

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 22nd May, 1935.

SECRETNO. 756WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS
AND AGITATORS IN CANADAReport

Failing to gain their demands from the City Council, relief workers at Stratford, Ont., came out on strike on 15th May.

Some 50 relief workers, under the leadership of Yorkie Burton, are striking in Prince George, B.C. Although only 50 men have so far come out on strike, approximately 600 are affected. It is anticipated that more will join the striking group in the near future.

[2]

APPENDICESTable of ContentsAPPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

Paragraph No. 1. Tim Buck in N.S. --

(A) At Sydney & Glace Bay

Speaks at Two Well-Attended Meetings

(B) At Halifax

Meeting in School for the Blind

[~~deletion: 1 line~~]

" " 2. M. Popovich in Alberta

May Day Meeting in Myrnam

Attends Communist Election Conference

" " 3. B.C. Relief Camp Workers' Strike

Labour Unions Decline to Strike in

Sympathy

Strikers Sent Cable to His Majesty King

George V

"Mother's Day Committee" Hold Parade, Mass

Meeting and Tag Day

- Minor Disturbances on 18th May
 Strikers Refuse to Return to Camps
 L.W.I.U. Collects \$1,117.57 for Strikers
- " " 4. Miners' Strike at Corbin, B.C.
 Situation Quiet
 Rioters Convicted
- " " 5. Steel Workers' Strike at Hamilton (Ont.)
 Settled
- " " 6. Metal Miners' Strike in Bridge River
 [deletion: 1 1/2 line]
- " " 7. Relief Recipients Strike at Edmonton
 Situation Unchanged
 Nuisance Parade a Failure
- " " 8. Orton Wade in Toronto
- " " 9. [deletion: 1 1/2 line]

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

- " " 10. BRITISH COLUMBIA
 W.E.L. in Vancouver Demonstrates on 6th
 May
 Militia Men Boomed
 Workers' Delegation Reports on Conditions
 in Corbin
- " " 11. ALBERTA
 M.W.U. Meeting in Calgary
 J. Price, M.L.A., Reports on Conditions in
 Corbin

[3]

Paragraph No. 12. SASKATCHEWAN

- [deletion: 1 1/4 line]
 Hunger March to Take Place on 10th July
- " " 13. MANITOBA
 Meeting Discusses "Fascist Terror" in
 Poland
 S. Iwasczyszyn Elected to Investigate
 Prison Conditions in Poland
 Winnipeg Unemployed Delegation Visit City
 Council Meeting in Market Square
 Unemployed Pickets in West Kildonan Attempt
 to Prevent Others from Working
 John Navizowski Continues His Lectures on

- the Soviet Union
- " " 14. ONTARIO
 Jewish Section of Communist Movement in
 Toronto Hold Successful Concert in
 Massey Hall, Toronto
- " " 15. QUEBEC
 League Against War & Fascism in Montreal
 Holds Rally
 Meeting of Workers Ex-Service Men's League
 Fred Rose Speaks
 New Members Taken in

[4]

APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

I. Tim Buck in Nova Scotia

(A) At Sydney & Glace Bay

Tim Buck on his arrival in Sydney, N.S., on 4th May was greeted by about 150 people, some of whom had come in special tram cars from Glace Bay for the occasion. Held on the shoulders of two coal miners he spoke [3<#] for about five minutes to his admirers telling them of the receptions he had received in various cities during his recent cross-country tour. He was then taken into a motor car and driven to his hotel followed by the congregation who formed a parade.

[3<#] On the afternoon of the following day he addressed a capacity audience in the Strand Theatre at Sydney. Dan McKay acted as Chairman and seated on the stage along with Tim Buck were J.B. McLachlan, M. A. McKenzie, Forman Waye, Steve Furler, John Johnston, Robert Stewart, Donald J. Steele, James Madden and W. L. Ross.

Tim Buck gave a detailed description of the attempt to "assassinate" him in his cell in Kingston penitentiary, repeating the allegation that 11 bullets had been fired in his cell and after reviewing the political, social and economic conditions as they exist today he urged the audience to fight for non-contributory unemployment insurance, against war, Fascism and starvation. He appealed to the steel workers of Sydney to get organized and warned them that only through organization will they be able, not only to demand decent wages and maintain a decent standard of living, but also be infinitely better able to curb the growth of Fascism and resist the menace of war.

