

## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 9th October, 1935.

SECRETNO. 776WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATORS IN CANADAReport

Stewart Smith, National Election Campaign Manager of the Communist Party, has been sent to Port Arthur to direct the campaign in the Thunder Bay Constituency, where every effort is being made to elect A. E. Smith.

The strike of employes of the Page Hersey Tubes Limited at Crowland, Ont., was settled on 7th October; the company agreeing to increase the basic rate from 30 cents to 35 cents per hour.

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

[X<#] The Vancouver (B.C.) longshore situation remains unsettled. The inquiry conducted by Justice H. H. Davis of the Supreme Court into the dispute continues with the strikers marking time. The steamers "West Mahwah" and "Golden State", held in port since 20th July when their American crews walked off in sympathy with the strikers, were released on 30th September. The only boat remaining in port which has been tied

up by the strike is the Union Steamship Company of New Zealand "Wairuna". Her crew struck a short while ago refusing to sail unless the ship is fully manned.

A Tag Day held on 30th September netted \$3,700 for the immediate relief of the striking longshoremen's dependents. Members of the Strike Committee expressed themselves as well satisfied with the result of this Tag Day, especially in view of the fact that they had only 24 hours in which to organize their forces of collectors.

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## 2. Tim Buck in Port Arthur, Ont.

[3<#] The Communist Party, Fort William District, held a rather enthusiastic election rally in the skating rink, Port Arthur on 25th September. It was attended by approximately 3,000 people; Tim Buck being the principal speaker. Garfield Boulter acted as Chairman and revolutionary greetings to Tim Buck were presented by B. Magnusson, Lumber Workers Industrial Union, Joe Derry, Young Communist League, Martin Parnega, C.P. of Canada, Alfred Batters, Independent Labour Party, H. Bryan, Farmers Unity League, and Stewart Smith, the Federal Campaign Manager of the C.P. of C.

Stewart Smith, in presenting his greetings appealed at some length to the members of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation to support the Communist candidate for the reason

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that the Communist are struggling for the same class of people as represented by that organization.

Tim Buck was introduced as the General Secretary of the C.P. of C. He arose to speak amid cheers followed by the singing of the "International". He appealed for a United Front of all workers and working class organizations, particularly the C.P. and the C.C.F. He outlined the aims and objects of Communism, saying that the Communists are striving to take over the means of production and using same for the exclusive benefit of the working class. "The working class cannot wait any longer", he said, "they must act now before Fascism is established and the world plunged into a war that will destroy civilization". He also explained the policy the Communists would adopt if elected to Parliament. Buck suggested that by holding mass meetings, sending telegrams to Members of Parliament and by going to Ottawa in thousands, sufficient pressure may be brought to bear to force the Government to grant the demands of the working class. He further stated that in the case of war the C.P. would see to it that the

Canadian workers would not go to some other country and fight for someone else. "We will stay at home and have a war of our own, fighting for ourselves and the rights of the working class", he said.

A conspicuous feature of the meeting was the display of banners bearing such inscriptions as "Towards Soviet Canada", "For The United Front Of The C.P. And The C.C.F." The collection taken at this meeting netted approximately \$400.

Following this meeting the Independent Labour Party advised the general public through the Press that the I.L.P. did not send greetings to Tim Buck and that Batters attended the meeting on his own initiative.

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### 3. Annie Buller in Cape Breton, N.S.

[3<#] Annie Buller, Workers Unity League Organizer, has been sent to Cape Breton to lead the Communist election campaign waged on behalf of J. B. McLachlan, Federal candidate for Cape Breton South.

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### 4. Arthur Evans on Tour

#### (A) In Toronto

[3<#] Arthur Evans was the main speaker at a mass meeting in the Massey Hall, Toronto, Ont., on 29th September. The meeting was held under the auspices of the newly formed "Toronto Citizens Committee". About 2,000 persons attended and A. A. McLeod occupied the chair. Dr. Salem Bland also addressed the meeting, expressing high regard for Evans and his work.

