

## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 10th April, 1935.

**SECRET**NO. 752WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATORS IN CANADAReport

About 1,600 men have walked out from relief camps in British Columbia and 1,200 of these have reached Vancouver. There have been no disturbances. The camp strike has not spread to other provinces.

The Jewish society "Icor" held its First National Convention in Toronto on 23rd and 24th March, 1935. [Xdeletion: 1 line]

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[2]

APPENDICESTable of ContentsAPPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

Paragraph No. 1. Tim Buck --

(A) In the Crow's Nest Pass  
Celebrations in Blairmore  
With Harvey Murphy Visits Bellevue,  
Michel and Coleman

(B) In Vancouver  
Big Reception on Arrival

(C) In Victoria  
Big Meeting in Chamber of Commerce  
Auditorium

Banquet Is Held: 150 Delegates Attend

" " 2. [Xdeletion: 2 lines]

" " 3. W.U.L. Mass Rally  
Speech by Tom Ewen

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

" " 4. BRITISH COLUMBIA  
B.C. Relief Camp Workers' Union

- F. Lucas, Shaw, Malcolm Bruce
- ” ” 5. ALBERTA  
 Lakeman Speaks to District Bureau, C.P. of C.  
 Advocated United Front  
 U.M.M.A. at Edmonton  
 Ultimatum to City Council  
 O. C. Doolan, J. A. McPherson  
 C.L.D.L. Mass Meeting and Concert  
 Unemployed in Calgary Make Demands
- ” ” 6. SASKATCHEWAN  
 The Saskatchewan Union of Unemployed  
 A. F. Theodore at Gull Lake  
 Makes Tour of South-West Saskatchewan  
 M. Peskivets and the F.U.L.
- ” ” 7. MANITOBA  
 The League Against War and Fascism  
 Complaints That Communists Are Overriding  
 Conferences
- ” ” 8. ONTARIO  
 First National Convention of “Icor”  
 Held in Toronto 23rd and 24th March, 1935  
 Comrades Shek, Bloom, Gina Medem, A. Mould,  
 T. Ewen  
 Unemployed March to Queens Park, Toronto  
 A. E. Smith, E. Laurie  
 Stewart Smith Speaks in Toronto  
 Sam Carr  
 Jeanne Corbin to Tour for C.L.D.L.

[3]

## Paragraph No. 8. ONTARIO -- (continued)

R. Morris, East Windsor, Nominated  
The Worker Offers Prize Trip to Russia  
 L.W.I.U. and I.W.W. Endorse United Front  
 C.C.F. and C.P. of C. at St. Catharines

## ” ” 9. QUEBEC

[~~deletion~~: 1 line]

C.L.D.L. Propose March to Bordeaux Gaol  
 [~~deletion~~: 4 lines]  
 C. Sims and Stewart Smith to Lecture  
 Louis Kon Interested in Russian Film

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[4]

APPENDIX NO. I: GENERALL. Tim Buck(A) In The Crow's Nest Pass

Tim Buck arrived in Blairmore, Alta., on 21st March. To celebrate the [3<#] occasion the Mayor of Blairmore declared a public holiday. Buck addressed a capacity audience estimated at over 1,000 at the Columbus Hall in the course of the evening. At this meeting he was officially welcomed by the Mayor of the town and handed the keys of the city. Representatives of different organizations including the Young Communist League, the Mine Workers' Union of Canada and its Women's Auxiliary, the Young Pioneers, the Canadian Labour Defence League and other organizations controlled by the Communist Party extended greetings to him. He was presented with a bouquet of red carnations whilst the audience rendered revolutionary songs. Buck congratulated the workers of Blairmore and thanked the City Council for naming the main street of the town after him. This street has recently been changed into "Tim Buck Boulevard". Buck's speech, generally speaking, was a repetition of his former talks.

On 22nd March Buck, accompanied by Harvey Murphy, proceeded to Bellevue. There he held conferences with the leaders of the revolutionary movement, and in the late P.M. addressed a capacity audience in the Union Hall.

