

## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 29th May, 1935.

SECRETNO. 757WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATORS IN CANADAReport

Tim Buck has concluded his tour of Nova Scotia and is reported to have returned to Toronto. It is estimated that over 100,000 people heard Buck speak since his release from Kingston Penitentiary on 24th November, 1934. The money collected at the various meetings which he addressed in the course of his recent Canadian tour amounted to well over \$8,000.

The Vancouver and District Waterfront Workers' Association voted in favour of Union despatching, to commence on 27th May, 1935.

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[2]

APPENDICESTable of ContentsAPPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

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

(A) At Springhill

Speaks at Poorly Attended Open-Air  
Meeting

(B) At New Glasgow

Meeting in Academy of Music

" " 2. John Boychuk in Fort William, Ont.

Speaks at Well Attended Meeting

Attends Special Meeting of U.L.F.T.A.

" " 3. A. A. McLeod Touring West

" " 4. The Worker Press Campaign

A Decided Success

" " 5. Strike Situation in Vancouver, B.C. --

(A) B.C. Relief Camp Workers Strike

Disturbance in First United Church

- Women's Delegation to City Hall  
 Split Develops in Ranks of Strikers  
 Street Railwaymen Make Another  
     Donation  
 Mass Meeting of Strikers Votes  
     Against Returning to Camps  
 New Plan to Raise Funds Inaugurated  
 Authorities Place Ban on Public  
     Demonstrations  
 (B) The Waterfront Situation  
     Longshoremen Vote in Favour of Union  
         Despatching  
 (C) Strike on Docks and Ships of Union  
     Steamship Co.  
     Seafarers' Industrial Union Presents  
         Ultimatum  
         Strike Declared  
 " " 6. Strike of Relief Recipients, Edmonton, Alta.  
     Situation Unchanged  
     Pickets Not Permitted to Congregate  
 " " 7. Relief Strike at Stratford, Ont., Settled  
 " " 8. Beet Workers Strike in Southern Alberta  
     Beet Workers' Union Seeks Recognition

**APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES**

- " " 9. BRITISH COLUMBIA  
     Meeting of Fishermen Votes for Strike  
     if Demands Not Met  
     Voice of the Fishermen Discontinued  
 " " 10. ALBERTA  
     C.P. in Calgary Opens Election Headquarters  
     Developments in Vancouver & Edmonton  
     Closely Watched in Calgary  
     George Palmer Addresses Meeting at Sylvan  
     Lake  
     Calgary Unemployed Ask 20% Increase in  
     Relief

[3]

- Paragraph No. 11. SASKATCHEWAN  
     [~~3~~deletion: 1 1/2 line]  
 " " 12. MANITOBA

- League Against War & Fascism Holds  
Provincial Conference  
M. Popovich & A. A. McLeod Speak at Public  
Meeting  
C.L.D.L. Prepares Reception for Mabel  
Marlowe  
Polish Labour Temple Concludes Press  
Campaign  
Strike of Unemployed in West Kildonan  
Continues  
Agitators from Winnipeg Active in Strike
- ” ” 13. ONTARIO  
Toronto City Conference of C.P.  
Proposes Placing One More Candidate in  
Field in Toronto for Federal  
Election  
Plan to Recruit New Members  
A. E. Smith Visits Ottawa
- ” ” 14. QUEBEC  
Protest Meeting of C.L.D.L. a Failure  
Racketti, Freed from Bordeaux Jail, Speaks  
[~~deletion: 2 1/4 lines~~]
- ” ” 15. THE MARITIME PROVINCES  
Leaders of Unemployed Demonstration in  
North Sydney Arrested

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[4]

APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL1. Tim Buck in Nova Scotia(A) At Springhill

[~~deletion~~] Tim Buck addressed an open-air meeting in front of the Royal Hotel, Springhill, N.S., on 13th May; there being approximately 200 people present with William Boran, of Springhill, acting as Chairman. He dwelt upon the unemployment situation, his incarceration in Kingston Penitentiary and the Corbin strike. He asserted that there were more workers unemployed in Canada today than in 1930. Speaking on the Corbin strike he claimed that 70 Mounted Policemen drove through a crowd of miners with a caterpillar tractor and attacked the miners and their women and children with pick-axe handles, injuring a great many of them. Comparing

the economic conditions in Canada with those of the U.S.S.R. he stated that the latter had no unemployment of any kind.

