

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 26th June, 1935.

SECRETNO. 761WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATORS IN CANADAReport

Tim Buck has returned to Winnipeg and is reported to be taking a leading part in the on-to-Ottawa campaign.

Over 300 lumber workers in the Thunder Bay District have come out on strike and plans are under way to extend the strike to other parts of North Western Ontario.

Conditions on Vancouver's waterfront are said to be steadily improving; many ships are being worked under police protection. Longshoremen in Vancouver and New Westminster voted on 23rd June in favour of continuing the strike.

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C.P. Election Rally in Montreal
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 Meeting Successful: Collection \$454
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 Efforts to Organize March on-to-Ottawa Unsuccessful

APPENDIX NO. I: GENERALI. On-To-Ottawa March of Relief Camp Strikers(A) Situation at Regina

The striking relief camp workers remain encamped at Regina, Sask., pending the return of their delegation from Ottawa.

[✂#] On 17th June leaflets were distributed throughout the City of Regina by the strikers calling upon every citizen supporting the march to Ottawa to assemble at the C.P.R. freight yards at 10.00 p.m. and to remain there until such time as they (strikers) leave. It was originally planned to leave aboard a freight train on that evening and it was felt that if a larger number of citizens would gather at the railway yards it would prevent police interference. This plan did not materialize, however, as an agreement was reached in the course of the evening between representatives of the strikers and the Federal Ministers, the Honourable P. J. Manion and the Honourable Robert Weir, which provided for the sending of a delegation of eight to Ottawa. The agreement also stipulated that the strikers would be housed and fed by the Federal Government in the meantime. In the course of the evening a parade was held, however, preceded by a mass meeting in the Stadium. At this meeting it was proposed that the march should continue to Winnipeg regardless of the outcome of the conference with the Federal representatives. This proposal received considerable support but Matt Shaw was able to convince the men that it would be bad policy to do so as it might antagonize the public. At 8.30 the parade left the Stadium with spectators lining both sides of the route. On reaching Scarth Street on Eleventh Avenue there was a sudden change of plan and the parade continued along Scarth Street in a snake-walk fashion. When the result of the conference with the two Federal Ministers became known the parade dispersed and the strikers scattered over the city. The snake-walk exhibition appeared to have had the effect of antagonizing many of the citizens.

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On 18th June the delegation of eight appointed by the strikers was escorted to the Union Station by the marchers and several hundred sympathizers; there a few short speeches were given before the delegation entrained for the East. Matt Shaw announced that the strikers would await the result of the conference at Ottawa quietly. In the course of the evening a dance, sponsored by Todovymazu, was given for the benefit of the marchers at the Ukrainian Labour Temple. The hall was packed to capacity.

On the 19th about 200 camp strikers arrived in Regina by truck and car from Saskatoon. These men left Dundurn Relief Camp on 17th June at the

instigation of George Taylor, [~~deletion: 3/4 line~~] The men decided to quit the camp as a result of a meeting held near the camp on the evening of the 17th which was addressed by George Taylor and his father, William Taylor, [~~deletion: 3/4 line~~] Mayor Pinder of Saskatoon is reported to have been instrumental in obtaining trucks for transporting the men from Dundurn Camp to Regina after they had invaded Saskatoon with the object, no doubt, of getting them out of the city.

Attacks on the Reverend J. Mutch who was outspoken from the pulpit in his condemnation of Communist leaders of the camp strikers and on the Regina Ministerial Association, marked a meeting at the Stadium on the night of 20th June organized by the Citizens Emergency Committee in moral support of the Strikers' Negotiating Committee in Ottawa. P. Mikkelson, President of the Regina Union of Unemployed, J. E. King of the C.C.F., A. Theodore of the Communist Party, Matt Shaw, B. Gold of the Student League of Canada, and the East, Reverend S. B. East were the principal speakers. Theodore announced that the Communist Party was mobilizing its full force behind the camp strikers, while B. Gold promised the whole-hearted and complete support of the Student League of Canada. Matt Shaw received an ovation on his appearance on the platform. He called on the citizens of Regina to aid the men and thanked them for what they had

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already done for them. Mr. East thought that the clergy really should have been the one to lead the way in the present struggle of the working class. He commended the strikers, Go ahead with your protest and God bless you and concluded amid a wave of enthusiasm, If you're a sincere atheist you're a better man than a hypocritical religionist. Only approximately 2,000 people, including the strikers, were in attendance and the collection netted \$20.76.

