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WEEKLY SUMMARY

REPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS

AND AGITATORS IN CANADA

Report

Tim Buck was given an enthusiastic welcome when he arrived in Winnipeg. He filled the Auditorium the evening he made his first speech.

Malcolm Bruce will remain in Vancouver for the present and will be responsible for the paper the <u>B.C. Workers' News</u>.

John Naviziwski will contest the Selkirk Constituency at the next Dominion election. The platform which he and Buck have announced is a formidable one.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

1. Tim Buck Arrives in Winnipeg

A throng of approximately 4,000 men, women and children packed the Canadian Pacific Railway Station at Winnipeg, Man., on the morning of 21st February to welcome Tim Buck to that city. On arrival he was met by a selected committee of the Communist Party headed by Alderman M. J.

[***] Forkin and was then hoisted on the shoulders of two supporters and carried to the rotunda amidst deafening cheers and the singing of revolutionary songs. In the middle of the rotunda he stopped for a short speech in which he expressed his thanks to the crowd on behalf of the Communist Party of Canada and the entire working class for the ovation given him. In the course of his speech he made one or two observations concerning Premier Bennett's "change of face" but intimated that he was saving his ammunition for the meeting in the Winnipeg Auditorium on the night of the 22nd. He also extended revolutionary greetings from the Central Council of the Communist Party. This elicited further cheers.

After the speech he was again hoisted above the crowd on the shoulders of his supporters and carried outside to an automobile and was driven away. The crowd which overflowed into the streets outside was very orderly and behaved well.

On the 22nd the Winnipeg Auditorium was packed to capacity to hear Tim Buck speak. The large main hall was filled to the very last seat and it was found necessary to open the little concert hall to hold the overflow which, it is reported, was also filled to capacity. Thus both halls were filled and many were turned away who could not gain admittance. After the

meeting was over a member of the Arrangement committee reported that 4,008 admissions had been paid.

The meeting in the main hall was presided over by Alderman M. J. Forkin and on the stage were seated some 20 of the most prominent Communist leaders and representatives of different groups of the Communist Movement. Tim Buck was not on

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the stage when the meeting was opened but was ushered in by Alderman Jacob Penner after a short opening speech by the Chairman. Buck's entry was dramatic. There was an empty chair in the middle of the stage and when Alderman M. J. Forkin announced that he had the pleasure of introducing the "greatest man in Canada today" Tim Buck was ushered in by Alderman Jacob Penner amidst tremendous applause. He advanced to the centre of the stage and held a clenched fist aloft in a Communist salute while the crowd roared its welcome. The group on the stage then led the crowd in singing "The International" after which a member of the audience invited three cheers for the Communist Party and three more cheers for Tim Buck. After this Buck seated himself in the empty chair. Greetings were extended to Buck by J. Seychuk, representing the Young Communist League, I. Minster, representing the Workers Unity League, F. Cunningham, from the Canadian Labour Defence League, [*deletion: 1/4 words] Alderman Jacob Penner), from the Young Pioneers, Walter Wiggins, representing the Farmers Unity League, and Jim Litterick, on behalf of the Workers Sports Association.

Jim Litterick had to hold the crowd for an hour while Buck spoke to the overflow meeting in the small hall. Litterick spoke on the Revolutionary Movement in general talking about "taking power by our fists, by our guns, by our own might". He, however, intimated that this would not happen for a while yet. Litterick also appealed for a collection for the Central Fighting Fund for the Communist Party. First a call was made for \$10 bills, then for \$5 bills, \$2 and then \$1. It is reported that the request for \$10 bills brought one bill of that denomination, several \$5 bills followed and many plates gathered in numerous \$1 and silver coin donations.

