

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 7th August, 1935.

SECRETNO. 767WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATORS IN CANADAReport

Arthur Evans, J. C. Cosgrove, Matthew Shaw, George Black and Ernest Edwards, leaders of the Relief Camp Workers' Union, British Columbia Division, were committed for trial at Regina, Sask., on 1st August, on charges laid under Section 98 of the Criminal Code.

Bail totalling \$34,000 was set for the five leaders on 5th August but to date has not been secured.

[2]

APPENDICESTable of ContentsAPPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

- Paragraph No. 1. Situation in Vancouver, B.C.
Waterfront Situation Unchanged
- “ ” 2. Relief Strike Situation in Winnipeg
Delegates Report on Interview with Government
Marchers Disband
Communists Prepare for Another March in 1936
- “ ” 3. Strike of Relief Recipients in Calgary
Strike Near Collapse
- “ ” 4. March on-to-Ottawa; Ontario
Marchers Near Ottawa
- “ ” 5. Anti-War Day in Canada
(A) Toronto, Ont.
(B) Winnipeg, Man.
(C) Hamilton, Ont.
(D) Sudbury, Ont.
(E) Timmins, “

- “ ” 6. German Workers' News
Press Campaign Nets \$1,266.51

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

- “ ” 7. BRITISH COLUMBIA
Strength of U.L.F. Mass Organizations in Vancouver
Young Worker Picnic
- “ ” 8. ALBERTA
C.P. Summer School at Sylvan Lake
M.W.U. Active in Behalf of Harvey Murphy
- “ ” 9. SASKATCHEWAN
Tim Buck Addresses Mass Meeting in Regina
- “ ” 10. MANITOBA
C.L.D.L. District Convention
F.U.L. Unable to Expand
- “ ” 11. ONTARIO
A. E. Smith at Fort Frances
William Lehtinen Speaks at Fort William
C. Marriott Addresses Mass Meeting in Fort William
- “ ” 12. QUEBEC
Summer Camp “Nitgedieget”
Children Are Taught Principles of Marxism
- “ ” 13. THE MARITIME PROVINCES
Mine Workers Strike at New Waterford, N.S.
Strike Settled

[3]

APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

1. Situation in Vancouver, B.C.

[3<#] The situation on the waterfront remains unchanged on the surface although the rank and file of the striking longshoremen are very anxious to go back to work. There is a growing feeling that they are fighting a losing battle.

2. Relief Strike Situation in Winnipeg, Man.

[3<#] On 30th July about 500 people gathered on the Market Square in Winnipeg, Man., to hear the report of Lloyd Evans and Harry Binder, two

of the Manitoba relief strikers' delegation who arrived in Winnipeg from Ottawa on the 30th.

Evans, in a few words, stated that he was glad to find himself back in Winnipeg again on the Square and briefly remarked that it appears the struggle is not over yet, although the British Columbia trekkers and the Manitoba section retreated from the march on Ottawa. The march is being carried on in Ontario, he said, and added that there were already at Ottawa at least 500 trekkers with thousands on the way quite certain of reaching the Capital. "Should they fail, for some reason", he said, "we from the West will come back stronger than before".

Binder gave a more detailed report of the interview with the Federal Cabinet with Sir George Perley as Acting Premier. It did not take long to obtain the appointment, not longer than half an hour. He described the whole interview, how the Acting Premier received them, in an entirely different mood than Bennett received the previous delegation from Regina; asked their names and where each was born, also what organization they belonged to. After finding that all were born in Canada, and hearing that Binder alone admitted frankly belonging to the Young Communist League, the rest belonging to the Relief Camp Workers' Union only, they were allowed to proceed with their six demands to which the Acting Premier seemed to listen very

[4]

carefully; all the points were discussed by the delegation. Binder referred to Sir George Perley's attitude as pseudo-sympathetic and cynical, and remarked "that they received the same answer as the Regina delegation from Premier Bennett, only in a milder tone". He further told of how the Manitoba delegation met the Ontario marchers on the road as they were going to Ottawa and the message delivered to them. The delegation, he said, stopped to address meetings on the way -- Sudbury and Port Arthur -- and that three of the delegation remained to join the marchers in Ontario.

