

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

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SECRET

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WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATORS IN CANADAReport

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With the general election over the Communists are now preparing for the Municipal elections. At Winnipeg Jacob Penner and John McNeil have been chosen as Aldermanic candidates in Wards 3 and 2 respectively and Andrew Bilecki as School Trustee candidate in Ward 3.

[2]

APPENDICESTable of ContentsAPPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

- Paragraph No. 1. Aftermath of the Elections
 Final Check Gives J. B. McLachlan 200 Additional
 Votes
The Steelworker Comments on Results
 Annie Buller Analyses Election Returns in
The Worker
The Worker Reviews Election
 Sam Carr on "How Heaps Retained His North
 Winnipeg Seat"
- " " 2. Situation on Vancouver's Waterfront
 Situation Remains Unsettled
 Inquiry Concluded
 Strikers Reject Proposal of Shipping Feder-
 ation
- " " 3. Matt Shaw Arrested at Princeton, B.C.
 Unable to Address Meeting in Vancouver
- " " 4. Sports Delegation Returns from the U.S.S.R.

- “ ” 5. Al. Parkin to Edit Unity
Barney Beaumont to Replace Parkin
- “ ” 6. Arthur Evans in Ottawa
Speaks at Meeting on 24th October

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

- “ ” 7. BRITISH COLUMBIA
Vancouver C.L.D.L. Concentrates on Defence
of Ivan Emery
The Rank and File Veteran Revived
[deletion: 2 words] Returns to Vancouver
[deletion: 2 words] Reports Gain Among Fishermen
[deletion: 2 words] Arrives in Vancouver
- “ ” 8. ALBERTA
Meeting of C.L.A.W. & F. Council
[deletion: 1 line]
- “ ” 9. SASKATCHEWAN
J. C. Cosgrove Speaks at Kayville
- “ ” 10. MANITOBA
Winnipeg Communists Enter Civic Election
Campaign
Jacob Penner, Andrew Bilecki & John McNeil
Nominated
- “ ” 11. ONTARIO
C.P. Endorses Sanctions Against Italy
- “ ” 12. QUEBEC
[deletion: 1 line]
- “ ” 13. THE MARITIME PROVINCES
[deletion: 1 1/4 line]

[3]

APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

1. Aftermath of the Elections

[deletion: #] Official figures for the balloting in Cape Breton South as announced by the Deputy Returning Officer, after checking reports from Sub-Divisions, give J. B. MacLachlan 5,365 votes, about 200 votes more than previously reported.

[deletion: #] Commenting on the election results in this constituency The Steelworker, published at Sydney, N.S., says in part:--

“Are we downhearted as a result of Monday’s vote in this constituency? Oh, no! On the contrary, we attune our harp to a triumphant key! For the first time in history the hills and dales of Cape Breton County resounded and re-echoed to the clarion call of the silver-toned bugle of Communism. For the first time in history the hard-pressed toilers of Cape Breton responded to the message of cheer and hope of a new day--of a fuller life--and despite all the sinister influences, despite the barrage of lying propaganda let loose by the capitalists and the capitalist hirelings at the eleventh hour to fool the workers, and although many of the most backward workers were confused and blinded to their own best interests, yet despite all that fear, lies and malice could do, the thinking part of the workers rolled up 5,260 votes for J. B. McLachlan.....

“Monday’s election is but one phase in the class struggle. That struggle will go on, in season and out of season, till the arrival of the day of deliverance. The Communist Party knows no defeat. We know that ultimately victory will perch on our banners--we know that the future is ours”.

[✂#] Annie Buller, in a lengthy article appearing in the 26th October issue of The Worker in which she analyses the election results in Cape Breton South riding, says in part:--

“J. B. McLachlan, the veteran Communist leader and candidate in Cape Breton South, in the last election, scored a great victory when he polled 5,365 votes”.....

“When we analyse the vote that McLachlan got among the miners, we can rejoice, feeling that these miners have upheld their militant traditions, because it is their vote that really shows this marvelous militancy and solidarity and their burning desire for trade union unity.....

“McLachlan’s vote clearly indicates that we have an intelligent class-conscious army in Cape Breton South of over 5,000 people who are prepared to fight for unity of the common people.

[4]

“This election clearly shows the path that the workers are taking.

