

## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 12th June, 1935.

SECRET

NO. 759

WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATORS IN CANADAReport

Vancouver deep sea longshoremen have declared a strike after having been informed by the B.C. Shipping Federation that the agreement between them has been broken by the union and is thus at an end. Some of the affiliated organizations have voted in favour of a sympathetic strike and others are expected to do likewise. A complete tie-up of shipping is anticipated.

The B.C. relief camp strikers en route to Ottawa are reported to have left Calgary for Medicine Hat on 11th June. While in Calgary they were fed by the Provincial Government and the sum of \$1,300 was obtained in a Tag Day on 8th June. At Calgary many single men from Alberta joined the original contingent from British Columbia. It is reported that the main body travelling via Canadian Pacific Railway now numbers 1,500 men.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

I. National Youth Day in Toronto

[~~3~~#] Preparations for a National Youth Day in Toronto, Ont., on 15th June are proceeding. This year, National Youth Day, which had its origin in the Youth Congress Against War and Fascism held in Toronto last August, will take the form of a huge demonstration of youth against war and Fascism.

The National Youth Day received the endorsement of the Canadian Youth Congress held in Toronto, on 24th and 25th May last.

The following is an excerpt from a letter of the Canadian Youth Council which has been sent to its affiliated youth organizations in the City of Toronto:—

It will be noted in the Congress Resolutions on War (paragraph 2, section E), 'That the Congress goes on record as endorsing the Peace Day Parade of June 15th and urge the component parts of the Congress to participate fully. The Congress goes on record that June 15th be a Youth Day in Toronto against War'. The Canadian Youth Council urges that all Toronto and District youth peoples' organizations participate in this parade with suitable floats and banners. The National Youth Day Committee has asked us to request that all organizations intending to take part, attend a preliminary Conference in the Y.W.C.A., 21 McGill Street, Friday, June 7th, at 8.00 p.m. The parade will assemble in Willowvale Park, Bloor Street at 2.30 p.m., Saturday, June 15th, and will proceed along Bloor to Bathurst, along Bathurst to College and along College to Queen's Park where a meeting will be held.

It is reported that over 10,000 leaflets have been distributed and over 5,000 stickers posted in conspicuous places throughout the city advertising this celebration. A motor car equipped with a loud speaker will tour the city for several days announcing the event.

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## 2. The Worker Drive A Success

The drive to raise \$6,000 sustaining fund for The Worker, central organ of the Communist Party of Canada, has been concluded with the Port Arthur District winning the grand prize — a free trip to the Soviet Union. Although on top of the list, Southern Ontario District was awarded second prize. The latest returns show the following standing:—

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District	\$	%
Southern Ontario	2,464.27	164.2
Western	816.44	163.2
British Columbia	870.67	145.1
Manitoba	751.68	125.2
Quebec	606.35	121.2
Northern Ontario	726.80	80.7
Saskatchewan	160.76	80.3
Alberta	499.54	71.2

Central Ontario	272.73	68.1
Maritimes	<u>53.20</u>	<u>53.2</u>
TOTAL ....	<u>7,222.44</u>	<u>120.3</u>

### 3. M. Popovich To Be Transferred To Calgary

[§<#] The Executive Committee of the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association at a recent meeting resolved to send Mathew Popovich to Calgary to strengthen the organization at that point. It has been said that this move is an excuse to remove him from Winnipeg as he is not popular with some of the other leaders, [§<deletion: 1 word] and Navizowsky being especially jealous of him owing to his superior education and ability. Popovich, however, seems very popular with the rank and file of the organization.

### 4. B.C. Relief Camp Workers Strike

[§<#] The relief camp strikers held a Tag Day in the City of Vancouver, B.C., on 1st June, in spite of the refusal of the city authorities to grant a permit. No action was taken by the City Police until approximately 10.30 a.m. when 20 taggers were picked up and taken to the City Gaol. These taggers were quickly replaced by others and the soliciting was continued until midnight. The sum of \$1,690 was collected for the strikers' trek to Ottawa.

On the following day a picnic was held at Stanley park as a farewell gesture by the Women's Labour League. Approximately 2,500 people attended, including a very small percentage of striking relief camp workers.

