

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

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SECRET

NO. 746

WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATORS IN CANADAReport

There is a possibility of trouble between the Vancouver and District Waterfront Workers' Association and the British Columbia Shipping Federation. The Vancouver and District Waterfront Workers' Association is asking for the adoption of the Pacific Coast Wage Scale (which would mean an increase) and for union control of dispatching and distribution of labour.

Two of the Communists who are out on Ticket-of-Leave are likely to be candidates at the next Dominion election. Amos T. Hill has been nominated in the Nipissing Constituency and Tim Buck is expected to run in North Winnipeg.

There is strong opposition to the Government's Unemployment Insurance Bill among the Communists. They will only be satisfied with some form of unemployment insurance which is non-contributory.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL**1. Tim Buck's Speech in Ottawa**

The much discussed Tim Buck meeting was held in the Coliseum at Ottawa, Ont., on 18th February, 1935. The Coliseum was leased by the city for this meeting. The attendance was estimated at between 4,000 and 4,500.

A rostrum was erected in the arena on which sat A. E. Smith, Mrs. LeBrun, C. Perry, H. Metcalfe, Harvey Murphy, H. Banes, Tim Buck, Tom Ewen and the Chairman -- A. T. McFarlane.

The delegates who were attending the Ottawa Conference on Unemployment Insurance occupied reserved seats in front of the platform and all came in together. Behind the rostrum was a white streamer on which was printed:-

"Welcome to Tim Buck
Secretary
Communist Party of Canada"

The printing was done in large red letters with the exception of the word "Secretary" which was printed in black. McFarlane described the difficulties he had encountered in his attempts to lease a hall in Ottawa or Hull for a meeting to be addressed by Tim Buck. He also introduced each speaker. He asked the audience to give Buck a fair hearing.

Jenny Parker (Pashkowsky) brought revolutionary greetings from the Ukrainians and said they would fight for a Soviet Canada.

Harold Metcalfe spoke as local representative of the local branch of the Canadian Labour Defence League.

Madame LeBrun, of the French-Canadian Working Women's Association, and Charles Perry, both of Montreal, spoke briefly in French.

H. Banes said a few words on behalf of the Young Communist League which he asserted Mr. Bennett cannot destroy. He said youth under present conditions has no future to which to look forward.

One Edmondson, a delegate to the Unemployment Insurance Congress and representative of the Stationary Engineers in Toronto, paused several times during his short speech to shake Buck warmly by the hand. He appealed for "mass pressure".

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All the speakers made eulogistic references to Buck.

A. E. Smith, General Secretary of the Canadian Labour Defence League, dealt with the work of this league at some length.

Tom Ewen followed him. He was introduced as the Secretary of the Workers Unity League. He told of the struggle for non-contributory unemployment insurance and his experience on his trip to Ottawa as the head of the delegation which came here early in 1931. He remarked that in 1931 Mr. Bennett referred to the delegation as a "bunch of bums". "Today", he said, "Mr. Bennett plays a different tune". He also dwelt upon the raids on the Communist Party Headquarters in Toronto in 1931 and the trial and subsequent imprisonment of the Communist Party of Canada leaders. At the conclusion of his speech he appealed for funds and urged all to contribute to the fighting fund of the Communist Party of Canada.

After waiting for 80 minutes while these other speakers held forth Buck at last got a chance to speak. Some of the audience were becoming distinctly

restive at the long wait for the principal speaker. Buck commenced by denouncing obstructionist tactics of those who had tried to prevent him hiring a hall and said that the presence of 5,000 people was Ottawa's answer to the Prime Minister and General MacBrien.

As the Congress on Unemployment Insurance was being held in Ottawa it was natural that Buck should speak largely on this subject. He asserted that a few years ago Mr. Bennett said he would have nothing to do with unemployment insurance; now he is advocating a system of contributory unemployment insurance under which no one will benefit until he or she has worked for 40 weeks. He described this proposed scheme as hypocrisy and humbug. The provision which implies that workers would not be eligible for insurance should they lose their jobs through being involved in trade union disputes is a bribe to them to renounced their unions and cease to identify themselves with any working class organization. It seeks to promote confusion so that the Government may apply the iron heel. The whole Bill is an insult to

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the working class. The delegates from the congress who had interviewed the Prime Minister that morning pointed out to him that they should be provided for out of the huge surplus of goods which the working class has produced and which the Capitalist class has stolen.

