

## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 18th April, 1935.

SECRETNO. 753WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATORS IN CANADAReport

About 1,600 strikers from relief camps in British Columbia have reached Vancouver. The Civic authorities there have refused to accept any responsibility for their maintenance. The strikers have been orderly so far.

According to The Worker, John Strachey, the British Communist, who visited Canada and the U.S.A. recently, in conversation with the London representative of the Toronto Star remarked:--

"The Communist Party of Canada is one of the best in the Western world. It is underground but, as Lenin pointed out, a party must be underground to gain cohesion, ardour and force. The Co-operative Commonwealth Federation is open and untampered, but is already more stagnant and doctrinaire than the British Trade Unions and Labour Party".

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APPENDIX NO. I. GENERAL

1. Tim Buck Meetings

(A) In Vancouver

Tim Buck was the principal speaker at a mass meeting of the Communist Party in the Arena at Vancouver, B.C., on 31st March. Approximately 8,000 people attended the meeting and many found the doors locked on [deletion: #] their arrival. Malcolm Bruce acted as Chairman, and the meeting opened with the singing of "The International".

Buck spoke for a period of approximately one hour and a half. He recounted his experiences in Kingston penitentiary and presented a general analysis of the present situation, paying particular attention to what he termed the rise of Fascism. He challenged Section 98 saying that it was not worth the paper it is written on. In this connection he said:--

"R. B. Bennett and others still say the Communist Party is illegal but their Section 98 is not worth the paper it is written on and we defy them to use it if they dare".

Speaking of the imprisonment of the Communist Party leaders he said:--

"Our trial and imprisonment at Kingston started hundreds of thousands of workers thinking and acting as shown by the wide-spread campaign which finally resulted in our release".

He claimed that if the Government were to attempt to imprison the militant workers they would have to provide accommodation for 800,000 instead of eight.

Speaking of the systems adopted in Italy, Germany and other European countries he said that the policy of Premier Bennett is in line with those systems. He said that Premier Bennett proposed establishment of the corporate state which would abolish all working class organizations. This, he remarked, was a question of development of the Capitalist class needs. "Until the end of Capitalism, only a great war can possibly end mass unemployment", he declared. "In the present crisis", he stated, "there are two things for the working class. They can either

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submit to Fascist control or can put up a united struggle for a Soviet Union in Canada".

In closing he made an impassioned plea for united support of the working class in what he termed the coming fight against Fascism, the Imperialist war and hunger. He called on his audience to realize that they must either unite and smash Fascism or go down under the heel of that system to be smashed. He quoted Karl Marx' slogan "Workers of the World Unite, You Have Nothing to Lose but Your Chains".

The meeting was also briefly addressed by William Bennett and E. Cumber, Secretary of the Relief Camp Workers Union. The latter briefly outlined the struggles of the camp workers and asked for support of the Vancouver workers in the relief camp strike which, he said, would commence on 4th April. He introduced a resolution protesting against the [✂#] charges made by the Honourable Grote Stirling in the House of Commons in Ottawa accusing the relief camp workers of conspiracy to destroy the camps. The resolution, which was endorsed unanimously, also demanded the retraction of the statement made by the Honourable Grote Stirling and condemned generally the relief camps in the province.

William Bennett's speech was a eulogy of Tim Buck, characterizing him as a fearless leader of the working class.

[✂#] The collection at this meeting netted \$927. While the collection was being taken the Young Pioneers, decked out with red tams and scarfs and carrying banners and flags with revolutionary greetings to Buck, marched through the aisles of the Arena and assisted in taking the collection.

On the platform were seated the representatives of the various revolutionary organizations including Lealess, Peggy Harrison, O'Neill, Kerr, Tom Nelson, Sam Shearer, Pete Munro and Elspeth Munro, the latter representing the Young Pioneers.

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(B) At University of British Columbia

On 1st April Buck addressed the students of the University of British Columbia. The meeting was held under the auspices of the Students' Social Club and the request to hold a meeting was granted by the Dean on the [X#] condition that the event be given no Press publicity.

On this day he also spoke for two hours in support of Malcolm Bruce's candidature in the Norquay Community Hall.