Short talks were given by Winters and Cowels on behalf of the Action Committee of the strikers. They urged those present to

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organize a demonstration at the City Police Station on the morning of 4th June and to demand the release of the 20 taggers arrested on the previous day. They also outlined the plans and program of the strikers with regard to their trip to Ottawa. Winters announced that 80 men, representing the Vancouver Island relief camp strikers, had forced the authorities at Victoria to pay their fare to Vancouver in order to enable them to join in the trek to Ottawa. These men arrived in Vancouver that evening.

Approximately 2,000 supporters and sympathizers gathered along the Canadian Pacific Railway yards on the evening of 3rd June to witness the departure of the first contingent consisting of 650 men on a freight train.

This contingent is under the leadership of Mat Shaw, Tony Martin, Winters and A. Cosgrove.

An additional 150 relief camp strikers left Vancouver early on the morning of 4th June on a Canadian National Railway freight train and a further 250 departed in the course of the evening for the East.

After spending a day at Kamloops, the main contingent, numbering about 600 men, left for Golden, B.C., on the night of 5th. A smaller contingent departed on a C.N.R. freight train from Kamloops for Edmonton.

At Golden an additional 200 men joined the main body.

On 7th June the main contingent, now numbering over 800 men, invaded Calgary, Alta., having arrived there via freight train from Golden. On arrival in Calgary the men marched in military formation from the western end of the city to Victoria Park where they camped in the Exhibition Grandstand Building. A huge kitchen range had been put in place and water and gas turned on for their use.

On the following morning, 8th June, the men started down town from the Exhibition Grounds marching in parade formation in columns of four and after leaving about 80 pickets barring all entrances to the Alberta Relief Commission offices, the main body returned to the Exhibition Grounds. Following the picketing of the Relief Commission offices the Alberta Provincial Government announced the strikers would be fed by the Provincial Government for two days.

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Reports from Calgary would indicate that the main column of the marchers has been increased to approximately 1,000 men and that additional numbers are expected from Edmonton to join it.

On 6th June a delegation arrived at Edmonton from Kamloops, numbering 30, under the direction of M. Serdar, Jugo-Slav Organizer of Vancouver who reported that the contingent coming through Edmonton plans to obtain support from relief camp workers of Northern Alberta and Saskatchewan. He further stated that the march is led by the Communist Party. An additional group, numbering 40 men, arrived in Edmonton on the same day, disembarking at the Calder C.N.R. yards.

At Edmonton, the local branch of the Relief Camp Workers' Union is making every effort to recruit 200 single men who are to join the main contingent in Calgary.

At a well attended meeting of the Regina Branch of the Saskatchewan Union of Unemployed on 6th June Alec Theodore read a telegram, received from the National Council of Unemployed at Toronto, instructing the local branch to give every assistance to the marchers en route to Ottawa,

including the holding of a Tag Day either with or without the consent of the city authorities and mass meetings while the marching camp strikers are in the city. It further instructed that mass meetings be held on 21st June, the date set for the marchers to be in Ottawa, at which protest resolutions are to be passed and sent to Premier Bennett.

Several members of the advance guard of the marchers arrived in Regina, Sask., from Moose Jaw on the 7th.

Although originally opposed to the proposed trek to Ottawa, the National Executive Committee of the C.P. of Canada at Toronto has now issued an appeal for general support and is making every effort to make the expedition a success.

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### 5. Waterfront Situation in Vancouver, B.C.

The tense situation which has existed over a long period between waterfront interests in Vancouver, B.C., came to a head on 5th June when the B.C. Shipping Federation served notice to the waterfront

[8]

workers to the effect that the agreement signed last November and agreed to by both parties must be considered terminated owing to numerous breaches by the union, and that in future only non-union labour would be employed.

The culminating point in the dispute occurred on the 4th when members of the Vancouver and District Waterfront Workers' Association refused to handle the cargo of a Powell River newsprint barge. All Powell River cargo had been declared unfair by the Vancouver and District Waterfront Workers' Association owing to the Powell River Paper Company having refused to recognize the newly formed Powell River and District Waterfront Workers' Association.