✂#] The Manitoba on-to-Ottawa marchers have disbanded and the majority of them have returned to their respective homes or have obtained employment at farms and camps.

During the disbanding, however, the Communists were very active amongst the rank and file endeavouring to persuade them to become active agitators and organizers when they returned to their own districts and the single men have been asked to especially agitate in the camps to prepare for another larger march to Ottawa in the spring of 1936.

The Communist leaders feel that they have not gained very much for the work they have put into the march, in connection with the help they have given the on-to-Ottawa marchers, but intend making the most of the

situation in regard to the stand taken by the Independent Labour Party and Co-operative Commonwealth Federation leaders, when these two organizations withdrew their support from the relief camp strikers, in order to boost the election campaign of Tim Buck.

3. Strike of Relief Recipients in Calgary, Alta.

[§<#] The strike of relief recipients in Calgary, Alta., called by the Workers' Central Council of Unemployed on 25th July continues. The Calgary City Council refuses to meet the demands of the strikers and the strike appears to be losing ground. A considerable number of men have returned to work and the Central

[5]

Council of Unemployed is finding it extremely difficult to keep the affair going. The Communist Party claims that the collapse is due to insufficient organizational work on the part of the leadership of the strike. It is anticipated that the strike will be concluded in the very near future.

4. March On-To-Ottawa: Ontario

[§<#] The Ontario on-to-Ottawa strike trekkers numbering 315, including about 20 women, arrived in Kemptville, Ont., on the afternoon of 6th August where they marched to the Community Park and the Arena to camp for the night.

George Cotter, who is the Organizer in charge at Ottawa, managed to persuade the local Canadian Labour Defence League to loan the trekkers \$16 to assist them in raising sufficient money to rent Huckell's Hall on Bank Street for one month. He said that he is feeding 75 men at the Ukrainian Labour Temple and that "they are having a hard time getting sufficient food or money to carry on".

The general opinion prevalent among the marchers is that when they have completed their business in Ottawa the Government will provide them transportation to any point they wish to go.

It has been reported that the trekkers, upon reaching Ottawa, intend to parade through the principal streets after which they will scatter throughout the city and beg from various sources, stores included.

5. Anti-War Day in Canada(A) Toronto, Ont.

[3<#] An open air meeting at Queens Park, Toronto, Ont., on 1st August marked this year's anti-war demonstration staged by the local League Against War and Fascism. There were between 5,000 and 6,000 persons present, and the speakers included

[6]

Fred Fish, A. A. McLeod, Spencer Pitts (Coloured), Douglas Stuart, Reverend Dr. Donald Soper and John Copperthorn.

Nick Giancotti, representing the Italian Anti-Fascist Club, addressed the meeting in Italian.

Each speaker spoke for about 10 minutes denouncing war and Fascism.

(B) Winnipeg, Man.

[3<#] On 1st August the Winnipeg (Man.) Branch of the League Against War and Fascism staged a "peace" parade attended by approximately 1,200 people. The paraders carried banners and placards bearing slogans against war, also a miniature Cenotaph to the memory of the victims of "Nazi terror".

Following the parade a meeting was held in the Market Square which was addressed by C. W. Foster, Grant McLeod, R. Towle, Mabel Marlowe and Tim Buck. Foster, McLeod and Towle spoke on united action as a means of preventing war and bitterly condemned those labour factions not taking part in the Anti-War Movement.

Tim Buck, the last speaker, dealt with the causes of war, its effect and the menace of the pending war. He appealed to the people to join forces in a united effort to stop the coming war. In conclusion he remarked that this peace demonstration may be the last one, that in a year from now they would have far more important matters to consider than holding parades of this kind.

(C) Hamilton, Ont.