Buck described reform as meaning ameliorating the lot of the lower class by taking a little from those who have much in the interests of those who have nothing. There can be no recovery of the Capitalistic class except at the expense of the working class. He described at some length conditions in various European countries and commented that the world today is a vastly different place to what it was when Mr. Bennett took office.

He described Mr. King as "nothing but a smaller, weaker and less aggressive Bennett." He predicted another war in the near future.

Buck said that the Prime Minister asserted that the eight Communists would remain in Kingston until they had served the last day of their sentence. Now they are all out on parole, not that Mr. Bennett has any sympathy with them but thanks to the mass pressure exercised by the workers through the Canadian Labour Defence League. He asserted that the only chance the workers in Canada have is to unite for the establishment of a Soviet here to be run on the same lines as has been adopted in the U.S.S.R. He concluded with Marx' famous remark: "Workers of the world unite: you have nothing to lose but your chains". Nearly all the time Buck was speaking people were going out so that by the time he concluded the audience had dwindled noticeably.

The meeting concluded with the singing of "The International". "God Save The King" was neither sung nor played during the evening.

The collection amounted to \$125 which means that there will be a loss on the evening of \$75.

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There is little doubt that all the publicity which has been given to Buck and his unsuccessful attempts to find a hall in which to speak induced a great many people to go and hear him purely out of curiosity. Ottawa is not an industrial centre so that the attendance was eminently satisfactory just as the collection was a sorry disappointment to the promoters. Buck's speech was extremely mild and those who expected a verbal tirade against everything and everybody went away disappointed.

Buck is reported to have made a threat in a speech at Brantford that he would not again report to the police as required by the conditions of his parole. He did, in fact, report before leaving Toronto to come to Ottawa in accordance with his undertaking.

2. The "Icor" Convention in New York

[✂#] The "Icor" Convention which opened in New York, U.S.A., on 9th February is reported to have been attended by approximately 600 delegates from all parts of the United States of America and a large delegation from the Canadian Section. The Canadian delegation was headed by Harry Guralnick, Shapiroy and Nisnevitch.

The convention opened with a huge mass meeting in the New Star Casino. Professor Charles Kuntz, Chairman of the "Icor", and A. Epstein, delegate to the First Jewish Soviet Congress in Biro-Bidjan, were the principal speakers. Another speaker was Betty who spoke on behalf of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, and a man named Sultan who represented the Jewish Bureau of the Communist Party.

The convention proper got under way on 9th February with 565 accredited delegates present. S. Almazov, the General Secretary, submitted a report on the activities of the organization paying particular attention to the spread of propaganda and to the defence of the Soviet Union. Reuben Brainin, a well-known Jewish writer, came to greet this convention and

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rendered a short but very enthusiastic address.

The convention passed a series of resolutions among which was one extending financial aid to the Freiheit, the Jewish Communist paper of the

United States, and to Der Kampf, the Jewish organ of the Communist Party of Canada. Another resolution called for the mobilization of the Jewish masses for the defence of the Soviet Union and for a struggle against Fascism. A resolution against Zionism and against other Jewish national movements which were referred to as reactionary and counter-revolutionary was also passed.

The convention noted special tendencies amongst the members especially amongst the members of the Canadian Section to regard the task of "Icor" as finished since the Soviet Union promised to accelerate the construction of the Jewish Autonomous District in Biro-Bidjan and that "Icor" should join the Friends of the Soviet Union. The convention condemned these tendencies and stressed the necessity for a continuation of its activities on a larger scale than ever.

The convention decided to alter the conditions in respect to admission of members. The only condition for admission will now be a declaration of friendship to the Soviet Union. Anybody declaring that he will sincerely further the interests of the Soviet Union can now become an active member of "Icor". By this it was felt that the convention threw open the doors to the broad masses of the Jewish people in the United States and in Canada.

The convention elected a new Executive Committee consisting of 15 members.

3. Situation on Vancouver Waterfront

【#】 Labour trouble on Vancouver's waterfront is threatened by the Vancouver and District Waterfront Workers Association unless the Shipping Federation accedes to its request for the Pacific Coast wage scale and for union control of dispatching and distribution of labour.