J. B. McLachlan, who was introduced by the Chairman as the first Communist candidate ever nominated in Nova Scotia, in a 30-minute speech eulogized Tim Buck and his achievements in the Revolutionary Movement. McLachlan contended that only by organization under the leadership of the Communist Party of Canada can the workers ever expect to improve their standard of living.

[5]

He, however, emphasized that the Communist Party stands for the complete overthrow of the Capitalist State and for the creation of a Soviet Government.

On the evening of the same day Buck addressed a well attended mass meeting at McRae's Arena in Glace Bay. His speech was mainly a repetition of the one which he gave at Sydney in the course of the afternoon.

(B) At Halifax

On 12th May Buck was the principal speaker at a Communist Party mass meeting in the School for the Blind at Halifax, N.S. The 850 people in attendance filled the hall to capacity. Buck, in his address, gave an outline of what the Communist Party of Canada stands for, his experiences in Kingston penitentiary and generally denounced the Capitalist system.

The meeting was presided over by Dan Parker and a brief talk was also given by Roscoe A. Filmore of Centreville, N.S., who told of the hunger and misery in Kings County.

[deletion: 1/4 page]

2. M. Popovich in Alberta

M. Popovich was the chief speaker at a May Day demonstration held in front of the Labour Hall at Myrnam, Alta., on 5th May. He spoke in English and Ukrainian emphasizing the need for organization against war and Fascism and for the overthrow of Capitalism. He declared that the Communist Party is preparing the workers and farmers of Canada for the overthrow of the present

[6]

government and remarked the Communists do not care who knows it. He explained that it is imperative to have Communists in the Canadian Parliament. "Although they may not be able to accomplish much they would be

in a position to expose things which are in the interests of the workers and farmers", he said.

On the same day Popovich also took an active part in a Communist Party Nomination Conference at Myrnam at which William Halina was officially nominated as the Communist standard bearer for the Vermilion constituency. The conference was attended by 59 delegates, eight of whom were English-speaking, representing 34 polling divisions.

3. B.C. Relief Camp Workers' Strike

[✂#] Demonstrations in support of the B.C. relief camp workers' strike in Vancouver continue. Encouraged by the moral and financial support of a large section of the workers of Vancouver, the strikers have affirmed their determination not to return to the camps and to accept nothing less than complete victory.

Recent developments would tend to show that although the bulk of organized labour has responded with considerable financial and moral support, there is at the present time no wide sentiment for a sympathetic or general strike.

Members of the Street Railway Men's Union, one of the most powerful labour organizations in Vancouver, have been quoted as saying they would be willing to be assessed \$10 for strike funds, but that they vote against coming out on strike even for an hour.

This attitude is vividly demonstrated by the result of the vote taken by the Vancouver and District Waterfront Workers' Association, one of the most militant and "Left" controlled organizations on the continent, on 17th May on the question of the sympathetic strike. The result of the ballot was 360 for and 447 against a strike.

[7]

The Action Committee of the relief camp strikers, following a meeting held on 4th May, sent the following cable to His Majesty King George V:--

[✂#] "Your twenty-fifth Jubilee finds two thousand Canadian relief camp workers sentenced to starvation at Vancouver B.C. by Canadian Premier Bennett. Suggest you instruct Premier Bennett furnish immediate relief"

On 7th May about 40 women representing various organizations met at the Hotel Georgia and formed a "Mother's Day Committee", adopting the slogan "A Home For Every Strikers On Mother's Day". The meeting

resolved to hold a parade and a mass meeting in Stanley Park as well as a Tag Day on 12th May.

[3<#] Accordingly, on 12th May a parade of approximately 350 women and children and 1,800 relief camp strikers, supported by approximately 1,000 sympathizers, marched from Cambie Street Grounds to Stanley Park where a meeting was held in front of the Malkin Memorial Shell.

Approximately 5,000 persons attended this meeting. Peggy Harrison acted as Chairman and speeches were given by Mrs. Colley, Lizzie Campbell, Mat Shaw, Mrs. Norton, Flora Hutton and Mrs. Graham.

Between \$900 and \$1,000 was collected by the Mother's Day Tag Day workers, it was announced.

