power and he will crush the workers' organizations. Speaking of war and Fascism he remarked that the Government is foolish to train the workers for war and to give them guns because, he said, the workers might use them against the war makers.

Buck's speech was well received but financially the meeting was a failure as only \$71 were collected in spite of repeated appeal to raise the sum to \$100.

2. Malcolm Bruce Speaks in Edmonton

[9<#] Malcolm Bruce was the principal speaker at a meeting held under the auspices of the Communist Party in the Masonic Temple at Edmonton, Alta., on 6th February. In the course of his speech Bruce severely criticized the Capitalist class and the present economic conditions in general. He condemned Prime Minister R. B. Bennett as well as J. S. Woodsworth and other reformist leaders. In regard to Mr. Bennett he said that his Unemployment Insurance Bill is the most vicious piece of legislation ever proposed and that it was nothing but direct robbery and blunder of the masses to safe-guard the interests of big finance. He asserted that it was discriminating against young boys and girls and women. The Right Honourable J. Ramsay MacDonald, Prime Minister of Great Britain, also came in for his share of criticism. Bruce charged that he is sponsoring a policy which is also robbing the workers. Regarding Mr. Woodsworth and other reformist leaders Bruce said that they were out to deceive the workers. The Communist Party will lead and guide the workers and will bring about speedy mass action, Bruce contended. The speaker also condemned all those who have and are criticizing the Soviet Government and the Communist Party. He lauded the

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efforts made by Soviet Russia to increase their defensive forces. The Red Army, he said, was ready to defend the workers not only of the fatherland but is ready to defend the interests of the workers all over the world. He urged the audience to read more Communist Party literature and made a strong appeal on behalf of The Worker. He also appealed to the audience for moral and financial support in the coming struggle for the overthrow of the present system and for the establishment of a Soviet system in Canada.

The meeting was also addressed briefly by the Chairman--J. Lakeman--and O. C. Doolan. Lakeman announced that a local Communist Party election campaign is being conducted and that broadcasts would be given over the radio every first and third Monday each month at 6.45 P.M. He also announced that meetings similar to this one will be held each week, the place and the date to be announced later.

O. C. Doolan pointed out that the Russian workers secured power only after the overthrow of the Capitalist system by mass action. Canadian workers, he said, must follow this course which, he said, was the only method to arrive at the final emancipation of the working class.

3. The F.S.U. in Vancouver

[3<#] The Friends of the Soviet Union in Vancouver, B.C., held a meeting at 710 David Street on 10th February. The speaker of the evening was Pete Munro, one of the delegates recently returned from the Soviet Union. Munro openly attacked Mr. J.W. de B. Farris, K.C., on account of his address to the Vancouver Board of Trade on 18th January. He charged Mr. Farris with slander against the Soviet Union. He painted the same glowing account regarding conditions prevailing in Russia as he has already done at previous meetings. The speaker stated that he had been asked by several persons why he did not stay over there if he liked Soviet Russia so much.

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He then enumerated three reasons why he did not stay there:-

- (1) Immigration into the U.S.S.R. was not open.
- (2) One has to spend two years in Kingston Penitentiary for working-class activities before they would accept one, and he did not feel inclined to do that.
- (3) If all working-class organisers went over there, there would be nothing but a bunch of "jelly-fish" left here.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

4. The Provincial Workers' Council, Vancouver

The Provincial Workers' Council at Vancouver, B.C., sponsored a mass meeting on Cambie Street Grounds in the afternoon of 4th February.

[3<#] Between 4,000 and 5,000 people attended and listened to speeches rendered by Woodhead, Hoff, Welch, Robert Lealess, Shaw, Grange, Glen Lamont and a woman named Mildred Duggan.

Delegates representing the Provincial Workers' Council, the Young Socialist League and the Women's Labour League introduced a series of demands which, after having been ratified by the meeting, were then submitted to the Vancouver City Relief Committee headed by Mayor G.G. McGeer at the City Hall. The delegation visiting the City Hall was well managed and drew commendation from Mayor G.G. McGeer who congratulated the members on their modest proposals and the way in which they had been laid before the committee. The demands, 13 in number, included that trade union rates of wages be paid on relief work with a minimum of \$60 a month; that in lieu of clothing handed out by the Clothing Committee adults be allowed \$1.50 cash monthly with \$1.00 allowed for

clothing each child; that youths be allowed to eat and sleep where they liked; that they get direct relief in the city and not be forced to go to the camps; that there be a fifty per cent increase to those living at home. The Mayor informed the delegation that sweeping and radical proposals had been made at the Convention of Mayors held at Calgary, Alta., recently, and promised that full consideration be given to their requests.