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The Longshoremen's Executive has been instructed to give the Shipping Federation 60 days' notice on an official demand for a wage increase and for a decided change in the labour control.

A mass meeting of the members of the Vancouver and District Waterfront Workers Association was held on 10th February at which the following resolution was passed:-

"That this meeting of members of the Vancouver and District Waterfront Workers Association considers that clauses 4 and 13 of the Agreement and clause 32 of Schedule "B" have been violated by the Shipping Federation".

In clause 4 of the Agreement provision is made to safe-guard the interests of the association by having a representative of the association co-operate with the Labour Manager of the Shipping Federation in carrying out the supervision of Schedule "B".

Clause 13 regulates the number of workers to be employed.

Clause 32, Schedule "B", provides that an accredited representative of the association shall have reasonable access to the dispatching office, etc.

The meeting passed several other resolutions among which the following may be quoted:-

"That on and after 7.00 A.M. on Tuesday, 12th February, 1935, members of the association shall refuse to work with any non-members whose dispatch slip has not been stamped by an accredited representative of the association".

The decisions of the meeting were submitted to the Shipping Federation of British Columbia in a letter over the signature of Allan L. Walker, under date of 11th February, 1935. In reply Mr. Crombie, Manager of the Shipping Federation, draws attention to clause 16 of the Agreement which deals specifically with stoppage of work wherein is clearly outlined the procedure which is to be followed in event of disputes arising as to the interruption of the Agreement or Schedule "A" and Schedule "B" and a definite undertaking given that there shall be no stoppage of work. Mr. Crombie further advises the association that should any action be taken by it or its members of such a nature as to

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cause a stoppage of work along the lines suggested in the resolution such action will be considered by the Federation as a direct violation of the Agreement.

4. The Congress for Unemployment Insurance

[✂#] The Dominion Congress for Unemployment Insurance met in the Chabot Hall, Ottawa, Ont., on 17th to 19th February, with 156 official delegates in attendance representing 371 organizations from all parts of Canada. The congress marked the culmination of the national campaign of agitation for a United Front conducted by the Communist Party of Canada based on one of its immediate demands or tasks. The congress stands out as one of the major achievements of the Communist Party in recent years in its effort to mobilise the workers for mass action. It must be regarded as a success, especially in view of the obstacles which had to be overcome such as the problem of financing the delegates, etc.

The Credential Committee's report showed that there were in addition to the various unemployed organizations, Canadian Labour Defence League, language mass organizations and other Communist controlled organizations a number of Co-operative Commonwealth Federation clubs and trade unions represented. Of the latter a number were unions affiliated to the American Federation of Labor, some were affiliated to the All-Canadian Congress of labour and a number were independent unions. The Credential Committee's report also showed that many delegates represented numerous organizations. It was claimed that the delegates present represented 230,000 workers.

Ewart Humphreys was endorsed as Congress Secretary in English, and J. Godin of Montreal as French Secretary.

The main report was given by Ewart Humphreys, Secretary of the National Unemployment Council during the second session. He also presented the "workers" bill on unemployment insurance" which had been formulated by the National Unemployment Council

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from the essence of the demands presented to the Government at Ottawa by a delegation headed by Tom Ewen in 1931.

Humphreys submitted for the consideration of the congress five main tasks:-

- (1) Unemployment and social insurance.
- (2) Unemployment relief.
- (3) Compulsory labor schemes.
- (4) Health needs of the unemployed.
- (5) Organizational questions.

Reviewing the activities of the unemployed organizations affiliated to the National Unemployment Council Humphreys reported great progress. He stated that in British Columbia through the establishment of a United Front with the Socialist Party, Communist Party, the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation and the affiliated bodies of the National Unemployment Council great progress has been made. In Alberta great impetus has been given to the movement through the long and successful strike of the Calgary unemployed against the threatened relief cut. There, he said, 32 organizations have combined to form a Central Council which represents a large portion of the population of the City of Calgary. In conclusion he said:--

"We have now reached a stage where Bennett is swallowing many of his boasts and threats and is actually recognizing the principle of unemployed and social insurance. We are nearer our goal and we are better organized and more firmly united than ever before".