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### (B) At New Glasgow

- [9<#] At New Glasgow Tim Buck was refused the use of every hall and denied the privilege of speaking in the open-air at the town park. His supporters, however, succeeded in obtaining the Academy of Music where he addressed a meeting on 10th May commencing at 10.00 A.M. The building was filled to overflowing while a number of people at the entrance tried to catch as much as they could of his address which was being delivered inside. His address, generally speaking, was a repetition of the ones given on previous occasions dealing with his incarceration in Kingston, the Soviet Union and what he usually refers to as "Bennett's New Deal".

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### 2. John Boychuk in Fort William, Ont.

- [9<#] John Boychuk addressed a well attended and representative meeting at Fort William, Ont., on 18th May. Greetings were

[5]

extended to him by A. Gnit, Youth Section of the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association; Zaharnacky, Czecho Slovakian Club; W. Dlugar, Lithuanian Literary Society; Kunchuk, Lemko Union; M. Pokaluik, Russian Workers' Club; P. Stukas, Unemployed Workers' Protective Association; S. Borysko, Lumber Workers' Industrial Union; and B. Lane of the Canadian Labour Defence League.

Boychuk spoke on his incarceration in Kingston Penitentiary and made a general attack upon Capitalism. He expressed the hope to live long enough to see the Right Honourable Mr. Bennett behind the bars the same as he was.

Boychuk also attended a special meeting of the U.L.F.T.A. at Fort William on 17th May at which he dealt with the affairs of that organization. He also attended and spoke at a meeting in West Fort William on the 20th.

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### 3. A. A. McLeod Touring West

- [9<#] A. A. McLeod, National Chairman of the League Against War and Fascism, left Toronto, Ont., for the West on 16th May on a tour that will take him to several cities and town. His itinerary is as follows:--

|                               |                |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Port Arthur &<br>Fort William | 16-17th May    |
| Winnipeg                      | 19-20-21st May |
| Regina                        | 23-24th May    |
| Saskatoon                     | 25-26th "      |
| Blairmore                     | 30th May       |
| Vancouver &<br>Victoria       | 1-2-3-4th June |
| Edmonton                      | 5-6th June     |
| Calgary                       | 6-7th "        |
| Lethbridge                    | 8-9th "        |

In addition to holding conferences he is to address public meetings at each point visited.

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#### 4. "The Worker" Press Campaign

[9<#]

The campaign conducted during the Month of April on behalf of The Worker has been a decided success. From the standpoint of the amount of money raised so far it has surpassed any

[6]

campaign ever held in the interest of this paper.

Incomplete returns published in the 23rd May edition of The Worker show that the \$6,000 quota has been reached. Five out of 10 districts have already well passed their quotas, while only one remains below the fifty per cent margin.

The standings of the districts at noon, 21st May, were as follows:--

| <u>Place</u>       | <u>\$</u>       | <u>%</u>     |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| Port Arthur        | 730.54          | 141.1        |
| Toronto            | 2,045.11        | 136.3        |
| Quebec             | 569.60          | 113.9        |
| Manitoba           | 650.45          | 108.3        |
| British Columbia   | 643.00          | 107.1        |
| Timmins (Ont.)     | 640.80          | 71.2         |
| Sudbury "          | 263.70          | 65.9         |
| Saskatchewan       | 124.32          | 62.1         |
| Alberta            | 363.24          | 51.9         |
| Maritime Provinces | <u>43.15</u>    | <u>43.1</u>  |
| TOTAL ....         | <u>6,073.91</u> | <u>101.2</u> |

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### 5. Strike Situation in Vancouver

#### (A) B.C. Relief Camp Workers' Strike The Relief Camp Strike Continues

[3&lt;#]

On 19th May approximately 400 persons comprised of members of the Women's Labour League and sympathizers of the relief camp strikers attended a service at the First United Church, corner of Gore Avenue and Hastings Street, Vancouver, B.C., where His Worship Mayor G. G. McGeer had been invited to speak to the congregation. Long before the service was due to start the church and school room were packed to capacity. There were still as many or more outside disappointed in an attempt to gain admission. As the Mayor entered the pulpit a disturbance unparalleled in the history of church life in Vancouver took place. The interruption lasted about 10 minutes and was punctuated by loud boos, cat calls, yells and cries, "Read the Riot Act, Gerry". His Worship withdrew from the pulpit until the offenders walked out of the church. On resuming his place in the pulpit the people that left the church kept up their jeering outside and remained there singing revolutionary songs and creating as much

[7]

disturbance as possible until the end of the service when they cried, "We want Gerry".

Speaking from the steps of the church Peggy Harrison and Mrs. Duggan announced that the demonstration was in protest of the proposal submitted by the Mayor and the Ministerial Association to the effect that the men return to camp pending negotiations by an appointed delegation.

