

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 18th September, 1935.

SECRET

NO. 773

WEEKLY SUMMARY

REPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS

AND AGITATORS IN CANADA

Report

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL1. Situation on Vancouver's Waterfront

[3<#] The protracted strike on Vancouver's waterfront which is now in the fourth month, remains unchanged. The appointment of Justice H. H. Davis as Commissioner to investigate the dispute is looked upon as a hopeful sign by the more moderate element of the strikers. The leaders of the strike, the two most militant, Emery of the longshoremen and Maskell of the seamen, now appear to be most sincere in their efforts to find a way of orderly retreat or settlement. It is the considered opinion of some observers that many of the rank and file are open to accept the findings and decision of the forthcoming investigation commission, but that they will be unduly influenced by the individuals who realize that their working days are over on the docks is practically certain.

Financial support to the strikers continues to come from various places. The International of Seamen and Harbour Workers of France have sent in addition to 3,000 francs forwarded some weeks ago, another 1,500 francs.

2. International Youth Day in Canada(A) At Toronto, Ont.

[3<#] A concert meeting at the Massey Hall on 6th September marked this year's International Youth Day celebration staged by the Communists in Toronto, Ont.; there were approximately 1,500 people present and the program consisted of musical selections, dances and addresses delivered by Stewart Smith and Spencer Pitt.

Spencer Pitt, a Negro lawyer of Toronto, spoke both as a Canadian and as one whose mother country is in Africa. "I feel proud", he said, "that Negro youth all over the world in 1935 can look back to Africa and find someone strong enough to say 'No' to Mussolini". He declared that the cause of the present war danger was not a falling out between Mussolini and Haile Selassie but the

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result of a "gentlemen's agreement" between Italy, France and Britain to divide the African Kingdom. His talk was confined to the Etheopian situation.

Stewart Smith also dealt with the war danger attributing same to the ambitions of Imperialism. "Cut throat Mussolini", he shouted, "is again creating a bloody world war that will drive every youth of every country

to slaughter each other". He said that there was only one country in the world today seeking honest peace and that was the Soviet Union.

(B) In Winnipeg, Man.

[§<#] At Winnipeg, Man., about 250 people, mostly members of the Young Communist League, attended a concert in the Civic Auditorium on the night of 6th September to commemorate International Youth Day. A Coloured preacher, the Reverend C. Hale McDaniels, addressed the audience on the present day situation in Africa. He condemned the aggressive policy of Mussolini, pointing out what outrageous banditry it would be to attack the peaceful Etheopians.

Bill Ross reviewed the consequences of the last war and urged the audience to organize their forces to stop another war. "The working class should know whose battle to fight and how to fight", he said, and pointed to the Soviet Union as an example. He urged the changing of Imperialist war into Civil war.

The meeting was poorly attended, partly due to the rainy weather. At the conclusion the Chairman announced a deficit of \$11.

(C) At Sudbury, Ont.

[§<#] At Sudbury, Ont., the Young Communist League celebrated International Youth Day at a meeting held on 6th September. Speeches were delivered by [§<deletion: 2 words] District Organizer of the Y.C.L., a young French Canadian named [§<deletion: 2 words] also a member of the Y.C.L., and [§<deletion: 2 words] The theme of the speeches was

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the imminent danger of war and Fascism.

3. Arthur Evans on Tour

(A) At Calgary, Alta.

[§<#] Arthur Evans addressed a mass meeting held under the auspices of the Workers Unity League in the Variety Theatre, at Calgary, Alta., on the evening of 8th September. He gave his usual version of the causes leading up to the strike of the British Columbia relief camp workers, claiming that the strike had been called as a result of intolerable conditions in the camps. He said that from the time the relief camp strikers left Vancouver until their

arrival in Regina no trouble was experienced. He asserted that the delegation appointed by the strikers that proceeded to Ottawa to interview the Government had been tricked; and boasted, generally, about what he said to the Government at Ottawa during the interview.

Relating the Regina Dominion Day riots he stated that the defence had an affidavit in their possession signed by a Regina man who saw the Royal Canadian Mounted Police hit Detective Millar over the head with a club; further that this witness also saw Millar on the ground with the police standing around him. Evans asserted that he and Black were the only strikers on the platform at the meeting in the Market Square on the evening of 1st July and that the majority of the audience consisted of workers and citizens of Regina. He then went on to describe the identification parade held a few days after the riots. Speaking of the charges laid against the rioters and the leaders of the strike he said that the whole thing was a frame-up on purpose to outlaw the Relief Camp Workers Union and the Workers Unity League.--

At the conclusion of his speech he made an appeal for funds. It was stated that 16 \$1 bills were donated. The amount of silver collected, however, was not announced.

