

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 3rd July, 1935.

SECRET

NO. 762

WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS
AND AGITATORS IN CANADAReport

Following the arrest at Regina of approximately 100 persons for infractions of Sections of the Criminal Code dealing with unlawful association, unlawful assembly, carrying concealed weapons and assault, the Provincial Government have offered the strikers transportation to points from which they took train, or to their homes. This proposal will be discussed at a mass meeting of the strikers to be held immediately.

The Winnipeg group have arranged a mass meeting at which they hope to elect delegates to send to Regina to protest against police activities there, such delegation to consist of a member from the Conservative, Liberal, C.C.F. and C.P. of C. Parties.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

1. On-To-Ottawa March of Relief Camp Strikers at Regina

The committee of the relief camp strikers at Regina, Sask., issued a bulletin immediately upon return of the delegates from Ottawa stating that, [~~deletion: 1 line~~] despite the fact that thousands of people throughout the whole of Canada were demanding the abolition of the present relief camp system, Bennett persists in his Fascist policy of police intimidation with veiled threats of bullets instead of work and wages. This bulletin also stated that the relief camp workers at Val Cartier and Rockcliffe are waiting to join the Regina contingent upon their arrival at Ottawa. The Winnipeg camp workers also hope to march to Ottawa.

On 27th June 350 of the marchers were ordered to get meals and to report at the Stadium carrying lunches for transport by truck to Broadview and Brandon and that evening two trucks containing some of this number attempted to proceed East. They were stopped on the outskirts of Regina and the occupants and drivers arrested. No effort was made to send a further contingent. Evans then applied to the Canadian Pacific Railway to hire box cars to convey 1,400 marchers to Brandon. The railway company refused to supply the box cars and he inquired regarding the cost of a special train. J. Cosgrove, one of the Ottawa delegates, was one of the men arrested in the futile attempt to leave Regina by truck. The Reverend S. East of Regina was also in one of the vehicles and was placed under arrest but later released.

Seeing that their efforts to leave Regina were blocked by the police on 27th June, Evans communicated with J. Litterick in Winnipeg and S. Forkin in Brandon on the early morning of the 28th advising them that the police had prevented the marchers leaving Regina by railroad and highway. He requested that the Winnipeg sympathizers and other camp strikers

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should immediately commence the trek to Ottawa with a view to relieving police pressure at Regina. He also reported that the new camp established near Lumsden was enclosed with barbed wire and that martial law practically prevailed in Regina.

There seems no doubt that messengers have been sent from the Regina contingent with a view to arousing sympathy at other points in the Dominion. One W. D. Beck was arrested at Broadview for violation of the Railway Act and from material found in his possession it was established that he was a member of the Publicity Committee. It was established that the camp in Regina is divided into six divisions, each division being again divided into 25 groups of 12 men. Each group of 12 has a leader. The camp has a Marshall and four Sub-Marshalls. There is also a committee known as the Strategy Committee composed of six men, one from each division.

An office was opened on 26th June for the purpose of securing registrations for the new camp opened near Lumsden. At this pickets were immediately placed by the strikers with the result that very few men have registered. However, on 29th June this picket was removed and further registrations have been made.

On 1st July Evans and the strikers' committee refused the offer to go to Dundurn or Lumsden Camps for demobilization requesting that they be allowed to return in organized divisions to the districts from which they were recruited. Later in the day Evans and a number of others were arrested for infractions of Section 98 of the Criminal Code. This was followed by a clash between the marchers and the combined police forces in which, unfortunately, one member of the City Police was killed and several members of this Force injured, also some of the strikers.

It is interesting to note that a boy of 15 years accompanied by his father left the camp strikers at Regina for their home in Saskatchewan.

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2. The Winnipeg Situation

A mass meeting and demonstration took place on the night of 25th June upon the arrival of the Regina delegation, under the leadership of Arthur [9<#] Evans, on their return from Ottawa. The attendance was about 1,500 but only 250 signified their intention of joining the march to Ottawa, the balance was made up of Communist sympathizers and the general public. Evans, O'Neill and Cosgrove addressed the meeting, each speaker condemning the Government for refusing to comply with their demands. Before continuing his journey to Regina Evans went into conference with Tim Buck. The Co-operative Commonwealth Federation and the Inde-

pendent Labour Party groups at Winnipeg have agreed to co-operate with the on-to-Ottawa marchers but have stated that they do not wish to be dominated by the Communist Party of Canada. The unemployed gathered at Winnipeg may be divided into three distinct groups. There is one group, estimated at about 400, who are determined to go to Ottawa; another group who came in to take advantage of any privileges that may be extended; and a third group that came to Winnipeg and cannot get out. The Communists have full control of the situation and for propaganda purposes are exaggerating the number of men there. Their great ambition at the moment is to have the men housed under one roof in place of having them billeted in various parts of the city. In this way they will secure absolute control over the men and develop their ideals and doctrines. Whilst the men remain in billets the Communists are at a disadvantage.