(B) At Winnipeg

Efforts are being made by the Communists at Winnipeg to recruit a contingent of relief camp strikers and other single unemployed for a march on-to-Ottawa either independently or in conjunction with the contingent now encamped at Regina, Sask. Reports from Winnipeg would indicate that approximately 1,000 men have arrived in the city recently, mostly young men from rural points and relief camps in the vicinity of Winnipeg. Two registration offices have been opened to take the names of those willing to join the trek to Ottawa, one at the Manitoba Hotel and the other

at 530 Main Street; the latter is the headquarters of the Scandinavian Workers Club, [deletion: 3/4 line]

On 18th June a parade was staged from Water Street to the Market Square with the intention of holding an open-air meeting. On arrival at the Market Square it started to rain heavily and the demonstrators were compelled to seek shelter in the Labour Temple on James Street, filling the place to capacity. Following the meeting a number of placards were carried on the street near the Occidental Hotel bearing the following inscription Beware Of The Three B's — Bennett, Batons And Billies and Join The On-To-Ottawa Trek. J. Derry, [deletion: 3/4 line] appeared to be the leader and Organizer of this demonstration.

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The newly-formed Action Committee, the result of a conference held recently, met on 17th June at 305 Chambers of Commerce Building. Among those in attendance were [deletion: 3 words] (President), and the two [deletion: 1/2 line] This meeting decided to form a permanent body and elected the following permanent committee: [deletion: 2 words] Chairman, [deletion: 2 words] Vice-Chairman, [deletion: 1 line] Four sub-committees were also appointed, viz: Anti-Fascist with [deletion: 1 1/2 line] as Chairman; and Organization with [deletion: 3 words] All of the last named persons are well-known leaders of the Communist Party or its subsidiaries. The meeting decided to issue a manifesto calling on all camp workers to join the trek to Ottawa. It was further decided to name this new organization the On-To-Ottawa And Anti-Slave Camp Conference. The organization appears to be entirely in the hands of the Communists; all of the important committees are controlled by them. It is the intention of this newly-formed organization to picket the railway stations to prevent the sending of men to the relief camps. Latest information would indicate that no move will be attempted until the delegation returns from Ottawa.

(C) At Ottawa

The delegation of the B.C. relief camp strikers composed of Arthur Evans, George Savage, S. O'Neil, Jim Walsh, Bill Cosgrove, M. McCauly, Pete Neilson and Tony Martin, arrived in Ottawa on the morning of 21st June. They were joined at North Bay, Ont., by Tom Ewen and Ewart Humphries who proceeded with them to Ottawa. A delegation of 12 composed of the leaders of the recent Ontario Provincial hunger march also arrived in Ottawa to lend moral support to the Western delegates.

Following unsuccessful conferences between the Western delegation and groups representing the unemployed in Ontario and

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Quebec with Prime Minister R. B. Bennett and members of the Cabinet on 22nd June, the delegations held a joint meeting in Ottawa following which a statement was issued to the effect that in the course of a few days a national call would be issued jointly by the Workers Unity League and the Relief Camp Workers Union appealing to trade unions and other organizations to continue their support and to join as individuals in organization that will concentrate on Ottawa in the near future.

Assisted by local Communists the visiting delegation held a mass meeting in the Rialto Theatre, Ottawa, on the night of 23rd June at which speeches were given by the leading members of the various delegations. Arthur Evans, at length, reviewed conditions which he said existed in the British Columbia relief camps. He also gave a resume of the interview with the Prime Minister. In this connection he asserted that on every available opportunity he would point out that he had been forced to call the Prime Minister a liar to his face. He condemned the Prime Minister for his stand against the working class of Canada. Evans emphatically declared that the trek to Ottawa would not be given up although Mr. Bennett had assembled all his militia and Royal Canadian Mounted Police at Regina.

The delegation representing the relief camp workers left Ottawa for Regina on the 24th.

2. Waterfront Situation in Vancouver

[3<#] A mass meeting of the striking longshoremen of Vancouver and of New Westminster was held at the Vancouver Arena on 16th June with approximately 3,000 persons in attendance.