The Draft Bill as submitted by Humphreys was adopted with but minor amendments and a copy of it was submitted to the Government by a delegation of 14 headed by Ewart Humphreys and T. C. Sims on the morning of 18th February, together with a number of resolutions passed by in congress.

Resolutions have also been passed supporting the Canadian Labour Defence League, protesting against the Noranda and Port Arthur arrests and trials, demanding the release of Ernst Thaelmann and other stock Communist resolutions. In addition, the congress also sent a message of greetings to the "red" Town Council of Blairmore, Alta., who were recently returned to office by acclamation.

On the evening of the 18th the congress delegates attended on bloo the Communist Party mass meeting in the Coliseum

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whereat they formed a conspicuously enthusiastic section of the audience.

On the morning of the 19th a delegation headed by A. E. Smith had a brief conference with the Honourable H. H. Stevens in his office in the House of Commons. An attempt was also made by Smith to make an appointment with the Right Honourable W. L. MacKenzie King without results.

A delegation also interviewed several Co-operative Commonwealth Federation Members of Parliament on that date.

The congress worked out a program of action and elected a National Committee of Action consisting of 37 members. It also elected a new Executive of the National Unemployment Council with Headquarters at Toronto.

The congress was completely under Communist Party domination. Communist Party members who led the congress were E. G. Humphreys, Tom Ewen, T. C. Sims, A. E. Smith and Harvey Murphy. A noteworthy feature of the congress was the manifest enthusiasm especially that displayed by the large French-Canadian delegation from Montreal.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

5. Convention of Waterfront Organizations

[2<#] On 3rd February there was held in the City of Vancouver, B. C., the First Convention of Organizations connected with water-front industrialism in

that city. The organizations taking part in this convention claiming a numerical strength as stated were as follows:--

| | | |
|-----|---|---------------|
| (1) | Vancouver and District Waterfront Workers' Association | 900 |
| (2) | Lumber Workers' Industrial Union | 2,455 |
| (3) | Canadian Freight Handlers' Association | 250 |
| (4) | Workers' Unity League | 6,000 |
| (5) | Relief Camp Workers' Union | 4,000 |
| (6) | New Westminster and District Waterfront Workers' Union | 350 |
| (7) | Longshore Workers and Transport Workers of Canada (Central Body) | 500 |
| (8) | Seafarers' Industrial Union -- | |
| | | <u>14,455</u> |

An invitation was sent to the Officers' Guild and the Engineers' Association to attend this convention but both organizations declined. All organizations enumerated above seated two delegates with the exception of the Seafarers' Industrial Union which seated eight.

The chair was occupied by J. Maskelyne, and the convention adopted amendments to the newly-formed Seafarers' Industrial Union and elected the returning officers for the 30-day ballot on the posts of Secretary Treasurer and the three organizers.

[✂#] The following resolution which was sponsored by the League Against War and Fascism, B.C. Section, and endorsed by a number of mass meetings and local organizations such as the Friends of the Soviet Union, the Canadian Labour Defence League,

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etc., in Vancouver and New Westminster was passed and ordered sent to (a) the Mayor of Vancouver, (b) the Premier of British Columbia, (c) the Prime Minister of Canada and (d) the German Consul at Vancouver.

"Having in view the murderous and savage character of the Hitler Fascist Government, we the workers and farmers, here assembled vehemently protest against the proposed visit to Vancouver of the Fascist warship 'Karlsruhe', and we demand that the Canadian authorities advise the Hitler Government to abandon the proposed visit, on the grounds that same is protested by the people of British Columbia and of Canada. We further assert that we should view such a visit at this time as constituting part of the preparations of an Imperialist War against Soviet Russia".

[X#] Malcolm Bruce arrived in Vancouver, B.C., on 9th February and according to his story he was sent out there post-haste to take the B.C. Workers News away from Drayton and company before they did any more damage organizationally than could be repaired. Bruce went to Vancouver with "directives" to use his own judgment whether to carry on the paper and develop it or kill it as painlessly as possible.

The first issue of the B.C. Workers News was condemned by the leaders of the Communist Party in Toronto in the light of real Bolshevik criticism. It is anticipated that Bruce's arrival in Vancouver will cause some dissension among the Bureau members when he exercises his judgment regarding the paper.

