

## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 11th September, 1935.

SECRET

NO. 772

WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATORS IN CANADAReport

The recent visit of Tim Buck and Sam Carr to Vancouver did not entirely clear the Communist Party of the factionalism arising out of the question of the policy of the Communist Party in dealing with the Leadership of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation.

At the meeting in the Vancouver Arena on the 28th August the Party pledged itself to support Arnold Webster, C.C.F. candidate in the Burrard Riding although there is no "working agreement" with the leadership of the C.C.F. It was hoped that Angus McInnis would make some gesture to the C.P. leaders to enable Malcolm Bruce to withdraw from the Vancouver East contest. Angus McInnis, however, does not appear to be interested in the manoeuvres of the C.P. and it is now definitely decided that Bruce will run for election.

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 Addresses Public Meeting

**Believes the Overthrow of Constitution by  
Force Only Solution**

**(B) At Winnipeg --**

**Speaks at Conference on 31st August**

**Asserts Release of R.C.W.U. Leaders at Regina  
Due to Mass Pressure**

**Thinks That by Having His Trial Postponed  
Until January He Will Be Able To  
Build Up Strong Defence**

**Addresses Public Meeting in Front of Legislative  
Building, Winnipeg, on 1st Sept.**

**Meeting a Failure**

**APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES**

- “ ” **4. BRITISH COLUMBIA**  
**C.P. Mass Meeting in Vancouver**  
**Tim Buck and Sam Carr Main Speakers**  
**C.C.F. Candidate in Burrard Riding Endorsed**  
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**C.L.D.L. Holds District Conference**  
**61 Delegates Attend Also Fraternal Delegate**  
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**Meeting in Exhibition Grounds**  
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**L.A.W. & F. in Toronto Meet in Queen's Park**  
**Stewart Smith Condemns Canadian Government**  
**Communists Organize Steel & Metal Workers Union in**  
**Toronto**
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**F.S.U. in Montreal Meet in Y.M.C.A. Hall**  
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- “ ” **8. THE MARITIME PROVINCES**  
**C.P. in Cape Breton Holds Picnic on Labour Day**  
**J.B. McLachlan Speaks**

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERALI. Situation on Vancouver's Waterfront

[3<#] The result of the vote taken by the International Longshoremen's Association on the Pacific Coast on the question of handling B.C. cargo has given the Vancouver waterfront strikers considerable encouragement. The result of the vote was:--

|               |                             |              |
|---------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Seattle       | 849 for lifting embargo and | 148 against  |
| Portland      | 364 " " " "                 | 644 "        |
| San Francisco | 287 " " " "                 | 2,427 "      |
| San Pedro     | 1,172 " " " "               | 327 "        |
| Tacoma        | 434 " " " "                 | 81 "         |
| Everett       | 100 " " " "                 | 110 "        |
| Astoria       | 90 " " " "                  | 60 "         |
| Longview      | 142 " " " "                 | 51 "         |
| Aberdeen      | 71 " " " "                  | 231 "        |
|               | <u>3,509</u>                | <u>4,079</u> |

Meanwhile the B.C. Shipping Federation reports 580 members of the new union dispatched working deep sea and coastwise vessels in port.

In New Westminster the City and Provincial Police arrested 13 strikers recently who were acting as pickets along the waterfront charging them with "intimidation". The arrests were made following a disturbance at the entrance of the Pacific Terminal Docks when a group of approximately 100 pickets hurled stones at dock workers cars. Those arrested were quickly replaced on the picket line and strikers expressed determination to maintain a constant watch on all entrances to the docks.

On 30th August a group of 200 pickets gathered about the Shipping Federation Hall on Dunlevy Street, Vancouver, and hurled rocks and jeers at dock workers leaving the hall for their homes. A number of sympathizers, who had congregated to watch a ball game at the Powell Street Grounds, joined in with the picketers and it took the City Police two hours to disperse the disorderly crowd. Several men were arrested and charged with "malicious damage" and "common assault".

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## 2. National Congress of League Against War and Fascism To Be Held in November

[§<#] The Second National Congress Against War and Fascism will take place in mid November, the exact dates to be announced in the near future. It was originally planned to hold the congress in October but owing to the Federal election it was deemed advisable to hold it later on in the autumn.