Ivan Emery was the main speaker on this occasion. He gave a resume of the situation on Vancouver's waterfront, and announced that at 1.00 p.m. of the 18th June a delegation would be chosen to interview Mayor G. G. McGeer, with a view to obtaining permission to go on to Ballantyne Pier, there to interview the new union men now working the boats. He urged all

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longshoremen and sympathizers to gather at Powell Street Grounds at 1.00 o'clock in support of the delegation, as it was planned that in the event of refusal of permission to the delegation a mass attack would be made on Ballantyne Pier. We are not going down in a spirit of bravado, simply to

make a test to see if the workers of this country have any rights and see if they turn the guns on us. If they do we will know Fascism in Canada has taken off its mask he declared. He made a special appeal to the ex-service men, who, in his mind, were accustomed to the clatter of machine guns, to take the lead in the march on Ballantyne Pier.

Other speakers were A. Harris, Investigator of the Powell River waterfront situation; Mrs. Pete Munro, wife of the Street Railway Men's Union organizer; G. Thomas and T. O'Connor, former I.L.A. men; Oscar Salonen, Business Manager of the Vancouver and District Waterfront Workers' Association; E. Flemming and H. Murray, both members of the M.S. Aorangi.

M. Reid acted as Chairman at this meeting, and read a letter which had been received from the Truck Drivers, Swampers and Messengers Union, asking for a definition and list of unfair cargo. The chairman stated for the sake of those present that all freight on the Vancouver docks, with the exception of flour in small quantities from the Terminal Dock, was to be considered unfair.

A general tightening of the picket lines was advocated by other speakers. An appeal was made to the Women's Auxiliary for women to join the picket at the Evans, Coleman and Evans Company dock, where up to the present the picket had been unsuccessful in keeping out the trucks.

Flemming and Murray made an announcement on behalf of the crew of the M.S. Aorangi to the effect that a cablegram had been despatched by them to Australia in protest to the ship owners of the loading of unfair cargo on the vessel. They further stated that, regardless of the attitude of the company, they would strike sympathetically should the use of the new

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union men be continued in the loading of the Aorangi cargo.

Oscar Salonen announced that two men of the United States Maritime Federation had been in Vancouver over the weekend, and had assured the local union that they would not handle unfair Vancouver ships in any of the American ports. These men, Bennett and Whitehead, were not present at the meeting as they were at the time returning to Seattle.

At about 12.45 p.m. of 18th June approximately 1,000 strikers and sympathizers attempted to force an entrance to Ballantyne Pier which was guarded by the police. Considerable fighting and rioting ensued, lasting for approximately three hours, in the course of which 60 persons — many of them police — received injuries. Twenty-one persons were arrested including Ivan Emery, leader of the longshoremen. The mob of the strikers was led by returned soldiers, members of the Workers Ex-Service Men's League. Members of the Young Communist League were seen taking an

active part in the fight but leading members of the Communist Party were conspicuous by their absence.

Following this riot a ban was placed on picketing along the waterfront.

Information was received during the early part of the evening that the strikers were contemplating making another raid on the pier that evening. No additional disturbances occurred however.

Since the riot on 18th June continual efforts are being made by the strikers' committee to extend the strike to other unions, especially the Truck-men, Loggers and B.C. Electric Street Railwaymen. The longshoremen of Prince Rupert quit work on the 19th; the New Westminster longshoremen remain on strike in sympathy; and the Victoria longshoremen are reported to have refused to work unfair vessels.

Favourable progress is being made in the loading and unloading of ships in V

ancouver Harbour. On the 21st June 21 vessels were worked.

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A mass meeting of strikers scheduled for 23rd June was banned by the Chief of Police.

3. Bert Gold On Tour

[3<#] Bert Gold, a member of the National Bureau of the Student League of Canada and Editor of *The Student*, is now touring Canada in preparation for the Second National Convention of the Student League of Canada which is to convene in Toronto, Ont., on 17th August. He reports considerable progress and a definite upsurge of the masses of the students. In his report to the Centre he remarks that the results of the tour so far have more than proved the eagerness of the students to organize and fight in defence of their interests. He is reported to have addressed meetings in a number of places including Winnipeg, Saskatoon and Regina. At the latter place he addressed a mass meeting of the B.C. relief camp workers in the Regina Stadium on the 20th and promised the whole-hearted and undivided support of the Student League of Canada.