Minor disturbances occurred on 18th May when police opposed strikers as they entered two department stores in which two city policemen were slightly injured. About 200 strikers locked themselves in the Museum for several hours with the declared intention of remaining there until relief was granted. The men dispersed when temporary relief was promised by the Mayor.

A mass meeting of the strikers held on 19th May decided to refuse to return to work until the Royal Commission reports on its investigation into the camps and until negotiations for settlement of the strike have been opened by the Dominion

[8]

Government. In the meantime the strikers demand that the city provide relief.

[3<#] The total amount collected in the logging camps by the Lumber Workers' Industrial Union up to 1st May for the striking relief camp workers is \$1,117.57. This includes the amount collected by the various Women's Auxiliaries of this union.

4. Miners' Strike at Corbin, B.C.

[3<#] The situation at Corbin, B.C., remains quiet. It is reported that the company has decided to discontinue work at the mine including the "Big Showing" for an indefinite period.

[3<#] The trial of the men who participated in the riot on 17th April has been concluded. Nine of them were sentenced to from three to six months in jail

and 13 were fined as high as \$200 on charges of "assault", "obstruction" and "vagrancy". There have been no outside agitators in Corbin recently but a determined effort is being made to collect funds in the various mining camps for the strikers.

5. Steel Workers' Strike at Hamilton Settled

[3<#] The strike of 300 employees of the Steel Company of Canada at Hamilton, Ont., was settled on 16th May. The strike has been in progress for 11 days.

6. Metal Miners' Strike in Bridge River, B.C.

Over 1,000 metal miners are on strike in the Bridge River area for increased wages of one dollar a day and better working conditions. The strike started at the Pioneer Mine and spread rapidly involving five other mines.

[3<deletion: 2 lines]

[9]

[3<deletion: 3 1/4 lines]

7. Relief Recipients' Strike at Edmonton

The relief strike situation remains unchanged. No disturbances have occurred so far. A few relief workers reported for work but were not molested by the pickets present. The majority of the unemployed seem to be backing the strike.

[3<#] A nuisance parade organized by the Communist Party fraction of the Unemployed Married Men's Association on 11th May was a failure. Only about 40 unemployed ventured into the T. Eaton store to be ejected later by the City Police without causing any damage.

8. [3<deletion: 1 word] in Toronto

[3<#] [3<deletion: 1 word] formerly prominent in the Workers' Unity League in Winnipeg, Man., has been transferred to the East in the hope that change of environment would renew his activities in the Revolutionary Movement. He is now in Toronto, Ont.

[✂#] [✂deletion: 1/4 page]

[10]

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

10. W.E.L. in Vancouver Demonstrates on 6th May

[✂#] On 6th May approximately 150 members of the Workers Ex-Service Men's League formed up in sections of fours and, followed by approximately 200 relief camp strikers, marched down Cambie Street to Victoria Square where a wreath, contributed by the Provincial Executive of the Workers Ex-Service Men's League, was placed on the Cenotaph. Following the parade a meeting was held on Cambie Street Grounds which was addressed by Williamson, E. Cumber, Mrs. Steeves, Arthur Evans and O'Neill. While the meeting was in progress a unit of Militia marched out of the Drill Hall across the street on its way to join the Civic ceremony commemorating the King's Jubilee. At this point the meeting became quite noisy and disorderly as they booed and hooted the Militia men on the march. The meeting was attended by approximately 1,600. It was originally the intention of the gathering to mar the spectacle presented by the parade of Militia and Police Units. The Workers Ex-Service Men's League, however, kept its distance and contented itself with a short parade.

[✂#] On 12th May the Moose Hall, Burrard St., Vancouver, B.C., was the scene of a large meeting which was called for the purpose of receiving the report of the delegates who went to Corbin to investigate conditions there, particularly the circumstances surrounding the clash of the miners with the police on 17th April.

The hall was filled to capacity and an overflow meeting was held at 804 Hornby Street following this meeting.

Jack Price, M.L.A. who acted as Chairman, announced that the purpose of sending the delegation to Corbin had been to bring back a true account of the affair.