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[3<#] On the afternoon of 20th May a delegation of 25 women paraded to the City Hall with a view to interviewing the Mayor. His Worship was not in the building, however, and the police on duty did not allow them to await his return.

Later in the evening the delegation marched to the City Police Station where they interviewed the Chief of Police, demanding immediate relief for the camp strikers. Meanwhile, supporters of the delegation filled the halls and corridors. The Chief of Police was able to convince the delegation that the strikers still had sufficient funds left to carry them over for a day or two.

On 21st May it was reported that a split had occurred in the ranks of the strikers. A meeting of the "Right" Wing of the strikers held in the Avenue Theatre in an endeavour to break away from the radical leadership was

poorly attended, however, and rendered futile by hecklers sent there for the purpose of disrupting it.

On this day it was also reported that the Street Railwaymen's Union had donated a further sum of \$550 towards the strikers' fund.

On the 22nd a mass meeting of relief camp strikers, held in the Avenue Theatre, for the purpose of discussing the various proposals made by Civic and Ministerial officials, resolved unanimously to refuse to return to the camps under any promise whatever.

Tom Forkin presided over this meeting and the speakers included representatives of the Longshoremen's Association and the

[8]

Seafarers' Industrial Union who urged the strikers to remain in the city.

At this meeting a new plan to raise funds was inaugurated. Each man was issued with two postcards which he is to peddle on the streets. The postcard is addressed to Mayor McGeer and says:

"I have today furnished a meal (and or) a bed to a relief camp striker. I protest your deliberate attempt to starve these boys back to the camp. I furthermore demand continuance of relief and the opening of negotiations".

Each man is to have two of these cards issued to him daily, and it is hoped by the strikers that they will be able to maintain themselves here in the city by means of these cards.

On 22nd May the strikers were warned by the authorities that all parades and meetings in streets or public places would be dispersed by the police with the result that no public demonstrations have been held since.

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### (B) The Waterfront Situation

The Vancouver and District Waterfront Workers' Association held a special membership meeting on 19th May and decided to take a vote on the question of union despatching. The meeting also decided to send A. V. Harris to Powell River, where it was alleged, a longshoremen's strike is in progress, to investigate the charges that the Powell River Pulp and Paper Company had "locked out" longshoremen after the formation of a union and that company men were being used to load the ships.

The vote taken showed 486 in favour and 315 against union despatching.

The B.C. Shipping Federation is expected to refuse the concession, and a deadlock is expected on 27th May, the date set by the men on which union despatching is to commence.

It is felt in some quarters that as a result of the vote and the probability of strike, longshoremen at New Westminster will go out in sympathy with the local men in view of the affiliation between the two bodies.

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[9]

(C) Strike on Docks and Ships of Union Steamship  
Company, Limited

On 20th May the Union Steamship Company, Limited was informed that, unless the demands of the Seafarers' Industrial Union were met by the 23rd, strike action would be taken to enforce same.

The demands are as follows:--

- (1) Increase of wages throughout, so that they will amount once more to the 1929 scale; present wages are ten per cent less than 1929.
- (2) Shorter working hours.
- (3) Bonus during summer months of 1st May to 1st Sept., of \$10 a month.
- (4) Overtime, for certain specified work, of 50 cents an hour.
- (5) Steaming time -- that is, time at work during excursions following a normal day's work -- to be paid 25 cents an hour.
- (6) A 48-hour week, with one day off in seven.

The 1929 wage scale throughout the ships for each month was:--

|                                    |         |
|------------------------------------|---------|
| Quartermasters and<br>winchmen     | \$75.00 |
| Watchmen, daymen and<br>stevedores | 70.00   |
| Deckhands                          | 65.00   |
| Oilers                             | 85.00   |
| Firemen                            | 75.00   |
| 2nd Stewards                       | 60.00   |
| Night Stewards                     | 55.00   |
| Stewards                           | 50.00   |
| Messmen                            | 45.00   |

The Union Steamship Company refused to meet the demands and the strike was put into effect on the 24th. The situation in Vancouver has thus become still further aggravated.

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6. Strike of Relief Recipients, Edmonton, Alta.

[3<#] Pickets of the relief strikers made several unsuccessful attempts to prevent single unemployed men from leaving the city for the Luscar and Cadomin relief camps; the picket lines being broken up by members of the City Police Force. On one particular occasion, in front of the city stables, it was necessary to use

[10]

considerable force before the pickets could be effectively dispersed. Three arrests were made on this occasion; the arrested individuals being [3<deletion: 1 1/2 line] The situation remains unchanged.