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(B) At Regina, Sask.

[3<#] Despite a warning handed to him by Judge J. W. Hannon and the Crown Prosecutor at Regina that he could be cited for contempt of court if he continues speaking in public, Arthur Evans addressed a public meeting in the City Hall at Regina on the night of 12th September, in the course of which he told the audience that he cannot be intimidated. "No Judge or lawyer or courts or anyone else is going to intimidate me and stop me from telling the truth about what happened on Market Square", he said.

Evans outlined the on-to-Ottawa trek, calling the Dominion Day riots a "vicious frame-up" and a "savage premeditated attack on the strikers". He charged that the police could have arrested himself and George Black before the meeting took place in the Market Square. Evans was introduced to the audience as the District Organizer of the Workers Unity League in British Columbia.

The Reverend Sam East also spoke, eulogizing the on-to-Ottawa marchers, particularly their leaders and generally defended their actions.

4. Disturbance at Regina, Sask.

[3<#] A group of transients from the East, 32 strong, invaded Regina, Sask., on the night of 10th September and on the following day went about the city sticking up posters announcing a meeting on the night of the 12th in the City Hall to be addressed by Arthur Evans and the Reverend Sam East. Sixteen of these men were arrested by the City Police for vagrancy and lodged in City Police cells. Shortly after their confinement the group started shouting, shaking the iron doors of the cells and singing the relief marchers' songs, "We'll Hang R. B. Bennett To A Sour Apple Tree", and "Hold The Fort For We Are Coming". The disturbance was kept up from the time of their arrest during the afternoon until 9.00 o'clock that night and was resumed at 7.00 o'clock in the morning. They were given sentences ranging from 21 days to 60 days hard labour.

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5. Tim Buck & Oscar Morgan in Southern Alberta

(A) At Coalhurst

[3<#] Tim Buck addressed a public meeting in the Community Club Hall in Coalhurst, Alta., on 5th September. Oscar Morgan, who is accompanying Buck on his tour, also spoke, and the meeting was attended by approximately 125 persons, most of whom were miners of foreign extraction.

Tim Buck spoke on "Communism and Its Growth". He related his imprisonment in Kingston Penitentiary, stating that while he was incarcerated the Communist Party had grown about one hundred per cent throughout Canada. He was very emphatic in his condemnation of the Capitalist system and urged the audience to join the C.P. which, he claimed, had the only program for the working class. He condemned the Social Credit System claiming that it was of absolutely no use to the workers.

Oscar Morgan spoke on "Youth and War". He stressed the imminent danger of war in Europe and claimed that it was being prepared by the Capitalist class. He also spoke of the Regina Dominion Day riots blaming, generally, the police for all that occurred. He appealed to all the young workers between the years of 18 and 23 to join the Young Communist League as the only way to fight the Capitalist class in Canada. He urged the establishment of a Soviet system in this country.

At the conclusion of the speeches an appeal for funds was made which netted the sum of \$17.

(B) At Lethbridge, Alta.

[3<#] Tim Buck was the chief speaker at a meeting of the Young Communist League at Lethbridge on 4th September. Joseph Boker presided and a short speech was also given by Oscar Morgan, Business Manger of The Young Worker, who is touring the country at the present time in the interest of that paper.

Tim Buck spoke at great length on "Fascism in Canada"

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giving a summary of its development during the last few years. He cited as one of the symptoms of Fascism the Dominion Day riots at Regina.

Morgan's address dealt chiefly with the Italian-Etheopian affair. He concluded by appealing to all young people to join the Young Communist League and to fight against going to war.

There were approximately 300 people present, and the collection netted a sum of \$40.

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[3<deletion: missing]

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election campaign is to build strong mass organizations and a strong C.P. He also urged that special attention be paid to the Youth Movement.

J. Lakeman, in summing up the reports of the attending delegates, pointed out that the Communist vote in the Provincial election showed considerable strength, that it was larger than the total vote cast for labour.

Tim Buck spoke briefly on the necessity of gaining Communist seats in the Federal House but pointed out that the election campaigns must be utilized to strengthen the C.P. and its mass organizations.

