

## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 23rd October, 1935.

SECRETNO. 778WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATORS IN CANADAReport

The National Convention of the Canadian Labour Defence League opened at Toronto, Ont., on 19th October with representatives from all parts of Canada in attendance.

William Stokes, foundation member of the Communist Party of Canada and leader of its forces in Regina, Sask., dropped dead on the street after having completed an address at the open Forum held at Community Center on 13th October.

Max Farber, prominent Toronto Communist sentenced in November last to two years in Kingston Penitentiary for his activities in connection with the Tilley-Williams shoe strike in New Toronto, was released on ticket-of-leave on 18th October.

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#### APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

##### 1. Communist Vote Shows Strength

Latest returns on the general election give the Communist vote in the 13 constituencies as follows:--

	J. B. McLachlan, Cape Breton South, (N.S.)	5,160
[3<#]	Fred Rose, Montreal (Que.) Cartier	3,378
	Norman Freed, Toronto (Ont.) Trinity	1,484
	J. B. Salsberg, Toronto (Ont.) Spadina	3,429
	Sam Scarlett, Toronto, (Ont.) Rosedale	754
	Tom Ewen, Cochrane (Ont.) x	842
	A. T. Hill, Nipissing (Ont.) x	693
	Tim Buck, Winnipeg (Man.) North	7,418
	M. Popovich, Vegreville (Alta.) x	1,849
	John Navizowski, Selkirk (Man.) x	1,157
	O. C. Doolan, Edmonton (Alta.) East	681

M. L. Bruce, Vancouver (B.C.) East	1,563
A. E. Smith, Port Arthur (Ont.) x	<u>1,047</u>
TOTAL .....	<u>29,455</u>

(x indicates incomplete)

The votes polled by the two "United Front" candidates in Montreal were:--

F. X. Poirier, Montreal (Que.) Maisonneuve	777
C. E. Perry, Montreal (Que.) St. Dennis	<u>1,012</u>
TOTAL.....	<u>1,789</u>

[~~deletion: 2 lines~~] In many constituencies the Communists supported Co-operative Commonwealth Federation and Labour candidates and in a number of ridings the Communist vote was not exercised at all.

The votes obtained in this election represent a considerable increase over the total of 7,799 obtained by the nine candidates in the 1930 general election.

It is significant to note that in the Cape Breton South riding J. B. McLachlan obtained 5,160 votes, beating his chief opponent Dan W. Morrison, President of District 26, United Mine Workers of America and Mayor Glace Bay, by one vote.

In Montreal Fred Rose, the official Communist candidate obtained 3,378 votes. Simard, the only Communist

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candidate in Montreal in the 1930 election, polled 318 votes.

A similar increase in the strength of the Communist Movement is noticeable in Toronto where the three official Communist candidates polled a total of 5,667 votes. T. C. Sims, the only Communist Party candidate running in the 1930 election (Toronto-Spadina) received 623 votes.

Tim Buck's vote in the Winnipeg North constituency also shows a tremendous increase over a total of 2,169 votes cast for Leslie Morris in the 1930 election.

Pravda, official organ of the Communist Party of the U.S.S.R., published at Moscow, commenting on the Canadian elections stresses "the growth of the Canadian Communist Party which registered 30,000 votes, compared with 6,000 in 1930".

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## 2. VIIth National Convention of R.W.F.C.

[~~deletion: 2 lines~~] The Russian Workers Farmers Clubs held their Sixth National Convention in Winnipeg, Man., from 28th September to 6th October with 33 delegates in attendance. Twenty-three of these delegates represented an

equal number of branches; Toronto, London, Montreal, Edmonton, Winnipeg, Windsor, Vancouver, Coleman, Brandon, Calgary, Michel, Kirkland Lake, The Pas, Rouyn, Sudbury, Fernie, Corbin, Thorold South, Niagara Falls, McGillvray, St. Boniface, Oshawa, Geraldton. Three District Organizers and the seven members of the Central Executive Committee made up the balance of the attendance.

Greetings were delivered by representatives of the Canadian Labour Defence League, Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association and the Communist Party of Canada.