Plans for a Maritime Provinces Conference are being arranged by the Reverend John C. Mortimer of Pugwash, N.S., who is reported to have accepted the Provincial Secretaryship for the Maritimes. It is proposed to hold a conference at New Glasgow towards the end of September.

Plans are also under consideration to hold a conference for the Quebec Province in Montreal during October.

The Toronto and District Conference is scheduled to commence on 29th September and preparations are also being made to hold similar conferences in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia.

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## 3. Arthur Evans on Tour

### (A) At Brandon, Man.

[§<#] Arthur Evans was the principal speaker at a meeting held under the auspices of the Canadian Labour Defence League in the Fraternal Hall, Brandon, Man., on 30th August. Gavin Broadhurst, [§<deletion: 1/4 line] presided and the attendance numbered approximately 200 people.

Evans reviewed the history of the British Columbia relief camp strike and the subsequent march on-to-Ottawa. He contended that as the head of the Workers Unity League in British Columbia it was his duty to organize the relief camp workers and lead the strike. Referring to the hearing conducted by the Royal Commission appointed to look into conditions at the relief camps in B.C. he charged that Judge MacDonald, who headed the Commission, was prejudiced and only interested in the profits of

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Galts Limited of which he was the President. He further charged that Judge MacDonald was not interested in any evidence that might have been given by the inmates of the camps. "The outcome of this inquiry", Evans said, "was a ruling by the Commission to the effect that the strikers were just a bunch of agitators". "Well," said Evans, "they were agitators. How else were they to bring the plight of the camp workers before the public; we want to organize the youth as we believe the only way to change these conditions is to overthrow the constitution by force". Evans went on to say

that there had been so much talk about Ottawa and passing the buck to the Dominion Government that they decided to go to Ottawa; that about \$30,000 had been collected in Vancouver by subscriptions, picnics, etc., in support of the strike. He dealt at great length with the Regina Dominion Day riots in an endeavour to show that the responsibility for the riots was on the shoulders of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. He featured the action of the police but carefully avoided saying anything about the part taken by the strikers in the riot. He also denounced Section 98 of the Criminal Code, Sections 41 and 42 of the Immigration Act, and called upon the audience to demand the abolition of same.

Evans is reported to have made a favourable impression on his audience.

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(B) At Winnipeg, Man.

[3<#] A conference sponsored by supporters of the British Columbia relief camp strikers at Winnipeg, Man., was held in the Scandinavian Workers Hall during the afternoon of 31st August. There were 54 delegates present representing 32 organizations, as well as 28 visitors. The meeting was conducted by J. Litterick, the [3<deletion: 1/4 line] for the district.

The conference was addressed by Arthur Evans now out on \$10,000 bail. He spoke at great length on the "on-to-Ottawa" trek of the Western relief camp workers referring particularly to

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the Dominion Day riots and other happenings at Regina, Sask. He maintained that it was the pressure brought to bear by the working class which made it possible for the five to be released on bail. He explained that by having the trial postponed until January next he will be able to build up a strong defence, further that the finding of the Commission inquiring into the Dominion Day riots will have a strong bearing on the trial. He also outlined how the working women of Regina organized themselves to visit the jail, making it inconvenient for the prison officials, and that autobiographies of all those arrested were being compiled for propaganda purposes. He intimated that the defence has witnesses who are willing to swear that the police smashed the windows during the 1st July riot and not the strikers.

Following Evans' speech the conference was thrown open for discussion and Alderman Joe Forkin outlined a program of activity to assist those arrested in Regina. It was decided to form a Mothers Committee, Propaganda Committee, Defence Committee and Youth Committee and to draw up plans for a campaign in the Manitoba District. The General Committee

consisting of Litterick, Atwater, C. Foster, J. Forkin, I. Minster, Mabel Marlowe, Molly Brown, Dickinson, Jewell, Mrs. Hunt, F. Doner and Towle was appointed to conduct the campaign.

On 1st September the Defence Committee which was appointed at the conference held on 31st August staged an open meeting in front of the Legislative Building. Approximately 200 people attended. A. W. Atwater conducted the meeting and the speakers included F. Doner, Mrs. Hunt and Arthur Evans. Doner, speaking as the representative of the League Against War and Fascism, gave a typical anti-war talk.

Mrs. Hunt spoke for the Mothers Group appealing to the women to join her organization and help to save the youth.