“Here we have tremendous possibilities to reach thousands of unorganized workers. We have the possibilities of building our trade union, of forging a mighty united front.

“This is our next step after this historic election, which must be regarded as a victory, not only for the people of Cape Breton South, but for the people of Canada”.

The Worker, in its 24th October issue, comments on the election results as follows:--

"The 30,000 Communist votes were cast not all over Canada but only in 13 out of 250 constituencies. If there had been a candidate in every constituency, the vote would naturally have led up to the hundred thousand mark and over. It is understood that the 13 constituencies contested in this election were picked, either for the relatively greater Communist influence or for their specific importance in bringing the Communist program to the workers in these same constituencies. As it was, the Communist supporters in the other constituencies voted for C.C.F. candidates where they were such. This apart from the fact that sections of the people where Communist influence is very strong (relief camp workers, certain sections of foreign-born, etc.) were either denied a vote or had no opportunity to exercise that right".

[3<#] Sam Carr, Communist Election Campaign Manager at Winnipeg, Man., in a series of articles in The Worker on "How Heaps Retained North Winnipeg Seat", endeavours to show that Heaps was not elected by the workers but by the united anti-Communist front and with the support of the Conservative Party. "Heaps", he says, "was the candidate of the Conservative Party more than of the C.C.F." In support of this contention he quotes the Winnipeg Tribune of 8th October:--

"The fight in North Winnipeg is between A. A. Heaps, candidate of labour, and Tim Buck, -- candidate of the Communists. Neither of the other candidates has a chance. The North Winnipeg elector is voting for or against Communism. He is voting for Communism when he helps to split the non-communist vote just as surely, as effectively, as a North Winnipeg elector who glorifies in the red flag and joins lustily in the singing of the Internationale".

Sam Carr's final article concludes:--

[5]

"Heaps did not defeat Tim Buck. He was elected mainly with the active support of the 'tribune', on a program of Jewish nationalism and Ukrainian counter-revolution. The workers of North Winnipeg, the militant masses of the common people voted for Buck".

2. Situation on Vancouver's Waterfront

[3<#] Mr. Justice H. H. Davis, of the Supreme Court of Canada, has concluded his investigation into the waterfront dispute at Vancouver. His Lordship made no public announcements, stating that he would reserve his comments

for the report which he would make to the Government at Ottawa. From 17th September to the end of the first week in October he listened to the arguments and evidence presented by the Longshoremen and Water Transport Workers of Canada and the Shipping Federation of B.C. Throughout the hearings the strikers were represented by Ivan Emery who was assisted by W. Mitchell, Paddy Coyle and others. The Federation was represented throughout by Mr. J. E. Hall, Manager of the Shipping Federation, assisted by various other members of the Shipping Federation with Mr. J. W. deB. Farris as legal advisor. The strikers sought to make a case to show that they were locked out and had not gone on strike. The Federation, on the other hand, endeavoured to establish the claim that the leaders of the Longshoremen and Water Transport Workers of Canada were determined to bring about a tie-up of the waterfront.

[X#] The news from Sydney, N.S.W., with regard to the decision of the rank and file to refuse to man the "Niagara" unless an assurance was given that only union labour would be used in unloading and loading, has had a profound effect upon the membership of the local unions now on strike in Vancouver, B.C.

[6]

The five-point proposal submitted to the Transport Workers Association by the Shipping Federation of British Columbia following the Board of Inquiry into the waterfront strike situation, was unanimously rejected by a mass meeting of approximately 500 members of the Longshore and Transport Workers Association. The Shipping Federation proposed:--

- (1) That the Federation will register members of the Association for employment.
- (2) That construction of all gangs and selection of individual workmen be made by the stevedoring and dock companies, as and when required and despatched to work by Federation despatchers.
- (3) That registered members of the Association desiring employment report for work at the Association hall and be despatched from there in gangs as far as practicable or as individuals as ordered by Federation despatchers.
- (4) That the Association may have a representative at the despatching hall, Dunlevy Avenue, during despatching hours; such representative to be acceptable at all times to the Federation.
- (5) That qualification for employment be based on merit and ability.

This mass meeting decided to draft a counter proposal asking (a) one despatching hall, (b) reinstatement of the agreement which was in effect

when the alleged lock-out occurred and (c) that the Association be the recognised union on the waterfront with power to include any longshoremen subject to its approval.