On the night of 28th June a further meeting was held when only about 800 persons attended. This meeting was held largely with the idea of endeavouring to disprove rumours that disintegration was taking place in the Regina ranks. The speakers, Atwater and M. Sago, emphasized that the ranks of the strikers at Regina were still united and determined to carry on with the on-to-Ottawa march. They also stated that

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false reports had appeared in the local Press regarding the conditions of the marchers at Regina and stated that a delegation had been sent to the office of the Tribune objecting to the publication of any news items derogatory to the marchers. M. Sago announced that the march will start for Ottawa very shortly regardless of the consequences.

On 1st July the strikers demanded that they be granted central billeting and threatened to take control of the dining room until their demands were met. Tents were, therefore, erected to accommodate 1,000 men at the Exhibition Grounds. This, of course, is a slight victory for the Communist Party. A further demand was made that the police blockade that barred progress of the trek to Ottawa be removed. This, however, was refused.

3. The Fort William Area

Eight hundred and fifty bush workers are on strike in the Fort William (Ont.) area. These men are demanding an increase of pay. There is no doubt that leaders of the organizations at Regina and Winnipeg expect them to support the on-to-Ottawa movement.

4. The Waterfront Situation at Vancouver

[3<#] Whilst not admitted officially, the consensus of opinion of leading longshoremen on the strike situation is that the strike is broken and they are waging a losing battle. This is conceded by the leaders of the Party and there is no doubt that the same idea is percolating through the rank and file very rapidly.

A vote taken showed 507 against going back to work and 66 in favour with three spoiled ballots. It is also claimed that 300 did not vote because they were on night picket. It is

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almost safe to say that the 300 votes which were not registered represent the men who were dragged into the strike against their will.

Ivan Emery, leader of the longshoremen, was on 25th June committed for trial on a charge of "inciting to riot" and later released on bail, secured for him by the Canadian Labour Defence League, in the sum of \$5,000.

On 26th June the S.S. "Shelton" registered in the U.S.A., arrived at the C.P.R. docks to discharge a load of 800 tons of peanuts from North China. The crew refused to raise steam to enable discharge of the cargo.

A similar difficulty was experienced on board the S.S. "Texada". The crew of this boat, owned by the Kingsley Navigation Company, also registered in the U.S.A., refused to move the vessel from the Kingsley dock to the Ballantyne Pier. In both instances orders were issued from the head offices of the respective navigation companies to discharge the crews. Twenty members of the S.S. "Shelton" were, accordingly, discharged and sent back to Seattle, Wash., via bus. Twenty-four members, including the Captain and his officers, of the S.S. "Texada" were also discharged and sent back to the U.S.A. Subsequently, the cargo was removed from the S.S. "Shelton" and the vessel towed to the terminal dock where she is awaiting the signing on of a new crew. The "Texada" was towed to the Ballantyne Pier where she was unloaded.

At the present time about 155 men are working on the Ballantyne Pier and 45 men at LaPointe Pier.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCESI. ALBERTA5. C.P. of C. Protests Action of Dominion with Regard
to B.C. Camp Strikers

The Edmonton (Alta.) Sub-District Election Committee of the Communist Party held a meeting at the Albion Hall on 14th June with approximately 350 persons in attendance. J. Lakeman occupied the chair and [S&#] speeches were delivered by Harvey Murphy and O. C. Doolan.

Harvey Murphy spoke on "Social Credit -- A Deception". He scored the program of the social credit party and its leadership in general declaring that social credit was just another political party of the Capitalists. He wanted the audience to pay particular attention to the actions of the C.P. which, he asserted, was leading the workers' struggle towards the final aim, the emancipation of the working class. He intimated that this emancipation could not be brought about by means of the ballot box but by a militant struggle on the part of the working masses.

O. C. Doolan spoke principally on the question of war and Fascism in Canada. He, too, asserted that only a militant and revolutionary struggle put up by the working class will prevent another war and the establishment of a Fascist regime. He urged the audience to join the C.P. and the League Against War and Fascism.

A resolution protesting the action of the Dominion Government with regard to the B.C. relief camp workers en route to Ottawa was passed and ordered forwarded to the Prime Minister at Ottawa. Another resolution urging the marching B.C. relief camp strikers to stand solid behind the demands was passed and forwarded to the March Committee at Regina.

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II. SASKATCHEWAN6. Opposition to C.P. of C. Resolution

At Saskatoon, Sask., a meeting was called on 24th June in the St. John Wesley Church in support of the on-to-Ottawa movement. W. E. Brunskill acted as Chairman.

[S&#] J. Lynn of Saskatoon represented the Unemployed Association and urged the support of the relief camp workers in their march to Ottawa.