Bruce followed with a 20-minute speech in which the highlight was that the Communists will support a candidate of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation if the latter pledges himself to fight for the working class, even to the extent of withdrawing the Communist Party candidate.

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(C) At New Westminster

[X#] On 2nd April Buck addressed a packed meeting at the Columbia Hall in New Westminster, B.C. At this meeting an admission of 25 cents was charged and in addition Buck, at the end of his speech, made an appeal for funds. The total amount collected at this meeting was over \$150.

Prior to this meeting a banquet was given in his honour at the Russel Hotel, which was attended by approximately 600 people. The price of admission to the dinner was 35 cents.

To an intimate Tim expressed himself as being thoroughly "fed up" with the tour and the continual repetition of the same old material.

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(D) At Nordegg

[X#] Tim Buck addressed a meeting in Nordegg, Alta., on 6th April. He was driven there from Calgary by John Stokaluk, Secretary of the Mine Workers' Union of Canada. On arrival he was met about a quarter of a mile from town by about 50 members

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of the local Mine Workers' Union who escorted him to the hall carrying a banner bearing the inscription "Welcome to Nordegg, Tim Buck". The meeting, which was attended by approximately 300 people, started at 2.00 P.M. and concluded at 4.30 P.M. After the meeting Tim Buck had dinner with the officials of the local unit of the Mine Workers' Union of Canada, following which he left for Calgary again.

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(E) At Regina

A crowd of approximately 500, including young men and girls wearing [S&#] red berets, welcomed Tim Buck on his arrival at the Union Station at Regina, Sask., on 10th April. Conspicuous in the crowd were William Stokes, George Taylor, J. P. Bepalko, V. E. Mills, Emil Miller and Octavia Kay. When the train entered the station the "International" was sung and when Tim Buck appeared three cheers were given for him.

From the station he was carried to a waiting taxi and followed by the crowd drove to the Trianon Hall where he addressed a meeting attended by about 1,300 people. Banners bearing slogans such as "Welcome Tim Buck And A Soviet Canada", "Greetings From The Young Communist League", "For A United Front Of The Communist Party And The Co-operative Commonwealth Federation", "Greetings From the Hungarian Workers' Club", etc. decorated the hall. William Stokes acted as Chairman and along with him were seated on the platform the leaders and representatives of the various revolutionary organizations of Regina. When Tim Buck made his appearance he was greeted with loud applause.

T. G. MacManus, Communist Party candidate for the Moose Jaw Constituency in the coming Federal election, in the course of a short speech, remarked that he felt sure Tim Buck would be elected for Winnipeg North and that he, MacManus, would be in the House at Ottawa to second Tim's motions.

Following McManus' address greetings were extended to Tim Buck by the leaders of the various organizations represented

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at the meeting.

Buck related his experiences in Kingston penitentiary but the major portion of his speech was the usual diatribe on the Capitalist system and a eulogy of Soviet Russia interspersed with satirical comments on Mr. Bennett's "change of heart". He closed his speech with a rousing call for unity and warned the audience against the Unemployment Insurance Bill sponsored by the Federal Government.

A considerable sum of money was collected at this meeting but the result of the collection was not announced.

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2. Communist Party Meeting in Calgary

[S&#] Over 3,000 persons attended a mass meeting of the Communist Party in the Variety Theatre at Calgary, Alta., on Sunday, 7th April. Pat Lenihan

was the Chairman and the speakers were Harvey Murphy, Mayor W. Knight of Blairmore and Tim Buck.

Harvey Murphy gave a brief outline of the Communist Party programme and policy. He made an appeal for funds to help finance the radio talk of Tim Buck at Edmonton on 16th April over Station CJCA. The collection taken netted \$128.24.

Mayor W. Knight told the meeting of how the Communists were running the Town of Blairmore. He accused the Government of trying to oust the Communist regime in that municipality.

Tim Buck gave some of the impression which he gained on his tour of the West. Part of his speech was devoted to the "danger of the pending Capitalist war". In the course of his address he made the assertion that the Communist Party had doubled its membership in the past three months and that the Government had cause to be afraid of the Communist Party.

With reference to the radio talk of Tim Buck, which was mentioned by Harvey Murphy at this meeting, it has been ascertained that no preparations have been made so far for Buck to speak over the said broadcast station.