[3<#] The Hamilton (Ont.) Branch of the League Against War and Fascism held a meeting in the Woodlands Park on 1st August attended by over 1,000 people. Sam Carr, of the Communist Party, and Sam Lawrence, M.L.A., were the main speakers.

[7]

Carr called for the election of Communist and militant C.C.F. Members to the House of Commons as part of the struggle to defeat Imperialist war plans.

(D) Sudbury, Ont.

[3<#] Over 300 took part in an anti-war meeting in the Central School Park at Sudbury, Ont., on 1st August. The main speakers at the meeting were A. T. Hill and Napoleon St. Andre. The local C.C.F. refused to participate in this demonstration.

(E) Timmins, Ont.

[3<#] Tom Ewen addressed two anti-war mass meetings on the evening of 1st August at Timmins, Ont.; one in the Ball Park attended by approximately 200 people, and another in the south end of the city. The latter was attended by approximately 250.

6. "German Workers' News"

[3<#] The total amount of money collected during the Press campaign for the Deutsche Arbeiter Zeitung (German Workers' News), a German, Communist paper published in Winnipeg, Man., amounted to \$1,016.50 for the Press and \$250.01 in subscriptions, making a total of \$1,266.51. This campaign was for the purpose of increasing the paper to six pages. Owing to the failure of the campaign, \$2,000.00 being the objective, the paper will not be enlarged.

 [8]

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

7. Ukrainian Labour Farmer Mass Organizations in Vancouver

[3<#] The Ukrainian Labour News of 23rd July reports the strength of the Ukrainian mass organizations in Vancouver as:--

	<u>Members</u>
Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Assn.	122
Women's Section	70
Youth Section	44
Workers' Benevolent Association	133
Canadian Labour Defence League	125
Todowymazu	150

-
- [✂#] A picnic held on 28th July in aid of the Young Worker at Hastings Park, Vancouver, netted about \$54. Morgan, the local Circulation Manager, delivered a speech on "Youth organization towards a Soviet Canada".

II. ALBERTA

8. C.P. Summer School at Sylvan Lake

- [✂#] The Communist Party in Alberta opened the annual summer school at Sylvan Lake on 27th July with approximately 64 children, ranging between the ages of six and 13 years, in attendance. The children are under the supervision of a man named Osterbore of Calgary who is being assisted by a Mrs. Neilson.

-
- [✂#] The Mine Workers' Union in the Crow's Nest Pass are busy holding election meetings in behalf of Harvey Murphy, the Provincial Communist candidate for the district. Test balloting has been carried out and the whole of the district has been covered by members of the union in general campaign work, instructing the foreigners how to mark their ballots.

[9]

III. SASKATCHEWAN

9. Tim Buck Addresses Mass Meeting in Regina

- [✂#] At a meeting held on the Market Square, Regina, on 23rd July with an attendance of 1,500 people, Timothy Buck was the principal speaker, his subject being "Capitalism on Trial", dealing with the arrest of the six leaders of the strikers in Regina. Buck, during an interruption from one of the audience, appeared quite agitated over the incident, appealing to the comrades to pay no attention to any interruption.

IV. MANITOBA10. C.L.D.L. District Convention

[✂#] The Fourth District Convention of the Canadian Labour Defence League was held in Winnipeg, on 20th and 21st July. Resolutions passed and to be brought before the National Convention were:--

- (1) Every member in Manitoba to be in good standing.
- (2) Branches to increase their bundles of Labour Defender; these to be sold from house-to-house.
- (3) All branches to pay off their debts and meet their national relief quota every month.
- (4) All branches to increase their membership by twenty-five per cent.
- (5) More branches to be set up in and around Winnipeg.
- (6) Social activities and weekly open air meetings to be started by each branch.
- (7) One large affair to be held by the entire C.L.D.L. prior to the National Convention in order to defray the expenses of the delegates who will be elected from Manitoba.
- (8) New headquarters to be obtained for the C.L.D.L.

