

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 19th June, 1935.

SECRET

NO. 760

WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS
AND AGITATORS IN CANADAReport

Serious rioting occurred on the Vancouver waterfront on 18th June when approximately 1,000 dock strikers and sympathizers attempted to rush Ballantyne Pier. The rioters battled police for three hours; many police and strikers received injuries.

Striking relief camp workers en route to Ottawa, now encamped at Regina, Sask., accepted proposals of the Federal Government to send a delegation to Ottawa to present their grievances. The strikers will remain in Regina pending the return of the delegation from Ottawa.

Hundreds of hunger marchers are reported to have arrived in Toronto from widely scattered points of Ontario to lay their demands for increased relief scales before Premier Hepburn, and to attend the Convention of the Ontario Workers Federation on Unemployment.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERALI. Striking Relief Camp Workers En Route to Ottawa

While at Calgary, Alta., on 8th June, the marching B.C. relief camp strikers held a Tag Day followed by a mass meeting in the Victoria Pavilion. [3<#] The total sum collected was over \$1,500 and it was rather remarkable to note the number of Calgary citizens who were wearing the On To Ottawa tag.

The meeting in the Victoria Pavilion was attended by approximately 3,000 people. Mat Shaw, who is acting as Secretary Treasurer of the contingent, addressed the meeting first, thanking the local organizations and citizens of Calgary for the support offered. He also described some of the demonstrations held in the City of Vancouver, including the taking possession of the Museum and the incident of wrecking the Hudson's Bay store, etc.

A. A. McLeod, National Chairman of the League Against War and Fascism, addressed the gathering on the youth movement and the danger of war and Fascism.

Pat Lenihan, local Communist Party candidate in the coming Federal election, expounded the aims and objects of the Communist Party.

Black, of the camp strikers, and Fred White, local Labor Alderman, also spoke briefly.

The advance guard, under the leadership of A. A. McLeod, consisting of 24 men, left Calgary on the night of 9th June for Medicine Hat to make the necessary preparations for accommodation there.

A. A. McLeod was also the man who led the delegation of 16 which interviewed the Provincial Relief Supervisor and his party at the Provincial Relief Office and which forced the Provincial representatives to accede to their demands. The bold and militant attitude displayed on this occasion is noteworthy. The delegation had picketed all entrances and refused any member of the Relief Commission to leave the building, nor was anyone

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allowed to enter the building. Colonel Sanders was forcibly detained in his cab for a period of about 30 minutes.

Mathew Popovich, one of the C.P. leaders out on parole, arrived in Edmonton on the night of the 8th and immediately proceeded to organize Ukrainian and Polish single unemployed with the intention of sending about 300 of these men East, via the C.N.R. freight route, to meet the main contingent at Winnipeg.

The main contingent, numbering approximately 1,300 men left Calgary on the night of 10th June on a freight train, consisting of 48 box cars and

requiring two engines to move it, for Medicine Hat. Between two and three thousand people lined the stock yards where the men boarded the train and cheered as the train pulled out. The strikers arrived in Medicine Hat on the following morning after a night's ride in driving rain.

After a day's stay in Medicine Hat, in the course of which a Tag Day was held, the main contingent approximately 1,350 strong left on the morning of 12th June for Swift Current, Sask. On this date a group of 20 Communists also left Edmonton for Saskatoon with the intention of proceeding direct to Winnipeg to join the contingent there.

A rumour was current at Calgary on this day to the effect that the C.P. had sent instructions to its British Columbia Bureau that an additional 1,000 men be recruited for the trek on to Ottawa. This rumour, however, could not be confirmed.

On 11th June leaflets were being distributed by some passengers travelling on a C.P.R. train East of Port Arthur containing an appeal of the Communist Party for support of the B.C. marchers. It was signed District Executive Committee, Communist Party of Canada and addressed Fellow Workers, Friends and Comrades. The appeal concluded with the following slogans:—

Declare Yourself Against Slave Labor!
Demand The Withdrawal Of Police From Points On The
Line Of The Relief Camp Strikers March!
Demonstrate in Solidarity With Them!

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Unite Against The Hunger And Forced Labor Regime
Of The Government of Multi-Millionaire
Bennett!