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### 3. John Navizowsky

A conference attended by approximately 150 radical farmers at Arborg, Man., on 31st March officially endorsed the candidature of John Navizowsky in the Selkirk Constituency. The conference decided to establish local conferences and Poll Committees in all districts and elected a [§<#] committee of 29 to supervise the campaign. J. Kapusta, [§<deletion: 3 words] was elected Chairman of the Campaign Committee with A. Chudy as Secretary. The conference also endorsed the Communist election programme including the cancellation of all farm debts, arrears and rents, etc.

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## APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

### I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

#### 4. The B.C. Relief Camp Workers' Union

A mass meeting of the B.C. Relief Camp Workers' Union was held at Cambie Street Grounds on 8th April with approximately 2,000 relief camp strikers and sympathizers in attendance.

[✂#] Speeches were given by McLeod, of the Relief Camp Workers' Union, P. Lowe, of the Young Communist League, who welcomed the camp strikers in the name of the Young Communist League, Livingstone, representing the All-Canadian Congress of Labour, and offering the support of his organization, both financially and morally, to the relief Camp Workers' Union, Lealess, of the Provincial Workers' Council, Arthur H. Evans, representing the Workers' Unity League, and George Drayton who spoke on behalf of the Communist Party.

While the meeting was in progress a delegation under the leadership of Mrs. Steeves, M.L.A., returned from the City Hall where they demanded immediate relief for the strikers. This, they informed the meeting, was not granted and as a result it was resolved to dispatch a telegram to the Provincial relief authorities at Victoria. This was immediately arranged. A parade through the city streets was suggested by a member of the audience but Arthur Evans very hastily had the Chairman way-lay the suggestion as it was not considered advisable to hold a parade at this particular time.

Numerous banners were displayed carrying relief camp workers' slogans and demands. The meeting was quite orderly and the crowd quietly dispersed.

After the meeting keen disappointment was expressed by the local leaders of the Communist Party at the poor attendance.

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On 6th April approximately 450 relief camp strikers, members of the Relief Camp Workers' Union, gathered at Princeton, B.C., from the surrounding camps and stopped and boarded a passenger train demanding [✂#] transportation to Vancouver. The Canadian Pacific Railway agent at Princeton promised to make a request to the head office to supply an engine and box cars to carry them to their destination. In view of this promise the strikers withdrew from the train. The station agent's request was refused, however, and as a result the strikers boarded the next freight train outside the Princeton city limits and arrived in Vancouver on the morning of the 9th.

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[✂#] The Workers Ex-Service Men's League and the Canadian Labour Defence League at Vancouver, B.C., held a joint meeting at 122A W. Hastings Street on 7th April. The attendance numbered approximately 250 men and the speaker of the day was a man named Black representing the Unemployed Section of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation. In a



rather lengthy speech Black cast a shadow of pessimism over the unemployed situation of the day. He maintained that the unemployed on the whole were worse off now than in 1919. He felt that the unemployed were not quite ready to organize and unite against the Capitalist system. He cited the present relief camp strike as an example of the lack of solidarity amongst the workers. According to his statement only approximately 2,000 answered the strike call out of 8,000 or more single men employed in the Department of National Defence camps.

O'Neill, of the Workers Ex-Service Men's League, took exception to the statement made by the speaker with regard to the question of organization and unity amongst the unemployed.

Kelly, also of the Workers Ex-Service Men's League, spoke briefly on the importance of a United Front of all workers as a means of combatting what he termed "Bennett's fake Insurance Bill".

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[X#] At a recent meeting of the District Executive Board of the Workers' Sports Association in Vancouver, B.C., the following were elected as delegates to go to the Soviet Union this year:--

B. McIntyre well-known local amateur athlete  
who will represent the Terminal  
Baseball League

Austin Delaney soccer player and sports writer  
of the Vancouver Daily Province  
who will represent the B.C.  
Football Association

J. E. Munroe of Westminster City  
Hal Straight Assistant Sports Editor of the  
Vancouver Sun, representing the  
B.C. Basketball Association

The election of other delegates is under way throughout all the Workers' Sports Association Clubs in British Columbia.

