

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 10th July, 1935.

SECRETNO. 763WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS
AND AGITATORS IN CANADAReport

The Communist Party at the present time are mostly concerned with their candidates in the coming Federal election, and the organizing of the relief camps. Strikes in progress at present are Rockcliffe Relief Camp and Valcartier Relief Camp, with men congregated at Winnipeg, Fort William, Toronto and Montreal. The British Columbia trekkers have agreed to return to the relief camps if no discrimination or black list is shown.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERALI. On-to-Ottawa March of Relief Camp Workers

At Winnipeg on 4th July Tim Buck, at a meeting called by the Camp Strikers' Supporting Committee, said:--

“The workers in Canada will protest by calling a general strike and defy Premier Bennett to arrest any of the Communist leaders, as the workers of Canada will see that he does not”.

He also stated that the camp strike is only beginning, that soon from coast to coast the camp workers will mobilize and march to Ottawa and compel the Right Honourable R. B. Bennett to concede to their demands or resign.

A rather unusual speech was made at a mass meeting, also held in Winnipeg on 4th July. One Johnny Walker was addressing the meeting, which was attended by between 500 and 600 persons, and when dealing with the Regina disturbance stated that the police are not to blame.

"We will need police regardless of who will rule this country, even the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation or Tim Buck will need police and we can use the same police, as they are only to carry out the orders. Really, the police are not the enemy of the working class as they are workers, only in uniforms. The worst enemy of the working class is ignorance and the indifferent workers who refuse to unite".

Following the meeting a leaflet, published by the Young Communist League, was distributed. This called on Canadian workers, soldiers, City police, and Royal Canadian Mounted Police to close ranks, unite against slave labour, reaction and war, for peace, freedom and progress and for a better life.

On 5th July the relief camp strikers left Regina. Transportation was provided for them to their homes or to points near relief camps. A total of 1,358 registered and were distributed as follows:--

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British Columbia	857
Alberta	172
Saskatchewan	151
Manitoba	54
Ontario	71
Quebec	38
New Brunswick	8
Nova Scotia	6
Prince Edward Island	1

2. Longshoremen's Strike, Vancouver, B.C.

[9<#] At Vancouver, B.C., the Strike Committee of the Vancouver and District Waterfront Workers' Association, in a conference with the Shipping Federation, offered to return to work on condition that the union be recognised as before, that all members of same be placed on the despatch rolls, and that men discharged from the Canadian Pacific Railway docks, as well as the seamen of the various company boats, be reinstated. The Shipping Federation refused to accept these terms and, in order to keep the door to negotiations open, the Strike Committee requested a Board of Conciliation be appointed by the Dominion Government to help settle the dispute. They were reminded that some few weeks ago when the Federation suggested the employment of a Board of Conciliation this was refused by the union officials.

3. National Plenum. C.P., Toronto, Ont.

[§<#] The National Plenum of the Communist Party was held in Toronto, Ont., on 24th May with 100 delegates attending.

[§<deletion: 2 words] in his report to the Montreal Branch, stated that important events are now taking place, as there are serious strike situations developing and there is much unrest among the masses. Through this unrest, the Party is becoming a political factor to be reckoned with and is assuming the leadership of the masses. He declared:--

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“We must not underestimate the present hunger march, as it is one of the most important moves in the Unemployed Movement and is very definitely proving that when correct tactics are applied and sufficient mass pressure exerted the Government is forced to act”.

The unemployed problem is to be one of the main issues of the election campaign; all C.P. comrades must attempt to link up the struggle of East and West and must popularize the hunger march and the role the C.P. is playing in the struggle.

[§<deletion: 1 word] then gave the Plenum report on trade union work. He stated that at the C.P. Plenum there were no discussions on general Party work. The Plenum dealt with only two questions -- elections and trade union work. The strengthening of the Workers' Unity League unions and the building of opposition groups within the “Reformist” unions is to be the basic task of the Party. During the recent nine months the C.P. has been working backwards in a number of industries and the W.U.L. has suffered a number of major defeats. This can be especially noted in Montreal where the W.U.L. has practically ceased to exist. [§<deletion: 1 word] outlined the trade union situation in Montreal. He stated that the general strike in the dress trade was very badly organized and, as a consequence, the Industrial Union suffered a severe organizational defeat. The C.P. did not pay sufficient attention to the strike and is partly to blame for the loss.