4. Anti-War Signature Campaign

[3<#] The National Bureau of the League Against War and Fascism at Toronto, Ont., has commenced a signature campaign against war throughout Canada. It is the intention to obtain one million signatures by 4th August, the date on which the drive is to terminate.

5. National Anti-War Youth Day

(A) At Toronto

[3<#] A parade followed by a mass meeting in Queen's Park featured the first National Youth Day celebration initiated by the Youth Section of the Canadian League Against War and Fascism in Toronto, Ont., on 15th June. Approximately 1,500 young men and women and children marched from Willowdale Park to Queen's

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Park carrying a large number of banners and slogans and singing the International. At Queen's Park the demonstrators were entertained by several speakers including Peter Hunter, Roy Davis, A. Jackson and the Reverend Raymond Booth of the French Church. All speakers dwelt upon the subject of war and called upon the youth of Canada to unite with a view to eliminating the menace of war for all times. The demonstration did not come up to expectations and there was a considerable lack of enthusiasm in evidence.

(B) At Winnipeg

[3<#] At Winnipeg, Man., about 600 young people took part in the National Youth Day celebration consisting of a parade and a subsequent meeting held in the Market Square on 15th June. The demonstrators assembled in front of the Legislative Building and from there paraded to the Market Square where speeches were given by Joe Zukin from the Progressive Arts Club, Frank Crossley from the Co-operative Commonwealth Youth Movement, and Harry Binder from the Young Communist League. Their speeches were all directed against war.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

6. Fishermen Start First Distributing Campaign

A distribution campaign of fish has been undertaken by the Fishermens and Cannery Workers Industrial Union of Vancouver, B.C., an affiliate of the Workers Unity League, on behalf of the blue-back strikers. Fish will be

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delivered in lots from 50 to 200 fish at Clinton Hall, Ukrainian Labour Temple, Longshoremens Hall, and Unity Hall. The fish will not be sold but anyone who cares to make a donation to the fishermen's strike fund will be the recipient of a gift of fish. The longshoremen's strike headquarters at 663 Hastings Street is one of the distributing centres and it is of interest to note that fish to the number of 1,500 have been distributed during the first two days following the opening of the campaign.

[X#] [Xdeletion: 7 lines]

II. ALBERTA

7. C.P. in Edmonton Holds Election

[X#] Approximately 700 persons were present at a meeting held under the auspices of the Communist Party Election Committee in the Empire Theatre, Edmonton, Alta., on 9th June. J. Lakeman acted as Chairman and the speakers were Mathew Popovich and Harvey Murphy.

Mathew Popovich, C.P. candidate for the Vegreville constituency in the Federal election, was the first speaker. Speaking of the Communist Movement in Canada he declared that the imprisonment of the eight C.P. leaders had been a bad move on

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the part of the Dominion Government, that the eight leaders had done more good in Kingston Penitentiary for the Revolutionary Movement than if they had been outside. He further declared that it was the C.P. of Canada that was on trial in 1931 and not the eight individuals. Referring to the Social Credit System he characterized same as a movement on the part of the Capitalist class to perpetuate the exploitation of the working-class. He urged that the C.P. put as many candidates as possible into the field and predicted that eight Communist candidates would be elected in the forthcoming Alberta Provincial election.

Harvey Murphy's speech was largely an attack upon the Social Credit System as enunciated by Mr. Aberhart of Calgary. He charged that the economic situation in Alberta was more acute than in any other Province in the Dominion of Canada accompanied by a vicious suppression of working class activities. He said that the Communist Party's purpose in taking part in the elections is not to achieve control by Parliamentary means but to organize the working class for mass action thus gaining control of the means of production. Social credit, he said, was a Capitalist preparation for Fascism aimed at the perpetuation of the private property right. He remarked that Mr. Aberhart, the sponsor of this credit system, might be quite sincere in his belief but that he was sincerely wrong. When the C.P.

will rule we will seize everything from those who have too much, he declared. A United Front of the working class will make all this possible, he maintained. He cited the trek of the B.C. relief camp strikers as an example of determination and unity of the working class. He urged the audience to support this march. Before closing he warned the audience that there has got to be lots of bloody noses before we get what we want.