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The offices of the Workers' Unity League and its subsidiaries at Vancouver, B.C., have been vacated at 305 Cambie Street and the new location is in 19 Hastings Street, East, where the windows are very favourably [3<#] situated for speaking to a crowd below in the street should the occasion arise, as in the case of a demonstration at the City Hall. The new location is almost opposite the City Hall.

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## II. ALBERTA

### 5. The League Against War and Fascism

[3<#] The Edmonton (Alta.) Council of the League Against War and Fascism met in conference at the Masonic Temple on 29th March. There were 50 delegates representing 41 local organizations in attendance with S. A. G. Barnes in the chair. Mrs. Mason, F. Newman, O. C. Doolan, B. Swankey, P. Finnemore and R. Clevlen presented reports on their activities in connection with the drive for new members.

It was reported that the Organization Committee has been approaching various local political and church organizations asking for their support and affiliation to the league. It was further revealed that Mayor Clarke had granted a Tag Day for the league on 17th April, 1935.

Rice Sheppard gave a report on the preparations under way regarding the celebration of the Jubilee of His Majesty on 6th May.

J. Eggar spoke and suggested that a counter demonstration be held at the same time as the Jubilee parade. The conference then resolved to send a delegation to the Edmonton Committee in charge of His Majesty's Jubilee preparations protesting against the holding of a military display on 6th May and demanding that same be eliminated on grounds that such a demonstration is propaganda for war.

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The Central Council of the Unemployed Married Men's Association in Edmonton, Alta., held a mass meeting at the Albion Hall on 6th April, which was attended by approximately 250 persons. J. Lakeman, O. C. Doolan, R. Metcalfe and Jamieson addressed the meeting on the question [3<#] of the pending relief strike. The meeting voted unanimously for a strike at any time the Executive of the Central Council feel that same should be called.

It has been decided to delay strike action for the present. The Communist Party want to put the strike off till the end of April. In the meantime, they hope to obtain some support from Trade Unions and Labour organizations.

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[3<#] The Communist Party has definitely decided to run a candidate in the next Alberta Provincial elections in the Vermilion Constituency. William Helina, a prominent revolutionary in the Myrnam District, has been selected as candidate. Helina was one of the active Organizers in the Myrnam farmers' strike, the year before last.

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[3<#] Communist Party Organizers have been successful in organizing the workers in the sugar beet growing areas of Magrath and Raymond in the Province of Alberta into a Sugar Beet Workers' Union.

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### III. SASKATCHEWAN

#### 6. Ewart Humphries in Regina

[3<#] Ewart Humphries addressed a large meeting under the auspices of the Regina Branch, Saskatchewan Unit of Unemployed, in the Labour Temple at Regina on 2nd April. He severely criticized the Government Unemployment Insurance Bill and urged the workers to come to the support of the Workers' Bill sponsored

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by the Ottawa Congress on Unemployment Insurance. He pointed out that the unemployed in Great Britain had forced the Government to amend certain unemployment insurance legislation. He spoke of parades and riots staged by the unemployed of Great Britain in protest against the proposed unemployment legislation. He urged the audience to adopt as their motto the slogan "Mass forces attain results".

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[3<#] Peter Mikkleson addressed a meeting of unemployed in the Baptist Church, Weyburn, Sask., on 26th March, the subject of his address being "The Ottawa Congress on Unemployment Insurance, and the Unemployed in General". He failed to rouse any enthusiasm and the meeting adjourned without taking any organizational measures.

On 27th March Mikkleson addresses approximately 100 people in the Municipal Office at Estevan. He condemned the present relief system and

urged the unemployed of Estevan to join the Saskatchewan Union of Unemployed.

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#### IV. MANITOBA

##### 7. E. G. Humphries Talks to Winnipeg

[✂#] E. G. Humphries, National Secretary of the Unemployed Councils, sketched the development of the present unemployed situation at a mass meeting on the Market Square in Winnipeg, Man., on the night of 7th April. Speaking of Premier Bennett's reform Humphries charged that it is a measure to fool the workers, the same as the National Recovery Act in the United States.