[✂#] The Farmers' Unity League, one of the sections of the Revolutionary Movement in Winnipeg, Man., are not making much headway. They seem to be unable to get an executive of farmers together with the ability to organize and direct the membership; those who are not farmers and take an active interest in this section of the movement are being looked upon as intruders by the farmers.

[10]

The Furrow, the official paper of the Farmers' Unity League, has come in for some severe criticism and as a result the Editorial Board is going to be reorganized.

V. ONTARIO11. A. E. Smith at Fort Frances

[✂#]

A. E. Smith, Communist candidate in the Port Arthur (Ont.) constituency, spoke in Fort Frances on 25th July. Prefacing his speech he stated that the meeting was entirely an educational one. He then went on to criticize the Capitalist form of Government. "The foundation of all Capitalist Governments was rotten and falling down from under them", he said. In speaking of the C.C.F. he said that it was the half-way party, but the Communist Party would go all the way towards establishing a Socialist Government in Canada. Sixteen Communist candidates, he said, were selected by Toronto for various parts of the Dominion in the coming Federal election and of the 16, eight of them were the eight who were sent to the Kingston Penitentiary in 1931 for Communist activities. The reason they did not serve their full term, he said, was "because the Prime Minister was afraid to keep them there owing to too much pressure being brought to bear on the Government.

At the conclusion of his speech, Smith called upon every one who believed in Communism to come forward and place their contribution for his campaign on the platform. Twenty men, of foreign nationality, came forward and placed dollar bills on the platform. A collection was also made by having a hat passed amongst the audience. Approximately 300 persons attended the meeting which was held in the Town Hall.

[✂#] William Lehtinen, speaking at an open air meeting on 25th July in Fort William, Ont., told of another new World War coming and, unless the workers wish to be drawn into it, they must

[11]

organize. On 1st August the workers throughout Canada are going to demonstrate against war and Fascism. In closing, he spoke of the coming Federal election, saying that "we should elect a man who we all know will help us, namely, A. E. Smith".

[✂#] An open air meeting was held in Fort William, Ont., on 23rd July, at which C. Marriott of Toronto was the principal speaker. He spoke on the subject of Section 98 and the arrested British Columbia trekkers. He gave a description of the relief camps in B.C., the start of the strike, the demonstration in Vancouver, the trek to Regina and the so-called riot on the night of 1st July, 1935. Marriott claimed that Detective Miller was killed by members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. He also claimed that the only shooting done was by police, He gave an outline of the number of the cases defended by the Canadian Labour Defence League, claiming that

there had been over 1,100 cases during the past year. At the close of his address he appealed to all workers to join the C.L.D.L. and to all present at this meeting to donate as liberally as possible to the defense of the arrested men in Regina.

VI. QUEBEC

12. Summer Camp "Nitgedieget"

[§<#] The summer camp "Nitgedieget" operated by the Jewish Arbeiter Ring ("Canadian Workmen's Circle"), near Montreal, Que., is attended by 50 children at the present time. The children are given two weeks at the camp at the rate of \$2.50 per week. It is estimated that in the course of the summer season approximately 250 children of various nationalities will pass through this camp. The children take part in the revolutionary plays and are taught revolutionary songs and the fundamental principles of Marxism. There is also accommodation for approximately 100 adult persons who are being charged \$10 a week per person. The instructors are [§<deletion: 3/4 line]

[12]

VII. THE MARITIME PROVINCES

13. Mine Workers Strike at New Waterford, N.S.

[§<#] The United Mine Workers of America, District 26, called a strike at Collieries No's. 12 and 16 at New Waterford, N.S., on 23rd July, as a protest against employment of approximately 100 members of the Amalgamated Mine Workers' Union in the same pits. The tie-up came when the U.M.W. demanded that the company refuse lamps to the A.M.W. until the latter join the U.M.W. Union. The striking miners returned to work on 29th July. Considerable friction, however, still exists between members of the rival unions with the result that a tendency has developed on the part of a large number of members of both unions to withdraw from the unions.