[3<#] "War and Fascism" was the topic under discussion at an Open Forum meeting held under the joint auspices of the Canadian Labour Defence League and the Worker Ex-Service Men's League in Vancouver, B.C., at 122A Hastings Street on 3rd

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February. Mrs. Matheson and a man named Clarke were the speakers.

Mrs. Matheson stressed the different kinds of modern death dealing equipment in possession of the armies of the world today and predicted that the next war will be most uncivilized. "British Columbia", she said, "would be the Belgium of the next war". She reminded the audience that the United States Army and Navy planes had mass flights over British Columbia last year. She claimed that the airport camps in British Columbia and the relief camps could be militarized over night. She also attacked the British Columbia Special Powers Act and the Arcand Bill, both of which she claimed were Fascist measures. Referring to Prime Minister R.B. Bennett's "reform program" she said that it was a measure to fool the people.

Clarke spoke along the same lines as Mrs. Matheson.

The meeting was attended by approximately 300 people.

[3<#] Approximately 350 persons attended a meeting of the Workers Ex-Service Men's League held at 122A Hastings St., Vancouver, B.C., on 10th February. Chivers acted as Chairman, Howard S. Coulter, a Vancouver Barrister with radical tendencies, and Black, of the Workers Ex-Service Men's League, were the speakers.

Coulter chose as his subject "Canada and the Pensioner." He compared the lot of the ex-service men in Canada with ex-service men's condition in the U.S.A., his contention being that because the American Legion is a political organization the ex-service men in the U.S.A. are better able to demand and obtain concessions.

Black opened his speech with an attack on the Canadian Legion claiming that it had never done anything for the ex-service men. At his suggestion the meeting adopted a resolution demanding non-contributory unemploy-

ment insurance. Another resolution protesting the arrival of the German battleship "Karlsruhe" in Vancouver some time during March this year was also passed.

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On 6th February the workers employed at the Bloedell, Stewart and Welch Shingle Mill on Boundary Road, Vancouver, B.C., voted two to one in favour of accepting a wage reduction of five per cent. The Chinese and unskilled white workers were excluded from voting and they protested by calling a strike. The situation was then seized upon by the radicals and attempts were made to close down the plant. On 7th February the situation became somewhat serious and Provincial Police assisted by a detachment of Royal Canadian Mounted Police were called on the scene. On the following day the picket lines were increased and two clashes occurred between the police and the pickets in the course of which stones and clubs were used by the latter. The pickets were finally dispersed and no trouble has occurred since.

[3<#] The Corbin (B.C.) Miners Union, an affiliate of the Mine Workers Union of Canada, called a strike on 20th January in protest against the dismissal of John Press, Secretary of the union. The company held that the dismissal was justified and have refused to reinstate him. The strike is still in progress and is receiving the active co-operation and support of the various Mine Workers Union locals in the Crow's Nest Pass District. John Stokaluk, National Secretary of the Mine Workers Union of Canada, together with Anderson, of Blairmore, had visited Corbin during the strike and gave considerable encouragement to the striking miners. The strikers contend that the dismissal of John Press, their Secretary, was part and parcel of the attempt of the Company to smash their organization. The miners of Bellevue, Blairmore, Michel and Cadomin have contributed thus far \$510 to aid the strike.

[3<#] A. H. Evans on 26th January, upon his arrival at Prince George, B.C., was met at the station by a large crowd and was the guest speaker at a banquet given in his honour on the same evening.

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He addressed two meetings on the following day under the auspices of the Canadian Labour Defence League. The collections taken at the meetings netted \$42.40.

II. ALBERTA

5. Canadian League Against War & Fascism

[3<#] A Youth Conference Against War and Fascism was held at the Masonic Temple at Edmonton, Alta., on 31st January. It was sponsored by the Canadian League Against War and Fascism; and was attended by 46 delegates representing 22 young people's organizations in the city. Percy A. Fields acted as Chairman, and B.R. Swankey as Secretary.

Alderman Miss M. Crang spoke on the aims and objects of the League Against War and Fascism. She contended that all young people should be interested in this movement because, in the event of war, they would get the worst of the bargain.

Mrs. Grace Knight also spoke outlining the effect of war upon the present-day youth.

S.A.G. Barnes tendered greetings to the delegates and remarked that this movement is a spiritual movement fighting to avert further horrors and future wars. He advocated direct action on the part of the youth in order to bring this movement to a successful conclusion.

