

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 6th November, 1935.

SECRETNO. 780WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

Tim Buck, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Canada, is reported to have been elected to the Executive Committee of the Communist International by the Seventh World Congress held in Moscow recently. This is the first time a member of the Canadian Communist Party has been elected to the general staff of the world revolution.

Preparations are being made for the Second Canadian Congress Against War and Fascism to be held in Toronto on 6th, 7th and 8th December, 1935.

[2]

APPENDICESTable of ContentsAPPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

- Paragraph No. 1. National Convention of C.L.D.L.
73 Delegates in Attendance
Reports Reveal Decline in Membership
A. E. Smith Re-elected National Secretary
- “ ” 2. Situation on Vancouver's Waterfront
Situation Unchanged
- “ ” 3. Matt Shaw in British Columbia
Touring Vancouver Island
- “ ” 4. Arthur Evans at Montreal
Addresses Audience of 400
- “ ” 5. C.P. Defies Section 98
Open Office in Toronto
- “ ” 6. 18th Anniversary of October Revolution
General Yakhontov to Speak in Toronto
- “ ” 7. Jugo-Slavian Workers Clubs Assist Movement in

- Jugo-Slavia
- “ ” 8. *Shipment of Smuggled Communist Literature Seized*

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

- “ ” 9. BRITISH COLUMBIA
[deletion: 1 line]
- “ ” 10. ALBERTA
Edmonton C.P. Starts Educational Classes
- “ ” 11. MANITOBA
Memorial Meeting in Winnipeg
Communists Gain Control of I.L.G.W.U.
Shatulski Lectures on Workers' Press
C.L.D.L. in Winnipeg Disintegrating
- “ ” 12. ONTARIO
Lecture on Soviet Russia in Toronto
Ukrainian Mass Organizations in Thunder Bay Area
Hold Conference
- “ ” 13. QUEBEC
Montreal Anti-War Meeting Failure
Sam Carr in Montreal
French Branch, C.L.D.L., in Montreal
Without Funds

[3]

APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

1. National Convention of C.L.D.L.

[#] The National Convention of the Canadian Labour Defence League was held at Toronto, Ont., on 19th and 20th October with 47 accredited and 26 fraternal delegates in attendance.

The report of the credential committee showed the following representation:-

C.L.D.L. Branches	10,775 Members
Trade Union (W.U.L.) affiliations	33,600 “
Language and Cultural Mass Organizations and other affiliations	13,925 “
TOTAL ----	58,300 “

A. E. Smith delivered the opening address, greeting the delegates in the name of the National Executive Committee. He briefly reviewed the history of the C.L.D.L. since its formation in 1925, stressing particularly the

campaigns waged subsequent to the trial of the eight Communist leaders at Toronto in 1931. He claimed that the mass pressure organized by the league forced the authorities to release the eight leaders, and suggested that the campaign be continued with a view to having their tickets-of-leave cancelled. Maintaining that the C.L.D.L. had been too sectarian in the past, he urged the broadest form of organization; thus making it possible for anyone who was at all sympathetic to the aims of the league to join it.

Charles Marriott, representing the National Executive Committee, submitted the report on organization. "The C.L.D.L.", he said, "reached its peak in 1933 but since then there has been a steady decline in membership." He gave the present membership of 14,000 with only about one-third of that number paying dues regularly. He also spoke proudly of the liberation of the eight Communist leaders, headed by the General Secretary of the Communist Party - Tim Buck - from Kingston Penitentiary, attributing their release to the efforts of the C.L.D.L.

Speaking of Section 98 of the Criminal Code he stated that it is now being used more than ever before in an attempt to

[4]

outlaw certain organizations and suggested that the fight for the abolition of Section 98 be continued as part of the "United Front" struggle against Fascism. He stated that since 1930 over 3,000 workers have been arrested for their participation in working class "struggles", the great majority of them in provinces headed by Liberal Governments. He urged the formation of Defence Committees similar to the one functioning in Regina as part of the campaign for a United Front. He cited the longshoremen's strike in Vancouver as the most outstanding United Front achievements in recent months. The speaker also dealt with the problem of sectarianism, saying that the league was too sectarian in character (Communistic) which has prevented the league from expanding. "As a result of the league having shown a 'red face', it had often been accused of being a second Communist Party", he said. The speaker also dealt with the question of self-defence in courts, maintaining that in the past too much money had been spent on lawyers and urged that the workers defend themselves.