Arthur Evans was introduced by the Chairman as one of the most "courageous working class leaders of today who had been in jail several times for organizing strikes". Applause and cheers greeted Evans when he rose to speak. He spoke for about two hours relating the trek on-to-Ottawa by the Western relief camp workers and the happenings at Regina. He said that the public did not know half of what happened when the delegation of the trekkers interviewed the Dominion government at Ottawa. He charged that during their stay in the Capital the members of the delegation were brow beaten and intimidated by the police. He blamed the Right Honourable R.B. Bennett for the Regina riot and charged that "he had caused the blood bath in order to back up the statements made to the delegation in his office at Ottawa". Speaking of the Regina riot he asserted that he (Evans) saw an R.C.M.P. Constable club Detective Millar to death. In support of his statement he read an affidavit said to have been made by

one Robert Lundie of Vancouver who claims to have had a complete view of the whole disturbance and witnessed the killing of Detective Millar by a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

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Evans concluded his speech by stating that he was proud to be a member of the Communist Party. A vigorous appeal for funds was made but the amount realized was not announced.

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(B) In Timmins

[3<#] On 22nd September Arthur Evans addressed approximately 500 people in the Empire Theatre, Timmins, Ont. He was introduced by Carl Palmgren, Chairman of the meeting. Speaking of the Regina riot he said that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police were the main cause of the riot and that it was started in order to gather sufficient evidence to enable the Crown to prosecute the leaders of the trek. He further stated that he was an eye witness to the killing of Detective Millar, that he saw several of the R.C.M.P. jump on Millar with axe handles in their hands who proceeded to shower blows upon his head.

Approximately \$125 was collected at this meeting.

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(C) In Hamilton

[3<#] Approximately 300 people attended a meeting arranged for Arthur Evans at the Knights of Pythias Hall, Hamilton, Ont., on the night of 26th September. Arthur Evans dealt with the history of the on-to-Ottawa trek and the subsequent arrest of the leaders on various charges. The sum of \$40 was collected for the defence of these leaders.

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(D) In Guelph

[3<#] Addressing an audience in the City Hall Auditorium at Guelph, Ont., on 27th September Arthur Evans urged his hearers to support the C.C.F. candidate for South Wellington. He scathingly denounced the Right Honourable R. B. Bennett whom he likened to Adolph Hitler. He bluntly stated that the murder of Detective Millar in the Regina Market Square riot was

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accomplished by members of the R.C.M.P. and not by the strikers. At the conclusion of his address he appealed for financial assistance to help the cause of the relief camp strike leaders facing trial at Regina.

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#### 5. Fourth Annual Convention of the Polish Labour Farmer Temple Association

[X#] The Polish Labour Farmer Temple Association held its Fourth Annual Convention at Winnipeg, Man., from 26th to 31st September. There were 25 delegates in attendance representing 10 branches and the Central Executive Board. Branches represented were Hamilton, Windsor, St. Catharines, Fort William, Brandon, Lethbridge, Edmonton, Toronto, Montreal and Winnipeg.

Reports were given by the Political, Organizational and Press Committees, the main discussion centering around the question of the United Front.

The convention resolved to call upon Polish immigrants to fight against the "class enemy" on the streets, in the factories, in the city and on the farm. The convention further resolved to strengthen the library and the schools maintained by the association. It was further agreed to enlarge the official organ -- Glos Pracy -- but that definite steps be held in abeyance until sufficient funds are collected to ensure its extension.

W. Dutkiewicz, Editor of Glos Pracy, and one of the recognized leaders of the association, presented the report on the international situation. It was resolved to fully support and defend the USSR.

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#### 6. Communist Representative at Trades and Labour Congress

[X#] [Xdeletion: 2 words] on his return to Montreal, Que., from Halifax, N.S., where he attended the recent Trades and Labour Congress as a delegate from his union, stated to an intimate that the Communist Party had a fair representation at the congress and that fraction meetings were held each evening to prepare a line of action for the following day. [Xdeletion: 1 word] said that he was responsible for the introduction of the resolution demanding the repeal of Section 98 of the Criminal Code.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCESI. BRITISH COLUMBIA7. "The Young Ship And Dockers"

[X#] A new organization -- the Young Ship and Dockers -- has come into being in Vancouver under the aegis of the Young Communist League into which the Communists propose to draw the sons and daughters of the Waterfront Workers of Vancouver. It held its first meeting on 24th September with an attendance of 45, including six Japanese. A resolution was passed "against war and Fascism" couched in the usual terms which is to be forwarded to the Premier at Ottawa, the Minister of National Defence and the Premier of British Columbia.

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[X#] [Xdeletion: 2 words] of the Vancouver Branch of the Canadian Labour Defence League, has been chosen to represent the B.C. District of the league at the forthcoming National Convention in Toronto, Ont. After his return from the convention he is to be sent on a tour in place [Xdeletion: 2 words] whose recruiting campaign in the interior of British Columbia is described as a decided failure.