Jack Stevenson, another member of the delegation, opened his address with a word of appreciation to the Communist Party of

[11]

Canada for sending him as a representative to Corbin. He described what he termed the "intolerable" living conditions of the miners prior to the strike and told of the "brutal" treatment accorded them by Inspector MacDonald

of the B.C. Provincial Police. He charged that the police resorted to intimidation and brutality during the clash with the miners on 17th April.

Helen Guthridge, of the Finnish Section of the Communist Party of Canada, told of the sufferings of the women who were injured on 17th April and stated that she found the women to be standing unreservedly behind the husbands in their fight for better living conditions. She urged that all women of Vancouver do likewise.

G. Raggett, another delegate and a member of the Vancouver Longshoremen's Union, charged that the trouble at Corbin was fomented by the Capitalist authorities in an attempt to smash trade unionism. Furthermore, that the police precipitated the riot; had no intention of dispersing the pickets, but were determined to club them into submission.

The collection taken at this meeting amounted to only \$32.90 which may be taken as an indication of lack of faith, on the part of the audience, in the authenticity of the report submitted by the delegation.

II. ALBERTA

11. M.W.U. Meeting in Calgary

[3<#]

The Mine Workers' Union of Canada held a mass meeting in the Victoria Pavilion, Calgary, Alta., on 5th May. The meeting was called to hear the report of the delegates who were sent to Corbin, B.C., to investigate the riots which occurred there on 17th April. Ralph Wootten acted as Chairman, and the principal speakers were: J. Price, M.L.A. of Vancouver, B.C., who was one of the delegates visiting Corbin, John Stokaluk and Pat Lenihan.

J. Price, in reporting on conditions in Corbin, charged that the police, acting under the instructions of Inspector

[12]

MacDonald of the British Columbia Provincial Police, were to blame for the clash that occurred on 17th April. He termed the conditions under which the miners at Corbin lived "inhuman" and said that he was ashamed that he was born in a country that used such methods as those employed by the police at Corbin and other points in Canada.

John Stokaluk recounted some of his personal experiences in connection with the affair at Corbin and urged the workers to unite in an effort to defeat what he called the "moneyed class". He denied that the Communist Party at Blairmore had anything to do with the trouble at Corbin.

Pat Lenihan gave a general talk on war and Fascism. He told of how Germany developed the present regime and charged that the same methods are being used in Canada today.

III. SASKATCHEWAN

[✂#] [✂deletion: 1/4 page]

[✂#] Considerable activity among the executives of the Saskatchewan Union of Unemployed and members of the Communist organizations has been noticed recently, centering around the question of organizing the hunger march, the date of which has been set for 10th July.

[13]

The Young Communist League of Regina, Sask., under the leadership of [✂deletion: 2 words] gave a special picnic for about 60 school children [✂#] in the Ukrainian Labour Temple on 6th May to counteract the Jubilee celebration. Speeches given by a number of children stressed that the Jubilee was not a matter for the working class children.

IV. MANITOBA

13. Meeting in Winnipeg Discusses "Fascist Terror" in Poland

[✂#] On 12th May an international mass meeting was held under the joint auspices of various revolutionary labour organizations at the Thalmud Torah Hall, Winnipeg, Man. The meeting, allegedly sponsored by the League Against War and Fascism, was called for the purpose of discussing the question of "Fascist terror" in Poland. Alderman Forkin acted as Chairman; speeches were given by K. Wiczkowski of the Polish Labour Temple, T. Okulewich from the Russian Workers' Club, F. Doner representing the League Against War and Fascism, Preske from the Jewish unemployed workers, and John Boychuk, presumably representing the Communist Party of Canada. All spoke in their native language except Doner who addressed the gathering in English. All, except Doner, dwelt upon conditions in Poland condemning the "Fascist terror".

[✂#] S. Iwasczyszyn has been chosen as a delegate by the Polish Labour Farmer Temple to proceed to Poland to investigate prison conditions there.

Officially he will represent the Canadian Labour Defence League and will join other delegates who will meet in congress at Paris, France, before proceeding to Poland. Iwasczyszyn is a rank and file member of the Polish Labour Temple with no outstanding ability. The mandate was more or less forced upon him; it was felt that because his wife and children are still living in Poland he would not be molested by the Polish authorities.

