

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 4th September, 1935.

SECRETNO. 771WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATORS IN CANADAReport

The Relief Camp Workers Union, Alberta Section, is reported to be active among the farm labourers in Southern Alberta agitating for higher wages, better working conditions, and for the abolition of the relief camps operated by the Department of National Defence. The union claims a steady growth in membership and is now publishing a bulletin labelled "Alberta Relief Camp Workers' Bulletin", the first issue of which appeared in Calgary on 20th August.

[2]

APPENDICESTable of ContentsAPPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

- Paragraph No. 1. Seventh World Congress of the Communist International
 Delegates from 65 Sections Attend
 Leninist-Stalinist Spirit Predominates
 Joseph Stalin on Presidium
 Congress Records Growth of Revolutionary Forces
 Throughout World
 Stalin Acclaimed as Leader of World Revolution
- " " 2. Situation on Vancouver's Waterfront
 Strike Unsettled
 Shipping Federation Negotiates with Longshoremen
- " " 3. "On-to-Ottawa" Marchers Return to Toronto
 Transportation and Assistance Refused by Premier
 Hepburn and Toronto Board of
 Control
- " " 4. C.L.D.L. Prepares for Defence of Arthur Evans Et Al

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

- “ ” 5. BRITISH COLUMBIA
C.L.D.I., Ukrainian Branch, Vancouver, Take in 27
New Members
- “ ” 6. ALBERTA
Tim Buck in Crow's Nest Pass
Addresses Meeting in Bellevue
Speaks at Meeting at Frank
C.P. Meeting in Calgary
- “ ” 7. MANITOBA
Friction in District Council
C.L.D.L. at Winnipeg
[~~3~~ Set Up Dictatorship
- A Student from Wesley College
Speaks
- “ ” 8. ONTARIO
Communists Endorse C.C.F. Candidate
W. J. Hill, C.C.F. Candidate for Temiskaming
Running on United Front Platform
C.L.D.L. Conference in Port Arthur
23 Delegates Present, also A. E. Smith
Reports from Branches Not Encouraging
- “ ” 9. QUEBEC
[~~3~~ To Be Sent to Sanatorium
C.L.D.L. Secretariat Appoints [~~2~~]
Organizer

[3]

APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL1. Seventh World Congress of the Communist International

[~~3~~#] The Seventh Congress of the Communist International formally opened at Moscow on 26th July and concluded its final session on 21st August after sitting for 25 days. It was attended by several hundred delegates from 65 Communist Parties of national sections including Canada. [~~8~~ 1/2 lines]

The congress unanimously adopted the agenda as proposed by the Presidium of the Executive Committee as follows:--

- (1) Report on the work of the Executive Committee of the Communist International. Speaker, Comrade Pieck.
- (2) Report on the work of the International Control Commission.
- (3) The fascist offensive and the tasks of the Communist International in the struggle for unity of the working class against fascism. Speaker, Comrade Dimitrov.
- (4) The preparations for imperialist war and the tasks of the Communist International. Speaker, Comrade Ercoli.
- (5) The results of construction of Socialism in the Soviet Union. Speaker, Comrade Manuilski.
- (6) Election of leading bodies to the Communist International.

Greetings and speeches featured the early sessions of the congress. The following extract taken from the address of greetings by Comrade Chow Ho-Sin, leader of the delegation representing the Central Committee of the Communist Party, the revolutionary Military Council and the Red Army of China, is interesting.

"We are indebted to the glorious Bolshevik cohorts for the world historical victories of the workers and the farmers in the U.S.S.R., the cohorts who have been trained in the battles of the Leninist Communist

[4]

Party, who are connected with the million masses of workers and all toilers by the strongest ties, under the leadership of a man whose name has long since been inscribed in the pages of history, a man of deepest wisdom, unexampled courage, inexhaustible energy, unlimited love and devotion to the toiling people, immortal deeds, the great Stalin.

"Militant Red Army greetings to the All Union Communist Party and to the leader and teacher of the toilers of the world, Comrade Stalin!

"Comrades, the international situation puts important and serious tasks before you. But it must be said that the forces which are capable of solving these responsible tasks have grown, especially recently. The heroic struggle of the German proletarians against savage fascism, the February fighting last year in Austria and in France, and the subsequent successes obtained in these countries in carrying out the united front, the armed struggle of the Spanish proletariat in the days of October, the bold and devoted fight of the Japanese Communists against imperialist war and the military-police monarchy, the successes of the Soviet movement, the anti-imperialist struggle and the guerilla war in China, the powerful rise of the emancipation struggle in the colonial and

semi-colonial countries, all testify with sufficient eloquence to the tempestuous growth of the forces of the Communist International, to the conversion of the world Party of Bolshevism into a mighty factor of history. (Applause.)