[X#] Arthur H. Evans, recently released from Oakalla Prison, arrived at Valemont, B.C., on 21st January and addressed a small gathering of Swedes and Finns on the same day. Whilst in Valemont he was the guest of [Xdeletion: name] who was Chairman of the meeting.

On 25th January he held a meeting at McBride, B.C., and urged the local unemployed to demand higher relief rates from the Provincial authorities.

He arrived at Prince Rupert on 3rd February and held a meeting at the Moose Hall in the evening of the same day at which there were about 300 people in attendance. On this occasion he spoke of his experiences in Southern British Columbia following

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the strike among the miners. He also described his arrest at Princeton, his trial and his experiences in Oakalla Jail.

He further addressed a meeting in the Rupert East United Church at Prince Rupert, B.C., on 4th February. On this occasion he spoke on the Noranda strike and the sentences meted out to the strike leaders. He left Prince Rupert on 5th February from Campbell River and it is his intention to tour Vancouver Island points before returning to Vancouver.

[X#] Ed. Pierce, who recently returned to Vancouver, B.C., from the mining area of Vancouver Island, persuaded the local leaders to consent to the issuance of another mimeographed sheet for the consumption of the Nanaimo miners. It was decided to make this shop paper a four-page affair entitled We Too. It is scheduled to make its first appearance on 16th February.

II. ALBERTA

6. Enoch Williams Speaks at Canmore

[✂#] Enoch Williams addressed a small meeting of miners in the Canmore (Alta.) Miners Union Hall on 11th February. He praised the conditions in the Soviet Union saying that everything possible was being done for the workers. He condoned the action of the Russian Government in shooting the political enemies but condemned the use of force by the police in Canada to break up picket lines, etc.

[✂#] [✂deletion: 2 lines] J. Lakeman proposed that a mass meeting be held on 17th February at the Empire Theatre in support of the non-contributory unemployment insurance scheme, also to protest against Prime Minister Bennett's Unemployment Insurance Bill. The speakers selected for this meeting were Mayor Joseph A. Clarke, Alderman Miss M. Crang, J. Lakeman, and O.C. Doolan. It was further proposed to invite

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W. R. Howson, M.L.A., and F. White, M.L.A., to attend and address the meeting.

Lakeman remarked that if the Unemployment Insurance Bill sponsored by the Canadian Government is passed in Parliament the Communist Party will commence to hold demonstrations and organize strikes to combat same.

III. MANITOBA

7. Opposition to Unemployment Insurance Bill

[✂#] On 18th February about 1,200 men and women led by the Communist leaders marched from the Market Square in Winnipeg, Man., to the front of the Parliament Buildings where a short meeting was held in support of the Non-Contributory Unemployment Insurance Bill and in protest against the Insurance Bill sponsored by the Canadian Government. J. Carey, from the Winnipeg Unemployed Association, Alderman M. J. Forkin, R. Towle, from the East Kildonan Unemployed, and Alderman Jacob Penner addressed the gathering. The demonstration was led by both Communist Aldermen and a few other leaders marching under a large banner bearing an inscription demanding free non-contributory unemployment insurance.

There were several other banners bearing such slogans as "Down With Bennett's Starvation Unemployment Insurance Scheme", "We Demand Work And Decent Standard Of Living".

The speakers in front of the Parliament Buildings condemned very bitterly Prime Minister R. B. Bennett's insurance policy comparing same with the one sponsored by the Communists. It was pointed out that the Government scheme will only divide and demoralize the workers.

A delegation appointed by the meeting to interview Premier Bracken reported back to the meeting that the Premier refused to see them. It was announced that the deputation may obtain an interview with the Premier some time during the week and that they would try to get the issue placed before the Legislative Assembly through some Labour representative.

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The crowd in front of the Parliament Buildings was considerably larger than the parade as at least several hundred arrived there who had not taken part in the march. There were no disturbances.