M. Yasny, Editor of Kanadsky Gudok and a member of the Executive Committee, delivered the main (political) report lasting for five and a half hours. Tim Buck and J. Litterick, representing the C.P., also spoke praising the achievements of the organization. Tim Buck made particular reference to the

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activities of the members of the Russian Workers Farmers Clubs in the strike at Corbin, B.C. Kurban, Executive Secretary, presented the report on organization; John Stokaluk, Secretary of the Mine Workers Union of Canada, was also in attendance and delivered greetings from his union.

Yasny in his report dwelt upon the international situation, the situation in Canada, and the political activities of the organization and its achievements since the previous convention. He placed the following main tasks before the convention for its approval:--

- (1) To strengthen the connection with the whole Revolutionary Movement in Canada.
- (2) To fight against hunger, Fascism and war and to defend the U.S.S.R.
- (3) To bring new members into the organization and to organize the women and youth.
- (4) To activate the membership.
- (5) To raise the cultural-political level of all members.
- (6) To create new cadres.
- (7) To develop real proletariat discipline.

Speaking of the victory of Socialism in the U.S.S.R. and its significance to the international Revolutionary Movement he stated that the victory of Socialism in the U.S.S.R. is the victory of the proletariat of the whole world; further, that this victory proves the practical possibility of overthrowing Capitalism in all parts of the world and replacing same with a Soviet regime.

Kurban, Executive Secretary, reported the formation of eight new branches with over 500 members, thus bringing the total membership up to 2,062. He reported the existence of 17 children's schools with a total attendance of 400 but complained of the lack of qualified teachers. He

further stated that five children's branches were organized and that 80 women joined the organization since the last convention. Further that \$800 had been collected for the political prisoners in Poland and White Russia and an additional \$525 to help finance the delegates

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to Poland. The organization was also instrumental in collecting 6,000 signatures on a petition protesting against the "terror" in Poland.

The convention, following a lengthy discussion, passed a resolution accepting the report submitted by M. Yasny and the recommendations it contained. The convention recorded a general growth in the numerical strength, a widening influence in industrial centres, especially mining towns, an increased number of branches, a doubling of the women membership, the building of a substantial children's section and the raising of Kanadsky Gudok -- the official organ -- from a twice weekly to a trice weekly. The objective for the ensuing year is 1,000 new members and two new branches. The convention also decided to inaugurate a Press campaign on 15th October with a view to securing \$4,000 for a sustaining fund and 800 new subscribers.

The following will compose the Executive Committee for the ensuing term: Yasny, Okulewicz, P. Derenczuk, Korol, Scumowicz and Woytyk. The officers are:--

Secretary	- Kurban
Editors-	- (Yasny Okulewicz)
Board of Control	- Baryluk, Szybajlo, Yaworsky
District Secretary for Eastern Canada	- Kancov
District Secretary for Central Canada	- Kurban
District Secretary for Western Canada	- Levczuk (Vancouver)

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### 3. Strike Situation on Vancouver's Waterfront

[⌘#] Recent reports indicate that Australian and New Zealand unions of seamen and firemen threatened to complicate the waterfront difficulties in the Port of Vancouver. Since the strike commenced early in June the Australian ships have come and gone without trouble. The delegates of the unions on the Steamer "Niagara" and Motor Ship "Aorangi" investigated the situation when they arrived in June, July, August and September,

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donated cash support to the strikers but decided the matter, so far as they were concerned, was settled. They made no objections to moving ships loaded by the new longshoremen because the ships are manned by crews that operate under Australian articles. The stewards from the S.S. "Wairuna", M.S. "Hauraki" and S.S. "Moniwai", the latter a passenger carrier, all members of a union of their own and having been let down by their brother seamen's and firemen's unions in a dispute of a year or so ago, decided to have nothing to do with the Vancouver dispute. The "Wairuna" firemen and sailors, having a preponderance of Communists, decided to act. They refused to handle the ship if she discharged 40,000 cases of dried fruit at Vancouver. The argument lasted until the arrival of M.S. "Hauraki" and S.S. "Moniwai". The firemen and sailors of the three vessels met and decided, after some days of argument, to permit the "Wairuna" to sail. They officially informed the company (Union S.S. Company of New Zealand Limited) that they would not sail the "Moniwai" if her cargo were landed and "unfair" cargo taken aboard. Sailing hour was delayed from 11.00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. on Wednesday, 9th October. The ship took mail, freight and passengers; at 5.00 p.m. all were aboard. The firemen were one hundred per cent in favour of tying up the ship, eight or nine sailors said they would sail. A meeting was held again and the result of the voting was, by a very narrow margin, to sail.