The main body of the marchers, numbering about 1,200 men, arrived in Regina on the morning of 14th June where they intend remaining for three days. Accommodation was provided for them at the Stadium at the Exhibition Grounds and two free meals per day for each man were guaranteed by the Provincial authorities during their three day stay in Regina.

A mass meeting held in the Stadium on the night of the 14th was attended by approximately 4,000 people. While representatives of a number of organizations spoke from the platform, the marchers lolled at ease on the deep straw covering the central show ring with their packs and blankets at their side. The speakers included the Reverend John Mutch of the Knox Church, C. B. McDaniels representing the Catholic Church, M. J. Coldwell of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, T. G. McManus of the Communist Party, Mat Shaw of the strikers and Arthur Evans, well-known Vancouver Communist and leader of the striking relief camp workers. The

latter assured Reginians there would be no trouble unless the same thing happens here as in Vancouver when the strikers were brutally attacked by police under the orders of that great Fascist Mayor McGeer. Bennett first ridiculed the trek and thought it would fizzle out, but it is growing, and will grow, he declared. He further stated that if we have the undivided support of the working class there are not enough Cossacks at the command of Mr. Bombastic Bennett or any other man to prevent the relief camp strikers from reaching Ottawa. He continued, But we're not in a hurry to go down and see Mr. Bennett. We want to stop off at all the cities along the way and tell the citizens of the helplessness of the relief camp situation.

T. G. McManus declared there would be no riot if the men were allowed to proceed to Ottawa, while M. J. Coldwell, Provincial leader of the C.C.F., asserted the army of forgotten youth had earned the respect of all the cities through which

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they has passed.

Wild cheers and boos marked the meeting. At its conclusion three resolutions were passed without dissent. The first was addressed to Premier Bennett protesting the order given to halt the strikers at Regina. Another resolution addressed to the Honourable W. L. MacKenzie King, Liberal leader, and J. S. Woodsworth, C.C.F. leader, urged that they protest the action of the Federal Government in ordering special detachments of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and railway police to prevent the strikers in reaching their objective. The third resolution, addressed to F. W. Turnbull, M.P. for Regina, took sharp issue with his attitude towards the critical situation as expressed to the Mayor of this city that in the event of an emergency the Militia could be called upon.

Arthur Evans, who is reported to have joined or rather rejoined the marchers in either Moose Jaw or Regina on instructions from the Communist leaders in Vancouver, announced following a meeting of the committee in Regina that they would leave Monday night (17th June) on top of freight cars for the East, and appealed to the citizens of Regina to help them. The move is a defiance of police orders to keep off the trains. (The strikers were officially notified by the legal representative of the Railway Police on the 14th that they would not be permitted to proceed further East and must disperse to their homes in which case the railways would undertake to negotiate with the Dominion Government to provide transportation.)

The strikers continue to arouse considerable sympathy. A Tag Day held in Regina on 15th netted them \$1,446, the largest sum contributed by Regina people on an occasion of this kind. Moreover, officers of four service clubs of Regina are reported to have started discussions with a view

to providing automobiles to take the strikers to the Manitoba border, 150 miles East of Regina. The Saskatchewan Provincial Government too has been very sympathetic towards the strikers.

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It has adopted a hands-off policy.

Meanwhile Communists in Winnipeg and other places are making every effort to arouse public sentiment for the strikers.

Information has been received from Winnipeg that the ranks of the unemployed in that city are being augmented from outside points. A group of 40 men has arrived from Cross Lake camp and small parties continue to arrive daily to await and join the main body from the West.

The Veterans Security League in Winnipeg is making every effort to organize a contingent of ex-service men. This society held a public meeting in the Market Square on the night of 14th June with about 400 people in attendance. G. Nicols, Alderman Forkin, Harry Binder and M. Sago, all of whom are prominent members of the C.P., addressed the meeting extolling the march on to Ottawa. Meetings have also been held by other Communist organizations in Winnipeg with a view to arousing sympathy for the strikers.

On 14th June 200 Communists picketed the C.P.R. station in Winnipeg against the ban on the on-to-Ottawa march of the strikers.

An advance party of the strikers arrived in Winnipeg on the 12th to make arrangements for feeding and housing the main body.

