

## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 14th August, 1935.

**SECRET****NO. 768****WEEKLY SUMMARY****REPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS****AND AGITATORS IN CANADA****Report**[~~deletion~~: 1/3 page]

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL1. March On-To-Ottawa: Ontario

Augmented by 64 men and three women from Ottawa and 27 trekkers from Kirkland Lake, the Ontario on-to-Ottawa marchers reached Ottawa [deletion: #]at about 4.00 p.m. on 8th August and, escorted by City Police, paraded through the city streets, past the Parliament Buildings to Plouffe Park where they encamped. A large crowd of people gathered during the evening and several speeches were made by leaders of the trek.

On the morning of 10th August 10 delegates, led by E. Humphries, interviewed the Right Honourable R. B. Bennett demanding food and shelter. The leader of the deputation asserted that the interview was too hastily called and demanded another interview on 15th August when they would be prepared to place their demands before the Government.

Following the interview a leaflet was issued addressed to the citizens of Ottawa in which mention is made that their request for food and shelter had

been refused by the Premier. The leaflet also appealed to the citizens to support them in their request for food and shelter.

Representatives of the trekkers also interviewed His Worship the Mayor of Ottawa but were unable to obtain any support from him. He emphatically declined to provide them with food and shelter.

During the evening of 11th August, following a thunder storm which dismantled their tents and shacks at the park, the trekkers, led by Humphries, marched up and down Preston Street singing "We want shelter".

At a public meeting held on the same evening Humphries stated that the men had no intention on taking any private or public buildings by force. He asked those present to use their influence to obtain proper shelter for them.

At a public meeting held on the 12th statements were made by leaders of the trek that they would remain in the City of Ottawa until their demands are met. There are indications

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that preparations are being made by them to resist removal from the park.

[X#] The National Unemployed Council, [Xdeletion: 3/4 line] has issued a call to all workers' organizations throughout the Dominion to organize demonstrations against "starvation" and for non-contributory unemployment insurance on 15th August, the day when the marchers now in Ottawa intend sending a delegation to interview the Government at Ottawa. The demonstrations are also to be utilized for protests against the arrests and trial of Evans et al at Regina under Section 98 of the Criminal Code.

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## 2. Situation in Vancouver, B.C.

[X#] The situation on the waterfront in Vancouver remains unchanged but, with the dispatching to be commenced from the hall on Dunlevey Street and the dock billets to be discontinued, it is anticipated some attacks will be made on individuals now working on the docks. Picket captains, however, are very emphatic in their instructions to use no violence as they do not wish to alienate public sympathy by acts of violence.

The spirit of the general membership of the Longshoremen's Association is rather low and the leaders expect that if a secret ballot is taken it will be overwhelmingly in favour of returning to work under any conditions.

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#### 4. Communist Influence in C.C.Y.M.

[✂#] The Second Annual Provincial Convention of the Co-operative Commonwealth Youth Movement in Saskatchewan, which met on 27th, 28th and 29th July last, almost unanimously accepted the proposals of the District Committee of the Young Communist League of Canada for a joint campaign "around the immediate needs of the youth", "for the defence of the arrested on-to-Ottawa trekkers" and "against war and Fascism". Two fraternal delegates, Christie and Taylor, from the Young Communist League representing the Saskatchewan District Committee, attended the convention bringing greetings from their organization.

The convention has been hailed by the Communists as a convention of progress and as reflecting a "tremendous change in the minds of the youth of Saskatchewan".

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#### 5. Scandinavian Workers & Farmers League of Canada Holds Convention

[✂#] The Scandinavian Workers and Farmers League of Canada held its Fourth Annual Convention in the City of Winnipeg, Man., during the latter part of July. It had a much greater attendance than any of the previous conventions and displayed a distinct revolutionary tendency. Whereas the majority of the delegates in attendance at previous conventions were Swedes, this convention was attended by a number of delegates representing Norwegians and Danes. There were also delegates present representing the Canadian Labour Defence League, the Workers Unity League and the German Workers and Farmers Association.

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The convention accepted a manifesto which calls upon all Scandinavian workers, farmers and intellectuals in Canada to form a strong United Front with other nationalities in order to "crush the war preparations of the Canadian bourgeoisie".

The convention resolved to turn the organ of the league -- Erihet -- into a weekly paper.

Resolutions demanding the release of Tom Mooney, Thaelmann, Rakosi, Antikainen, the arrested British Columbia relief camp strike leaders, and the abolition of Section 98 were passed.

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## APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

### I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

#### 6. League Against War & Fascism Fails to Secure Permit for 1st August Demonstration

[~~3~~#] Numerous efforts were made by the British Columbia Section of the League Against War and Fascism to secure a permit for a parade from Cambie Street Grounds to Alexandria Park at Vancouver, B.C., on 1st August. The city authorities, however, stood firmly in their refusal to permit the march. Consequently, the march was called off and three indoor meetings held in place of the outdoor demonstration. These meetings were held at the Orange Hall, Workers Ex-Service Men's League headquarters and at the Ukrainian Labour Temple. The meetings were a distinct failure. The principal meeting held at the Orange Hall was attended by only approximately 200 persons.

The list of speakers included four local Clergymen who declared themselves in accord with the principle of the league.

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[~~3~~#] The Workers Ex-Service Men's League and the Canadian Labour Defence League in Vancouver, B.C., held a joint meeting at the former's headquarters on 4th August with approximately 250 persons in attendance. George Kelly acted as Chairman, and the speakers were Ernst Robinson, O'Neil, Mrs. Graham and McDonald.