On the evening of 5th June a mass meeting of the Longshore and Water-Transport Workers' Association took place at the Moose Hall, Burrard Street, with its affiliates fully represented. At this meeting the longshoremen unanimously decided to refuse to go back to work as individuals, and the affiliates — namely, the Seafarers' Industrial Union, the Coastwise Freight Handlers' Association, the Log Export Workers' Association, and the New Westminster and District Waterfront Workers' Association, pledged their support to the local longshoremen, even to the extent of declaring a sympathetic strike should such course be necessary. A strike committee of 20 was appointed and instructed to work in co-opera-

tion with the Executive Committee of the Vancouver and District Waterfront Workers' Association.

On 6th June 14 vessels were reported tied up. Six locals of affiliated unions were discussing the advisability of a general strike in support of the waterfront workers.

On the 7th all ships in port were reported tied up except the S.S. Empress of Japan. Pickets persuaded non-union men not to go to work.

On the following day a C.N.R. boat started to unload with company employees but 200 pickets stopped the operation; all other boats remaining tied up.

On the 9th a complete picket line was maintained but no disturbances occurred. The members of the New Westminster and

[9]

District Waterfront Workers' Association voted in favour of striking in sympathy with the Vancouver longshoremen.

On 10th June the grain liners and log workers decided in favour of a sympathetic strike. Pickets stopped trucks headed for the pier but no violence occurred. Shipping remained idle with 13 boats in port tied up waiting to be worked.

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[10]

## APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

### I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

#### 6. C.P. Mass Meeting at Vancouver

[\*#] The Communist Party at Vancouver, B.C., held a mass meeting at the Arena Auditorium, Georgia Street, West, on the night of 30th May with approximately 3,000 in attendance.

Bill Bennett, Chairman of the meeting, announced that it was held for the purpose of giving several speakers an opportunity of defending themselves against the attacks made upon them by Dr. Lyle Telford, Co-operative Commonwealth Federation leader, and His Worship Mayor G. G. McGeer in their radio addresses.

Arthur Evans, the first speaker, spoke on behalf of the Workers' Unity League. He explained how he became connected with the relief camp strike and elected to the Action Committee of the relief camp workers. He stated that it was the Workers' Unity League that had originally instigated the strike and was alone responsible for its success. Referring to Mayor McGeer's accusations branding him as a red, a leader of the Communist

Party, and a crook, Evans said that the first accusation he considered a compliment but announced that he was only District Organizer of the Workers' Unity League and not a leader of the Communist Party in British Columbia.

Malcolm Bruce, the second speaker, opened with a few words in defence of Arthur Evans — the fearless and courageous workers' comrade — comparing his record as a workers' leader with that of Dr. Lyle Telford. Bruce's address was chiefly aimed at discrediting the leadership of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation.

Jack Taylor (Erlick) delivered a speech denouncing Mayor McGeer as an arch-Fascist and Dr. Lyle Telford as a traitor to the Labour Movement. Referring to the recent attempts on organizing the Citizens' League of B.C. he said that it was the thin edge of the wedge into the workers' united front. Speaking of the arrest of the eight Communist leaders in 1931 he said that 1935 was not 1931. I defy the authorities to lay their bloody hands on a single Communist or camp striker in Vancouver, he declared.

[11]

Jack Stevenson warned the rank and file of the C.C.F. that their leaders are turning gradually towards the views of such men as Mayor McGeer and urged that they support the drive for a United Front of the working class organization under a proper leadership.

The collection taken at this meeting amounted to \$136.99. Twelve hundred copies of the pamphlet containing the Communist Election Program were sold at 1 cent a piece.

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[✂#] A. A. McLeod, National Chairman of the League Against War and Fascism, arrived in Vancouver, B.C., on 1st June, and addressed a meeting of the Vancouver Section of this league at Victoria Hall on the following day. He briefly outlined the program of the league giving its strength in Canada at 350,000 members. Commenting on the growth of Fascism generally he said, Capitalism today is dying a natural death and Fascism is being used as a blood transfusion injected into its veins in an effort to save it. He attributed all the ills of today to Capitalism. He referred briefly to the recent radio addresses by Mayor G. G. McGeer exposing the Communist Party and its policies. McLeod stated that the accusations made by the Mayor were entirely unfounded and that he misrepresented the Communist Party and its members. In conclusion he pointed out that the League Against War and Fascism was organized to end all war which, he implied, could not be accomplished until Capitalism has been abolished.