Buck spoke for over an hour and a half in the main Auditorium as the Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Canada. He criticized the policies of the Conservatives, Liberals and Co-operative Commonwealth Federation declaring that the Communist Movement must go forward until

Capitalism is "kicked off the workers' backs". He condemned any unemployment insurance scheme which might be advanced by Prime Minister Bennett declaring that it is proposed to bring the workers down to a scale of \$6 a week with 90 cents for each child. The Bennett plan, he contended, would cut the standard of living of 1,250,000 unemployed men and women to one-third of the present basis. He maintained that there was no possibility under Capitalism of regaining the conditions of 1914. "All the Capitalist can hope is to ride once more on the backs of the workers". he said. "Mr. Bennett", he said, "has become a great deal milder and very kindly received the workers' delegation recently and discussed unemployment insurance with them". "Mr. Bennett", he continued, "has assumed an entirely different attitude in an attempt to fool the workers with his proposed reforms". The crowd cheered when Buck warned it against any misconception that "hard-boiled Bennett had become a soft-boiled egg". "Premier Bennett", Buck said, "was an astute and very superficial politician". He compared Mr. Bennett's hands unfavourably with his own although he had been unable to work at his trade for almost 10 years, he said. His hand could still "make things". The Prime Minister's hands, he claimed, were only good for "signing cheques" and "clipping coupons".

Buck branded the progressive Bracken Government in Manitoba as a strike-breaking administration and made numerous sneering references to "your progressive Premier Mr. Bracken".

Buck was contemptuous of the Liberal Party. He referred to Mr. Mackenzie King as "a little less aggressive and energetic than Bennett though a little better at making excuses". The Liberal Party, he said, was appealing to the intelligent people who read between the lines in Mr. Bennett's program "harping at Bennett's Fascist tendencies". Buck ridiculed the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation program for its timidity; its indefiniteness and its failure to call a spade a spade. He thought the slogan advanced by the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation "Not Reformation but Reconstruction" was absolutely meaningless.

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Buck went on describing conditions in the Kingston penitentiary, the riot and the attempt to shoot him. Displaying a flattened rifle bullet he told the audience that five penitentiary guards shot at him while the riot was on in Kingston Penitentiary. He denied that the shots were made to go over his head.

The rendering of "The International" brought to a close one of the most successful revolutionary gatherings ever staged in the City of Winnipeg.

2. Federal Election Convention, C.P. of C., Winnipeg

A Federal Election Convention of the Communist Party of Winnipeg **[***#} (Man.) and District was held at 530 Main Street, Winnipeg, on Sunday, 24th February. There were 121 delegates present of whom 27 were from outside the city. The convention was presided over by Alderman Jacob Penner, and Tim Buck outlined the platform of the Communist Party. The program or platform amended and approved by the convention consists of 11 main planks with a number of sub-clauses covering unemployment insurance; increase in relief; abolition of all forced work camps and payment of regular wages of relief work; prohibition of evictions of unemployed because of mortgages or taxes; abolition of deportation of workers because they are on relief; cash relief for unemployed youth and farm youth; youth working part-time to get cash relief up to the amount of the minimum wage; a public works program to include slum clearance and other necessary building projects. Provisions also contained in the program for health insurance, medical, hospital, dental and optical treatment to be given to all workers and all aged pensioners; old-age pensions at 60 at average wages; repeal of Section 98 of the Criminal Code and Sections 41 and 42 of the Immigration Act; repeal of anti-picket, vagrancy and other laws preventing workers from striking or joining trade unions of their own choosing; for the legality of the Communist Party of Canada.

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Tim Buck was nominated for Winnipeg North and John Naviziwski was named to contest Selkirk Constituency. Jim Litterick was chosen as Campaign Manager for North Winnipeg and Saul Simkin for Selkirk with headquarters at 845 Main Street. About 40 lesser campaign officials were appointed.

The convention also decided to form a United Front in constituencies where anti-Capitalist workers' candidates will be run. Buck and Naviziwski will be the only two straight Communists running in Manitoba. Inspiring addresses promising their supporters to do their utmost when elected towards establishing a Soviet rule in Canada were given by the two nominees.

The convention also decided to hold a post convention meeting at the Olympic Rink at Winnipeg on Sunday, 3rd March.

3. Malcolm Bruce in Vancouver

[**] A meeting was held in the Workers Ex-Service Men's League Hall at Vancouver, B.C., on 17th February, under the auspices of the Workers Ex-Service Men's League and the Canadian Labour Defence League.

Charles McKendrick, who was Chairman, introduced to the audience Malcolm Bruce, who he described as "a true-steel revolutionary worker, who had suffered three years in the penitentiary for the cause, and who was on the editorial staff of the Toronto Worker.