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[3<#] Tim Buck and Harvey Murphy addressed a meeting at Natal, B.C., on 24th March. After being introduced by Murphy Buck commenced to speak. His remarks are described as the usual Communistic propaganda. He denounced the Capitalist system, declared that the Communist Party would no longer remain underground and challenged the authorities to invoke Section 98. He condemned Mr. Bennett's insurance scheme as a fraud and called for a United Labour Movement to win non-contributory unemployment insurance. Buck said that he did not expect them all to

[5]

join the Communist party but he would like all the workers in the Crow's Nest Pass to put the whole weight of their organizations behind the Party so as to build up a League Against War and Fascism. He wanted to see a united working class movement.

Buck also spoke at Michel and Coleman.

Whilst at Blairmore Buck succeeded in healing many wounds caused by fractional strife. As a result of his visit new life has been injected into the movement and unity restored. He left for Vancouver early on 26th March.

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### (B) In Vancouver

[3<#] On his arrival in Vancouver, B.C., Tim Buck was welcomed at the station by a crowd of approximately 5,500. The demonstrators filled the railway station as well as the street immediately in front of the depot. On arrival he was carried by a select squad of the Workers' Sports Association to the main waiting room of the depot and there he spoke for about 12 minutes until he was carried to a waiting car. He was introduced to the crowd by George Drayton. Buck told his audience of the growing militancy of the workers across Canada. He remarked that if Premier Bennett now wished to place the militant workers of the Communist Party behind the bars he would have to accommodate 8,000 instead of eight as before. He announced that he would speak on various issues in the Vancouver Arena on the night of 31st March.

Presentations of floral bouquets were made to him by the Workers' Sports Association and the Young Pioneers who were in attendance fully arrayed in red tams and scarfs. As Buck was driven away in an automobile the Young Pioneers, headed by Harold Wynn, marched up towards Cambie Street Grounds followed by approximately 2,000 of the group assembled at the depot. On reaching Cambie Street Grounds the crowd, expecting to hear further from Tim Buck, were instead greeted by short speeches

[6]

given by Fred Grange, of the Provincial Workers' Council, Peggy Harrison, of the Women's Labour League, Christie, of the Young Communist League, Currie, of the Burnaby Unemployed, and Zlotnik, of the B.C. League Against War and Fascism; each of them in turn extended a most hearty welcome to Tim Buck who was not present.

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### (C) In Victoria

[3<#] Tim Buck arrived in Victoria from Cumberland, B.C., on 28th March and in the course of the evening addressed a crowd of about 1,000 who jammed the Chamber of Commerce Auditorium. The meeting was presided over by William White.

Buck was given a rousing reception when he appeared on the platform. In a two-hours' address he covered the Kingston riots, the struggle for his release and the present political and economic situation in Canada. He informed the audience that the disturbance in the Kingston prison had started when a bunch of boys started protesting by means of rattling their tin mugs on the bars of the cells against the "paddling" of some of the men who were alleged to have taken part in previous disturbances. For the information of his audience he described just what constituted a "paddling". He charged that Prime Minister Bennett and the Honourable Hugh Guthrie, Minister of Justice, had both visited the cell since the incident and had seen how the seven-foot wall was spattered with rifle marks. In this connection he said, "They know that those shots were not fired into my cell to intimidate me". He said that one of the Inspectors who had made the investigation into the alleged shooting had remarked to him that he was lucky to have come out of the cell alive.

Referring to the growth of the Communist Movement in Canada he remarked that the trial of the eight Communist leaders in Toronto in 1931 started 100,000 workers thinking "what is the Communist Party?" and "what does it stand for?"

[7]

He referred to the demonstrations which had greeted his arrival in various points as being an indication that the working men are going to hold meetings whenever they want to. He asserted that he and his associates were let out of jail because of the fear of the growth of the revolutionary organizations in Canada.

"Capitalism", he charged, "is decaying". He made it plain that the Communist Party of Canada aims for a Soviet Canada. He paralleled the policy of Premier Bennett with those of Mussolini, Hitler and Mosley. He also charged that the Prime Minister was endeavouring to repurchase the support of manufacturers which he had lost in the Provincial elections. He described as ridiculous the belief that every Communist was a Russian or a foreigner and drew attention to the fact that the working class revolution had started with the Chartists Movement in England.