3. Matt Shaw Arrested at Princeton, B.C.

[3<#] Matt Shaw is reported to have been arrested by the B.C. Provincial Police at Princeton, B.C., on 22nd October, charged under Section 238, Sub-Section (c) of the Criminal Code, and released on a suspended sentence on the 24th. He was scheduled to address a mass meeting in Vancouver on 23rd October; his arrest necessitated a change of schedule for his public appearances in Vancouver and Vancouver Island.

[7]

4. Sports Delegation Returns From U.S.S.R.

[3<#] The Canadian Workers Sports delegation returned to Canada from a four weeks tour of the Soviet Union recently. In

Moscow the delegation is said to have been the guests of the Commissariat of Health; they lunched with the Commissar of Health, Semasko, and his assistants. It also had the opportunity of visiting the State Central Institute of Physical Culture in Moscow and the privilege of seeing some of the larger cities like Moscow, Kiev, Kharkov, etc. to use the words of Ray Ranta, of Port Arthur and leader of the delegation, as reported in The Worker of 24th October, "we saw so many things, games, meetings, stadiums, etc., that it would take a book to write about the great advance made in sports over a short period of 12 years".

Members of the delegation are expected to address meetings in Canada particularly in their home localities, recounting their experiences in the Soviet Union.

5. Al. Parkin to Edit "Unity"

[3<#] Proposals have been made to Al. Parkin, at present Editor of the B.C. Lumber Worker, to proceed at Toronto and take over Unity, the official organ of the Workers Unity League. In all probability Parkin will accept the offer and in the meantime Barney Beaumont is being groomed to take over the B.C. Lumber Worker.

[8]

6. Arthur Evans in Ottawa

Arthur Evans arrived in Ottawa from Montreal by motor car on the afternoon of 24th October and in the course of the evening spoke before an audience of approximately 100 people in the Chabot Hall, 844 Somerset St., Ottawa, relating the on-to-Ottawa march staged by the Western relief camp workers, referring particularly to the happenings at Regina on 1st July last. Speaking of the visit of the committee to Ottawa he stated that it was a trap set by the Government to enable it to mobilize the State Forces and have them sent to the scene of the disorder at Regina. Recounting the 1st July riots he repeated the statement made by him on previous occasions to the effect that Detective Millar of the Regina City Police was killed by members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. He definitely accused the R.C.M.P. of the murder in this case. He also stated that while he was confined in the R.C.M.P. Guardroom at Regina he heard numerous shots fired by the police. Evans left Ottawa for Toronto immediately after the meeting.

The collection taken at this meeting netted \$17.

[9]

APPENDIX NO. II. REPORTS BY PROVINCESI. BRITISH COLUMBIA7. Vancouver C.L.D.L. Concentrate on Defence of Ivan Emery

The Canadian Labour Defence League forces in the City of Vancouver are now concentrating on an intensive campaign on behalf of Ivan Emery, President of the Longshoremen and Water Transport Workers of Canada, who is coming up for trial on 4th November on charges arising out of his activities in connection with the waterfront strike. Several large mass meetings have been arranged leading up to a final rally on the night of 3rd November in the Vancouver Auditorium. Twenty thousand leaflets, 15,000 stickers and 500 posters, each bearing Emery's picture, have been distributed. Trucks and automobiles decorated with defence slogans are to tour the streets of the city and vicinity. An endeavour is being made to obtain the active participation of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation in this campaign.

[X#] Having about \$200 in the treasury the Workers Ex-Service Men's League in Vancouver has decided to resurrect The Rank And File Veteran, a mimeographed sheet which had ceased publication some time ago. The financial success of the Action Committee of the ex-service men headed by the W.E.S.L. has given the latter organization a stronger foothold, enabling it to broaden its activities.

[X#] [Xdeletion: 2 words] arrived in Vancouver from Cumberland on the night of 16th October and on the 17th held a meeting with the Bureau of the Workers Unity League discussing the situation on the Island created as a result of the refusal of the Government to set up a Conciliation Board. According

[10]

to [Xdeletion: 1 word] the miners are eager to go on strike but the time is not ripe for such a step, in his opinion.

[X#] [Xdeletion: 1/4 line] on his return to Vancouver on 10th October from an organizing tour among the fishermen, stated that the Fishermen's and Cannery Workers Industrial Union had made some organizational gains but that the membership appear to be content to pack a union card without doing any fighting for it.