Reports on the activities in the districts were given by the following delegates:-

Charles Stewart
 Alf. Campbell
 Jeanne Corbin
 Mabel Marlowe
 Mrs. Evaniuk
 Frank Lucas

Port Arthur and Thunder Bay
 Toronto
 Timmins and Kirkland Lake
 Winnipeg
 Noranda
 Vancouver

J. S. Wallace

Montreal

With the exception of the British Columbia District all districts showed definite losses both in prestige and in organization. The report given by the delegate from Vancouver showed considerable progress having been made in that district. He gave the total membership now at 7,500 divided into 70 branches. This delegate reported the existence of two Chinese Branches in Vancouver with 400 members and one in Victoria with a membership of 12. He also said that eighty per cent of the members of the league in British Columbia are also members of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation Clubs,

[5]

Churches and trade unions. In some instances, he said, whole C.C.F. Clubs have been turned into branches of the league. The prestige of the league in this district is very high, the speaker said.

Official greetings were tendered by the following delegates:--

T. A. Ewan	Workers Unity League
Mrs. Lang	St. Paul's C.C.F. Club of Toronto
Sam Carr	Central Committee of the C.P. of C.
H. Hodgson	Associated Labour Press
Jack Cowan	Friends of the Soviet Union
John Boychuk	Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association
John Sundquist	Finnish Organization of Canada
John Boyd	Young Communist League
M. Kruzic	Jugo-Slavian Workers Clubs
Jack Young	First President of C.L.D.L. (1925)

Jeanne Smith, daughter of A. E. Smith, spoke on children's work. She stated that three "Young Defenders" Sections have been formed recently in Southern Ontario, two in Toronto and one at Welland, with a combined membership 85. This work, she said, was accomplished under the guidance and with the co-operation of the National Children's Council. [deletion: 2 lines]

The main resolution adopted by the convention comprises over five thousand words. Under the sub-heading "Our Achievements" the resolution says:-

"Since the National Convention of the Canadian Labor Defense League, held July, 1933, the organisation has participated in significant mass struggles against growing terroristic reaction and has gained in influence and prestige. The liberation of the eight imprisoned Communist leaders after they had served but half their sentences, the acquittal of A. E. Smith, with its accompanying blow to the prestige of the Bennett Government, the development of a broad mass movement

against Section 98, -etc., etc., are outstanding developments which typify the role played by the C.L.D.L. during the past two years on behalf of the thousands of workers who have been arrested in the class struggle. Since 1930, each year has registered an enormous increase in the number of workers arrested annually on charges arising out of labor activities, but the C.L.D.L. has been successful in wresting from the jails of the country a big majority of the 3,595 workers who have been arrested in working class struggles since the beginning of 1930.

"Since the last National Convention, the C.L.D.L. has brought the issue of the struggle for defense of democratic liberties before tens of

[6]

thousands of people in thousands of mass meetings and demonstrations, through tours of prominent speakers, by issuance of hundreds of thousands of pieces of literature and by scores of united front appeals to other organisations.

"The C.L.D.L. has given aid to the victims of fascist terror in a number of countries (Poland, Austria, Germany, Italy, El Salvador, Hungary). Through the activities of the Patronati Committees, the Todowyrnazu and the C.L.D.L., some thousands of dollars have been forwarded to aid class-war prisoners and their dependants in other countries.

"The C.L.D.L. has played a leading part in this country to save the lives of working class leaders in other lands who have been or who are threatened with death by fascist forces, (Thaelmann, Antikainen, Rakosi, etc.). Mass meetings have been held, protest resolutions have been sent abroad and picket demonstrations have been organised before foreign consulates.

"The work and achievements of the C.L.D.L. since the last convention and during its ten years of existence has proven to wide sections of the working class and progressive minded people the indispensability of this organisation. The present intensifying attacks of capitalist forces upon labor and upon civil liberties enhances the importance of the role played by the C.L.D.L. more and more".

A chapter under the caption "Loss of Members" laments the fact that the C.L.D.L. is organizationally weaker today than it was at the time of the previous national convention in 1933. This decline is in the main attributed to heavy fluctuation in membership caused by lack of attention to branches and the dull existence of the basic units.

The financial report submitted by W. H. Dekker on behalf of the National Office, covering the period July 1st, 1934 -- June 30th, 1935 showed:-

Total receipts	\$10,799.36
“ expenditures	10,975.00

The report disclosed that the National Office of the league is in debt to the extent of \$3,600.

The National Executive elected for the ensuing term comprises 24 members. These met on the day following the convention and selected the following officers:--

A. E. Smith	National Secretary
Becky Buhay Ewan	Organizational Secretary
Charles Marriott	Director of Education and Propaganda
Alf. Campbell	Assistant Direct, “ “ “
W. H. Dekker	Secretary Treasurer

[7]

National Secretariat --

A. E. Smith	Alf. Campbell
Becky Buhay Ewan	George Sundquist
Charles Marriott	W. H. Dekker

The convention, generally speaking, was a listless affair, devoted chiefly to speech-making. No delegates were present from the Provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan, a matter which is to be investigated by the National Office.