Arthur Evans spoke for a full hour relating the history of the B.C. relief camp workers' strike and the subsequent march on-to-Ottawa which terminated at Regina.

The meeting was a decided failure due partly to the fact that it was not properly advertised.

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## APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

### I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

#### 4. C.P. Mass Meeting in Vancouver

[✂#] The Communist Party of Canada at Vancouver, B.C., held a mass meeting at the Vancouver Arena on the evening of 28th August with approximately 3,500 persons in attendance. Malcolm Bruce acted as Chairman and the speakers were Tim Buck, Sam Carr and Jack Taylor alias Erlich.

Buck spoke in support of Malcolm Bruce, the Communist candidate for Vancouver, East, in the Federal election making a strong appeal for a United Front of Communists and the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation. He also definitely announced that the C.P. of Canada supports and will seek to elect Arnold Webster, C.C.F. candidate in the Burrard Riding against Mayor G. B. McGeer.

Sam Carr also spoke for a United Front of the C.C.F. and the C.P. condemning the Liberal, Conservative and the reconstruction parties as promoters of Fascism in Canada.

The keynote of the speeches delivered by Taylor and Bruce was an appeal to the workers to resist war and Fascism.

At the close of the meeting Carr led the audience in three cheers for Tim Buck and three boos for Mayor McGeer. He said that the Communists are out to defeat McGeer.

The collection taken at this meeting amounted to more than \$550.

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[9<#] The Canadian Labour Defence League, B.C. District, held a District Conference in the Orange Hall, Vancouver, on 25th August. There were 61 delegates in attendance, 25 of these representing 1,569 members distributed in the various C.L.D.L. branches and the remaining 36 representing various affiliated bodies with an alleged membership of 15,500. It is considered that this total is an exaggeration of the true membership of these organizations.

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Tom Nelson, District Secretary, reported on past activity. He stated that during the last seven months 244 workers had been defended in criminal courts in Canada. Of these 110 were convicted, 105 dismissed and the remainder are awaiting trial. He further stated that bail to the amount of one-quarter million dollars had been supplied by the league to free the prisoners. He gave the actual membership of the C.L.D.L. in the B.C. District as 6,000, of which only 2,000 were paying dues.

A delegate named Sandwich, of the New Westminster Branch, stated that prior to the waterfront strike the New Westminster league had a membership of only 20 but that since the strike it had been increased to 100.

A man named Brooks, representing the Longshore and Water Transport Workers of Canada, suggested that the B.C. Electric Company employees be approached with the request to assess themselves in support of the C.L.D.L. He said that the group he represented would lend its full support to the league.

J. Kelly, delegate from the Relief Camp Workers Union, suggested a joint campaign for the defence of longshore and relief camp workers.

Sid Hall, of the Young Communist League, proposed that a Citizen's Defence Committee be set up in Vancouver similar to the one operating in the City of Regina.

John Prater, of Richmond, California, an Organizer of the International Labour Defence League, was the guest speaker. He reported on conditions in the U.S.A. comparing same with those in Canada. He stated that the International Defence is conducted along similar lines except that the American groups were conducted on a broader and less radical basis. He

endeavoured to impress upon the delegates the necessity of a committee for the defence against Fascist tactics.

The conference passed a number of resolutions ranging from a demand for the release of all imprisoned longshore strikers to the abolition of Section 98 of the Criminal Code.

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## II. ALBERTA

### 5. L.A.W. & F., Edmonton

The Canadian League Against War and Fascism at Edmonton, Alta., held a council meeting at the Masonic Temple on 29th August with 35 [3<#] delegates in attendance. J. Egger acted as Chairman and Mrs. Murdocke, Secretary. It was decided to hold a Provincial Conference during the first two weeks in October when two delegates will be elected to attend the National Congress at Toronto, Ont.

A. E. Bolton, [3<deletion: 1/2 line] reported that seven branches had been organized in the Wetaskiwin District.

The meeting passed a vote of thanks to S.A.G. Barnes, M.L.A., for the good work he had done for the league. He replied that he and the members of the Social Credit Party were opposed to war and Fascism and that he, personally, would do all in his power to further support the league during his term in the Provincial Legislature. It was suggested to Mr. Barnes that he obtain the support of his fellow M.L.A. members to the league's opposition to the military display during the opening of the Alberta Provincial Legislature and, if possible, have such display abolished. Mr. Barnes agreed to put this matter before his party members.