The meeting, which was attended by about 250 persons, was also addressed by G. Nicols (Levi), the local Secretary of the Unemployed Council. Nicols dealt with the achievements of the unemployed organizations as a result of their struggle. He

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contended that the struggle has only just begun and that the working class masses are beginning to realize the urgent need for unity of action.

On the night of 8th April the Winnipeg Unemployed Conference held a mass meeting on the Market Square in support of the demand for a ten per cent increase in the relief food voucher and demanding a negotiable clothing voucher. Nearly 1,000 men and women attended. C. W. Foster acted as Chairman and explained the purpose of the meeting. The speakers were G. Nicols, Mrs. Johnson, Bob Towle and E. G. Humphries.

G. Nicols, in a very vehement tone, condemned the "labour fakirs" in the City Council and blamed the workers for putting them in office. "The next time we will put them where they right belong", he said.

Bob Towle also criticized the Civic officials and blamed the workers a great deal for their misery.

Humphries appealed for unity and maintained that only through struggle can the workers ever attain their objective.

[✂#] Humphries also spoke at Brandon on 4th April. He expounded the Workers' Bill adopted by the Ottawa Congress on Unemployment Insurance comparing same with the Unemployment Bill sponsored by the Canadian Government. He urged organization and unity of the working class and expressed his opinion that if the workers would stick together they would be sitting in the Brandon City Council representing the affairs of the city instead of "a bunch of fools that look after themselves".

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 [X#] [Xdeletion: 1/4 page]

[17]

[X#] [Xdeletion: 1/2 page]

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 [X#] The Revolutionary Movement in Winnipeg, Man., lost one of its most energetic members in Freda Coodin who died on 7th April, 1935. She has been a very active worker in the Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union.

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 [X#] The Kanadai Magyar Munkas (Canadian Hungarian Worker) the Hungarian organ of the Communist Party of Canada, is now being published twice a week. The first issue of the twice weekly appeared on 8th March containing eight pages. An editorial appearing in this issue comments on the publication of this paper as a twice weekly and urges the Hungarian workers to organize with a view to having same published at least three times a week in the near future.

This is another instance of the phenomenal growth of the foreign language publications subsidized by the Communist Party of Canada.

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## V. ONTARIO

### 8. Jim Davis Talks to F.S.U. in Toronto

Jim Davis was the guest speaker at a meeting of the Central Branch of the Friends of the Soviet Union in Toronto, Ont., on 8th April, his subject being "The Present International Situation". In the course of his speech he [X#] remarked that Russia was ready for war with 900,000 trained soldiers and seven horse power of war machinery behind every soldier.

J. Cowan also addressed the meeting and stated that Professor Felix Walters would be the guest speaker at the next meeting.

The Friends of the Soviet Union, it was reported, is taking a very active part in the May Day campaign. May Day this year in the City of Toronto will be marked by a mass rally in the Maple Leaf Gardens.

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VI. QUEBEC

[X#] [Xdeletion: 1/2 page]

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[X#]

Fred Rose reported that he will run as the Communist candidate in the Cartier Constituency. He spoke of the importance of organizing groups in the shops and factories at the present time when the Party is enjoying a certain amount of freedom. He felt sure that the Government will launch an attack upon the Communist Party after the Dominion elections. Rose also stressed the importance of having Party members working in munition plants and war industries.

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[X#] [Xdeletion: 1/4 page]

Rabbi Benjamin Goldstein of New York was the guest speaker at a [X#] meeting of the Saturday Night Club, Montreal, Que., on 6th April. Although the meeting was well advertised there were only between 250 and 300 people present, the vast majority of whom were Jewish. Mrs. Lilian Mendelsohn presided. She introduced the lecturer as a leader of the League Against War and Fascism in the United States.

"Anti-Semitism In America" was the subject of Rabbi Goldstein's address. He condemned the Jewish organizations for not dealing with the fundamental causes underlying the Anti-Semitic Movement. He stated that the Anti-Semitic Movement is a sure sign of the disintegration and decay of Capitalism. He compared the Anti-Semitic Movement with the Negro situation in the United States claiming that it is similar to the Jewish question in the European countries. He contended that it would be quite impossible to have an Anti-Semitic Movement under the Communist regime.

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