Bruce announced that he had come out to Vancouver to stay and would take over the editorship of the <u>B.C. Workers' News</u>. He appealed for support in selling and distributing this paper, as it would be an important plank in the Revolutionary Movement against the powerful Capitalist press. He quoted Lord Rothermere in England, Hearst in the United States and the Southam interests in Canada as examples of the Capitalist press who spread the dirty, lying propaganda and slander all over the country to delude and mislead the workers, and to promote Fascism. Bruce said that in Canada the Capitalists have control of broadcasting,

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and use it to enable men like the Prime Minister to spread the Fascist propaganda while Sam Carr or Tim Buck could not obtain the privilege of speaking over the radio, even though they were prepared to pay for it. He spoke bitterly of the Prime Minister's proposed reforms, which he described as Fascist measures and said you could see the "iron heel" in these proposals. Mr. Woodsworth, leader of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, also came in for some harsh criticism, and was denounced as a reactionary for supporting Mr. Bennett's platform. He said that the Prime Minister has taken some planks out of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation and Liberal platforms, but you did not see him stealing any of the planks from the Communist platform. He urged the workers to struggle against the horror of Fascism and Imperialism at once, and described the U.S.S.R. as the workers' first fort. If they lose it, it will set the world back another 50 years. He predicted the day is not far off when the Soviet Union will be set up in France. Regarding the murder of Kiroff, Bruce said that Trotskyites got just what was coming to them. They were the rats of the U.S.S.R., and a small group like them would not be allowed to overthrow the social order. In Canada a small minority of parasites is living off the workers. If they were in Russia they would have to go to work. He expressed his delight at the United Front recently established between the Communist and Socialist Parties on the question of "Disfranchisement of the Slave Camp Workers". The Disfranchisement Clause was referred

to as an example of the good work done by "R. B. Bennett, the Moses or Jesus Christ of Canada".

This meeting was attended by about 400 people.

[**3****] Malcolm Bruce has been officially installed as Editor of the <u>B.C.</u>

<u>Workers' News</u> on 15th February. A committee consisting of [**deletion: 1/4 line] is closely co-operating with him.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

L BRITISH COLUMBIA

5. The Provincial Workers' Council

[***] A mass meeting held under the auspices of the Provincial Workers' Council at Cambie Street Grounds, Vancouver, B.C., on 18th February was attended by a crowd of approximately 3,000. The meeting was held largely on purpose to back up the Ottawa Congress on Unemployment and to press for enactment of the Workers' Insurance Bill. The speakers were:--

Lealess, representing the Communist Party of Canada.

Fred Grange, Provincial Workers' Council.

Charles McKendrick, Canadian Labour Defence League.

Hawthorn, Socialist Party of Canada.

Black, Co-operative Commonwealth Federation.

Christie, Young Communist League.

Malcolm Bruce, Communist Party of Canada.

Oscar Salonen, Vancouver and District

Waterfront Workers' Association.

Peggy Harrison, Women and Girls Club.

R. Holmes, Workers Unity League.

Pete Munro, Street-Railwaymen's Union.

The speakers, who were allowed 10 minutes each, all urged the adoption of the Non-Contributory Unemployment Insurance Bill. The Communist Party speakers all asserted that the Communist Party was the only political party of the working class which will lead the workers to victory.

A resolution demanding that the delegation from the Ottawa Congress be heard and in favour of the Workers' Bill was passed and sent to the Right Honourable R. B. Bennett at Ottawa.

[**#] Over 2,000 people attended a meeting held under the auspices of the Vancouver and District Waterfront Workers' Association in the Auditorium, Vancouver, B.C., on 17th February. The speakers were Mc-Kinnon, Munro, Russell and Tom Uphill, M.L.A. for Fernie, B.C.

Malcolm Bruce, who was present in the audience during the latter part of the meeting, was asked to speak and taking the platform exchanged compliments with the speakers.

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Bruce informed the audience that he would not say very much as he had just concluded an address at another meeting and suggested that the question period be carried on without further delay.

