

## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 31st July, 1935.

SECRETNO. 766WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATORS IN CANADAReport

The on-to-Ottawa marchers arrived at Kingston on 31st July and intend to remain there until 3rd August when the march to Ottawa will be continued.

Tom Ewen is at the present time touring the Cochrane (Ont.) Federal constituency. A. E. Smith has been conducting meetings in the Port Arthur-Thunder Bay constituency, both seeking support in the coming Federal election.

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[2]

APPENDICESTable of ContentsAPPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

- Paragraph No. 1. Situation in Edmonton, Alta.  
 " " 2. Winnipeg Strikers' Delegation in Ottawa  
 " " 3. Situation in Winnipeg, Man.  
 " " 4. Situation in the Lumber Camps, Nipigon, Ont.  
 " " 5. On-to-Ottawa March, Toronto, Ont.  
 " " 6. On-to-Ottawa March, Sudbury, Ont.  
 " " 7. Situation in Montreal, Que.  
 " " 8. C.L.D.L. in Financial Difficulties at Montreal, Que.

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

- " " 9. BRITISH COLUMBIA  
 Longshoremen's Strike, Vancouver  
 Seafarers' Industrial Union, Vancouver  
 " " 10. ALBERTA  
 [deletion: 2 lines]

- “ ” 11. MANITOBA  
 League Against War & Fascism in Winnipeg  
 C.L.D.L., Winnipeg  
 Relief Camp Strikers' Conference, Winnipeg  
 Anti-War League, Winnipeg  
 J. Litterick Speaks at Winnipeg
- “ ” 12. ONTARIO  
 A. E. Smith at Port Arthur  
 A. E. Smith at Nipigon  
 C.P., Fort William
- “ ” 13. QUEBEC  
 C.P., Montreal  
 Montreal March Disorganized
- “ ” 14. THE MARITIME PROVINCES  
 C.P., Cape Breton, N.S.

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{3}

### APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

#### 1. Situation in Edmonton

[✂#] All Unemployed Married Men's Association members are to be persuaded not to accept employment for work which is not paid for at union wages, or to work at wages lower than those which are in existence at present.

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#### 2. Winnipeg Strikers' Delegation in Ottawa

The five delegates from the Winnipeg group of the on-to-Ottawa marchers arrived in Ottawa on 25th July and on the 26th interviewed the Acting Prime Minister and members of the Cabinet in the Parliament Buildings, presenting their demands: they apparently received no satisfaction. They were expected to address a meeting that evening in one of the local halls but did not put in an appearance, and we have no record of their addressing any meetings since the interview.

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#### 3. Situation in Winnipeg

On 24th July the camp strikers in Winnipeg were fed by local sympathizers. Between 22nd and 24th July 61 single unemployed men were

given transportation to their homes, 200 were supplied with transportation to farms where work was available.

On 25th July a further 75 registered for transportation to home or farm jobs.

On the 26th a further 182 registered and received transportation to their homes; of the number 42 claimed Vancouver as their home, 25 claimed Toronto, 24 to Montreal, four to Saskatoon, 51 to Eastern points and remainder to Western points.

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#### 4. Situation in the Lumber Camps, Nipigon

The strike in the pulpwood camps situated in the Thunder Bay District, Ont., has been settled. Timber operators signed an agreement which had been approved by a vote of the strikers taken

[4]

at District Headquarters at Port Arthur. The price for cutting and peeling is to be \$3.25 per cord for good timber with an adjustment in camps where the timber is poor and scattered.

The vote taken resulted in a majority of about two to one for settlement.

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#### 5. On-to-Ottawa March, Toronto

The marchers who left Toronto on 18th July have arrived at Napanee, approximately half-way to Ottawa. This group consists of 250 men, 20 women and two children, also an advance and rear guard of approximately 30.

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#### 6. On-to-Ottawa March, Sudbury

The on-to-Ottawa march from Sudbury finished on 29th July with the arrival of 19 persons only. Contrary to all expectations the number of participants in the 325 mile hike decreased instead of increasing.

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#### 7. Situation in Montreal

[✂#] A severe blow has been dealt on the local hunger march campaign for funds for defending those arrested. On Thursday, 25th July, all the original hunger marchers including their leader [✂deletion: 1 word] pleaded guilty to charges of vagrancy and unlawful assembly. This plea of guilty com-

pletely shatters the Canadian Labour Defence League campaign on the issue, and the Communist Party together with the C.L.D.L. leadership are very angry to see the leaders in the hunger march frightened so easily.

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### 8. C.L.D.L. in Financial Difficulties at Montreal

[3<#] The Canadian Labour Defence League in Montreal is in financial difficulties. The mass meeting held in Mount Royal Arena

[5]

on 23rd July was a financial loss and, with the legal expenses in connection with the arrests of the hunger marchers, the C.L.D.L. now finds itself heavily in debt.