[14]

On 7th May a delegation representing a mass meeting of the Unemployed Conference of Winnipeg, Man., held on the Market Square, visited the City Council and placed before it certain demands. The delegation, following the interview with the City Council, returned to the meeting [3<#] and rendered a report which was not at all to the liking of those present.

C. Foster, one of the speakers, endeavoured to impress the audience that the unemployed will only be able to have their demands fulfilled by resorting to mass pressure and mass demonstration.

[3<#] On 14th May a group of about 30 men and women unemployed pickets attempted to prevent others from working on a relief project in the West Kildonan (Man.) municipality. The demonstrators, however, dispersed in an orderly fashion when the police arrived on the scene. As a result of this demonstration charges have been preferred against a number of the participants.

[3<#] John Navizowski, continuing his lectures on life in the U.S.S.R. on 14th May told his audience of the construction of monstrous buildings there and said that there would be no comparison between the structures in Canada and the buildings which have been and are being built by the Soviet Government. He praised the work of the "shock brigades" and the rigid supervision exercised by the Communist Party of the U.S.S.R.

Navizowski's lectures are being well attended. On this particular occasion over 400 persons were present.

V. ONTARIO14. Jewish Section of Communist Movement Hold Successful Concert in Massey Hall

[✂#]

The Jewish Section of the Communist Movement in Toronto, Ont., held a concert at Massey hall on 12th May. The program

[15]

consisted of revolutionary songs rendered by the "Freiheit" Choir of Toronto. Several musical selections were also given by the Mandolin Symphony Orchestra conducted by Podoliak.

The main feature of the concert was a song entitled "Two Brothers", which was composed by Jacob Schaefer, revolutionary American composer whose song "Storm Bird" won second prize at an international contest in Moscow recently. The presentation of "Two Brothers" was personally supervised by the composer.

Jacob Schaefer, who came from New York to attend this concert, addressed the gathering for about 10 minutes in Jewish.

An admission fee of 30 cents was charged to the 2,500 people in attendance.

VI. QUEBEC[✂#] 15. League Against War & Fascism in Montreal Holds Rally

The Montreal (Que.) Branch of the League Against War and Fascism held a mass rally in the St. James Market Hall on 17th May. Stanley Ryerson acted as Chairman and the speakers included Jean Peron, Co-operative Commonwealth Federation candidate in St. James, S. Blackshaw of the Young Socialist League, and Charles Perry of the Unemployed Council and workers' candidate in the St. Denis constituency. The meeting, which was attended by over 1,000 persons, was the first large French-Canadian anti-war rally held in the city.

Stanley Ryerson made a vicious attack upon C. L. Burton's plan to militarize the single unemployed men as a step towards Fascism.

S. Blackshaw spoke of the horrors of war, and Charles Perry dwelt upon the status of the unemployed and their struggle for a better standard of living.

The Progressive Arts Club, under the direction of Harry Davis, presented a mass recitation entitled "Troops".

[16]

The Workers Ex-Service Men's League at Montreal, Que., met on 10th May at 1207 University Street with approximately 75 members present. The principal speaker was Fred Rose who was introduced as the Communist candidate for the Cartier constituency in the coming Federal election. After exposing the "hypocrisy" of the three standard political parties [✂#] in Canada he emphasized the program which is being put forth by the Communist Party of Canada. At the conclusion of his speech he warned the audience against the growing forces of Fascism in Montreal and appealed for unity and support in the fight against war and Fascism.

George Hincks, who acted as Chairman, was unusually severe in some of his statements regarding the Department of Pensions and National Health. He commented on the arrest of the five men in the City of Montreal who had been charged with "seditious libel" and transferred to Amos, Que., for trial.

A man named A. G. Paul, who was introduced as a member of the Army and Navy Veterans' Association, also addressed the meeting. He stated that he was not present as a representative of his organization, that his organization looked upon the Workers Ex-Service men's League as a Communist association. He explained that he had endeavoured to persuade the Army and Navy Veterans' Branch to join in a United Front with the W.E.S.L. but had failed in the attempt. He said that in all probability he would be expelled from his organization as a result of his militant actions.

This meeting was one of the most radical meetings ever conducted by this association which seems to be growing rapidly. It is interesting to note that eight new members were taken in at this meeting. The present membership of the organization is 121.