“We can take pride in the fact that the Communist International has such courageous standard bearers as Dimitrov, Thaelmann, Mao Tse-tung, Rakosi and Itsikawa, who in all conditions hold aloft the great banner of Communism, guard and defend it, and who, under the flag of the Leninist-Stalinist Comintern, lead the masses to victory.

“We can assure the delegates to the Seventh Congress that the decisions adopted at this Congress will not remain on paper, that in all countries, as in China, there are Bolsheviks who will not hesitate at any difficulties and hindrances or at any sacrifices to convert these decisions into practice.....

“We will justify these hopes. May all the work of the Seventh Congress be filled with a practical Stalinist spirit, with Stalinist wisdom, with Stalinist belief in the justice of our cause and a Stalinist will to victory! Long live the Communist International! Long live the world proletarian revolution! Long live our leader and teacher, Comrade Stalin!”

The foregoing is typical of the tenor of the speeches presented at the congress.

Although the official resolutions and decisions of the congress are not yet available it would appear that the main question confronting the congress was the task of organizing the working class against war and Fascism on the basis of the so-called United Front tactics.

[5]

A report given to the closing session by the Mandate Commission of the congress, as reported in the radical press, dealt with the present strength of the Communist International. It alleged that since the Sixth Congress in 1928 the number of Communist Parties in the world has increased from 65 to 76 and that the membership throughout the world has almost doubled. It said that the present total strength including the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the total membership of the Young Communist International, is 6,800,000 as against 3,835,000 at the time of the Sixth Congress in 1928; excluding the Young Communist International, the Communist Parties themselves have a membership of 3,148,000, of which the Communist Party of the U.S.S.R. constitutes the major section with a membership of over 2,000,000.

Joseph Stalin unquestionably constituted the main and leading figure at this congress. When his name was read among the 42 persons proposed for

the Presidium it was greeted with stormy, continuous applause, ovations and shouts of Hurrah!

Before closing the final session the following resolution was introduced and adopted amidst tremendous applause"--

"To Comrade Stalin, Leader, Teacher, and Friend of the Proletariat and Oppressed of the Whole World --

"In the name of millions of fighters of the world proletarian revolution, in the name of the toilers of all lands, we address ourselves to you, Comrade Stalin, our Leader, faithful continuer of the work of Marx, Engels and Lenin, to you who, together with Lenin, forged out a party of a new type, the Party of the Bolsheviks, the Party which led to the triumph of the great October proletarian Revolution, to the victory of socialism in the U.S.S.R. We address ourselves to you, beloved leader of the whole international proletariat and of all the oppressed, with warmest greetings.

"More than ten years have passed since the day when we lost Lenin, this giant of revolutionary thought and action, the unforgettable leader of the world revolution. A gigantic task fell to you, Comrade Stalin--to take your place at the helm of the struggle for the liberation of the whole of toiling humanity.

"Under your leadership Socialism has triumphed in the U.S.S.R., creating an impregnable basis for the cause of the world proletarian revolution. At the tomb of Lenin, you took an oath to consolidate and extend the alliance of the toilers of the whole world--the Communist International--and the Communists of all countries, in an heroic struggle under your leadership, are fulfilling this oath.

[6]

"Now, when the capitalist world is entering a new cycle of revolutions and wars, the proletariat, in contradistinction to its situation in the first cycle of revolutions and wars, possesses the surest guarantee of definite victory--the powerful Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, the country of victorious Socialism and the Communist International, the monolithic world party of Communism.

"Under your leadership, the U.S.S.R. has become an impregnable stronghold of the Socialist Revolution, a stronghold of the fight against fascism and reaction, against war. Let the bourgeois gentlemen attempt to-day to ask the people of the world if they want peace or war, fascism or socialism. The people of the world do not want war, do not want fascism. They are turning more and more towards the U.S.S.R., fixing on you, Comrade Stalin, the leader of the toilers in all countries, a gaze full of hope and love.

“The victory of socialism in the U.S.S.R. has strengthened the authority of the dictatorship of the proletariat in the eyes of millions of toilers, has given a tremendous force to the programme, the strategy and the tactics of the Communist International. The victory of Socialism in the U.S.S.R. opens up a new phase in the world proletarian revolution.

“Our heroic fighters in Germany, in China, in Japan, in Spain, in Poland, in Italy and in other countries, are leading the masses to the struggle, with your name, Comrade Stalin, in their hearts.

“The victory of Socialism in the U.S.S.R. is the great victory of Communism over reformism, of the Communist International over the collapsing Second International.