The Furniture Workers' Union, since its loss of the general strike, has also ceased to exist.

The Fur Workers' Union had shown good prospects of development; nevertheless, through lack of leadership, it fell to pieces and the American Federation of Labor won over the fur workers with a complete loss to the W.U.L.

It is also stated that the membership in the C.P. at Montreal has suffered a loss of about twenty-five per cent during the past two months, this loss especially noted in the French field. The total membership is now placed

at 765 divided as follows: 598 language and Anglo Saxons, and 167 French Canadians.

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4. Second Convention, A.L.W.L.S., Toronto, Ont.

[✂#] The Second Convention of the American Lithuanian Workers' Literary Society was held on 23rd June at Toronto, Ont. The Secretary of the Canadian Executive Committee reports that the membership of the society comprises 600, twice as many as two years ago. The total number of branches is nine, with 21 delegates and three fraternal delegates attending.

5. First Canadian Conference, F.S.U., Toronto, Ont.

[✂#] The First Canadian Conference of the Friends of the Soviet Union was held in Toronto, Ont., on 29th and 30th June in the Independent Order of Foresters Temple. During the second session one delegate, who did not identify himself, stated that he belonged to a labour organization of 1,500, some of whom were in sympathy with the U.S.S.R. while others were not, and wanted to know what radical move was to be adopted for the workers. On cries of "Out of order", the Chairman replied that it was a meeting of the F.S.U. held for the benefit of all workers to gain strength in numbers and put in a Socialist Labour Government.

In the course of the third session one Herbert Goldfrank, of New York City, addressed the meeting bringing greetings from the United States Branch of the F.S.U. He spoke of the work of organizing there and the opposition of the William Hurst papers.

About 40 delegates spoke for 10 minutes each, most of them having been in the U.S.S.R.

6. First National Convention, F.S.R., Toronto, Ont.

[✂#] The First National Convention of the Friends of Soviet Russia was held in the Robert Hall, Toronto, Ont., on 1st July. At the first session there were 35 delegates and 10 observers present. The whole morning was taken up with general business

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including the Secretary's report and branch reports.

During the second session discussions took place and resolutions adopted in which the French delegates took the biggest part.

Herbert Goldfrank, of New York, addressed the audience for 20 minutes giving an outline of the work in Pittsburg, Pa., and New York City. He raised considerable discussion, especially with the French delegates, with reference to the use of the greeting word "Comrade" which, he said, should not be used as they were not a political body or a Communist organization. The singing of the "International" has also been stopped in the U.S.A. He spoke on organizing and retaining the interest of the members.

Comrade Perrior, of Montreal, a Socialist of the old school, objected to Goldfrank's statements. On becoming excited over what the previous speaker said, he was unable to speak in English and, after vehemently addressing his French comrades in that language, hastily prepared to leave but after some persuasion decided to remain.

During the convention several changes were made in the constitution. The word "National" has been changed to "Canadian" and a number of bye-laws were altered.

The convention closed at 8.20 p.m.

[deletion: 4 lines]

7. Plenary Session. National Jewish Bureau. Montreal. Que.

[#] The National Jewish Bureau, section of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Canada, held a two-day plenary session in Montreal, Que., late in June. Forty delegates from various districts attended and plans for ultimate action

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were discussed. The Plenum heard detailed reports on the revolutionary activities among the Jewish workers in Canada and a report of the Central Committee of the C.P. of Canada on the present situation of the Party and on its immediate tasks in the Revolutionary Movement. It is stated that since the last session, 18 months ago, the membership of the Jewish Section has tripled.

[deletion: 3 words]

[#] [deletion: 3/4 line] of the Canadian Labour Defence League in Toronto, Ont., is in Calgary, Alta., investigating matters into charges against the executive of the C.L.D.L. It is expected that many members of the old

executive will be expelled from the organization and steps taken to build up the league. While there [deletion: 1 word] will investigate the disappearance of \$4,000 collected throughout Southern Alberta for the Corbin miners.

9. [deletion: 2 words]

[deletion: 2 words] is discontinuing work in the Friends of the Soviet Union as he is planning to write a book on Canadian politics. He is supposed to be moving from Montreal to Ottawa so as to be close to political events in Ottawa.