The three Friends of the Soviet Union delegates, recently returned from the Soviet Union, were ably supported by Tom Uphill in their praise of the Soviet Union. Tom Uphill gave the audience a very humorous account of his travels throughout the Soviet Union. He stated that he went over on his own and paid all his own expenses, that he had met up with the Friends of the Soviet Union delegates in Leningrad. He concluded by challenging any man in Vancouver to tell him or show him where he had made any false statements about conditions in the U.S.S.R.

The collection taken at this meeting netted \$78.

- [*#] A meeting of students of the University of British Columbia sponsored by the Anti-War Council held on 21st February in the University Auditorium voted 165 to 101 in favour of a motion asking for the banishment of the Canadian Officers' Training Corps from the campus and to the diversion of the money expended on it to the establishment of bursaries for needy scholars. The meeting lasted for two hours and was marked by heated and lively discussions.
- [**#] William Bennett has been ordered by the District Bureau of the Communist Party at Vancouver, B.C., to proceed to Cumberland, Vancouver Island, for one month's stay in an effort to organize the miners of that area and bring same under the leadership of the Mine Workers Union.

[***] Arthur H. Evans addressed a meeting in the Chamber of Commerce at Victoria, B.C., on 15th February, under the auspices of the Canadian Labour Defence League. He dealt with the events leading up to the strike at Princeton in 1932 and his subsequent

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trial under Section 98 of the Criminal Code. He intimated that his arrest was a frame-up. He claimed that he was hounded by the police and kidnapped by so-called reputable business men of Princeton prior to being sent to jail. He said that the Canadian Labour Defence League saved him from many years of imprisonment and stoutly defended him against what he termed "unscrupulous Government heel". Referring to the Princeton miners' strike he claimed that Provincial Police had brutally and without provocation beat and injured men and women. He declared that only by a United Front of the workers could the system that did not deal out justice be overthrown.

Three resolutions condemning the action of the authorities in breaking up strikes and imprisoning leaders under various charges and asking the immediate and unconditional release of these men were passed by the meeting. Copies of these resolutions were sent to the Quebec and Federal Governments. Two resolutions condemning the attitude of the Provincial Police were passed and ordered to be sent to the Mayor, G. G. McGeer, of Vancouver and the Attorney General of British Columbia.

[The striking miners at Corbin, B.C., held a mass meeting on the evening of 10th February to discuss the proposals made by the company for the resumption of operation. The meeting was addressed by John Stokaluk, National Secretary of the Mine Workers Union of Canada, and after a three hours' session it was decided to amend the original demands of the miners and in the meanwhile to take no action. Thus the conditions at Corbin remain unchanged.

II. ALBERTA

- 6. Sub-District Bureau, C.P. of C., Edmonton
- [*#] The Sub-District Bureau of the Communist Party in Edmonton, Alta., sponsored a mass meeting at the Empire Theatre on 17th February. The meeting was held under the auspices of the

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Unemployed Married Men's Association and the attendance numbered approximately 1,000. H. Pallott acted as Chairman and O. C. Doolan, Alderman Miss Margaret Crang, Mike Nowakowsky, J. Lakeman and Harry Johnson were the speakers. The purpose of the meeting was to give moral support to the Dominion Congress on Unemployment Insurance which convened in Ottawa on that day. The subjects under discussion centered mainly around the question of unemployment insurance.

O. C. Doolan, the first speaker, attacked the unemployment insurance legislation of Premier Bennett which, he contended, was merely a piece of Fascist legislation aimed at the lowering of the standard of living of the working class.

Alderman Miss Margaret Crang also scored the Unemployment Insurance Bill of Premier Bennett remarking that if it becomes law it will not solve the unemployment problem but will create more dissatisfaction among the working class.

Mike Nowakowsky spoke on the recent grain strike at Mundare scoring the action taken by the Police Magistrate in sentencing the strikers who were arrested for the participation in this movement.

J. Lakeman also characterized Premier Bennett's Unemployment Insurance Bill as a piece of Fascist legislation. He asserted that Premier Bennett's speeches over the radio compared very favourably with those of Hitler and Mussolini. Lakeman also severely criticized the trade unions and the leaders of political parties of labour for their corroboration with the Capitalist class in putting Premier Bennett's Unemployment Insurance Bill through the House of Commons.