The conference elected 14 delegates to the Central Council Against War and Fascism. An announcement was made that the Reverend Mr. McCaul, of the Alberta College, would address the Central Council at the Masonic Temple on 26th February.

The majority of the delegates attending this conference were from the Young Communist League and other local radical organizations.

[3<#] The Local Delegate Council of the Canadian Labour Defence League in Edmonton, Alta., held a special meeting on 1st February. At this meeting it was decided that all

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convictions of the arrested 15 strike leaders from the relief camps would be appealed. At another meeting held on 2nd February this decision was rescinded because if the convictions would be appealed the Workers International Relief would be obliged to feed the accused until the Appellate Court delivered judgment. It was decided, however, that if any strike

leaders, such as [deletion: 3/4 line] were convicted and sentenced to any lengthy terms of imprisonment, their cases only would be appealed.

[deletion: #] Enoch Williams addressed a well attended meeting in the Cadomin Hall, Cadomin, Alta., on 3rd February. The large crowd included also people from Luscar and Mountain Park. Williams related his experiences in Soviet Russia and depicted the conditions prevailing in that country as something far superior to the conditions in this country. A portion of his speech was devoted to the prison system in vogue in the Soviet Union.

III. SASKATCHEWAN

6. N.E.C. of F.U.L. Meets in Regina

[deletion: #] The National Executive Committee of the Farmers Unity League at a meeting in Regina, Sask., in December, 1934, issued a call to all locals in Canada for the holding of a National Day to popularize and strengthen the organization. The central date for this affair was set for 20th February. The National Executive proposes to the various branches that they call mass meetings on that day at which addresses should be given centering around the organization and its work.

IV. MANITOBA

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The Winnipeg (Man.) Branch of the League Against War and Fascism held one of its regular meetings at the Peretz Hall on 10th February. A. W. Atwater acted as Chairman and the attendance numbered only about 70 persons.

[deletion: #] Fred Donner spoke on the question of consolidating the forces against war and Fascism.

Alderman Jacob Penner dealt with the results of the Saar Plebiscite. He contended that the vote was not altogether in favour of Hitler's regime. He told of how the campaign was conducted; that it was conducted in an atmosphere of repression.

[deletion: #]

The Workers Sports Association in Winnipeg, Man., has now 323 members in good standing comprising the following nationalities: 137 Jews, 19 Scandinavians, 9 Germans, 8 Polish, 16 English, 134 Ukrainians. There are also about half this number of sympathizers who frequent the place and are closely interested in the activities of the association. About 10 months ago the association had a membership of less than 100. Since then it has grown and developed rapidly. Gymnastics and acrobatics are highly developed. Harry Binder is somewhat responsible for the present standing of this association.

[3<#] Between 300 and 400 people attended a mass meeting staged by the Winnipeg (Man.) Unemployed Association in the Market Square, Winnipeg, on 10th February. G. Nicols (Levi) acted as Chairman, and the meeting was addressed by Carey, from the Winnipeg Unemployed Association: C. W. Foster, one of the delegates to the Ottawa Congress on Unemployment: E. G. Moore, also a delegate to the Ottawa Congress: T. Catelli: and Alderman Penner. They all spoke on "Non-Contributory Unemployment Insurance" maintaining that the Government should impose a levy on the Capitalists in order to carry this non-contributory insurance scheme through.

Regarding the financing of the Winnipeg delegates to the Unemployment Insurance Congress at Ottawa the question of

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obtaining assistance from the City Council of Winnipeg was settled at a recent meeting. The City Council voted against the proposal.

[3<#] The 12-month sentences imposed on Mabel Marlowe and Bill Ross were reduced by the Court of Appeal of Manitoba to six months each. Ross will serve his time at Dauphin and Marlowe at Portage la Prairie.

[3<#] The Lumber Workers Industrial Union in the Port Arthur (Ont.) District appears to be quiet but it has been ascertained that the membership of this organization has increased considerably this winter mostly at the expense of the Canadian Bushmen's Union. The latter, it is reported, is in a process of disintegration.

[X#] The Canadian Labour Defence League in the Thunder Bay (Ont.) District with Charles Stewart, late of Calgary, Alta., at the helm has become more active and has increased its membership considerably during the last few months.

V. ONTARIO

8. Preparations for Tim Buck's Meeting

[X#] At a meeting of Ottawa Communists held on 13th February it was reported that Tom Ewen would arrive in Ottawa, Ont., from Toronto on 14th February and would bring a loud speaker with him which will be used at Tim Buck's meeting in the Coliseum on the night of 18th February.