Following her departure word was received that the "Niagara" crew had refused to sign at Sydney, N.S.W., unless assured that the ship's cargo in and out would be handled by union labour. It is felt that this change of position by the Australians has been brought about by a Vancouver striker or agitator who signed on the ship's crew list on her last voyage here. This man is thought to be A. G. Smith who has been known for his radical activities in Canada since 1922. The ship is still tied up at Sydney and it is felt that her departure may be cancelled.

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#### 4. W.B.A. Issues Financial Statement

[9<#] The financial report of the Workers Benevolent Association for the third quarter, 1935, as published in the Ukrainian Labour News of 14th October shows the following standing:--

Total income	\$ 10,244.09
" expenses	<u>8,446.31</u>
Cash balance ---	1,797.78

Brought forward from	
second quarter	98,553.50
Total balance --	<u>\$100,351.28</u>

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5. Arthur Evans on Tour(A) In Halifax, N.S.

[X#] Arthur H. Evans addressed a public meeting in the School for the Blind, Halifax, N.S., on 9th October; there being approximately 80 people present. The meeting was held under the auspices of the Canadian Labour Defence League, and brief addresses were also given by W. L. Ross and Comrade Sarman, the latter acting as Chairman. Evans' speech, generally speaking, was a repetition of the ones given on previous occasions. Giving his version of the rioting at Regina on 1st July last he accused the Royal Canadian Mounted Police of the wilful murder of Detective Miller. He again asserted that he was an eye witness to the killing.

The collection taken at this meeting netted the sum of \$15.

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(B) In Sydney, N.S.

[X#] A Communist election meeting in the Strand Theatre, Sydney, N.S., held on 13th October was attended by approximately 800 people. Roscoe Fillmore acted as Chairman and the speakers were J. B. MacLachlan, Glace Bay, Norman Lynk, New Waterford,

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N.S., Arthur Evans and Annie Buller.

MacLachlan and Norman Lynk presented a typical Communist election talk whereas Evans dealt almost exclusively with the B.C. relief camp strike and the march on to Ottawa.

Annie Buller spoke for about 20 minutes praising Evans as a true and militant leader of the working class who "has made tremendous personal sacrifices".

Arthur Evans claimed that when he was arrested and "propelled" across the Market Square at Regina on 1st July he saw an Officer of the R.C.M. Police strike Detective Miller of the City Police. In addition to accusing the R.C.M. Police of killing Miller he also charged that the R.C.M. Police broke windows and damaged property in an endeavour to turn public opinion against the strikers.

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### 6. Eighteenth Anniversary of October Revolution

[3<#] Preparations are being made by the Friends of the Soviet Union throughout Canada for the holding of the 18th anniversary celebration of the October Revolution on 7th November.

“Soviet Russia Today”, official organ of the Friends of the Soviet Union, is reported to have now a circulation of 8,000 copies. The November issue is to contain 24 or more pages of which 12,000 copies are to be issued.

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## APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

### I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

#### 7. Action Committee of Ex-Service Men Dissolved

[3<#] The Action Committee of Ex-Service Men in Vancouver, which came into being a short time ago, held a meeting in the Crystal Ball Room of the Vancouver Hotel on the evening of 10th October. The purpose of this meeting was to hear the various candidates for the House of Commons express their views regarding the seven demands sponsored by the committee on behalf of the Ex-Service Men of British Columbia. Among the speakers addressing the meeting were several candidates and representatives of various political parties.

Malcolm Bruce, Communist candidate for Vancouver East, was the only candidate present who was given an ovation by the crowd. His speech naturally was most favourable towards the seven-point demand of the Action Committee.

This meeting marks the dissolution to the Action Committee of Ex-Service Men. It is interesting to note that during the short period of its existence the Workers Ex-Service Men's League, which sponsored the formation of this committee, gained considerable prestige amongst the rank and file veterans. S. O'Neil, who is one of the most active leaders of the W.E.S.L., is said to have been the chief factor behind this movement.