Prior to the meeting a banquet was held in his honour attended by approximately 150 delegates representing various organizations. Those who spoke were:--

F. Goodman	Communist Party
P. D. Wilson	Saanich Relief Workers' Union
T. Beaumont	B.C. Committee of Joint Organization of Unemployed
L. Tonning	Canadian Labour Defence League

W. Hodges and	
I. Boden	Young Communist Party
Mrs. Beaumont	Victoria Women's Labour League
"Hodges	League Against War and Fascism
George Seymour	R.C.W.U.
S. C. Marr	Chinese Branch, C.L.D.L.
B. Wilson	Saanich Boy Worker Agent
Leonard Clarke	Seamen's Industrial Union

[~~deletion: 5 lines~~] At 7:30 P.M. Buck and his aides repaired to the Embassy Hall where a banquet was given in his honour. There were two sittings at this affair with about 1,000 present.

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### 3. W.U.L. Mass Rally

[~~#~~] The concluding meeting of the March mass rally of the Workers' Unity League was held in the Strand Theatre, Toronto, Ont., on 31st March.

The chief speaker was Tom Ewen. He spent considerable time denouncing the Trotskyites and the Lovestoneites who are not sympathetic to the Workers' Unity League. In defence of the Communist Party of Canada policy Ewen pointed out that the Workers' Unity League has succeeded in building up a strong revolutionary Trade Union Movement in Canada; that in districts where it is necessary the Workers' Unity League will send its members or followers even into the Catholic syndicates; that the March drive has proved that the Workers' Unity League will draw in many reformist unions for united action against relief cuts, against Fascism and against war. Speaking about the advertised strike on 4th April in the relief camps of British Columbia and Alberta Ewen emphasized the fact that the credit for building up the Relief Camp Workers' Union belongs to the Workers' Unity League. He asserted that conditions in B.C. and Alberta are similar to those existing in Russia prior to the Revolution in 1917.

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[9]

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCESI. BRITISH COLUMBIA4. B.C. Relief Camp Workers' Union

Approximately 2,000 persons attended a mass meeting of the B.C. Relief Camp Workers' Union on Cambie Street Grounds, Vancouver, on the afternoon of 24th March. Frank Lucas presided over the meeting and the speakers were Shaw, of the Relief Camp Workers' Union, and Malcolm Bruce, representing the Canadian Labour Defence League.

[3<#] Shaw criticized the relief camp system and stated that conditions in the camps were unbearable. He spoke of the proposed camp strike scheduled for 4th April. "This time", he said, "every man in British Columbia relief camps will be coming to Vancouver with the intention of remaining here". He appealed to the workers in the city for funds to support the men when they arrive.

Malcolm Bruce made a comparison of relief camp conditions with those in Kingston penitentiary. He urged all present to be at the Canadian Pacific Railway station at 2:00 P.M. on 26th March, to welcome Tim Buck to the city.

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II. ALBERTA5. Lakeman Speaks to District Bureau, C.P. of C.

[3<#] The Sub-District Bureau of the Communist Party of Canada in Edmonton, Alta., held a mass conference on 31st March. About 75 attended. J. O'Sullivan acted as Chairman with L. Hartman, Secretary.

Jan Lakeman outlined the history of the Second and Third Communist Internationals and the activity of the Communist Party in Germany and their experiences under the Hitler regime. He announced that the Communist Party is steadily growing. There are now 1,000 members in Alberta, whereas in 1932 there

[10]

were only 500. He urged them to form a United Front with the Canadian Labour Party and if possible all labour organizations as if they succeed in winning over the leadership of the various labour organizations, particularly against war and Fascism, it will not take much effort to win over the rank and file of these organizations and that is what is wanted. He urged them to send delegates to meetings of the Canadian Labour Party and other labour

organizations and that the delegates be instructed to speak whenever possible and advocate the United Front Movement.