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[6]

## APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

### I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

#### 9. Longshoremen's Strike, Vancouver

[3<#] The striking longshoremen now fully realize that they have lost the strike, and are more than willing to go back to work. They are still stubbornly trying to retain their organization and resume work by means of a dignified mediation between their organization and the Shipping Federation. Even the Communist leaders are willing to concede defeat; in fact, they are anxious to concede it and bring on mediation in order to salvage some of the organization they have been so painstakingly building up in the past several years. They realize that if they do not carry out a masterly retreat they will have a total rout on their hands in a few weeks.

[3<deletion: 1/2 line] are now stating that they are "willing to get out of the picture" if the Federation will agree to mediation and resumption of negotiations. If this were accepted it would still mean their influence would be alive, almost as much as in the past. They could develop an underground organization which they might use at some future time. Their tentative offers to retire are being met with the reply that the union must "clean house thoroughly" of the Communist influence. This means that two or three hundred men might have to be struck off the rolls.

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[3<#]

With the arrest of [deletion: 1 word] for assault the Communist Party fraction of the Seafarers' Industrial Union in Vancouver, B.C., are practically out of existence, the "Right" Wing being in control. [deletion: 1/4 line] are also losing influence.

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## II. ALBERTA

[#] [deletion: 3 lines]

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The Tag Day held in Edmonton on 13th July resulted in the collection of \$128 for the defence of the Regina trekkers.

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[#] [deletion: 1/4 page]

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## III. MANITOBA

[#] 11. League Against War and Fascism. Winnipeg

Seven hundred persons attended a meeting of the League Against War and Fascism on 14th July at Winnipeg, Man. Jack Brannan and I. Minster were the speakers who said:--

"People should realize the drastic tactics and the anti-labour legislation, these are the vivid signs of Fascism. Fascism is the protective means of Capitalism. Without wars Capitalism cannot thrive".

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[8]

Between 600 to 700 persons attended a meeting at Winnipeg, Man., on 19th July: the speakers being E. R. Rose, C. Marriott and Mabel Marlowe. All speakers mentioned the Regina disturbance of 1st July, condemning the police and the Government. Mabel Marlowe, the last speaker, spoke against [#] the newly-formed Citizens' Vigilance League, saying:--

"Workers all know what the Canadian Labour Defence League is and also the citizens will soon know what this Vigilance League is. We certainly will give them every publicity, and we are not afraid of this; in fact, this will help us very much, as we have arrived at the stage that whatever is being done against us, it does not harm us, it helps us. The boss class trembles before us, for they know they have something to

fear, and a great deal to lose -- all to lose, and we have everything to gain and lose only our chains. Soon these chains will burst".

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[✂#] A meeting was held at Winnipeg, Man., on 22nd July with 1,000 in attendance, the speakers being M. Sago, Jim Litterick and Mabel Marlowe. Sago dealt with the on-to-Ottawa march.

Litterick discussed the disposition of the Tag Day funds. He held the view that the money collected was to be spent by the leaders of the on-to-Ottawa group as they saw fit. Representatives of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation and Independent Labour Party sympathizers held the view that the money was to be spent on shoes and clothing for the marchers. This difference of opinion resulted in the withdrawal from the conferences of the two last mentioned parties. Litterick explained that when they made application to the City Police for permission to hold a Tag Day they stated that the money collected was to be used for clothing and shoes but this was merely a subterfuge made with the idea of securing permission to hold the Tag Day but that the leaders knew the money was to be spent for travel expenses and was to be given to the marchers for disposition as they saw fit. He branded I.L.P. leaders as "dirty politicians", traitors and fakers", etc.

Without doubt, the persons who contributed money in Winnipeg were of the opinion that the clothing and shoes would

[9]

be purchased for the men. However, it now appears that the money was used for the hire of conveyances to take the men from Winnipeg to the Manitoba-Ontario Provincial Boundary line.

Marlowe spoke on the constitution of this country and denounced it as a bourgeois constitution, drawn up by the Capitalist class to suit their interests, to subject the working class to servitude, so that the master class could live in luxury, all at the cost of the toil of workers. If the workers only realized their powers, that without their hands all the means of production would become useless to the masters and that now wars could be fought, the master class makes the working class fight the battles to keep the huge stream of profits flowing in; master class realizes the danger of workers getting united, more than the workers realize themselves, that is why the master class trembles and fears the working class organization. The working class could win everything in no time once they would unite; this was the main text of her talk.

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[3<#] A meeting of the Anti-War League at Winnipeg, Man., was held on Sunday, 21st July, with 700 people in attendance. A model of a monument made of frame wood and cardboard, about two feet square and four feet tall, draped with a red scarf with the inscriptions "In memory of victims of Hitler' sterrorism" stood in the Market Square during the meeting.

C. Marriott of Toronto was the speaker who spoke on Fascism speaking for half an hour pointing out the rapid development of Fascism in Canada, just in tempo with the organization and the working class struggle as it proceeds on. He compared Fascism here very closely to the Fascism of Germany, Italy and Austria, and warned that Fascism here, as in Europe, will develop from social democrats. This he illustrated by reviewing the history of European Fascism. In this process it is rather hard to recognize Fascism at first sight for an ordinary worker just as it would be for any of you here to tell the kind of grain

[10]

by the green shoots just coming out of the ground, whether wheat, barley or oats. To know this one must be experienced so we have studied the history and we can tell you that the danger is close and closer than maybe we imagine. He further pointed out the signs of Fascist tactics of the ruling class, pointing to Estevan, Regina, Flin Flon and Noranda and all over, the court trials, etc.

