

## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 16th October, 1935.

SECRET

NO. 777

WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATORS IN CANADAReport

The strike situation on Vancouver's waterfront remains unchanged. The probe conducted by Justice Davis into the waterfront dispute continues with the strikers marking time.

Incomplete election returns as published by the Canadian Press on 15th October show a total of over 26,000 votes cast for the official Communist candidates in the 13 ridings.

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## APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

1. Eleventh National Convention of FinnishOrganization of Canada

The Finnish Organization of Canada held its Eleventh National Convention at Toronto, Ont., from 28th September to 4th October with 48 delegates [deletion: 1 word] in attendance, including six from the newly formed Youth Section.

K. Salminen, Chairman of the Executive Committee greeted the delegates and, in his opening speech, dwelt upon the agenda before the convention. A presidium of nine was elected and after selecting the various committees the following speakers (reporters) were appointed:--

A. T. Hill Chief	Editor of <u>Yapaus</u>
G. Sundqvist	Executive Secretary
Rantala	Vancouver, B.C.
Stenroos	Kirkland Lake, Ont.
J. W. Ahlqvist	Trout Lake, Ont.
Olga Kangas	Montreal, Que.
Latva )	
W. Eklund)	Toronto, Ont.
Matti Stenroos	Nipigon, Ont.

G. Sundqvist presented the political report. He referred to the many changes which have taken place since the last convention held three years

ago, stressing the achievements of the U.S.S.R. in its effort to build up Socialism, and the part played by the Finnish Organization of Canada in developing the productive energy of Soviet Karelia -- the Fatherland of all Finnish workers. "The Finnish Organization of Canada", he said, "made no mistake by sending over 2,000 Finns to Soviet Karelia helping to execute the socialist building program of that country." He referred to the U.S.S.R. as the property of the international proletariat, saying that it was the duty of the international proletariat to protect and defend that property. The building up of Soviet Karelia is of extreme importance, he remarked, because of its strategic position in the case of an Imperialist war against Soviet Union. "It is the wall between the latter and 'butcher' Finland", he remarked. Not all of the Finns who migrated from Canada to Soviet Karelia have remained there. About twenty per cent have returned and a few of them have become

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"tools" of the enemies of the Soviet Union. He remarked that the organization had made a mistake in allowing people to migrate concerning whom little was known as to their political affiliations.

Speaking of war Sundqvist said "We oppose wars, but not all of them; there are legitimate wars such as the class war and the wars waged by the colonial people against Imperialist domination". An Imperialist war against the U.S.S.R. is in the making, he declared. He named England as the chief factor behind this menace. He also alleged that in this respect there exists an understanding between England, Germany and Japan, and although plans were not quite ready, they are aiming to attack the Soviet Union. Referring to the League of Nations he said it was the Soviet Union and the Soviet Union alone that stands for peace. He charged that as far as Etheopia is concerned there exists an agreement between England and France to divide Etheopia. Referring to the Red Army of the Soviet Union he said that it constituted the armed forces of the international proletariat. He also dealt at great length with what he termed the development of Fascism in Canada, charging that the Reconstruction Party led by H. H. Stevens is the embodiment of that element. He urged that no stone be left unturned by the organization in its fight against Fascism. The numerical strength of the organization has been slightly decreased, he said, due principally to the fact that over 2,000 Finns, the vast majority of them members of the organization, have migrated to Soviet Karelia during the past few years.

Comrade W. Eklund reported on behalf of the Executive Committee. He reported the formation of 20 Pioneer Branches and several Youth Clubs. He also said that the organization had collected over \$12,000 in support of strikes and other economic campaigns of the workers. He also dealt with

the migration of Finns to Soviet Karelia citing same as one of the reasons for the slight decrease in membership. Despite this migration, however, the organization has not suffered greatly. Nine new branches were organized and five became extinct since the last convention.

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He strongly urged that every effort be made to strengthen the organization. He also stressed the need for the building up of the Youth Section and the creation of Pioneer Branches.

Considerable time was devoted to reports from delegates on local conditions. These reports showed that although the branches were weakened as a result of the migration to Soviet Karelia no great change in the activities has been noticeable. Some of these delegates boasted of the fact that the Finns, members of the organization, had taken an active part and in many instances the initiative in strike struggles.

J. W. Ahlqvist, representing the Central Ontario District and one of the foundation members of the organization, in summarising the discussions remarked that this convention represented the spirit of the policy advocated by the

Seventh Congress of the Communist International.