[deletion: 1/4 page]

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11. Hunger March, Montreal, Que.

[deletion: 2 words] The march of the unemployed from Montreal, Que., to Ottawa has been postponed until 13th July.

12. Lumber Workers, Nipigon, Ont.

[deletion: 2 words] The number of actual transients passing through Nipigon, Ont., both East and West, has decreased considerably since the hunger marches have been formed in the West.

The transient situation has improved considerably, but the pulpwood strike which is effecting this district is causing some concern. There are now from 200 to 225 men quartered in Nipigon, with headquarters in the Finn Hall. It is stated that a large number of strikers are expected in Nipigon shortly from Neys, Ont., where the main camps of the Pigeon Timber Company are situated. Most of the strikers intend to go to Port Arthur. Due to the check on transients being very effective at this point, the majority are paying their way.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCESI. ALBERTA13. M.W.U.C., Blairmore, Alta.

[X#] A report from the Crow's Nest Pass states that the Mine Workers' Union of Canada at Blairmore, Alta., is quite short of funds, due to lack of work together with the support accorded the Corbin miners, the last resource being the Workers' Club at Blairmore, which was self-supporting for a time. Now, however, with better weather the membership is dropping off. Dances have been a failure of late and it was necessary for the union to pay last month's rent of the building used for this purpose. A long discussion took place over this item and it was decided to supply the rent this time but, unless some headway was made by this club, the union would withdraw all money support.

[X#] A report from Blairmore, Alta., on general conditions states that the much discussed "smash-up" of Red activities there is very close. Matters pertaining to Communist activities are very much mixed up at present and, even if the smash does not come in the near future, breaches have been made from which the Party will not recover for a long period.

Due to unpleasant remarks made among the Party as a result of the arrest of [Xdeletion: 2 words] on charges of "extortion" and "theft", open breaches have taken place between [Xdeletion: 3/4 line] of the Mine Workers' Union of Canada, and also a strong Communist. The position at present stands [Xdeletion: 1 word] followers against Communists under [Xdeletion: 1 word]

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Harvey Murphy, Organizer of the Mine Workers' Union of Canada, and Communist candidate for the Provincial election, has been very active over [X#] election affairs, holding meetings all over the district in connection with same.

[X#] M. Popovich and William Halina, Communist candidates for the Vegreville and Vermilion constituencies, respectively, have been very active during the past 10 days in the Spedden, Innisfree, Northern Valley, Bruno, Musidora, Lesniw and Derwent districts in regard to the Provincial election campaign. They are, however, not making much headway and the

attendance at the election campaign meetings is very poor, it being necessary for the Communists to bring in groups from other points for the purpose of swelling the audience.

From information received it is very doubtful if Halina will obtain very many votes in the Bruno and Lesniw districts, where Communists are receiving very little support and the meetings being exceptionally small.

[3<#] Harvey Murphy and O. C. Doolan were the speakers at a recent meeting of the Communist Party at Edmonton, Alta. Murphy recommended the audience to pay particular attention to the C.P. movements at this time which, he said, was leading the workers' struggle towards the final emancipation of the lower class and the bringing about of world rule by the workers in general. He alleged this could not be brought about by the ballot box, the only solution for a change being a militant struggle on the part of the masses.

O. C. Doolan then spoke against Fascism and war, outlining the general political and economic situation in Canada and the struggle of the working class against oppression, Fascism and war. He stated that, due to Fascism and war, starvation and slave labour has been brought about. This can only be stopped by a militant struggle of the workers similar to

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that which occurred in Soviet Russia during 1917. He urged the audience to join the C.P. and the Canadian League Against War and Fascism for the purpose of fighting against the Capitalist class, defined by him as the *common enemy of the workers*.

II. SASKATCHEWAN

14. Regina Meeting in Support of the Strikers

[3<#] A meeting was held on the Market Square in Regina, Sask., on 29th June with approximately 1,500 persons attending, about half of whom were strikers. The speakers were George Williams, leader of the C.D.F., the Reverend Sam B. East and Arthur Evans.