After Marriott concluded his speech, the meeting was given over to the relief camp strikers, J. Litterick, D. Bishop and M. Sago being the speakers. Litterick condemned the organizations who withdrew their support from the Relief Camp Conference, condemning these as traitors.

D. Bishop, one of the marshalls of the trekkers, described the venture of the Manitoba trekkers from Winnipeg to Kenora, beginning with the advance guard until the main body reached Kenora; all the difficulties along the way and in Kenora; how they were received and treated, finding themselves forced to retreat and coming back to Winnipeg. He drew a very pathetic picture as he described the tediousness of the journey and hostile attitude of the authorities with the armed forces; that trucks and cars were forbidden to carry food and water supply, and also any aid to the exhausted, sick men was being refused. He urged on the workers for support and assured that through all the hardships they have experienced their spirit has not been broken, but that they are even more determined to continue the march to Ottawa than at the beginning. "Our fight is your fight", he said.

Mr. Sago also spoke on the trekkers' march, describing the journey, how hard it was, that even the mayor of Kenora expressed his admiration on the tenacity of the boys, as it was hoped that the experience will discourage many and the continuance of the march may be abandoned. Sago further

described the armed forces that infested the town like vermin, the town was completely overrun with the police, Mounted and Provincial, that towards the end the police were noticed tight, drunken, seeking to provoke trouble, and that nothing serious developed in Kenora. It is only

[11]

due to the tactfulness of the Strike Committee who managed to avoid similar occurrences as in Regina. He also described all the dealings that took place with the Mayor and read all the telegram messages between the Ontario Government and he said that it is very plain that there is a joint action of the three Governments -- Federal and Provincial, Manitoba and Ontario -- to crush the movement. Our retreat may only geographically be considered a retreat as it was thought wiser to return rather than face the hazardous consequences. We are not concerned so far as covering the mileage goes, we took one step backward to prepare ourselves for wide strides ahead, as we are more than ever anxious and determined to reach Ottawa. He also denounced the political manoeuvres of the labour fakers very vehemently, and urged on the workers for support to a finish, as the struggle is all one in common.

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[3<#] A meeting was held on the Market Square in Winnipeg, Man., on 24th July, with an attendance of 400.

J. Litterick, one of the speakers, during his speech said that he and others like him have been termed as agitators, Communists and trouble-makers. He declared:

“Yes, we are trouble-makers and agitators and Communists for these individuals who want to live on the working class, but they are the real cause of the whole trouble themselves; they are the robbers and we have the fullest human right to defend ourselves and, as far as I am concerned, I have been causing such trouble for some years and will do so for some time yet. Our masters will have plenty of it, the worst is yet to come”.

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#### IV. ONTARIO

##### 12. A. E. Smith at Port Arthur

[3<#] A. E. Smith spoke at Port Arthur on 13th July on the situation in Canada today due to the Capitalists being in power. He dealt on unemployment and Section 98. In speaking of the Federal elections, he said there are only two parties, classing



[12]

all the old parties as one, saying they are only for the benefit of the Capitalist class, the second class is the Communist Party which is for the workers.

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A. E. Smith was the main speaker at a Canadian Labour Defence League meeting on 17th July at Nipigon, Ont. He spoke as a candidate for the [3<#] Communist Party in the coming Federal election, only about 150 persons attended.

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[3<#] The Communist Party at Fort William, Ont., are busy recruiting new members and collecting money for the Young Worker, but at the same time there is a petty quarrel going on among the leaders of the Ukrainian and Czecho-Slovak leaders.

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## V. QUEBEC

### [3<#] 13. Communist Party, Montreal

Fred Rose, Communist candidate in Montreal, Que., held a meeting on 16th July at the election headquarters. The attendance was 100, the majority being members of the Party. Rose read the Communist election programme and stated that an election campaign is not carried on merely for the purpose of electing candidates but, through the means of the election campaign, it is hoped to strengthen the trade union movement, the defense movement, the anti-war movement and other mass organizations.

The workers must not be fooled into believing that by electing Communist members to Parliament they can better their conditions, as only by a dictatorship of the Proletariat and the ending of this rotten Capitalist system and changing it into a socialist system can the workers have a better and more secure life.

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[13]

Very little is being done in Montreal, Que., concerning the hunger march. Attendances at meetings are falling off. The numerous arrests made in Quebec having disorganized the plans, and all calls are met with very [3<#] little response. It is the opinion of the local Communist Party leaders that there will be no local march to Ottawa.

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VI. THE MARITIME PROVINCES14. C.P., Cape Breton, N.S.

[✂#] The Communist Party of Cape Breton are holding a Tag Day to raise money to help J. B. McLaughlin's campaign as a Federal candidate for Cape Breton, South, permission being granted by the Town Council.

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