A. T. Hill, in the course of his report, stated that the policy of the organization is and must be founded upon the doctrine of Marxism and Leninism. He complained, however, that in some instances this doctrine has not been put into practise. This, he said, was especially true in regard to the application of this doctrine to the question of the United Front. He urged that a greater effort be made in that regard, and that the members of the organization participate in all class struggles. Speaking of Vapaus he said that it pursues a strict Marx-Leninist policy and that it is the collective organizer of the organization. He also maintained that during the last year a considerable improvement has been perceptible as far as the paper's make-up is concerned.

G. Sundqvist was re-elected General Secretary of the organization and the following to the Executive Committee for the ensuing term: K. Salminen, P. Pirskanen, A. Tervola, Aino Lahti, W. Eklund, E. Hofren, L. Tekkala, P. Mertanen, K. Lehto, L. Makela, E. Pirttinen, A. Troivainen.

The Convention adopted a lengthy manifesto addressed

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to the Finnish immigrants in Canada urging them to join the organization as the only party representing the Finnish working class.

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## 2. Arthur Evans in Montreal, Que.

[3<#] Arthur Evans arrived in Montreal on 5th October and was met by about 75 people at the railway station on his arrival.

Discussing the strike of the B.C. relief camp workers with an intimate of his he stated that the District Bureau of the Communist Party in Vancouver, after discussing the strike situation at a special meeting, decided to stage the march on-to-Ottawa. He added that the Bureau felt that as the strikers were beginning to show signs of discontent something had to be done to keep the interest in the strike alive. Another factor which prompted the District Bureau to make the decision was that over \$23,000 had already been collected in the City of Vancouver for the strikers which made the raising of additional funds difficult. The decision of the District Bureau was put into operation at a general meeting of relief strikers at which he, Evans, acted as Chairman. Evans stated that this meeting voted seventy-five per cent in favour of continuing the strike and in support of the suggested march on-to-Ottawa. Evans further explained that the National Bureau of the Communist Party in Toronto was originally against the march but when it realized its "political value" it immediately swung behind the proposition with all the forces available.

Discussing plans for the future Evans revealed that preparations are already being made for another national hunger march to Ottawa to take place on or about 1st April, 1936. Evans felt quite confident that the majority of the relief camp workers will participate therein. Much depends, however, on the result of the trial at Regina of the leaders of the last march on-to-Ottawa. "If no conviction is secured then the Unemployed Movement will gain momentum", he said.

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Arthur Evans was the principal speaker at a meeting of the Saturday Night Club held in the Willingdon Hall of the Central Y.M.C.A. at Montreal on Saturday night, 5th October. Approximately 225 people attended with Sam Colle occupying the chair.

Evans outlined the conditions prevailing in the Canadian National Defence Camps which gave rise to the strike and subsequent trek on-to-Ottawa. He stated that many boys between the ages of 15 and 25 were in these camps, that the conditions were very poor and that clothing and food given to the inmates were also of a very poor type. He emphasized that the Communist Party was successful in organizing camp workers and per-

sueded them to converge upon Vancouver. "After a few months of struggle", he said, "and after no agreement could be reached in Vancouver it was decided to march to Ottawa in order to place the grievances of the camp workers before Parliament. He also described the interview which the delegation had with the Government at Ottawa. In this connection he alleged that the Right Honourable R. B. Bennett displayed a very cynical and arrogant attitude during the interview. Speaking of the Regina riot he stated that about 1,200 people were present in the Market Square of whom only about 350 were striking relief camp workers when suddenly an attack was staged by the police. He repeated the statement made by him on previous occasions that he saw a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police beating Detective Millar over the head with a club. Evans accused the R.C.M.P. of deliberately killing Millar. He stated that over \$6,000 would be required for the defence of the strike leaders now facing trial at Regina and concluded by making a strong appeal for funds and moral support. The collection netted \$54.66 which was handed over to Evans.

Arthur Evans was also the main speaker at a mass meeting held on the evening of 6th October in the Maisoneuve Market Hall on behalf of F. X. Poirier, "Labour" candidate for the

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Rosemount-Maisoneuve constituency. This meeting was a failure, both financially and organizationally. Despite a lengthy and vigorous appeal for funds in the interest of the arrested relief camp strike leaders the collection netted only approximately \$19. The expenses in connection with this meeting amounted to well over \$40.