“You have taught us and are teaching us that a policy based on principles is the only correct policy. Thanks to its unswerving application of Bolshevik policy the Communist International has achieved wonderful unity and firmness in its ranks. Comrade Stalin, in your struggle against the counter-revolutionary Trotskyites-Zinovievites, in the struggle against the ‘Right’ and ‘Left’ opportunists, you have defended the Marxist-Leninist doctrine and have developed this doctrine under the conditions of the new phase of the world revolution which will live in history as the epoch of Stalin.

“You have taught and are teaching us Communists the Bolshevik art of uniting unshakeable fidelity to principles with closest contact with the masses, irreconcilable revolutionary spirit, and the necessary flexibility and ability to manoeuvre.

“Following your teachings, the Communist Parties will consolidate their connections on all sides with the masses, they will rouse and lead the millions of toilers, will organise a wide united proletarian front, will weld together the people’s front against fascism and war, the front of imperialist struggle in the colonial and semi-colonial countries.

“The 7th World Congress of the Communist International, in the name of 65 Communist Parties, assures you, Comrade Stalin, that the Communists will always and everywhere be faithful to the end to the great and invincible banner of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin.

[7]

Under this banner Communism will triumph throughout the world”.

2. Situation on Vancouver’s Waterfront

The protracted strike struggle on Vancouver’s waterfront remains unsettled. The Shipping Federation of British Columbia is reported to have

indirectly opened negotiations with the longshoremen. Recognition of the "Right" Wing International Longshoremen's Association has been hinted by the Shipping Federation calculated to eliminate Communist leadership.

3. "On-to-Ottawa" Marchers Return to Toronto

[3<#] The "On-to-Ottawa" trekkers, upon their return to Toronto billeted at three different points and immediately appointed a delegation to interview Mayor Simpson to request that food and shelter be provided for the marchers. The Mayor promised to take the matter up with the Board of Control.

On 27th August two other delegations were organized to interview Premier Hepburn and the Board of Control. Ewart Humphreys led the delegation that interviewed the Premier and Fred Edmundson led the one interviewing the Board of Control. Premier Hepburn is reported to have lost no sympathy on the trekkers and refused point-blank any transportation home. The delegation interviewing the Board of Control fared no better. Controller McBride ordered them from the office and threatened Edmundson with a term in Burwash.

On the evening of the same day, as a last resort, the trekkers staged an open-air meeting in Queens Park, and in an effort to further arouse public sympathy, staged a parade through the city. About 500 persons, in addition to the marchers attended the meeting. The speakers included Sam Scarlett, W. G. Harris, L. Mullens, J. Steele, Anne Walters and Ewart Humphreys. Following the meeting the marchers formed in a body and marched to

[8]

the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association Hall on Bathurst Street, where the Communist Party and the Young Communist League had sponsored a banquet and entertainment on their behalf.

4. C.L.D.L. Prepares for Defence of Arthur Evans Et Al

[3<#] A circular issued by the National Executive Committee of the Canadian Labour Defence League, under date of 16th August, 1935, addressed to all District Central Councils and all branches of the league, stresses the importance of defending the Regina rioters and those facing charges under Section 98 of the Criminal Code in Saskatchewan. The circular states in part --

"The Regina cases are the most important cases demanding our attention and activity at the present moment because

(a) They are bound up with a new, more intense and wider application of Section 98 -- if the authorities succeed in convicting Evans, Black, Shaw, Cosgrove and Edwards and in outlawing the Relief Camp Workers Union, they will advance to a still broader frontal attack upon the working class movement.

(b) Broad sections of the Canadian public reacted against the Regina shootings and arrests, many sections of the labor movement came forward in protest, laying a basis for the development of the broadest type of united defense front. The organisational base of this defense front has already been established in the Citizens Defense Committee in Regina and the dozen or more similar committees in other centres.

(c) The Regina cases can be used as a very concrete basis to regenerate our lagging struggles against Section 98 and to extend this struggle on a broader plane than ever".

An item dealing with the collection of defence funds declares:-

"The Regina trials will take on the aspect of a major state trial permeated with major political issues and funds must be obtained to employ effective legal talent".

[9]

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

5. C.L.D.L., Ukrainian Branch, Vancouver

[#<#] It is reported that during the past six months the Canadian Labour Defence League, Ukrainian Branch, at Vancouver, has enlisted 277 new members; most of these have enrolled since the commencement of the waterfront strike. It is further stated that 37 resolutions have been sent out by this branch and that it supplied bail bonds amounting to \$50,000.

II. ALBERTA

6. Tim Buck in Crow's Nest Pass

[#<#] Tim Buck arrived in Blairmore, Alta., on 20th August and immediately went into session with the leaders of the different Communist organizations. In the course of the evening several trucks carrying members of the organizations left Blairmore for a point near Bellevue where a large crowd concentrated. Led by the Michel Brass Band the whole body paraded on

foot into Bellevue to the skating rink where Tim Buck and Harvey Murphy addressed a meeting, there being approximately 1,500 persons present.