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[X#] The District Council of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation in New Westminster, B.C., is reported to have endorsed the minimum election program of the Communists. As a result the Communist Election Committee announced that the Communists will support the C.C.F. candidate -- Edwin Baker -- in that constituency.

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[X#] Professor King Gordon, C.C.F. candidate in the Victoria (B.C.) Federal Riding, is reported to be receiving the full support of the Communists in that constituency. During a recent interview with a delegation of the Communist Party he is said to have remarked that the official policy of the C.C.F.

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prevented him from joining the United Front officially. He, however, promised to sponsor certain demands put forth by the Communists including repeal of Section 98, non-contributory unemployment insurance and trade relations with the U.S.S.R.

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[3<#] The following committee has been appointed to supervise the election campaign for Malcolm Bruce in the Vancouver East constituency:--

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[3<#] A recent audit of the books of the Fishermen's and Cannery Workers Industrial Union in B.C. revealed a deficit of approximately \$700. It is intimated that [3<deletion: 1/4 line] is not without reproach in handling the affairs of this union.

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[3<#] The Food Workers Industrial Union at Vancouver, an affiliate of the Workers Unity League, is said to have made some organizational gains recently, notably in Swifts Packing Plant at New Westminster and in the Vancouver 4X Bakeries.

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## II. ALBERTA

### 6. Edmonton Communists Lack Funds.

[3<#] The Communists in Edmonton are experiencing considerable difficulty in raising the necessary funds for the election. At a meeting of C.P. Section Organizers held on 28th September it was decided to concentrate all efforts on the problem of securing sufficient funds to carry on with the campaign. At this meeting it was also decided that from 1st to 7th October Communist election literature would be distributed in the East Edmonton Riding and also to the unemployed of Edmonton generally;

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further, that 3rd October be set aside for a special drive for election funds.

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[3<#] A meeting held under the auspices of the Edmonton Communist Election Committee in the Gem Theatre on 29th September was attended by only about 120 people. A. E. Bolton acted as Chairman; the speaker being O. C. Doolan, Communist candidate in the Edmonton East constituency.

Doolan contended that Capitalist interests control the Government of Canada and all means of public expression. He charged that when the workers attempt to express themselves against Capitalist domination the State uses its Military and Police Forces to crush the workers into subjection and arrest the leaders. He cited the arrest of the leaders of the on-to-Ottawa



trek as an example. He also attacked the reformist leaders saying that they always deceive the workers and suggested that the workers refuse to follow their lead. In conclusion Doolan pledged himself to follow the policies of the C.P. and, if elected, would fight for the working class of Canada and against "Capitalistic demagogism and intrigue".

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### III. SASKATCHEWAN

#### 9. Matt Shaw & William Hammill Tour Province

[2<#] Matt Shaw and William Hammell addressed a public meeting in Robsart, Sask., on 24th September. The meeting was attended by approximately 80 persons with Pete Svund acting as Chairman.

Matt Shaw, the principal speaker, related the strike of the B.C. relief camp workers, the happenings in Vancouver and the subsequent march on-to-Ottawa. He boasted of the amount of money collected as a result of the Tag Days held in Vancouver and other places. Speaking of the Regina riot he placed the entire responsibility on the Federal Government

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and the police, stating that the latter came to the Market Square prepared for a slaughter, "all rummed up or doped". He alleged that the strikers had done all in their power to avert trouble and that all the damage had been done by the police. He further alleged that the police had gone up and down the streets with baseball bats breaking windows and knocking over women with baby carriages.

Both Shaw and Hammell urged the formation of a Defence Committee in the Robsart District and suggested that it be formed at the close of the meeting. There being no response the question of forming such a committee was left in abeyance. The sum of \$17 was collected at this meeting.

On 25th September Matt Shaw delivered a similar address at a meeting in Loomis, Sask.; William Hammell also spoke and Chester Wickland acted as Chairman. There were 68 persons in attendance and the collection netted \$12.05.

On 26th September approximately 70 people listened to Matt Shaw and William Hammell expound the cause of the relief camp strikers at a meeting in Eastend, Sask. Their speeches were identical with those given on previous occasions. This meeting was held under the auspices of the Farmers Unity League, presided over by one Gene Tennant, a farmer of the Eastend District. The sum of \$10 was realized at this meeting.