[X#] [Xdeletion: 1/2 line] arrived in Vancouver recently and, in conversation with a friend, stated that he would probably spend the winter on the Pacific Coast. He also said that it was quite likely that [Xdeletion: 1 word] and [Xdeletion: 1 word] would move to Vancouver to spend the winter there.

II. ALBERTA

8. Meeting of C.L.A.W. & F. Council

[X#] The Edmonton Council of the Canadian League Against War and Fascism met in the Masonic Temple on 17th October with 40 delegates and 10 visitors in attendance. J. Egger acted as Chairman and Mrs. Grace V. Murdock as Secretary. The Council decided that every organization affiliated distribute leaflets in the City of Edmonton containing anti-war propaganda and follow up this distribution by a house-to-house canvass collecting funds for the anti-war campaign. It was further decided to hold

a protest mass meeting on Armistice Day. A resolution received from the local branch of the International Steam Engineers protesting against Italian aggression in Ethiopia and asking that the resolution be endorsed by the Edmonton Council of the Canadian League Against War and Fascism was read and approved by the Council.

[11]

This resolution also requests that all shipments of war material to Italy be stopped forthwith.

A delegate from the Labour Party informed the Council that in future his Party will be represented by three delegates. O. N. Arntzen reported that three Scandinavian organizations have agreed to become affiliated to the Council.

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III. SASKATCHEWAN

9. J. C. Cosgrove Speaks at Kayville

[&#] J. C. Cosgrove addressed an audience of about 40 in the Kayville Hall, Kayville, Sask., on 6th October recounting the happenings at Regina on 1st July. He claimed that Detective Millar of the Regina City Police was killed by a member of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. An appeal for funds to finance the defence of those facing trial at Regina met with very little response. The meeting was presided over by a Mr. Davies, storekeeper of Truax, Sask.

[12]

IV. MANITOBA

10. Winnipeg Communists Enter Civic Election Campaign

[&#] At A Civic Election Conference of the Communist Party forces in the City of Winnipeg held at the Swedish Workers Hall on 20th October Jacob Penner and Andrew Bilecki were chosen as Aldermanic and School Trustee candidates, respectively for Ward 3, while John McNeil was nominated Aldermanic candidate in Ward 2. For Election Managers John Navizowski and Aubrey Brock were chosen.

A lengthy list of demands based on the immediate needs of the workers of the city was drawn up by the conference. Jacob Penner recounted the gains achieved during the past two years in the City Council by the two Communist Aldermen, himself and M. J. Forkin.

Tim Buck addressed the conference, outlining the necessity of entering Communist candidates in the election as part of the struggle for the United Front of the working class.

The conference is said to have been attended by 75 delegates representing the various Communist organizations in the City of Winnipeg.

On the following day, 21st October, a meeting sponsored by the Communist Election Committee in the Hebrew Sick Benefit Association Hall was attended by approximately 350 people. Jim Litterick, who acted as Chairman, explained the purpose of the meeting and gave the results of the conference held on the previous day. The speakers were B. Galsky, who spoke in Jewish, Andrew Bilecki in English, John Navizowski in Ukrainian, and Tim Buck. A great deal of the time was devoted by the speakers to the recent Federal election campaign and the results of the elections throughout Canada. It was generally contended that the C.P. made a splendid showing and that the C.P. has every reason to feel gratified over the results obtained.

[13]

John (Jock) McNeil, who is contesting Ward 2 as Communist Aldermanic candidate, has been active in the Railroad Workers Industrial League and the Workers Unity League for some time and is well known in the Western Shops as a Communist.

V. ONTARIO

11. C.P. Endorses Sanctions Against Italy

[X#] [Xdeletion: 4 1/4 lines] stated that "the Party stands behind Canada as a member of the League of Nations signing and enforcing sanctions against Italy, even to the extent of going to war but not as Canada siding in with Great Britain in an Imperialist war against Italy". He added that the Communist Party of Canada in conjunction with Soviet Russia is emphatically against a division of Ethiopia by the Capitalist nations; that the C.P. of Canada is pledged to fight such a move, and should England go to war over the matter the Party will fight every attempt made by Canada to assist England.

VI. QUEBEC

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