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## III. ONTARIO

### 6. Communist Labour Day Parade in Toronto

[3<#] In conformity with their United Front tactics and to show the Labour Movement, generally, that they are sincere in their desire to bring about a unified Labour Movement, the Communists this year again participated in the Labour Day parades on Labour Day, 2nd September. At Toronto about 1,000 men and women marched from Allan Gardens, Sherbourne and Carlton Streets to the Canadian National Exhibition Grounds where a meeting was held. The meeting was opened by J. B. Salsberg at 1.00 o'clock

in the afternoon, and the speakers included Tom Ewen, National Secretary of the Workers Unity League, Annie Buller, head of the

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Women's Department, A. E. Smith, of the Canadian Labour Defence League, Comrade Hazy, of the Coal Handlers and Truck Drivers Union, and W. G. Harris, of the National Unemployed Councils. The speeches centered around the question of trade union unity urging a unified Labour Movement in Canada.

The parade was held separately from the regular annual Labour Day parade staged by the American Federation of Labour unions and the unions affiliated with the All-Canadian Congress of Labour.

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[§<#] The League Against War and Fascism at Toronto, Ont., held an open air meeting in Queen's Park on 4th September with approximately 500 persons in attendance. It marked the opening of a campaign for "10 miles of nickles" approximately \$36,000 which sum, if realized, is to be used in the campaign against war and Fascism in Canada. Kenneth Cameron acted as Chairman and the speakers included Stewart Smith, A. A. McLeod, A. Palermo, J. Spencer Pitt (Coloured), Richard Taylor and a Mrs. I. Siegel; the general topic of the speeches being the Italian-Etheopian controversy.

Stewart Smith was very outspoken in his condemnation of the Canadian Government for supporting Great Britain in the last war. He charged that "Great Britain's imperialists will not fight for the protection of Etheopia but will, in the interests of the Capitalists, for the Mediterranean and African colonies"; "Why should a country over 3,000 miles away run this country and why should Canada support a war of any kind that is not in this country", he asked.

A. A. McLeod appealed for funds pointing out that eighty per cent of the Canadian people were against war.

The collection netted approximately \$30.

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The Communists have recently succeeded in forming a Steel and Metal Workers Union in the General Steel Wares Limited plant at Toronto, Ont.

[§<#] On 3rd September Annie Buller addressed a group of 39 men urging them to organize and complete their union. A new mimeographed shop paper entitled "General Steel Worker" has been noticed circulating among the steel workers in Toronto.

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IV. QUEBEC

7. F.S.U. in Montreal Meet in Y.M.C.A. Hall

[✂#] Louis Kon, since his release from Bordeaux Jail where he served a short sentence for operating a hall without a permit, has been busy organizing delegations to the Prisoners Welfare Board in connection with the work of the Friends of the Soviet Union.

On 5th September he addressed a meeting of the F.S.U. at the East-End Branch of the Young Men's Christian Association, 1821 Mount Royal Ave. E., Montreal, Que., attended by approximately 60 people, all of whom were French Canadians. Speaking in French he dealt with the refusal of the City authorities to let the F.S.U. hold meetings in the French district. He contended that it was the object of the City authorities to prevent the French Canadian workers from learning the truth about Soviet Russia. He stated that the F.S.U. was not a Communist organization, that it only endeavours to have the Canadian Government renew diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union.

Following his speech a new Publicity Committee was elected as follows:--

|                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| President       | Giguere      |
| Vice Presidents | Roy and Page |
| Secretary       | Chausse      |

This meeting, it may be said, was held without the necessary permission of the Chief of Police.

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IV. THE MARITIME PROVINCES

8. C.P. in Cape Breton Holds Picnic

[✂#] A picnic of miners and steel workers sponsored by the Communist Party of Cape Breton on Labour Day, 2nd September, at South Bar was attended by approximately 400 people including a large number of children. Among the leaders present were J. B. McLachlan, Communist candidate for Cape Breton, South, in the Federal election, Jim Maddin, Jack Fortune and Mrs. Whitefield of Glace Bay, William Ross of Halifax, and Forman Waye, M. A. McKenzie, Dan McKay, George McEachern and Jack Johnston of Sydney.

J. B. McLachlan was the principal speaker. He viciously condemned the Conservative and Liberal Parties and denouncing same as parties of the Capitalist class.

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