A letter from A. E. Smith was also read informing the Ottawa Branch of the Canadian Labour Defence League that \$150 would be sent to Ottawa to meet the rent for the Coliseum and that the money would be available before Friday, 15th February. Smith also stated in his letter that the meeting would be held under the auspices of the Communist Party of

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Canada and not under the auspices of the Canadian Labour Defence League.

[X#] [Xdeletion: name] appeared before Magistrate O'Connor in Toronto, Ont., on 12th February on a charge of "obstructing the police". The charge was dismissed despite a strong argument put up by the Crown Attorney for a conviction. An appeal against this decision is being considered.

[X#] Beginning with the 15th February issue the Kamf has opened a new campaign for 1,000 new readers. The object is 500 new subscribers and an increase of 500 copies in retail sales. Special committees are being organized in a number of places to carry on this campaign. In the course of this campaign, which will last for two months, bazaars will be organized in a number of cities in aid of this paper. It is expected that the bazaars in Winnipeg, Montreal and Toronto will bring in \$1,500 net profit which, it is said, will enable the paper to appear three times a week.

[X#] [Xdeletion: name] of the District Office of the Canadian Labour Defence League at Montreal, Que., arrived in Ottawa, Ont., on 10th

February. He is to remain there for about three or four weeks in an effort to raise the activities of the Canadian Labour Defence League to a higher level.

VI. QUEBEC

9. C.L.D.L. Secretariat, Montreal

[§<#] At a meeting of the Canadian Labour Defence League Secretariat at Montreal, Que., held on the afternoon of 7th February it was reported that the Noranda Defence Committee has decided to send protest delegations to visit Joseph Cohen, M.L.A., and Peter Bercovitch, M.L.A., to protest the sentences

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meted out to the Noranda strikers. A delegation is also scheduled to visit the Executive Board of the Trades and Labour Council on 14th February and will ask for a *United Front* on the issue. The meeting decided to call a protest mass meeting in the Prince Arthur Hall on 1st March. In this connection it was agreed to print and distribute 15,000 leaflets. It was further reported that the convicted Noranda strikers who are now in Bordeaux Jail are planning to stage a hunger strike and are awaiting permission from the Canadian Labour Defence League to do so. A heated discussion took place as to whether a Communist believes in hunger strikes but the Secretariat failed to arrive at a decision. It was decided, however, that [§<deletion: name] speak to Fred Rose on the subject with the request that the Communist Party District Bureau make a decision.

[§<#] The Secretariat of the Montreal (Que.) Canadian Labour Defence League held a meeting on 12th February with [§<deletion: 1 line] in attendance. A telegram received from Ottawa asking the District Office to raise a loan of \$150 to cover the expenses of the Tim Buck meeting scheduled to be held at the coliseum in Ottawa, Ont., on 18th February was referred to the local Communist Party Bureau who, in turn, referred it to the National Office of the Communist Party in Toronto.

[§<deletion: name] reported that the local Communist Party had decided against the hunger strike of the Noranda strikers now in Bordeaux Jail, that it felt that it would be inadvisable to hunger strike at this time.

After some discussion the Secretariat decided to commence a "telephone campaign" in the interest of the convicted Noranda strikers. It was decided to select a particular Member of Parliament and after a week

of constant telephoning be visited by a delegation of the Canadian Labour Defence League. The first person to be operated on is to be Joseph Cohen, M.L.A.

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[X#] [Xdeletion: 9/10 page]

[X#] The mass unemployed demonstration scheduled to take place at the City Hall, Montreal, Que., at noon on 13th February did not materialize. An unprecedented number of City

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Policemen on duty at the City Hall and in the adjacent streets coupled with a mounted squad on Champ de Mars prevented the unemployed from forming a demonstration.

[X#] The second edition of Clarte, the legal organ of the Communist Party of Canada in the French language published in Montreal, Que., has been released. It is reported that 4,000 copies of this edition have been printed and put into circulation.

VII. THE MARITIME PROVINCES

10. W.E.L. Branch Formed in Halifax

[X#]

On 11th February a meeting took place in Halifax, N.S., the purpose of which was to form a branch of the Ex-Service Men's League. Some 30 men were present and [Xdeletion: name] acted as Chairman who explained the aims and objects of the organization. [Xdeletion: 1 line] also spoke. After the reading of the Constitution of the Ex-Service Men's League by the Chairman the meeting decided unanimously to adopt same. The meeting also appointed [Xdeletion: 3/4 line] and decided to meet again on 18th February.

After the meeting a small group of those who attended met at 129 Market Street when it was decided to [Xdeletion: 3 words] from the organization as soon as possible. [Xdeletion: 1 line]