In response to an appeal for funds the audience, numbering approximately 500 persons, donated approximately \$75.

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[X#] A concentration campaign is to be directed by the Communists in British Columbia on the poor farmers of the Fraser Valley. [Xdeletion: 1 1/4 line] A mimeographed paper is to be published which will popularize the Farmers' Emergency Bill endorsed by the National Executive Committee of the Farmers' Unity League. Some attention will be given to the small farmers of the Fraser Valley who have been forced to take their milk off the market through the more rigorous regulations

[12]

recently introduced governing the hygienic conditions under which the cows are housed.

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## II. ALBERTA

### 7. Edmonton Strike Pickets Convicted

[X#] Seventeen single men were convicted and sentenced at Edmonton, Alta., on various charges arising out of the recent strikes of unemployed and restaurant workers. The Canadian Labour Defence League has entered appeals in all cases.

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## III. SASKATCHEWAN

### 8. Provincial Hunger March Preparations

[X#] Preparations are being made at various points in Saskatchewan with a view to participating in the hunger march which is to take place on 10th July.

At Swift Current, Sask., a meeting of the local branch of the Saskatchewan Union of Unemployed held on 27th May decided to take part in the hunger march. Between 25 and 50 people will leave Swift Current on 9th July proceeding to Regina by truck.

Preparations are being made by the Melfort Branch but no definite decisions have been arrived at in that regard.

Efforts are also being made to obtain the active support of the Doukhobors in Saskatchewan in the hunger march on to Regina. It is not considered likely that the Doukhobors, as a whole, will participate in this demonstration.

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[§<#] At a meeting of the Wood Mountain (Sask.) Branch of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, on 22nd May, M. J. Coldwell of Regina was asked by Edward Hayes, local agitator and leader of the Farmers' Unity League, what attitude the C.C.F. would take towards the proposed hunger march, sponsored by the Saskatchewan Union of Unemployed. Mr. Coldwell replied that his Party would give no backing to such a demonstration as he considered same would be futile.

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[13]

A. A. McLeod, National Chairman of the League Against War and Fascism, was the principal speaker at a meeting of the Saskatchewan Union of Unemployed, Youth Section, Regina Branch, held at Regina on 22nd May. He deplored the conditions under which the unemployed have to live comparing same with the prosperity which, he alleged, exists in the U.S.S.R.

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#### IV. MANITOBA

##### 9. Mabel Marlowe Resumes Leading Role in C.L.D.L. at Winnipeg

[§<#] Since her return to Winnipeg, Man., from Portage La Prairie Gaol Mabel Marlowe has been finding fault with everything and everybody. At a meeting of the District Central Council of the Canadian Labour Defence League, on 1st June, she accused everyone of slackness and expressed her desire to make a tour of the district to bolster up the Movement. Reports, which have been received from the various branches by the District Central Council of the C.L.D.L. in Winnipeg would indicate that it is becoming increasingly difficult to retain the active support of the members. The branches also complain that dues are very difficult to collect. They say that the District Central Committee need not look for much financial help from the branches.

[§<deletion: 3 words] of the Entertainment Committee, of the Central Council, reported that his committee had arranged to hold a picnic at [§<deletion: 5 words] on 23rd June; the picnic to take the form of a general C.L.D.L. rally. He also reported that a social had been arranged for Sunday, 9th June, at 476 Redwood Avenue.

[deletion: 2 words] reported that the finances were very low, that it was difficult to make ends meet. He stated that the collections for the previous week only amounted to \$39.

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[#] A straw vote taken at a mass meeting at the North End First Voters' Club, Winnipeg, Man., produced the following results:—

[14]

Conservative	3
Liberal	7
A. A. Heaps (I.L.P.)	131
Tim Buck	495
Spoilt ballots	15

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[#] On the night of 30th May approximately 200 men and women attended an open-air meeting held by the West Kildonan Unemployed Association on a vacant lot at the corner of Main Street and Belmont Avenue, West Kildonan, Man. The purpose of the meeting was to explain conditions with regard to the strike. The speakers were C. W. Foster, Molly Brown, R. Towle and Mabel Marlowe. They all contended that the solution of the problem rests in the hands of the working class; that no change can be expected until the working class establishes a new social order based on a system of production for use instead of profit.