Evans, in his speech said, "I am a member of the Communist Party", following this up with his usual tirade against Section 98 and Government authority. He finished by appealing for support and membership in the Canadian Labour Defence League.

Appeals for donations of \$1 bills were made by the Reverend S. B. East; the amount collected was not announced.

III. MANITOBA15. James Coleman, Deportation Meeting in
Winnipeg

[✂#] On the afternoon of 28th June approximately 500 men and a few women met just behind the Manitoba Cold Storage on a vacant lot on Higgins Ave., East, Winnipeg, Man., to protest against the deportation of James Coleman, the Flin Flon strike leader; the meeting being called by the C.L.D.L.

Jack Stewart conducted the proceedings, which lasted about 30 minutes. The speakers were Alderman Forkin and Bill Ross. Forkin pointed out that this deportation of Coleman must be stopped because if the workers allow him to be deported any leader in the Movement might be deported not only to another

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country but from one province to another. They will be dictated to as how they must live. This is a wide step to Fascism, the recent tactics of the Right Honourable R. B. Bennett.

IV. ONTARIO16. L.W.I.U., Port Arthur

[✂#] A meeting of the Lumber Workers' Industrial Union was held at Port Arthur, Ont., on 29th June, at which B. Magnussen was the speaker.

"We have a general strike practically all over Canada. Unemployed workers have, for over five years, slaved in camps and cannot make a living for themselves, especially Canadian youths. The bush workers are in the worst condition. We are not only fighting for better conditions, but for a better living. Every organization of the working class should pick an International Relief Committee to help the strikers".

V. QUEBEC17. J. Munroe on the Hunger March

[✂#] An unemployed meeting of the Canadian Labour Defence League was held at Montreal, Que., on 26th June. The matter on the agenda was the C.L.D.L. at the Workers Camp. J. Munroe spoke on the hunger march. He explained that the hunger march was the outcome of the relief camp strike

in British Columbia. He stated that he, personally, thought the march was a mistake in the first place; by this he explained that the men should have stayed in B.C. and continued the strike. By their leaving they had spoiled what chances they had of being successful in actually winning the strike.

He said that he could explain the situation in a brief manner. If there was a strike in Montreal the workers would not go to Toronto to do their picketing and that is the mistake that has been made. However, when these B.C. relief strikers decided to move to Ottawa, the Right Honourable Mr. Bennett and his thugs permitted them to get as far as Regina,

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Munroe declared. The reason for this action was that Regina is the Headquarters of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and, if an attack is made on the strikers by the R.C.M. Police, it would not be too severely criticized by the public, because the Prime Minister will only say that they are doing their duty.

He contended that the strikers made a great mistake when they agreed to send eight delegates to Ottawa at the request of two Cabinet Ministers. Munroe claimed that Premier Bennett had made a great victory by this move. He explained that while the delegates were on their way from Regina to Ottawa the Right Honourable R. B. Bennett and his "tool MacBrien of the R.C.M. Police" had sent 500 R.C.M.P. Officers in to Regina. The 20 that left Montreal were equipped with full kit and were issued with Lee Enfield rifles. The rifles were to be used on the strikers if they attempted to leave Regina. It was quite expected, he said, to see blood flowing in the streets of Regina.

The question facing the workers now 'was it advisable to continue the march on Ottawa presenting the same demands that the strikers' delegates presented to Premier Bennett'. Munroe thought it was not. The public sympathy is so far with the strikers, but the question is would the public say, "The demands of the strikers were turned down and still they persist in their march to Ottawa". With this in mind the strikers have adopted a new slogan instead of demanding work at 50 cents an hour, etc., the new slogan is to be "Abolish the slave camps". A strike on a national basis in relief camps will be called and without a doubt the march will continue on to Ottawa, Munroe said.

It will be very difficult to organize the camps in Quebec, he claimed. In the West they have a Relief Camp Union but, in the East, so far it has been impossible to get the men together, the reason being that as soon as the officials in the camp find out that any one is the least bit militant he is fired out of the camp. Attempts have been made and are being made to organize

these camps and it is going to be a hard job. Some men left for the camps yesterday, he said, and more would leave later.

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At this point a Jewish comrade offered to go to the camps and asked when he should go for instruction. Munroe said, "I am not going to give you that information here but I will see you at the Prince Arthur Hall the day after tomorrow, Friday".