[3<#] The Canadian Labour Defence League at Calgary, Alta., held a very successful mass meeting on the afternoon of 16th June

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in the Laurendeau Hall; there being a large number of outsiders present including several members of the Co-operative Commonwealth Youth Movement. The meeting devoted considerable time to the question of disrupters within the movement and it was decided to expel a number of them including T. Betteridge, Norman Dohl, Mrs. Dohl, George Hull, Cecil Boone, Mrs. C. Boone, L. MacDonald (Kid Burns), Mrs. MacDonald, Gus Rettschlag and J. Sparrow.

III. MANITOBA

8. A. A. McLeod Speaks at Fort Rouge

[3<#] A. A. McLeod, National Chairman of the Canadian League Against War and Fascism, addressed a public meeting at the Labour Hall, Fort Rouge, Man., on 12th June. He reviewed the conditions in the Crow's Nest Pass mining area stating that the authorities were responsible for what he termed the present reign of terror in the mines. He also praised the marching B.C. relief camp strikers, complimenting the leaders on the way they are conducting the march. He asserted that they are receiving public sympathy wherever they go. In outlining the growth of the League Against War and Fascism he stated that the league now has a membership of 337,000. He also asserted that the movement in the West is growing rapidly and is becoming a factor of considerable importance.

[3<#] The Veterans Security League in Winnipeg, Man., held an open organization meeting at 340 William Avenue on 20th June. There were 45 members present but no new recruits taken on. A number of the members present expressed their desire to join the proposed march on-to-Ottawa.

[X#] [Xdeletion: 2 lines]

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[Xdeletion: 3/4 page]

[X#] John Boychuk addressed a special meeting of the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Mass Organizations in Fort William, Ont., on 14th June. He dealt with the march on-to-Ottawa staged by the B.C. relief camp strikers and urged the audience to do all in their power to help make this venture a success. He stated that the marchers were well organized and disciplined and every precaution is taken to prevent police informers and Government agents from joining the ranks of the strikers.

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IV. ONTARIO

9. C.P. Election Meeting in Windsor

The Communist Party at Windsor, Ont., held a municipal election rally at the Windsor Arena on 17th June, there being approximately 3,500 people [X#] present, and the speakers were Reginald Morris, former Alderman of East Windsor, Bill Rigby, Chairman of the local Communist Election Committee, Tom Raycraft, Communist candidate for Alderman, Ward 1, West Windsor, Joe Spence, Communist candidate in Ward 2, Sam Scarlett of the C.P., Mrs. Georgina Ketcheson, Communist candidate in Ward 3, and Tim Buck, General Secretary of the C.P. of Canada.

Tim Buck, the principal speaker, gave a general talk on C.P. principles and its program in the municipal and Federal elections. He pointed with pride to the achievements of the Communists in Toronto who, he claimed, had won free speech by persistently holding meetings in public places despite the clubs of the police. He urged that in order to obtain free speech it is necessary to continually hold meetings even if it meant going to jail. Going to jail is the easy part of being a Communist, he said, and remarked that he gained 18 pounds while in Kingston Penitentiary. He was very bitter in his attack upon the leaders of the standard political parties including Premier Bennett, Premier Hepburn and Mr. Croll. Referring to the labour trouble in British Columbia he intimated that a similar situation may easily arise in Windsor in the very near future. In this connection he defended the action of the B.C. relief camp strikers and protested vigorously against the attitude of the Federal Government at Ottawa. In conclusion he appealed

to the electors of Windsor to cast their votes on behalf of the Communist candidates.

Sam Scarlett made a fiery speech in defence of free speech. He also advocated the holding of meetings in public places despite the ruling of the city authorities in that regard. He, too, referred to Toronto as an example of what may be accomp-

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lished if the working class displays a real fighting attitude. In response to his appeal for funds approximately \$300 were donated at this meeting.

The other speakers' addresses centered principally around the question of free speech in the City of Windsor. The meeting was part of the campaign that is being waged by the Communists in this city to force the local Park Commission to open Lanspeary Park for outdoor meetings.