[3<#] A serious split occurred in the Manitoba Unemployed Association at a meeting held in Winnipeg on the night of 19th February. A challenge by the "Right" Wingers demanding that the former Chairman, E. Billedeau, be reinstated and take the chair was largely responsible for the disruption. The disturbance was serious enough for A. Ward, the Chairman, to call for police assistance. The police at the request of Ward removed the trouble makers and later on during the meeting a motion to expel Spence (leader of the "Right" Wing), Billedeau, Onroe, Lapiere, Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Billedeau was passed by the meeting. Along with the expelled members about 25 followers left the hall leaving the whole meeting to the Communists. It has been reported since that Spence supported by a number of "Right" Wingers intends to form a new unemployed association.

[3<#] The Canadian Labour Defence League at Fort William, Ont., held a meeting in the Ukrainian Labour Temple on 12th February. J. Quinn acted as Chairman, and W. Marshall and Charles Stewart were the speakers.

The first speaker emphasized that the Canadian Labour Defence League was not a Communist organization. He, however, urged the audience to become organized and to build up the Canadian Labour Defence League in order that they may fight against the Capitalist system.

Charles Stewart reviewed the conditions in the Thunder Bay District claiming that the situation there is typical of conditions in Canada generally.

P. Skutka also spoke translating some of the speeches into Ukrainian.

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As a result of this meeting nine new members were taken into the Canadian Labour Defence League.

IV. ONTARIO

8. F.S.U. in Toronto

[9<#] The Friends of the Soviet Union in Toronto, Ont., held a mass meeting in the Labour Lyceum, 346 Spadina Avenue, on 15th February. Sam Scarlett and Louis Krakover were the speakers. Both speakers praised the conditions in the Soviet Union and paid a great tribute to the Red Army and the Police.

Sam Scarlett pointed out that every Red Army soldier and every worker in the Soviet Union is working for the cause of the world's revolution.

Louis Krakover, whose observations were mainly confined to the needle trades industry in the Soviet Union, claimed that the workers there are more efficient than in Canada and that the needle trades industry of the U.S.S.R. is becoming the best in the world.

The attendance at this meeting was about 350.

V. QUEBEC

9. Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union of Canada

[9<#] An attempt is now being made to revive and reorganize the Industrial Union of Needle Trades Workers in the City of Montreal, Que., which it will be remembered was heavily defeated in its greatest strike in the City of Montreal over six months ago. With this end in view the Toronto Dressmakers' Joint Council of the Industrial Union of Needle Trades Workers has addressed an appeal to all Montreal dressmakers which, in part, reads:--

"We are certain that you already understood that the present slavery conditions in the dress shops in Montreal are a result of your failure to maintain the strength of your Union in spite of the loss of your strike. We, the Toronto dressmakers have succeeded, through our Union to win

decent living conditions and establish union control in 90% of the shops in the city.

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We have now renewed the agreement with 70 manufacturers, without a strike

"You, the Montreal Dressmakers can also improve your conditions. Through organization you can stop wage cuts and force the manufacturers to give you wage increases. Through organization we have been able to abolish 'sweat shop' conditions, you can do the same".

The pamphlet containing this appeal also includes a copy of the agreement into between the Industrial Union of Needle Trades Workers of Canada and the manufacturers in the City of Toronto. By this the Communists in control of the Industrial Union expect to stimulate a little more enthusiasm among the demoralized members and former members of the union in the City of Montreal.

[✂#] The Prince Arthur Hall in Montreal, Que., on 19th February was the scene of the so-called Austrian memorial mass meeting sponsored by the Canadian Labour Defence League. There were approximately 250 people present with George Hincks presiding over the meeting. Stanley Ryerson alias Rogier spoke in French and J. S. Wallace in English. There was little enthusiasm and the meeting was a loss both organizationally and financially.

[✂#] [✂deletion: 1/4 page]

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[✂deletion: 1/2 page]

VI. THE MARITIME PROVINCES

[✂#] 10. C.L.D.L. To Be Reorganized In Halifax

The Canadian Labour Defence League in Halifax, N.S., held a special meeting on 17th February. It was called for the purpose of reorganizing the league in the City of Halifax. [✂deletion: name] submitted a lengthy report on the work of the league and explained that out of 81 paying members there were only 50 who were active. He stated that the members did not take the work seriously enough and contended that had there been a few

members active in the relief camp authorities would have been unable to discriminate against some of the inmates. He pointed out that the Canadian Labour Defence League was necessary in combatting the attacks of the Capitalist class.