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IV. MANITOBA10. Cloak Makers Strike at Winnipeg

[X#] The long threatened strike of the cloak makers at Winnipeg materialized on 3rd October under the leadership of the newly organized Garment Workers Union. H. Langer, General Organizer, and S. Herbst, Local Organizer of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union, were largely instrumental in bringing this strike about. When on the morning of the 3rd workers arrived at the doors of the respective shops they were

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warned that a strike was in progress and requested to attend a meeting at the James Street Labour Temple. The workers responded one hundred per cent and the strike lasted only half a day, the employers granting all demands including a fifteen per cent raise in wages.

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V. QUEBEC11. [Xdeletion: 2 words] Resumes His Place in C.L.D.L.

[X#] [Xdeletion: 1 line] has again been installed as District Organizer of the Canadian Labour Defence League in Montreal.

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[X#] The Montreal District of the Canadian Labour Defence League held a convention on 29th September with 48 delegates representing 33 organizations in attendance. With the exception of the [Xdeletion: 1/2 line] the organizations represented were all "Left" Wing affiliations.

J. S. Wallace presented the main report. He stated that during the past year the league in Montreal had made considerable progress, especially in the French-speaking field. He suggested that a further effort be made with a view to winning over the French and Anglo-Saxon workers. He urged the members to be more lenient towards the people who do not understand the movement and remarked that the C.L.D.L. members were in the habit of using too many revolutionary phrases with the result that the league has been accused of being a second C.P.

Charles Marriott of Toronto, representing the National Committee, addressed the convention reporting on the activities of the league nationally. He stated that the "terror" in Canada is becoming more pronounced and that the number of arrests have increased by over two hundred per cent during the past year. This, he said, represents a direct attack by the authorities in an attempt to smash the league. He admitted

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that in this attack the authorities were meeting with some success and that the various sections of the league, finding themselves overburdened with arrests, are not able to cope with the situation. These arrests, he asserted, have been a severe drain on the league's finances. He further reported that the 1933 National Convention of the league recorded the highest point in membership but that since thousands of members had dropped out.

The convention elected 13 delegates who will attend the forthcoming National Convention in Toronto.

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[§#] The Secretariat of the Canadian Labour Defence League in Montreal held a meeting on 27th September at the office of the league, 3410 St. Famille St., attended by [§deletion: 1 line] One of the items discussed was the recent conviction of the five Amos prisoners who were sentenced to four and three months' imprisonment. It was decided not to appeal these cases but to organize protests in an attempt to secure better conditions for the men while they are in jail.

In connection with [§deletion: 2 words] forthcoming visit to Montreal it was reported that he would be the feature speaker at the regular meeting of the Saturday Night Club on the evening of 5th October. On 6th October he is to be the feature speaker at the F. X. Poirier election meeting in the Maisonneuve Market Hall.

The following members were selected to form the new District Central Council for the ensuing year: [§deletion: 3 lines] The following were selected for the Secretariat: [§deletion: 1 1/4 lines]

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## VI. THE MARITIME PROVINCES

### 12. Roscoe Fillmore in Cape Breton

[§#] Roscoe Fillmore, who is now farming in the Annapolis Valley, N.S., has arrived at Glace Bay, Cape Breton, to assist in the Federal election campaign staged in the interest of the Communist candidate, J. B. MacLachlan.

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[§#] Approximately 250 people attended a meeting of the Communist Election Committee in the Strand Theatre, Sydney, N.S., on 22nd September. M. A. McKenzie occupied the chair and the speakers were Bob Stewart, Secretary-Treasurer, of the Amalgamated Mine Workers of Nova Scotia,

Roscoe Fillmore and J. B. McLachlan. In addition to ridiculing what they termed "professional politicians" the speakers warned the audience to beware of Fascism and another war. They declared that the C.P. of Canada does not pretend to be able to help the masses to any appreciable extent if its candidates are elected to Parliament but will use them for further organizing the masses for the overthrow of Capitalism. Soviet Russia and the conditions obtaining there were cited as an example of what the working class may accomplish if unified and determined to fight for its rights.

Annie Buller was advertised to speak at this meeting but her arrival in Cape Breton is said to have been delayed.

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[3<#] Approximately 325 people attended a mass meeting of the C.P. in Rukasins Hall, Glace Bay, on the evening of 29th Sept. The meeting was held on behalf of J. B. MacLachlan, Communist candidate in the Cape Breton South constituency. James Madden occupied the chair, and the speakers were Roscoe Fillmore, J.B. MacLachlan and Annie Buller. The meeting is said to have been one of the most enthusiastic gatherings held by the Communists in that city recently.

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