2. Waterfront Situation in Vancouver The Strike of Waterfront Continues

A new longshoremen's union calling itself the Canadian Waterfront Workers' Association has been organized with a view to replacing the Vancouver and District Waterfront Workers' Association. Its first attempt to work a liner in this port was frustrated on 7th June by the pickets of the old union. A gang of the new association men proceeding to the Ballantyne Pier, where it was to commence the discharge of a cargo of bananas and other perishables from the M.S. Pioneer, was stopped by the

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strikers' pickets, and after some argumentative persuasion turned back and decided not to act as strike breakers.

On 7th June a telegraphic despatch was received by the local union from Dewey Bennett, Secretary of the International Longshoremen's Associa-

tion at Seattle, stating that that organization in Seattle had already indicated its willingness to support the Vancouver strikers, having yesterday refused to discharge 500 tons of Vancouver cargo from a ship that had arrived there.

On the 8th upon the arrival of the Prince George, a Canadian National steamship, 200 strikers made their way on to the boat, and the crew as well as the office men who had changed to overalls ready to assist with the handling of the cargo, were persuaded peaceably to refrain from doing so. No disorder took place.

Pickets are being maintained at all streets approaching docks and a flying picket is at all time standing to at the Vancouver and District Waterfront Workers' Association strike headquarters on Hastings Street. The Strike Committee has detailed several strikers to use field glasses in identifying the men working on the Pacific Pioneer and other boats being worked by non-union labour. As a result of these tactics an attempt to kidnap a non-union man, who had been working on the Empress of Japan, was made at his home on the evening of 8th June. Screams of this man's wife were effective in scaring the assailants off.

A series of radio broadcasts over Station C.J.O.R. was inaugurated on the night of the 8th June at 6.45 P.M. by Ivan Emery. This series, he announced, was made possible by local sympathizers of the striking longshoremen, and would be continued each night for one week. Emery spoke on behalf of the Vancouver and District Waterfront Workers' Association, and in his 15-minute address endeavoured chiefly to answer and discredit accusations made against the longshoremen's body in Vancouver by the Citizens' League of B.C. He announced that

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there were 940 longshoremen in Vancouver, 800 of these being married, and 400 owning their own homes. He denied any association with the Communist Party District Bureau, and stated that in his struggle on behalf of the working class, he came into contact with many Communists whom he respected for their militant aggressiveness on behalf of their class.

A vote taken amongst the New Westminster and District Waterfront Workers results in 247 voting in favour of a strike and 50 against. Longshoremen at Chemainus, Nanoose and Victoria similarly voted in favour of a sympathetic strike.

A strike bulletin (No. 3) issued on 8th June by the Strike Committee of the Vancouver and District Waterfront Workers' Association, expresses considerable optimism and concludes with the following appeal:—

Citizens of Vancouver, we appeal to you not to be misled by the lies of the FASCIST 'Citizens League'. Rally behind the fighting longshoremen.

Trades Unions! Remember this attack against the longshoremen is an attack against YOU. If we lose, every rank and file union in B.C. will be threatened.

On 10th June the following resolution was passed by the Strike Committee:—

That as other locals are involved with us in this strike, who are pledged with us to see it through to a finish, it is the well-considered opinion of this committee, representing all these bodies, that a negotiating committee should be elected, with a view to opening negotiations with our actual employers, the stevedores and dock operators, as soon as possible, and that our actual employers be notified to that effect by this committee.

In the event of a flat refusal of our employers to open negotiations, we have no other alternative than to notify all affiliated locals, who have already balloted in favor, and those who are still taking a ballot, to stand by for instructions if necessary.

With the picket lines intact the Strike Committee on 11th June commenced to concentrate on the entrance to Ballantyne Pier. Organizers of the Truck Drivers, Swampers and Messengers Union peacefully prevented drivers of trucks from driving on to the dock.

A ballot taken by the Coastwise Longshoremen and Freight Handlers' Union resulted in 205 voting in favour of a

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sympathetic strike and 57 against. The result of a vote at Chemainus is given as 147 in favour to five against a strike.

On 12th June the Shipping Federation of British Columbia expressed confidence that its organization for working ships in the Port of Vancouver, in face of the strike is approaching the peak of efficiency. It announced seven out of 15 ships in port were being worked.

On the 13th it was revealed that nine out of 15 ships in the harbor had gangs working cargo, the work being performed under police protection.