Harry Johnson spoke briefly on behalf of the Alberta Relief Camp Workers' Union outlining events leading up to the camp strike at Project No. 57, Mountain Park, Alta.

A resolution demanding non-contributory unemployment insurance was passed by the meeting and ordered to be sent to Premier Bennett at Ottawa. Another resolution urging the local working class organizations to fight against Premier Bennett's

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Unemployment Insurance Bill was also endorsed and ordered sent to the organizations concerned.

[**] Enoch Williams and Thomas Mountford addressed meetings on 17th February in Lethbridge, Alta., and on 18th February in Coalhurst. On 19th

[** | February Mountford spoke in Magrath, and on the 24th the Columbus Hall at Blairmore was filled to capacity to hear Williams. Both, as usual, spoke in high praise of Russia and all things Russian.

[*****#] [*****deletion: 6 lines]

[***] The Communist Party in Calgary, Alta., are making every effort to break into the Protective Married Men's Association with a view to bringing it under Communist influence. They have already succeeded in having several Communists installed in that organization.

[**#] The Calgary (Alta.) Communist Party held an Election Conference on 17th February and selected Pat Lenihan as Communist candidate in the coming Provincial elections.

III. SASKATCHEWAN

7. P. Mickelson

[*#] P. Mickelson, President of the Saskatchewan Unemployed Association, addressed a mass meeting attended by approximately 350 people in the Town Hall at Melville, Sask., on the night of 12th February. In his lengthy speech he dwelt upon the Insurance

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Bill sponsored by the Communists comparing same with that sponsored by Premier Bennett. He roundly condemned the unemployment insurance policy of Mr. Bennett and urged the audience to come to the support of the Bill for non-contributory unemployment insurance.

Following his speech a resolution was proposed and passed by the meeting condemning the unemployment insurance scheme of Premier Bennett and endorsing the Workers' Bill.

IV. MANITOBA

8. Tim Buck

[***] Tim Buck was the chief speaker at the meeting of the Industrial Union of Needle Trades Workers in the Peretz Hall, Winnipeg, Man., on 28th February. The place was packed to capacity and preceding Buck the

meeting was also addressed by I. Minster and L. Vassil, who spoke on the strike situation at the Standard Clothing Manufacturing Company.

Buck's speech was largely confined to the present economic crisis and the continuous growth of the revolutionary movement in Canada and other countries. He related a meeting which he addressed in the Liberty Temple at Winnipeg in 1925 which was attended by only 28 people. He also told of the unhappy experience he had at Guelph, Ont., in 1927 where he was snatched from the meeting by students of the Agricultural College and thrown over the rails into the river. He compared these incidents with the receptions he is getting now and the large attendance at the meetings which he addresses at the present time. He said that whereas in 1927 he was mobbed in the City of Guelph by the students, on his recent visit to Guelph he spoke to a large audience, to workers who were quite ready to defend him had the students tried to disrupt the meeting. Buck maintained that the economic crisis is world-wide, that the various cures prescribed for by way of new deals and reforms will be of no avail and that the only way out of the crisis lies in the

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determined struggle of the working class for the establishment of a workers' republic.

On 27th February Buck was the guest of the Young Pioneers at a rally staged in the Ukrainian Labour Temple where he was presented with a set of fountain pen and pencil. He addressed the youngsters and told them that they are more fortunate than their parents, having a better start on the road to freedom. The ovation given him was very enthusiastic.

V. ONTARIO

9. Y.S., Canadian League Against War and Fascism

[**] The Student Peace Movement of the University of Toronto, which is under the guidance of the Youth Section of the Toronto (Ont.) Branch of the Canadian League Against War and Fascism, is now publishing a monthly sheet called The Student Front Against War. The Editorial Board responsible for the publication consists of Alfred Stein, Helen Siver and Leslie Mackay.

[*#] [*deletion: 1 line] will be leaving Toronto for Vancouver during the first week in March taking in Winnipeg, Calgary and Regina on the way out and Port Arthur and possibly Sudbury on her return.