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7. Relief Strike at Stratford (Ont.) Settled

[3<#]

The Stratford Unemployed Relief Strikers decided to return to work on 20th May after the authorities had agreed to grant certain concessions.

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8. Beet Workers Strike in Southern Alberta

[3<#]

Led by the Beet Workers' Union, a subsidiary of the Workers' Unity League, the beet workers in the Lethbridge (Alta.) District called a strike during the latter part of April. They demand a scale of pay of \$22 per acre and union recognition. The rate of pay prior to the strike was \$18 per acre. An offer of the Beet Growers' Association of \$1 increase of \$19 per acre has been rejected so far, but latest developments would indicate that the strike will be settled in the near future with the strikers accepting the offer of the Beet Growers' Association.

The Beet Workers' Union was organized last fall by Workers' Unity League organizers touring the district. Hungarians and Jugo Slavs comprise the bulk of its membership.

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[11]

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCESI. BRITISH COLUMBIA9. Meeting of Fishermen Votes for Strike if  
Demands Not Met

The Fishermen's and Cannery Workers' Industrial Union of Canada held a meeting in the Silver Slipper Hall, East Hastings St., Vancouver, [3<#] B.C., on the afternoon of 19th May, with approximately 400 seiners, gillnetters, trollers and pilchard fishermen in attendance. The meeting unanimously agreed that the prices paid for the sockeye salmon in the various places were very much below the cost of production. The meeting voted almost unanimously in favour of a strike to commence on 6th July, five days after the opening of the salmon season, if the demands made by them are not met before that date. The meeting also expressed its unanimous approval of the strike of 500 blue-back trollers now in progress on the British Columbia coast.

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[3<#] The Voice of the Fishermen, formerly printed on a Gestetner machine by the Communist Party in Vancouver, B.C., is to be discontinued and a column will be run in the B.C. Workers News. By this move it is hoped that subscriptions will be gained for the B.C. Workers' News during the June drive for increased circulation.

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II. ALBERTA10. Communist Party in Calgary Opens Election  
Headquarters

[3<#] The Communist Party in Calgary, Alta., have opened an office and election headquarters on 8th Avenue, East. Large banners and printed notices as well as a painted picture of Pat Lenihan, the candidate, decorate the outside wall of the premises. Pat Lenihan is to speak over Station CFAC every Monday night until further notice.

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[12]

The developments in Vancouver, B.C., are being closely followed by the Communists in Calgary. It has been reported that it is the intention of

the Communist Party in Alberta to commence demonstrations with a view to calling strikes in all parts of Alberta immediately after the Provincial [X#] election. The Communists seem well pleased with the present day conditions in Vancouver and Edmonton. [Xdeletion: 2 words] left Calgary on 20th May on a tour of the province in the course of which he intends to visit all units of the Party.

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[X#] George Palmer, Communist Party candidate in the Red Deer (Alta.) constituency, spoke at the Uptown Theatre at Sylvan Lake on 5th May to an audience of approximately 250. He explained the election program of the Communist Party and condemned the social credit system advocated by Mr. Aberhart of Calgary. He said that the social credit scheme was designed to fool the masses; that in reality it was nothing but a Fascist measure.

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[X#] Efforts to merge all the various unemployed organizations in Calgary, Alta., into one organization under the control of the Communist Party have apparently failed. There seem to be considerable differences of opinion regarding a strike in the event of the demands of certain unemployed organizations not being met. The Married Men's Protective Association has withdrawn from the Central Council and it has been intimated that the Unemployed Married Men's Association will do likewise. On 15th May a delegation representing the M.M.P.A. interviewed the Mayor requesting a twenty per cent increase in relief. The Mayor promised to submit the request to the next meeting of the City Council. The M.M.P.A. is preparing for a strike in the event of their demands being rejected by the City Council. The action of the M.M.P.A. did not meet with the approval of the Central Council who declared that the time was not opportune to ask for an increase or attempt to strike.

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[13]

### III. SASKATCHEWAN

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

#### IV. MANITOBA

##### 12. League Against War and Fascism Holds Provincial Conference

[3<#] The Manitoba Section of the League Against War and Fascism held a conference on 18th and 19th May with A. A. McLeod, National Chairman, in attendance. There were 98 delegates present representing 70 different organizations with an alleged total membership of 24,000.

A general meeting in the Peretz Hall on the night of the 18th concluded the session. A. W. Atwater acted as Chairman and the speakers included S. Simkin, Mathew Popovich and A. A. McLeod.