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[✂#] The Unemployed Married Men's Association at Edmonton, Alta., held a conference at the Albion Hall on 23rd March. Approximately 350 people attended, representing the Unemployed Married Men's Association, Women's Auxiliary, Canadian Labour Defence League, Provincial Unemployed Married Men's Association, Unemployed Single Men's Protective Association and the Edmonton Ex-Service Men's Association. J. A. MacPherson acted as Chairman and those taking a leading part in the proceedings were J. Lakeman, G. H. Salter, O. C. Doolan, M. Rosen, J. Kohler, B. Jensen, James Summers, A. Davis and R. Metcalfe.

After considerable discussion it was decided to send a committee consisting of MacPherson, Doolan, Summers and Davis to the Edmonton City Council meeting on 25th March. It was further decided that the unemployed converge on the City Council Chamber on that evening to back up the delegation, who will present a number of "demands".

In presenting the demands to the City Council on the said date the delegation, headed by Doolan and MacPherson, gave the City Council a two weeks' ultimatum. Expiry of the ultimatum synchronizes with the announced visit to Edmonton of Tim Buck on 8th April. MacPherson also informed the City Council that a strike vote was being taken in the meantime, that the unemployed are being asked if they would strike on 8th April if the Council

[11]

refuses to grant the demands. He further said that a house-to-house canvass had been started for a strike vote.

[✂#] A Sub-Committee of the Alberta Legislature began its inquiry into the complaints of unemployed families on 18th March. A number of witnesses are being called including representatives of the various radical organizations.

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[✂#] The Canadian Labour Defence League at Edmonton, Alta., held a mass concert meeting in the Gem Theatre on 24th March in commemoration of the "Paris Commune". The Edmonton Russian Workers and Farmers Club Orchestra presented various musical selections and opened the meeting with "The International" and "The Red Army March".

O. C. Doolan and J. Lakeman were the speakers, giving a historical sketch of the "Paris Commune" and the lessons to be drawn therefrom.



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[✂#] At a special meeting of the Central Council of workers' delegates at Calgary, Alta., held on 30th March a vote was taken in favour of a strike unless the City Council meet their demands. The demands which include reissue of clothing to all members of the Unemployed Married Men's Association, adjustment in rent allowance and abolition of the membership list were submitted by a delegation to the City Council on 1st April. After presenting the demands the City Council informed the delegation that as the Mayor was absent nothing could be done about the matter. They were informed that the matter would have to be left in abeyance until the return of the Mayor.

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### III. SASKATCHEWAN

[✂#] 6. The Saskatchewan Union of Unemployed

A. F. Theodore, Organizer of the Saskatchewan Union of Unemployed, addressed a meeting at Gull Lake, Sask., on 19th

[12]

March. He spoke for about two hours urging the local unemployed to become organized in order to force the Government to grant better relief conditions.

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[✂#] Alex Theodore, Secretary of the Saskatchewan Union of Unemployed, is now making a tour of the south-western part of the province but has not been meeting with much success in some of the places visited by him. He was the principal speaker at a meeting in the Old School Assiniboia on 23rd March. This meeting was attended by about 50 people, some of whom were delegates from Scout Lake, Lisieux, Wood Mountain and Glentworth.

Theodore, in his speech, concentrated on the Unemployment Insurance Bill now before the House in Ottawa and urged the audience to oppose it on the grounds that it is "a measure designed to further exploit the workers and farmers".

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[✂#] Mike Pesklivets, Organizer of the Farmers' Unity League, has recently made the Wood Mountain and Assiniboia District the centre of his activities. On 19th March he addressed a public meeting in the Pool Hall at Wood Mountain at which he introduced and discussed the "Farm Emer-

gency Bill" which is being sponsored by the Farmers' Unity League. There were 46 persons in attendance and Henry Holmberg of Fir Mountain acted as Chairman. As a result of this meeting a local Action Committee of 12 was formed with Paul Straton as Chairman.

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#### IV. MANITOBA

##### 7. The League Against War and Fascism

[3<#] At a recent meeting of the Winnipeg (Man.) Conference Against War and Fascism the Independent Labour Party delegates were complaining that the Communist Party members were overriding the conference.