VI. OUEBEC

10. The C.L.D.L. in Montreal

[*#] The District Secretariat of the Canadian Labour Defence league in Montreal, Que., met on 26th February. [*deletion: name] gave a report on the National Executive Committee meeting held in Toronto on 24th February. The National Office complained that very little money has been sent in from Montreal and [*deletion: name] was severely criticized for using funds that should have been sent to the National Office.

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On the Noranda campaign very little mass protest has been raised throughout the country.

[*deletion: name] also reported that the National Office is to commence a campaign to raise funds for the sending of a large delegation to the prison camps in the Polish Ukraine. This delegation, about 15 in number, is scheduled to leave Canada for Poland on or about the last week in March.

[**deletion: name] also gave a report on his lecture at the McDonald College at Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Que., on the evening of 25th February stating that about 35 people attended, all of whom were students. The lecture, [**deletion: 2 words] was on general "Left" activity and was well received by the audience. He further reported that he made a few contacts there and will again speak out there in the near future.

[*deletion: name] reported that considered progress has been made in the Canadian Pacific Railway Angus Shops. There is now functioning a Canadian Pacific Railway Unit of [*deletion: 1 line] The Headlight, which is also edited by [*deletion: name] has a circulation of 1,500 copies per issue of which 1,000 copies are given away and 500 sold at 2 cents per copy.

A recent meeting called by the Friends of the Soviet Union was attended by 175 men from the Angus Shops. The Friends of the Soviet Union manages to get its leaflets and general propaganda distributed within the Angus Shops which accounts for the large number of people attending the meeting. [**deletion: name] further reported that the Friends of the Soviet Union intends to concentrate also on the Canadian National Railway Shops in Point St. Charles with the object of building a Friends of the Soviet Union Branch in that section.

The total membership of the Canadian Labour Defence League throughout Canada was reported by [*deletion: name] to be under 14,000 with approximately 6,600 in good standing.

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The District Central Council of the Canadian Labour Defence League in Montreal, Que., met on 23rd February at 3410 St. Famille Street. The principle item discussed was the Noranda mass meeting which is to be held in the Prince Arthur Hall on the evening of 1st March. It was decided that the following address the meeting: [*deletion: 1/4 line], J. S. Wallace, to [34] speak in the name of the Noranda Defence Committee, and a French-Canadian named [**deletion: name] The council also decided to have a committee composed of [×deletion: 1 line] it is reported, will be the [Sedeletion: 1/2 line] candidate in the St. Louis section in the coming Federal elections and request him to address the Noranda mass meeting on 1st March. The committee will also visit [**deletion: 1 1/4 lines] and ask him to address the meeting in French. It was also decided to print a four-page leaflet on the Noranda issue announcing the mass meeting. The leaflet is to contain an open letter to the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation urging them to form a United Front on the Noranda issue. Ten thousand of these leaflets will be printed in French and in English. It was reported that 2,000 stickers in French and English have been printed and distributed. A delegation protesting against the convictions of the Noranda strikers will visit Premier Taschereau and the Honourable J. Arcand on 27th February. In connection with this delegation there is to be no demonstration.

[**★**#] [**★**deletion: 1/4 page]

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N. Nadeau and J. Peon, of the Friends of the Soviet Union in Montreal, Que., spoke to an audience of approximately 300 on 24th February at St. Martin's Hall, corner of Panet and St. Catherine Streets, on conditions in [34] Russia.

VII. THE MARITIME PROVINCES

11. C.L.D.L. Protests Dismissals From Relief Camp

[] A meeting of the Canadian Labour Defence League, Halifax (N.S.) Branch, on 22nd February resolved to protest against the dismissal of Comrades Baker and Wilkinson from the Citadel Hill Relief Camp by the Canadian National Defence authorities and to picket the National Defence Office until the two said comrades were either reinstated or provided with proper relief. When put to a vote the meeting decided unanimously in favour of a demonstration and about 60 men left the hall carrying numerous banners and marched slowly to the offices of Military District No. 6. During the march "The Red Flag" and "The International" were sung. On arrival about 20 men surrounded the building while a delegation, headed by Comrade Ross, went in to see the Commanding Officer. The latter informed the delegation that the two evicted comrades would be given a hearing on 23rd February. The demonstrators then dispersed.