It is going to be one of the hardest jobs to get the march of camp workers organized, he said, but the march will take place. A conference will be called embodying as many working class organizations as possible, as soon as word is received from Regina as to what action is to be taken from that end.

[3<#] A meeting of the leading Unemployed Fraction was held on 3rd July at the Workers Circle Hall, 62 Rachel St., Montreal, Que. Forty-five members attended, with Alec Gauld as Chairman. The meeting was called for discussing preparations for the hunger march.

N. Nadeau gave a report of his meeting with Tom Ewen and Sam Carr in Toronto, Ont., on Saturday, 29th June. He stated that it has been decided by the National C.P. leaders that small sections of marchers from Montreal, Winnipeg, Toronto and other sections of Ontario commence marching towards Ottawa on Saturday morning, 6th July, and that small sections continue to leave daily until the 13th when the main bodies of marchers are scheduled to leave for Ottawa.

Nadeau also reported that at least 200 marchers will leave Montreal for Ottawa on Saturday morning, 6th July, and that committees have been sent to various towns in Quebec to urge the unemployed to concentrate on Montreal as soon as possible. He also reported that 90 marchers from Magog, Que., will be in Montreal on Friday evening, 5th July, and that they will leave for Ottawa on Saturday morning, the 6th.

[3<#] A mass meeting and a conference will be held on 10th and 11th July, respectively, in Montreal, Que., for the purpose of furthering plans for the on-to-Ottawa hunger march. Whilst the Association Humanitaire is playing the main part in this

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matter, the C.P. is behind the whole affair.

On 4th July a group of 23 veterans met in Montreal for a brief period for the purpose of organizing a delegation under the auspices of the Workers Ex-Service Men's League for the march on Ottawa.

At a meeting of the Workers Ex-Service Men's League held in Montreal, Que., on 28th June, Tom Wood was one of the speakers. He urged the veterans to lead in the on-to-Ottawa hunger march and told them not to be afraid of police threats or batons. He reminded them how the red caps used to be rebuffed by the soldiers during the last war. "Suppose you get arrested", he said, "is it not better to be in Bordeaux and get three square meals a day and shelter than to be roaming the streets starving? To receive a blow from a police baton is nothing. Have you not dared more than that during the war for a lesser cause? This time you have the public sentiment behind you".

[✂#] A meeting of the Workers' Unity League was held on 26th June at Montreal, Que., for the purpose of discussing the report and decisions made by the local C.P. Bureau on the proposed hunger march. Alec Gauld represented the C.P. Bureau and gave the following report. He stated that the Communist Party had not expected any attack from Government authorities until after the Federal elections. This hunger march has changed the situation completely and the Party now expects a severe attack momentarily. The C.P. must not find itself unprepared: Public opinion in favour of the hunger marchers must be raised to such an extent that it will force the Government authorities to withhold their attack.

He urged all C.P. unemployed to do their utmost in popularizing the hunger march.

Alec Gauld then gave a report on the meeting of the

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W.U.L. delegates and delegates representing the Quebec Unemployed Federation to discuss unity of action on the coming hunger march. The following decisions were made:--

- (a) The United Front Committee will adopt the name of Canadian Hunger March Committee.
- (b) A huge mass meeting will be held in either the Mount Royal Arena or the St. James Market Hall within two weeks. An invitation will be sent to the six local labour candidates to speak.

- (c) A "United Front" Conference will be called within 10 days.
- (d) 50,000 leaflets, printed in French and English, will be distributed.
- (e) 20,000 stickers in French and English will be printed and distributed.

[&#] The Communist Party at Montreal, Que., is busy holding meetings in the different parts of the city to decide whether a march on Ottawa will take place. Preparations are being made while waiting to see what the West is going to do. Fifty thousand circulars commenting on conditions of the unemployed and the hunger march are to be printed and distributed in Montreal, and various localities in the Province of Quebec.

VI. THE MARITIME PROVINCES

18. A.M.W. at Sydney, N.S.

[&#] A recent report from Sydney, N.S., states that 200 members of the Amalgamated Mine Workers' Union joined the United Mine Workers' Union since 1st June. It is reported that the Amalgamated Mine Workers' Union is nearly through in the Glace Bay area.