Molly Brown congratulated the West Kildonan workers on the splendid spirit shown in the strike and urged them to keep it up until they have attained their demands.

Towle used some rather slanderous epithets calling the Municipal authorities, also the Provincial officials cockroaches and other such names.

The speakers at this meeting are well-known agitators, none of whom are residents of West Kildonan.

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[#] A mass meeting held jointly by the Canadian Labour Defence League and the Workers' Unity League in the Market Square at Winnipeg, Man., on 2nd June, was attended by approximately 200 people. Jack Stewart acted as Chairman and the speakers were Bill Ross, I. Minster, Mabel Marlowe and R. Towle.

Two resolutions were passed, one demanding the withdrawal of the charges against the pickets arrested in connection with the strikes at West

Kildonan and Transcona and the other protesting against establishing martial law in Vancouver.

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[15]

## V. ONTARIO

### 10. Beet Workers Strike in Ontario

[✂#] A beet workers' strike has been declared in the Chatham (Ont.) area recently and is reported to be spreading to other districts including Windsor, Kingsville, Essex and Arner. Communist agitators claim conditions are favourable towards gaining a victory for the strikers.

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A delegation which went before the Board of Control of the City of Toronto, Ont., recently asking that the Board exert its influence on the Police Commission to grant a permit to the Provincial Hunger March Committee for a Tag Day received a very cold reception and was ordered out of the building. The hunger march Tag Day scheduled for 1st June had to be postponed.

The Ontario Provincial authorities have been requested to grant the use of either the Government Buildings in the Exhibition Grounds or some other such place to house the hunger marchers and their conference when they arrive in Toronto on 17th June. Permits are also being sought from the Toronto Police authorities for three marches through the city on 17th June.

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## VI. QUEBEC

### 11. F.S.U. Hold Soviet Art Exhibition in Montreal

[✂#] The spacious store of Henry Morgan and Company in Montreal, Que., was the scene of an exhibition of Soviet art from 15th May to 1st June. The exhibition consisted of approximately 200 paintings and drawings by Russian artists of Leningrad, Moscow and other cities of the Soviet Union. This exhibition, brought across the Atlantic by the Pennsylvania Museum of Art and the American Russian Institute for Cultural Relations with the Soviet Union, was sponsored by the Friends of the Soviet Union in Montreal under the leadership of Louis Kon.

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[16]

A fur dyers' strike is now in progress at the St. Johns Realty Company, St. Johns, Que. It was called in an attempt to have three workers reinstated who were active in forming the Fur Dyers' Union, and also in support of [§<deletion: 1 line] demands for increases in wages and shorter working hours.

[§<deletion: 4 words] of the Workers' Unity League for the Montreal District, on 30th May reported that the strike had reached a deadlock. He asserted that the morale of the strikers was still high and that the possibility of winning the strike was good. He further stated that a victory in this strike will mean much to the Workers' Unity League as workers in several plants have asked to be organized. Several arrests have been made in connection with this strike including [§<deletion: 1 line] It is said that if the strike is not settled shortly three additional shops may walk out in sympathy.

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[§<deletion: 1 line] At a meeting of the Communist Party Fraction operating within the Canadian Labour Defence League, held on 4th June, [§<deletion: 2 words] reported that the Timmins (Ont.) District had raised \$1,600 in bail loans for the release of the five prisoners at Amos and that the Montreal (Que.) District would have the \$400 balance available on the following day. It was suggested that a motor car be sent from Montreal to Amos for the prisoners and that [§<deletion: 2 words] accompany same; further, that upon the release a protest mass meeting be held at Timmins and Rouyn at which [§<deletion: 2 words] should be the main speaker.

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[§<deletion: 1 line] At a meeting of the Finance Committee of the Communist Party Federal Election Committee at Montreal, Que., held at the home of [§<deletion: 2 words] on 29th May it was reported that a total of \$330 has been contributed towards the election fund so far. The committee decided to have an election button issued containing the pictures of Tim Buck and Fred Rose: the button to sell at 5 cents each. It further decided to

[17]

make an attempt to secure the Mount Royal Arena for an election mass meeting to be held on either 12th or 14th June at which Tim Buck is expected to be the feature speaker.

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