Ernst Robinson urged the workers to elect workers' representatives to Parliament as a means of preventing another war and the rise of Fascism in Canada.

O'Neil and Mrs. Graham also urged the election of workers to Parliament but on purpose to destroy Capitalism.

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II. ALBERTA7. New Relief Strike Planned in Calgary

[§<#] The strike of relief recipients in Calgary, Alta., having been settled the Communist controlled Central Council of the Calgary and District Unemployed Workers Association have adopted a new program with a view to preparing for a new strike which they hope will be more successful than the one just concluded. It is planned to get all the relief recipients organized as soon as possible and then call another strike.

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[§<#] The Edmonton (Alta.) Branch of the Canadian League Against War and Fascism held an open air meeting at Borden Park on 4th August attending by approximately 500 persons. Alderman James East spoke on the necessity of promoting world peace and eulogized the League of Nations which, he said, should have the whole-hearted support of every working man in the Dominion of Canada.

Mrs. W. A. McConkey, of the Women's International League for Peace, spoke on the need of political and economic institutions to provide work for all the unemployed in Canada.

J. H. Unwin, of the Social Credit League, suggested that the causes of the last war be examined in order that other wars could be prevented.

The Reverend J. T. Stephens urged that the Press give publicity to the values of peace instead of filling the columns of their papers with war talks.

L. Robbins, O. C. Doolan and S.A.G. Barnes urged a United Front against war and Fascism and the abolition of Section 98 of the Criminal Code.

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III. SASKATCHEWAN8. Saskatchewan Union of Unemployed Active.

[§<#] The Saskatchewan Union of Unemployed, Regina Branch, held a meeting at 1506-10th Ave., Regina, on 4th August with approximately 300 people present. The speakers were Peter Mikkelsen, George Williams, M.L.A., and Fred Donner from Winnipeg.

George Williams stated that he was not speaking for all the farmers in Saskatchewan but only for those supporting the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation program. He characterized the United Farmers of Canada as an organization based on the principles of a Capitalist trade

union. This organization, he said, does not intend to produce for use only but for profit. This, he maintained, is contrary to the workers' movement. Farmer Members of the United Farmers of Canada would do their best to hire help as cheaply as possible and they would even try to get men for 50 cents a day, he said. He favoured a delegation going to interview Premier Gardiner although thought that the Government would do nothing except make promises which would remain unfulfilled.

Donner stated that he was on a tour of the Western Provinces. Regarding harvest work he said that "neither Bennett nor Gardiner could guarantee that the farm labourer would get his wages as the mortgage company and other creditors would come first". Donner proposed to George Williams that he should take up the leadership of the movement in Saskatchewan as the leader of the opposition in the Provincial Legislature. Being a Member of the Legislative Assembly Donner thought Williams would be safe from being arrested. He appealed to Williams and to the C.C.F. in general "to show the workers that they were not opportunists but real fighters". He advised Williams to get in touch with the Workers Unity League, the Farmers Unity League, United Farmers of Canada, and the trade unions to organize a United Front. Williams accepted the challenge and after the meeting contacted Mike Pesklivetz and asked him where he could get in touch with the Farmers Unity League executive. Pesklivetz directed him to J. P. Bespalko, Organizer of the F.U.L. for Saskatchewan.

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The newly-formed "Citizens Defence Committee" at Saskatoon, Sask., held a mass meeting at Cairns Athletic Field on 30th July with approximately 1,100 people in attendance. Durward Thomas, former President of the Young Liberal Club of Saskatoon, acted as Chairman, and the speakers [✂#] included John Evans, Co-operative Commonwealth Federation candidate for Saskatoon, George Bickerton, President of the United Farmers, Lorne Lynn, John Egge and the Reverend S. B. East of Regina.

The Reverend S. B. East, the main speaker, first appealed for funds to defend the Regina rioters and strikers. He devoted the major portion of his speech to a description of the Regina July 1st riots. He availed himself of every opportunity to criticize and ridicule the action of the Federal Government with regard to the on-to-Ottawa marchers. He also commented very favourably on the Soviet system and the progress made in the U.S.S.R. generally.

The tenor of the speeches was in support of the unconditional release of the prisoners held in Regina.

A collection was taken up which was found to be insufficient to pay the cost of the meeting.

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[X#] Approximately 50 persons, mostly foreigners, attended a meeting in the Ukrainian Hall at Yorkton, Sask., on 26th July; the speakers being E. V. Mills, Canadian Labour Defence League organizer, and T. H. Newlove, C.L.D.L. Counsel.

E. V. Mills explained the function of the C.L.D.L. and the service rendered by this organization in connection with the arrests and trials of revolutionary leaders.

Newlove spoke on the Regina Dominion Day riots and the charges against the leaders of the relief camp strikers under Section 98 of the Criminal Code. He asserted that the C.L.D.L. had no connection whatever with the Communist Party and complimented Tim Buck on a recent speech in Regina in the course of which he (Buck) stated that he was the Secretary of the C.P., defying the police to arrest him.

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At the conclusion of the addresses a committee was formed which was named "The Citizens Defence Committee". The meeting passed a resolution endorsing the demands of the British Columbia relief camp strikers and the Non-Contributory Unemployment Insurance Bill sponsored by the National Unemployment Council.

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#### IV. QUEBEC

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#### V. THE MARITIME PROVINCES

##### 10. Steel Workers Union in Sydney, N.S., Gains Strength

George McEachern has been very active recently in an endeavour to reorganize and build up the Steel Workers Union in Sydney, N.S. It is [X#]reported that the union now has a membership of 400 and it is anticipated that a considerable number of the 2,800 men employed in the steel plant will join the union.

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