Buck left the Crow's Nest Pass on 21st August and returned again on the 24th. On his arrival at Blairmore he was met at the station by a large torchlight parade headed by a flaming hammer and sickle.

On 25th August he addressed a picnic near Frank, Alta., at which he advised the workers to see to it that the newly-elected Social Credit Government in Alberta lives up to its promises.

[S<#] Tim Buck and Pat Lenihan were the speakers at an open-air meeting of the Communist Party at Calgary, Alta., on 21st August. Pat Lenihan spoke first. He confined himself to the Communist election program, stating that the sum of \$6,000 had been raised

[10]

in Alberta by the Communist Party for election purposes.

Tim Buck dealt with social credit and its effects and urged the election of Pat Lenihan and other Communist candidates.

III. MANITOBA

7. Friction in District Council, C.L.D., Winnipeg

[S<#] A great deal of friction has been observed among the members of the District Central Council of the Canadian Labour Defence League in Winnipeg recently. There seems to be a strong feeling prevalent against the female dictatorship set up by [S<deletion: 1 line] These two women, it appear, have adopted a very dominating attitude.

An endeavour is being made to reorganize the Central Branch at Winnipeg as a truly Anglo-Saxon unit.

[S<#] The Manitoba Council of the League Against War and Fascism held a meeting on the Strathcona School grounds on the night of 25th August with approximately 300 people in attendance. A. W. Atwater acted as Chairman and the speakers included a Mr. Kirks, Fred Donner, Alderman Forkin, Rose Penner, the wife of Alderman Penner, and one student from Wesley College, whose name was not announced. All speakers dwelt upon the question of Fascism and war. Some of the speakers, particularly Donner, dealt with the imminent danger of war and the possibility of Canada being drawn into it.

IV. ONTARIO8. Communists Endorse C.C.F. Candidate

[S<#] A United Front Conference held at Kirkland Lake, Ont., on 25th August unanimously decided to support the candidature of W. J. Hill, nominated by the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation to contest the Federal constituency of Temiskaming.

[11]

It is reported that 44 delegates were present representing 22 organizations including the Communist Party, Young Communist League, the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, and the Co-operative Commonwealth Youth Movement. Prior to the conference a number of meetings were held between the C.C.F. council and the Communist Election Committee at which a United Front program was drafted and ratified. The main points of the United Front platform endorsed by the conference and W. J. Hill are as follows:

- (1) Immediate enactment of genuine unemployment and social insurance at the expense of the rich as embodied in the Workers Bill pending which unemployment relief to be paid as provided in the Bill.
- (2) Cancellation of military building program and commencement of a billion dollar building program to clear the slums.
- (3) The right to vote for all youths over 18 years of age, free and compulsory school education, free school supplies and against military training in schools.
- (4) Repeal of Section 98 of the Criminal Code.

[S<#] The Canadian Labour Defence League in the Thunder Bay District held a conference at Port Arthur, Ont., on 25th August. There were 23 delegates present representing an alleged membership of 12,000. Reports were received from the following branches -- Hornepayne, Finland, Sioux Lookout, West Fort William, Port Arthur, Current River, Coal Docks, Port Arthur, and Fort William.

A. E. Smith guided the proceedings of this gathering. In his speech he remarked that from January, 1934, to January, 1935, 1,300 workers were arrested throughout Canada and that from January to July of this year 671 additional workers had been sent to jail.

The reports of the delegates from the various branches were anything but encouraging. From the Fort William Branch it was reported that out of 57 members only seven had paid their dues.

The convention appointed five delegates to attend the National Convention which is to convene in Toronto during the month of October.

[12]

V. QUEBEC

9. [deletion: 2 words] III. To Be Sent to Sanatorium

[deletion: 2 words] District Secretary and Organizer of the Canadian [deletion: 2 words] Labour Defence League for the Montreal District, has been taken seriously ill and is to be removed to a sanatorium at St. Agathe, Que. This, it is said, definitely removes him from revolutionary activities.

[deletion: 2 words] A meeting of the Secretariat of the Canadian Labour Defence League in Montreal, Que., on 27th August decided to appoint [deletion: 2 words] as temporary Organizer for the district, replacing [deletion: 2 words] With regard to the Amos defence campaign it was resolved:--

- (a) To have a protest delegation visit Premier Taschereau on Tuesday morning, September 3rd.
- (b) To hold a protest mass meeting at the Prince Arthur Hall on Thursday evening, September 5th.
- (c) To hold a send-off demonstration at the C.N.R. Moreau St. Station when the five leave for Amos for trial on Friday morning, September 6th.