V. QUEBEC

10. C.P. Election Rally in Montreal

A mass meeting at the Mount Royal Arena in Montreal, Que., on 12th June marked the official opening of the election campaign staged by the Communist Party in that city. About 5,000 people attended and the speakers were Tim Buck, Sam Carr, Fred Rose, S. Sarkin, D. Kashton, Max Armstrong, Jean Perron and E. Dube.

Alex Gauld, Chairman of the meeting, in his opening remarks eulogized Fred Rose's accomplishments in the working class movement. He definitely stated that Rose was the Secretary of the Montreal District of the C.P.

The first speaker was Sam Carr. He spent most of the 10 minutes allotted to him condemning the Conservative and Liberal Parties. Referring to the Right Honourable R. B. Bennett's recent illness he remarked: If Mr. Bennett was too sick to run the country he should get out. We Communists can run the country for him. Loud cheers greeted this pronouncement. He also criticized the Right Honourable W. L. MacKenzie King and Mr. H. H. Stevens to whom he referred as a demagogue.

Jean Perron, the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation candidate for St. James Division, Montreal, was the next speaker. He spoke in French.

Fred Rose, C.P. candidate in the Cartier constituency, dwelt upon matters pertaining to local relief and the strikes

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in St. Johns, Que. He appealed for unity against war and Fascism and assured the audience that the only solution for the workers was a socialist Canada.

Dave Kashton, Organizer of the Y.C.L., in the course of a very brief speech, urged the audience to support the candidature of Fred Rose. He stated that the Y.C.L. endorsed Fred Rose's candidature and also the program of the Communist Party.

Sidney Sarkin spoke in Jewish and, like the other speakers, assured the audience that conditions would not materially improve until Capitalism has been abolished.

At this stage of the meeting an appeal for funds was made by A. Gauld. He stated that the forthcoming Federal election in Canada would possibly be the last election and inferred that it would be the last opportunity the workers would have to finance a campaign of this nature. He commenced his appeal by asking for \$20 donations of which he got two; then a sympathizer pledged the sum of \$100. There were also \$25 donations, several \$5 and many \$2 and \$1 contributions. The response was the best of any ever received by the C.P. in Montreal.

H. Benjamin, Organizer of the Unemployed Councils of the U.S.A., was the next speaker. He severely criticized the National Recovery Act proclaiming it a decided failure and detrimental to the working class.

Max Armstrong, leader of the Labour Party in Montreal, criticised both the Liberal and Conservative Parties contending that one was as bad as the other. He contended that the sending of Fred Rose to Parliament would mean working class representation in Parliament.

E. Dube spoke in French eulogizing the efforts made by the C.P. in Montreal.

The last speaker was Tim Buck. He received a great ovation when he arose to speak. He dealt with the B.C. relief camp strike explaining what he termed the successful march on-to-Ottawa. He intimated that he was against this

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march at first because he felt that it was next to impossible for them to reach their objective, but when he saw what progress had been made and that the ranks of the strikers were increasing instead of decreasing he realized what the determination of the workers meant. He was very outspoken in his references to the C.P. He wanted it understood that such a Party did exist. He further explained that there were now 62 Communist Parties in the different countries throughout the world. He contended that conditions would not improve for the working class until the Capitalist system has been abolished and a Soviet system established.

Although the attendance did not come up to the expectations the meeting was the most enthusiastic gathering every held in the City of Montreal.

The total expenses of this meeting were \$235; the collection netted \$454.

[3<#] Approximately 400 people, mostly foreigners, attended a meeting sponsored by the Central Unemployed Council at the Prince Arthur Hall, Montreal, Que., on 20th June. The meeting was addressed by C. E. Perry, President of the Unemployed Council, Peggy Gauld and Fred Rose.

[3<#] Efforts made by the Communists in Montreal to organize the unemployed for a march on-to-Ottawa have met with very little success so far. An unemployed meeting scheduled to take place at the Prince Arthur Hall on 13th June, at which it was intended to discuss the possibility of a hunger march to Ottawa, had to be postponed as only 15 people showed up. A plan of the Young Communist League to organize at least 100 young unemployed for this purpose was also abandoned as it was found impossible to organize the youth for such purpose at the present time. Efforts, however, are being continued but the prospects of an organized march to Ottawa from Montreal are not very good.