[#45-3-H4] At a meeting of Unit 3, Section "C" of the Communist Party in Edmonton, Alta., on 5th September, attended by 10 members, it was suggested that a delegation of the Canadian Labour Defence League should interview the Attorney General of the Province requesting the postponement of the trials of the arrested rioters at Regina. It was further suggested that the matter be taken up with S.A.G. Barnes, M.L.A., with a view to having the Social Credit members of Parliament endorse the request.

II. SASKATCHEWAN

7. Relief Camp Strike Leaders Speak at Bienfait

[3<#] Matt Shaw, one of the arrested leaders of the on-to-Ottawa marchers facing trial at Regina, and W. Hammill, Secretary of the Publicity Committee of the Citizens' Defence league at Regina, addressed a meeting held on a vacant lot at Bienfait, Sask., on 5th September. The Chairman of the meeting was a local farmer named Gillis, and the attendance numbered approximately 100 persons.

Hammill told the audience of the numerous meetings held throughout the province in the interest of the arrested leaders and mentioned several names of leading citizens of Regina who have pledged their support to the cause.

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Matt Shaw was the chief speaker. He dealt extensively with the causes underlying the strike of the British Columbia relief camp workers and the subsequent march on-to-Ottawa. He attacked the Dominion Government, the Provincial Government and attributed the Regina Dominion Day riots to the action of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. He concluded with a plea for funds and promised the audience that the Reverend Sam East, Cosgrove or Arthur Evans would personally appear in Bienfait in the near future to address them.

At the conclusion of the meeting a group of local radicals and Communists held a conference with Matt Shaw and William Hammill discussing organizational matters with a view to enlisting public sympathy for the relief camp workers' movement.

III. MANITOBA

8. U.L.F.T.A. Concentrates on Election Campaign in Selkirk Riding

[3<#] The whole energy of the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association in Winnipeg (Man.) and District is being concentrated on the election campaign in the Selkirk constituency and in an effort to have J. Navizowsky, C.P. candidate, elected. Any member who is at all capable of expressing himself is being utilized for propoganda purposes. The meetings held throughout the constituency are numerous, and many Ukrainian Communists feel quite confident of electing Nowakowsky.

IV. ONTARIO9. Meeting of F.S.U. in Hamilton

[#] [deletion: 1/4 line] addressed a small meeting of the Friends of the Soviet Union at Hamilton, Ont., in the Royal Temple Hall on 9th September, indulging in a general eulogy of the U.S.S.R. and depicting her as an upholder of peace throughout the world. He stressed the need for diplomatic and trade relationship between

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Canada and the Soviet Union and pointed out that a questionnaire is being sent to all candidates in the Federal election on the question of resuming diplomatic relationship with the U.S.S.R.

V. QUEBEC10. Meeting of District Council of C.L.D.L. in Montreal.

[#] The District Central Council of the Canadian Labour Defence League in Montreal, Que., held a meeting on 7th September with eight members in attendance. The first item discussed was the Amos protest mass meeting held at the Prince Arthur Hall on the evening of the 5th. It was disclosed that this meeting was a total loss, both organizationally and financially, as it was attended by only about 350 people and that the collection netted \$17.60. The total expenditure amounted to \$35.00, it was pointed out.

Regarding the French Section it was reported that it is opening a new branch which will meet once a week in the Lithuanian Hall on Frontenac Street. In this connection it was decided that [deletion: 3/4 line] and that he be allowed \$2.00 per week for expenses.

A letter from the National Office of the C.L.D.L. stated that [deletion: 2 words] would be touring Eastern Canada and that, if possible, to have him billed in Montreal during the latter part of September. After a short discussion it was agreed that the league in Montreal cannot afford a large mass meeting at the present time and that the matter of arranging a meeting for [deletion: 1 word] be taken up with the C.P. Organizer, [deletion: 1 word]

Another item discussed was the forthcoming local C.L.D.L. Convention. It was decided to hold it on Sunday afternoon, 29th September, at the C.L.D.L. Hall, 3410 St. Famille St., Montreal.

A financial statement submitted, covering the month of August, showed a total deficit of \$575.66 in "Accounts Payable".

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Approximately 100 people attended a farewell demonstration at Moreau Station, Montreal, Que., on 6th September, when the five arrested in Montreal last May on charges of "sedition" left for Amos to stand trial. A [3<#] large number of Constables were on duty but there was no singing of revolutionary songs.