Mathew Popovich spoke for about 30 minutes on the question of the United Front against war and Fascism. He pointed to Italy and Germany where, he alleged, the people failed to realize the seriousness of the menace in time. In France, he said, the workers, having learned the lesson of what took place in Italy and Germany, have united and succeeded in checking Fascism. "Capitalism is Fascism and Fascism means war without which Capitalism cannot exist", he said. He asserted that the Communists who realize the seriousness of the danger will do all in their power to stop the advent of Fascism in Canada.

[14]

A. A. McLeod dealt extensively with the cost of the last war making particular reference to Canada. He stated that every minute of the war cost Canada \$1,530, totalling over Two Billion Dollars which, he stressed, the Canadian people must pay. He also dealt with the unemployment situation, holding Capitalism generally responsible for the existence of same. Referring to Popovich's speech on unity of action he pointed out that shirtless Fascism was just as dangerous as the Fascism which parades in shirts of various colours. He asserted that the National Recovery Act in the U.S.A. and the Reform Policy enunciated by Premier Bennett were nothing but Fascist measures.

The meeting was very poorly attended, there being not more than 100 people present.

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[3<#] The District Central Council of the Canadian Labour Defence League in Winnipeg, Man., met on the afternoon of 18th May to complete plans for a reception for Mabel Marlowe, who is due to be released from Portage La Prairie Jail on 25th May. Upon her release she is to proceed to Brandon to address a meeting in that city. She is billed to speak in Winnipeg on 26th and 27th May in the Market Square and at a banquet, respectively, which

are being sponsored by the C.L.D.L. A delegation supported by a mass demonstration is being arranged to meet her on her arrival in Winnipeg on the night of the 26th.

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[X#] The Winnipeg (Man.) Branch of the Polish Labour Temple Association concluded its campaign for Press funds with a banquet on 18th May. Approximately 200 attended. Z. Majtczak delivered a short address on the proposed enlargement of Glos Pracy which, he said, would be finally decided upon at the coming convention of the association this summer. He intimated that it will be either published twice weekly or remain a weekly in an enlarged form. It is interesting to note that among the guests present there were a number of people of Polish nationality, converts,

[15]

who not very long ago would never have crossed the threshold of the Labour Temple. They were from church parishes and other organizations.

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[X#] The striking unemployed in West Kildonan, Man., are being actively supported by pickets and organizer sent there from Winnipeg. Several attempts have been made to prevent unemployed from working. It is felt that if the matter had been left to the local leaders the strike would have been settled by now. Conspicuous among the agitators sent there from Winnipeg are several Communists including [Xdeletion: 1/2 line]

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## V. ONTARIO

### 13. Toronto City Conference of C.P.

[X#] The Communist Party in Toronto, Ont., held a "City" Conference on 17th May with representatives from 120 units of the Party in Toronto in attendance. It approved of the line pursued by the Communist Election Committee and the candidates placed in the field for the coming Federal election. In addition to the two candidates already in the field, the conference recommended that a Communist candidate be placed in the Trinity constituency which covers the same territory as the city ward which recorded 2,000 Communist votes in the last Municipal elections.

The conference also discussed the coming Seventh Congress of the Communist International. It decided to launch a recruiting drive during the election campaign and the Ontario hunger march, each unit pledging itself

to recruit new members "as a present to the Seventh Congress of the Communist International".

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[16]

A. E. Smith visited Ottawa, Ont., on 21st May and in the course of the evening addressed a small audience at 523 Arlington Avenue. During the day he visited the Immigration Department in connection with some deportation cases.

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## VI. QUEBEC

### 14. Protest Meeting of C.L.D.L. a Failure. Racketti Freed from Bordeaux Jail. Speaks

A so-called Noranda protest mass meeting sponsored by the Canadian Labour Defence League was held at the Prince Arthur Hall, Montreal, on 15th May, there being about 300 people in attendance with George Hincks in the chair. Speeches were given in French and English J. S. Wallace, Racketti, Charles Marriot and Omer Perrault.

Racketti, recently released from Bordeaux Jail on account of poor health, in a very brief speech stated that he entered prison a healthy man but was very sick on his release. He claimed to have received very poor medical attention while in jail and cited himself as a "shining" example of what can happen to "class war" prisoners while in jail.

The meeting was a loss both organizationally and financially.

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[deletion: 6 lines]

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[17]

## VII. THE MARITIME PROVINCES

### 15. Leaders of Unemployed Demonstration in North Sydney Arrested

[deletion: 2 words] formerly of Halifax, [deletion: 2 words] and [deletion: 2 words] were arrested recently at North Sydney, N.S., when leading a demonstration of unemployed at the City Hall.

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