The waterfront situation remains critical. While there has been no violence so far, and the strike pickets seem in good humour, it is feared that with the Shipping Federation increasing its operation mass action by the strikers is inevitable.

There is a spirit of optimism predominant amongst the strikers. The picket lines, largely composed of the longshore strikers of 1923, appear to be quite unconcerned as to the outcome of the strike.

3. Peter Hunter Returns to Canada

[✂#] Peter Hunter has returned from the International Youth Conference in France and from a visit to the Soviet Union. He spoke at a meeting of the Youth Branch of the Friends of the Soviet Union in Toronto, Ont., on 5th June giving the highlights of the Youth Conference. He also described the May Day parade in Moscow and the review of the Red Army which, he stated, is different from any other army in the world in that it is controlled completely by the workers.

4. Finnish Delegation to Soviet Karelia Returns

[✂#] The delegation sent to Soviet Karelia by the Finnish Organization of Canada returned recently and related its experience at a mass rally of revolutionary Finns at Tarmola, the

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summer camp of the Finnish Organization near Toronto, Ont., on 2nd June.

G. Sundqvist, Secretary of the Finnish Organization of Canada and leader of the delegation to Soviet Karelia, depicted the wonderful progress which, he alleged, has been made in Soviet Karelia during the regime of the Communist Party. He remarked that during the Czarist regime Karelia had three schools and 500 pupils compared with the 1,700 teachers and tens of thousands of pupils of today. He also asserted that educational work is being carried on among the adult workers.

The other members of the delegation also eulogized the efforts made by the C.P. and praised conditions generally. It was generally asserted that the workers of Soviet Karelia are one hundred per cent behind the Soviets and that the standard of living is steadily rising. They also remarked that the workers of Soviet Karelia are very grateful for the help that was given them by the Finnish revolutionaries in the U.S.A. and Canada.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

5. Malcolm Bruce Speaks at Mission, B.C.

[✂#] On 4th June at Mission, B.C., Malcolm Bruce addressed a small audience in the Oddfellows Hall on the subject of Fascism. The smallness of the gathering prompted him to speak only for 15 minutes. He originally

planned to expound to the poor farmers of the district the Farmers' Emergency Bill which is being sponsored by the National Committee of the Farmers' Unity League. The meeting, however, was poorly advertised and no farmers showed up.

II. ALBERTA

6. G. W. Springford, Communist Candidate in Alexandra Riding

[✂#] G. W. Springford of Blackfoot, Alta., has been nominated C.P. candidate for the Provincial constituency of Alexandra in Alberta. He has been actively associated with the Communist Movement since 1931, having played an important role in the development of the Farmers' Unity League in Alberta. His family is said to be also active in the Revolutionary Movement.

III. SASKATCHEWAN

7. Plans To Hold C.P. School in Regina Abandoned

[✂#] Owing to lack of financial support from rural units plans to hold a Political School of the Communist Party at Regina, Sask., have been cancelled. It is reported that the rural districts have failed to respond.

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IV. MANITOBA

8. New C.L.D.L. Campaign for Release of Noranda Strikers

The District Central Council of the Canadian Labour Defence League at Winnipeg, Man., met on 8th June. A circular letter received from the [✂#] National Executive Committee at Toronto dealing with the loss of the appeals in the case of the convicted Noranda mine rioters, constituted the main order of business. This letter stated in part:—

Up to now the Noranda miners have been in the custody of the Quebec provincial authorities. Now that their appeals have been lost they will be transferred to the St. Vincent de Paul penitentiary and the Department of Justice of the Bennett government will take charge of them and will be directly responsible for them.

The fact that the Noranda miners are soon to become wards of the Bennett government gives us a basis for a strong and, we hope, a successful fight for their release. The Bennett government, feeling its mass unpopularity and facing a general election, is more sensitive to mass pressure on such cases than the government of Quebec. If we can regenerate the campaign for the freedom of the Noranda miners and inject this issue prominently into the federal election campaign, we can reasonably hope to be successful.

Therefore, the following tasks should be undertaken in regard to the Noranda cases:—

(a) Every district should start a new wave of protest resolutions from workers' organizations, addressing these resolutions to the Hon. Hugh Guthrie, Minister of Justice in the Bennett government, Ottawa, Ont.