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[3<deletion: 1 line] Only a small percentage of Independent Labour Party members take any interest in it. The threatened deportation of John Strachey from the U.S.A. and the publicity given to it is somewhat responsible for the interest shown by the Independent Labour Party members in Winnipeg.

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#### V. ONTARIO

##### 8. First National Convention of "Icor"

[3<#] The First National Convention of "Icor" was held in Toronto, Ont., on 23rd and 24th March. It opened with a short address by Nisnevitch.

Comrade Shek, Secretary of "Icor", gave a general report on the activities of the organization and its future tasks.

Comrade Bloom presented the financial report, and Harry Guralnik, Editor of Der Kampf, reported on the "Icor" Convention held in New York City recently.

Gina Medem reported on the last Plenary Session of "Gezerd".

A number of resolutions were passed including one calling for the adoption of patronages over settlements in Biro-Bidjan and one which condemned war and Fascism. In the latter it was pointed out that anti-war and anti-Fascist activity constitutes one of the principal objects of "Icor". Another resolution called for the strengthening of the organization in the main centres of Canada, viz, Montreal and Toronto.

The convention also resolved to publish a monthly magazine and to start a campaign for a people's delegation to the Soviet Union.

During one of the sessions Arthur Mould of London, Ont., greeted the convention on behalf of the District Conference of the League Against War and Fascism.

Following his address the convention passed a resolution calling for the mobilization of the Jewish masses in Canada

[14]

against war and Fascism and for the defence of the Soviet Union.

Tom Ewen extended greetings on behalf of the Workers' Unity League, Comrade Strashuner on behalf of the Labour League, Dolgoy, representing the Industrial Union of Needle Trades Workers, and Joe Gershman greeted the convention in the name of the Communist Party.

The convention elected a National Executive consisting of 40 members and a Central Bureau of nine members with headquarters in Toronto. The following comprise the Central Bureau, Comrades Shek, Shapiro, Guralnik, Lifshitz, Zelinsky, Nisnevitch, Brickman and two women -- Shochat and Dr. Rose Bronstein.

The convention further resolved that the "Icor" Movement of Canada be independent and to be known in future as the Canadian "Icor".

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[3<#] About 350 unemployed from Long Branch, Mimico, New Toronto and York Township, Ont., augmented by about 1,500 Toronto unemployed, marched to Queens Park, Toronto, on 4th April where a meeting was held and a delegation appointed to interview the Provincial Government. While the committee, headed by A. E. Smith of Toronto and Ernest Laurie of Long Branch, interviewed the leaders of the Provincial Government several speakers held forth in the Park expounding the cause of the unemployed. Many University of Toronto students attracted by the crowd invaded the Park and set up rostrums in opposition and invited the crowd to join them. "Do not be led away by these poor, misguided students", pleaded William Montague, "they are irresponsible". The usual quota of banners bearing slogans were on hand. One slogan in particular recalled the words of Attorney General Roebuck to the last hunger marchers "God Bless You, Come Back Again. Here We Are Roebuck!"

The main demand of the delegation was a fifty per cent increase in food voucher allowance over the limit set by the

[15]

Campbell report. The Attorney General was also asked to withdraw the charges against some 25 men who were arrested in connection with the relief demonstration at New Toronto and York Township. It was also

charged by the delegation that malnutrition is rampant among the unemployed of Toronto and suburbs. As a result of this interview Premier Mitchell F. Hepburn, Attorney General Arthur W. Roebuck and Honourable David A. Croll, Minister of Public Welfare, will undertake a personal inspection tour of the homes of the relief recipients in the area surrounding Toronto to ascertain if the present food vouchers are adequate and if those on relief are under nourished. They will be accompanied by three representatives of the unemployed.