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[3<#] With the elections over the Communist Party Bureau in Vancouver, B.C., will devote most of its energy to the defence of Arthur Evans et al and in the conduct of educational classes through the winter. It is anticipated that special attention will be given the lumber industry, especially to the end of organizing workers in the mills and sash and door factories. In the latter it may be noted that the American Federation of Labor has

signally failed to retain the confidence of its members and the Communist hope that this feeling can be utilized

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to build up an auxiliary to the Lumber Workers Industrial Union in these factories.

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[3<#] The Victoria Chamber of Commerce Building, Victoria, B.C., was the scene of a Communist election meeting on 10th October. R. Lealess of Vancouver was the chief speaker. Comrades White and H. Krueger of Victoria also spoke; the audience numbering approximately 125 people. Lealess bitterly denounced the leaders of the two main political parties of Canada and urged the audiences to support the candidates running on the Communist and Co-operative Commonwealth Federation tickets.

The meeting was a very quiet affair devoid of enthusiasm.

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## II. ALBERTA

### 8. Matt Shaw Visits Crow's Nest Pass

[3<#] Matt Shaw addressed a series of meetings in the Crow's Nest Pass mining area recently. On 9th October he spoke at an exceptionally well attended meeting in the Mine Workers Union Hall at Blairmore relating his experiences in connection with the strike of the B.C. relief camp workers and the march on to Ottawa. Speaking of the Regina riots he informed the audience there would have been no trouble had not "stool pigeons" worked their way into the ranks of the strikers and promptly informed the police of every move decided by them and their leaders. He said had they (strikers) succeeded in locating some of these police informers in the ranks of the strikers they "would have killed them there and then". He exhorted his listeners to utmost caution when conversing of things Communistic, warning them that the Mounted Police had agents everywhere, that one or more of them "might be right in this meeting". He urged all Communist organizations to organize their own secret police "as the relief camp men in B.C. were now doing",

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maintaining this was the only method whereby they could hope to clear the organizations of police spies.

He also gave a similar address at Bellevue and Coleman.

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### III. MANITOBA

#### 9. Winnipeg Communists Discuss Election Results

[3<#] On the night of 14th October, immediately following the election, a large mass post-election meeting was held at the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple at Winnipeg, Man., to discuss the results of the election and the campaign preceding it. The Temple was packed and Tim Buck, Communist candidate for Winnipeg North, discussed the results of the Federal election in his constituency. He said that he was pleased with the splendid support obtained; pointing out that the poor electors regardless of nationality gave him the best support. He attributed the election of Mr. A. A. Heaps to the support given him by the Conservative Party.

The meeting was also addressed by J. Litterick, S. Simkin, J. Penner and Bilecki, all expressing the same opinion and remarking on the splendid increase in the votes obtained in the Winnipeg North constituency.

The Election Committee appointed to supervise the Federal election campaign at Winnipeg will remain in existence and will carry on in connection with the forthcoming Municipal election.

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### IV. ONTARIO

#### 10. Port Arthur Communists Stage Torch Parade

[3<#] On the night of 12th October the Communists in Port Arthur, Ont., staged a torch parade attended by approximately 2,000 people. Headed by the Union Jack the parade, divided into 29 sections and carrying 20 banners and 24 torches, moved off a vacant lot near the C.N.R. Hotel and, followed by two truck loads of children, proceeded to Bay Street and thence back to the starting point where A. E. Smith delivered a short speech appealing to the audience to support him at the polls on 14th October.

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### V. QUEBEC

#### 11. Final Communist election Rally in Montreal

[3<#] The final election mass meeting held by the Communist Party in the Mount Royal Area in Montreal on the evening of 13th October was attended by about 1,800 people. Joe Gershman acted as Chairman and the

speakers included Charles Perry, Phillip Richer, Stanley Ryerson, who spoke in French; Louis Kon, Sidney Sarkin, in Jewish; and Mike Buhay and Fred Rose who spoke in English. There was a profound lack of enthusiasm. Stanley Ryerson and Fred Rose were the only ones receiving ovations. The meeting was a financial loss. The collection netted \$123.60; the total expenses were \$225.00.

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