(b) At every mass meeting we hold, the Noranda cases must be stressed and we should organize special Noranda mass meetings where the new aspects of these cases should be dealt with.

(c) The Noranda conferences should be revived. Carefully preparing the first session by letters and canvassing and using the first conference to draw the lessons of the campaign so far and to deal with the new aspects of the cases.

(d) Every member of parliament sitting for constituencies in the district should be canvassed for his stand on the Noranda cases. The federal parliament will prorogue at the end of June and the M.P.'s should be flooded in the interim with letters protesting against the Noranda sentences and demanding that the M.P.'s take a stand and make it known.

(e) All candidates running in the federal election should be questioned in a similar manner. All who make favorable replies to our representation

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should be urged to make protest to the authorities as evidence of their sincerity.

Following a discussion the council decided to comply with the instructions of the National Executive Committee. [deletion: 2 words] was appointed to conduct this campaign.

[#] The recently organized Veterans' Security League at Winnipeg, Man., held a meeting in the Market Square on 9th June. About 200 people attended and the speakers were Alderman Forkin and an elderly veteran named Gowan.

Forkin spoke on taxation, advocating that concerns such as the T. Eaton Company and the Hudson's Bay Company should carry a larger burden of the taxation.

The second speaker pleaded for unity among the veterans. He contended that inasmuch as they (veterans) fought side by side in the last war they should also fight side by side for a better living in Canada regardless of nationality or creed.

A. Prett, Chairman of the meeting, appealed to the members of the Canadian Legion and the Army and Navy to join in the struggle and leave out political differences.

This was the first public meeting held by this league. The small attendance was due, largely, to the fact that the meeting was not advertised.

V. ONTARIO

9. Strike of Beet Workers in Ontario Settled

Striking beet workers of the Agricultural and Cannery Workers Union, an affiliate of the Workers Unity League, in the Kent and Essex Counties have returned to work. The strikers, claim to have won several concessions including recognition of their union.

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Roy Davis addressed a social attended by about 110 persons and held under the auspices of the Friends of the Soviet Union at Toronto, Ont., on 7th June. He praised the exploits of the Red Army in China, making special mention of the destruction of 30 aeroplanes; and generally eulogized the [✂#] efforts made by the Communists for the control of China. He predicted a complete victory for the Red Army and said that a clash with the Japanese Army in Manchuria was inevitable. He pointed out that it was the duty of the revolutionary working class in Canada to support as much as possible the Chinese Red Army and Soviet China in general in the struggle against imperialism. He declared that the strike of the dock workers at San Francisco of last year materially assisted Soviet China as it caused a delay in the shipping of war materials to the Nankin Government.

Jack Cowan also addressed the gathering briefly on the coming Conference of Friendship with the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics which is to be held at Toronto, Ont., commencing on 29th June.

[X#] On 10th June a mass meeting was held in the Market Square at Welland, Ont., sponsored by the Canadian Labour Defence League. It was for the purpose of organizing the local unemployed for the Provincial hunger march. Speeches were given by [Xdeletion: 3/4 line] The latter was introduced to the meeting as an Organizer of the hunger march. There were about 30 persons present, 10 of whom signified their willingness to join the hunger march.

[X#] [Xdeletion: 4 words] arrived in Ottawa on 12th June with instructions to make the necessary preparations for the visit of the B.C. relief camp strikers. Since his arrival he has been attending several meetings of the local committee of the Communist Party of Canada.

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VI. QUEBEC

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

[X#] A mass meeting held on the evening of 11th June at 2809 Masson St., Rosemount, was a distinct failure, there being only approximately 90 people present, a considerable number of whom left the meeting before it concluded.

A. G. Paul, T. Wood and Oscar Kane were the speakers. The purpose of the meeting was to organize some permanent association with the object of fighting against the two per cent City Sales Tax and against the back to the land movement. Owing to the poor attendance no attempt was made to set up an organization.

Oscar Kane, [Xdeletion: 6 words] in the course of his speech announced that a meeting would be held on 13th June for the purpose of organizing the unemployed to participate in a march on Ottawa in support of the B.C. relief camp strikers.

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

[X#]

A cheering group of about 50 people, mostly French-Canadians, welcomed the Amos prisoners on 11th June on their return to Montreal, Que. The accused were released on bail pending their trial on charges of sedition.