The following resolution was brought in by H. E. Mills, a noted Communist:--

“We condemn the action of the Bennett Government in rejecting the demands of the camp strikers without any counter offer and demand the withdrawal of extra police from Regina and hold the Government responsible for any bloodshed that might ensue”.

Bitter discussion followed the proposal of this resolution. However, it was finally passed, a number of those present recording their opposition. This is the only occasion on which dissent in votes has been recorded against any resolution passed to support the striking relief camp workers.

III. MANITOBA

7. Tim Buck at Winnipeg

[3<#] At Winnipeg, Man., on 26th June a mass meeting was held at the Parliament Buildings grounds in support of the Relief Camp Workers' Conference. A formidable array of speakers was arranged for the meeting including ex-Judge Stubbs, S. J. Farmer, M.L.A., the Reverend Stanley Knowles, Fred Lawrence, M.L.A., the Honourable E. J. McMurray and Tim Buck. Very few of these speakers put in an appearance. However, S. J. Farmer, M.L.A., addressed the meeting for a few minutes, also Tim Buck.

Buck accused the Government of tricking the workers stating that trains had been held up to assist the men to get to Regina, this for the purpose of gaining time for mobilizing

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the State Forces to smash the march. He referred to the time of Cromwell in England who, he stated, was an agitator and that as a result of the agitation by Cromwell the King's head was chopped off.

IV. ONTARIO

8. “From Penitentiary to Parliament”

On 26th June the Communist Election party held a mass meeting in Queen's Park, Toronto, Ont. The Chairman was Douglas Stuart, and the speakers were J. B. Salsberg, Norman Freed, A. E. Smith, Sam Carr and Carol Lamberti, of the C.C.F. Party.

The Chairman opened the meeting at about 7.30 p.m. with a brief resume of the Communist election campaign, and said that all Communist candidates are going to stand for non-contributory unemployment insurance, and increase in wages for all working classes.

A. E. Smith denounced the Government for its attitude towards the B.C. trekkers, and told of the mass support they were receiving from the working and middle classes in the Western Provinces. He spoke of Tim Buck, and his chances in the election, saying it was going to be "from penitentiary to Parliament". He called down Premier Bennett for sending more Royal Canadian Mounted Police and soldiers to Regina, and said that if they continue to use bullets and bombs the workers and strikers will have to be trained in such a way that they will be fit to defend themselves. Smith took upon himself to warn the present Government that it had almost reached the end of its tether.

The Ontario Government, it was said, prior to last year's election, made all kinds of promises to the working man, but after the election, they were received with a wire fence strung across the front of the Parliament Buildings. The victory of a Communist Mayor and Alderman at Greater Windsor

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was brought up as an example of what a United Front could do.

The speeches were of a fiery nature, particularly those delivered by A. E. Smith and Sam Carr, and all speakers continuously ridiculed the Ontario and Canadian Governments, sarcastic remarks being directed at Premier Bennett and Premier Hepburn.

V. QUEBEC

9. (a) Proposed Hunger March to Ottawa

[✂#] At a meeting of the Association Humanitaire held on 23rd June at 1408 Montcalm St., Montreal, Que., it was decided to hold a Tag Day on the 26th, the proceeds therefrom to be used to finance the proposed hunger march to Ottawa. Although the city authorities have refused permission to hold a Tag Day the association has determined to hold one in defiance of that order. E. Godin boasted that he will have 5,000 taggers on the streets for that day.

The Association Humanitaire held a meeting on 24th June with 350 members in attendance. It was decided to send a strongly worded resolution of protest to the Montreal city authorities condemning the action of the police in arresting one of the members when soliciting donations for the hunger marchers. Considerable time was also given to discussing the proposed hunger march to Ottawa.

[X#] Fifteen delegates attended a meeting of the Action Committee on 24th June which has been set up in the City of Montreal to make the necessary preparations for the march on-to-Ottawa. N. Nadeau, one of the members of the delegation that visited Ottawa in conjunction with the Western relief camp strikers' delegation and the delegation from the Province of Ontario, gave a report on the conference held by those delegations

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in the City of Ottawa after the interview with Premier Bennett. He announced that it had been decided that the hunger march on-to-Ottawa would be staged under the auspices and control of the Workers' Unity League. He further reported that the conference at Ottawa had agreed that no march to Ottawa be commenced until the relief camp strikers now encamped at Regina will continue their trek to Ottawa. He further reported that on their return from Ottawa they had stopped at various farms and that the sentiment was very favourable to the hunger march.

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9. (c) Blow to W.U.L. at St. Johns. Que.

[X#] Speaking of the strike at the St. Johns Realty Company, St. Johns, Que., [Xdeletion: 4 words] at that point, stated that the strike had fallen to pieces, the major portion of the strikers having returned to work. He went on to state the loss of this strike dealt a death blow to the Workers' Unity League in that area.