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[3<#] Stewart Smith, who is to be the Communist candidate in the Dominion election for the Rosedale Constituency, addressed a poorly attended meeting in the Labour Temple, 167 Church St., Toronto, Ont., on 31st March. Smith denounced the Conservative and Liberal Parties as being opposed to labour. The programmes of both these Parties are made up for them and the leaders are selected by the bankers of Canada. The Co-operative Commonwealth Federation Members of Parliament were condemned for supporting Mr. Bennett's Unemployment Insurance Bill, for suggesting the merging of the C.N.R. and the C.P.R., and for supporting the Central Bank for Canada. He said that Mr. Bennett's talks over the radio were largely cribbed from speeches made by President Roosevelt: he emphasized the importance of the Communist Party of Canada.

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[3<#] Sam Carr, Business Manager of The Worker, was discharged from the St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto, Ont., on 23rd March, where he underwent an operation. It is reported that it will be another five or six weeks before he will be well enough to assume his duties in The Worker Office.

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[16]

Jeanne Corbin, District Organizer of the Canadian Labour Defence League, who was recently released from Ville Marie Jail after serving a six months' sentence, will tour Northern Ontario and Western Quebec on behalf of the imprisoned leaders of the Noranda strike. The tour covers:--

[3<#] Ansonville	11-12th April
Kirkland Lake	12-15th "
Rouyn vicinity	16-21st "
Kirkland Lake	22nd "
Cobalt	23-26th "
Round Lake	27-28th "

Ansonville

29-30th "

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[X#] Ex-Alderman Reginald Morris of East Windsor, Ont., has been nominated as the Communist standard bearer for the Essex East Constituency in the coming Federal election.

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[X#] The management of The Worker has offered a free trip to the Soviet Union as a prize in the April Press campaign. This prize is open to the best of the 10 districts into which Canada is divided for the purpose of raising the April quota. This press campaign has for its objective the raising of \$6,000.

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[X#] Representatives of the Lumber Workers' Industrial Union and the Industrial Workers of the World (I.W.W.) met in conference at Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., on 27th March and endorsed a United Front programme with regard to working conditions and wages in the Algoma District. The conference has been hailed as a great step in the right direction as the Industrial Workers of the World, which is quite strong in this particular district, has been bitterly opposed to the Lumber Workers' Industrial Union.

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[17]

On 1st April a conference at St. Catharines, Ont., between delegates representing six Co-operative Commonwealth Federation clubs and three sections of the Communist Party in the Niagara Peninsula resolved to appoint a joint Committee of Action. This committee was instructed to draw up a programme for united action in the coming Federal elections.

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## VI. QUEBEC

[X#] [Xdeletion: 3/4 page]

[X#] [Xdeletion: 2 words] reported that a protest delegation of 14 visited Alderman Auger on the question of securing the St. James

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Market Hall for Canadian Labour Defence League mass meetings. The Alderman promised to look into the matter but refused to definitely state as to whether the Canadian Labour Defence League would get the hall or not.

[&#] [deletion: 3/4 page]

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[19]

The Communist Party in Montreal, Que., is sponsoring two lectures, one on "Trade Unionism" by Charles Sims on 7th April, and one by Stewart  
 [&#] Smith on 12th April on "Bennett's New Deal And The Communist Election Program". The former is to be held at the Co-operative Restaurant, 9 Mount Royal West, and the latter at the Prince Arthur Hall.

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[&#] Louis Kon addressed a poorly attended meeting of the Rosemount Tenants League at Montreal, Que., on 28th March. He lectured on conditions existing before and after the Revolution in the Soviet Union. He attempted to show how the working class was suppressed before the Revolution and the freedom it enjoys now.

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[&#] Louis Kon, of the Friends of the Soviet Union, has been instrumental in bringing to Montreal, Que., two of the Soviet films entitled "One Day In Moscow" and "The Diary Of A Russian Worker". These films were shown in Montreal with unheard of success financially. There were two showings in the Strathcona Hall on 29th March. The first show was specially for the McGill students and was attended by about 250 people who paid 30 cents admission. The second show was attended by 600 persons who paid 60 cents admission. On the 31st these pictures were shown three times at the Rialto Hall on Park Avenue and each performance attracted well over 1,000 people.

At each showing Louis Kon made a few remarks stating that he regretted that he had been unable to get better halls but they were hopeful to meet with greater success in future.

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