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### 3. "Der Kamf" Campaign

☞#] Der Kamf, Jewish organ of the Communist Party, in its 11th October issue, comments on the present campaign staged on behalf of this paper. It laments the fact that the results of the campaign thus far have been very poor; that only \$1,350 was raised following a rather vigorous campaign, less than fifty per cent of the \$3,000 objective. The Federal election campaign is cited as one of the reasons for the failure of this campaign. The campaign, which was to have closed on 15th October, has been extended to 1st November. Should the readers fail to attain the objective, the Kamf remarks, the idea of having the paper appear in an enlarged form would have to be abandoned. It was originally intended to enlarge the paper to six pages.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCESI. ALBERTA4. Edmonton Communists Form New Organization

As a result of a recent meeting held at the Y.M.C.A. Hall at Edmonton by the Communist Party of Canada a new organization came into being to be known as the "Mothers Council for the Protection of Youth -- Edmonton". Its stated aim is "to organize public sentiment against military service and war". The organization is headed by [deletion: 2 words] President, [deletion: 2 words] Vice-President, and [deletion: 2 words] Secretary-Treasurer.

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II. SASKATCHEWAN5. William Hammell and J. C. Cosgrove Speak at Swift Current

[deletion: 2 words] William Hammell and J. C. Cosgrove were the principal speakers at a meeting in the Lyric Theatre, Swift Current, on 29th September. There were approximately 300 people present and the speakers were introduced by one named Schofield, a local man, who explained the purpose of the meeting.

William Hammell, the first speaker dealt with the Regina Dominion Day riot. He endeavoured to show that the police were entirely responsible for the riot; he asked the audience to come to the aid of the strikers who are facing trial at Regina.

J. Cosgrove dealt with the history of the B.C. relief camp workers' strike, the march on-to-Ottawa and subsequent happenings in Regina. Referring to the riot in the Hudson's Bay store at Vancouver he charged that the police were responsible for what happened there.

A resolution demanding the immediate release of the prisoners held in Regina Gaol and the repeal of Section 98 was passed by the meeting and forwarded to the Attorney General of Saskatchewan.

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A report from Regina states that [deletion: 1 word] has severed his connections with the Canadian Labour Defence League and the Citizens Defence Committee. [deletion: 2 words] is said to have replaced him as legal counsel and advisor of the C.L.D.L.

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## III. ONTARIO

6. L.A.W. & F. Hold Meeting in Toronto

[3<#] On 5th October Queen's Park at Toronto was the scene of an open air meeting held by the League Against War and Fascism; there being approximately 300 people present with A. A. McLeod acting as Chairman. Speeches were given by Spencer Pitt (Coloured), Mrs. E. Morton and Norman Freed, the topics of which centered around the question of the Italo-Etheopian war. The speakers urged that sanctions against Italy be enforced immediately. Spencer Pitt strongly appealed to the Coloured people to come to the assistance of Etheopia.

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## IV. QUEBEC

7. Anti-War Conference in Montreal

[3<#] The League Against War and Fascism, Montreal Section, held an emergency Anti-War Conference at the Willingdon Hall of the Central Y.M.C.A. at Montreal on the afternoon of 6th October. It was attended by 200 people, 85 of whom were delegates representing 35 organizations. Sam Colle acted as Chairman.

K. N. Cameron alias Christie, of the National Office at Toronto, attended and gave a short speech on the danger of war urging that sanctions against Italy be endorsed.

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The conference decided to call an anti-war meeting in the Forum as soon as possible, the delegates pledging their financial and moral support towards it. It was further decided to call a more representative conference on 11th November.

This conference marks the greatest achievement of the League Against War and Fascism in the City of Montreal. Among the bodies represented were a number of church organizations, six railway unions, three unions of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers and a number of Negro associations. These organizations have now definitely joined the movement.

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[3<#] Montreal University Students made another attempt to wreck the Communist Election Committee Room, 202 St. Catherine Street, East, on the night of 11th October. The students, a few hundred strong, after attending a Liberal election meeting at the Mount Royal Arena paraded down St. Lawrence Boulevard and on their way to the Communist Committee Room

tore down all Fred Rose's election posters in sight, breaking a store window containing one of those posters. On arrival at the Communist Committee Room a squad of about 50 City Police prevented the students from doing any damage to the Committee Room proper. The students paraded in front of the premises, booing the Communists and also the police for protecting them.

The damage caused to the Communist Election Committee Room by the students on 5th October is said to amount to approximately \$200.

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