2. Situation on Vancouver's Waterfront

[§<#] The waterfront strike situation in Vancouver remains unsettled. After voting against accepting the proposals of the Shipping Federation, members of the Vancouver and District Waterfront Workers Association at Vancouver voted as follows:--

“ARE YOU IN FAVOR OF:		YES	NO
1.	One Hall on the Waterfront	638	14
2.	The re-instatement of the former Agreement between the Shipping Federation and the V. & D.W.W.A.....	630	12
3.	No discrimination	621	16
4.	The V. & D.W.W.A. being the only recognized Union on the waterfront	631	10
5.	The men now working on the waterfront being accepted by us as Members, subject to the approval of the V. & D.W.W.A.....	571	63

The above vote was by referendum ballot.

3. Matt Shaw in British Columbia

[3<#] Matt Shaw arrived in Vancouver on 24th October. The meeting at which he was scheduled to speak at the Moose Temple in Vancouver on the 23rd was cancelled at the last minute. Shaw is to proceed directly to Vancouver Island where he is to speak at a number of places.

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[8]

[3<deletion: 4 lines]

4. Arthur E. Evans at Montreal, Que.

[3<#] Arthur Evans, on his return from the Maritime Provinces, addressed a meeting held under the auspices of the Canadian Labour Defence League in the Prince Arthur Hall, Montreal, on 22nd October. The meeting was not a success, there being only approximately 400 people in attendance with J. S. Wallace presiding over the meeting.

Evans' speech was a repetition of the one given by him at Montreal on his last visit except that on this occasion he dealt at great length with Section 98 of the Criminal Code. In this connection he severely criticized the Liberal Party for "being as much, if not more, in favour of keeping Section 98 on the Statute Books". He added that the Liberal Governments in British Columbia, Quebec and Ontario had used this Section whenever possible.

Evans, on this occasion, boasted of the fact that he is a member of the Communist Party of Canada. He concluded with an appeal for funds for the defence of those facing trial at Regina, Sask.

The amount collected was not announced.

5. C.P. Defies Section 98

[3<#] In further defiance of Section 98 of the Criminal Code and in an endeavour to regain its legal status, the Communist Party of Canada has opened a small office at 420 Parliament St., Toronto. With this aim in view it is sponsoring a meeting in the Massey Hall on 3rd November at which Stewart Smith will render a report on the Seventh Congress of the

[9]

Communist International held in Moscow recently which he attended as one of the official delegates from the Canadian Section. This move has been

made in an endeavour to ascertain as to what action, if any, the authorities will take if the C.P. appears in the open in Toronto. Should no action be taken by the authorities it is the intention of the Communists to come out openly in the whole Province of Ontario.

6. Eighteenth Anniversary of October Revolution

[§<#]

Plans are being proceeded with in the leading Canadian centers to celebrate the 18th anniversary of the Russian October Revolution. In the City of Toronto a large turnout is expected for a meeting in the Massey Hall on 9th November at which Major General Yakhontov will be the feature speaker, along with Tim Buck.

The Friends of the Soviet Union at Montreal is sponsoring six meetings to be held on 7th November in celebration of the Russian October Revolution, one in Lachine, one in Rosemount, one in Verdun and three in the City of Montreal proper. Two of these meetings will be in French.

The organization is also contemplating distributing 18,000 copies of a proclamation setting forth the achievements in the U.S.S.R. during the past 18 years. The distribution of this propaganda is to be made by members of the C.P. who are to be apportioned throughout the city and district. Although organized officially under the auspices of the F.S.U. it will be the special task of the various units of the C.P. to make this celebration a success.

An attempt is being made to persuade [§<deletion: 1 line] to assume the Presidency of the F.S.U. at that point. [§<deletion: 1 word] visited the Soviet Union last summer and he is said to have expressed considerable

[10]

sympathy for Communism. When approached recently by a delegation of the organization he is said to have refused to become President explaining that he was not quite ready to take the step at this particular time; he wished to learn more about Communism. He, however, expressed himself willing to assume the position when ready for it. In Communist circles it is said that [§<deletion: 2 words] will join the C.P. shortly.

7. Jugo-Slavian Workers Clubs Assist Revolutionary Movement in Jugo-Slavia

[3<#] One of the main phases of the activities of the Jugo-slavian Workers Clubs in Canada centers around the formation of Patronati or Patronage Committees. [3<deletion: 2 words] since his return from Jugoslavia, has been very active organizing such groups among Jugoslavs in different places throughout the country. Considerable attention is also paid to this phase of work by Borba, the official organ of the Jugoslavian Workers Clubs. These branches work in close co-operation with and theoretically under the supervision of the Canadian Labour Defence League. The money which is being subscribed through the efforts of these committees is being sent to Jugoslavia to help in the "fight against Fascist terror". Although no precise information is available on this point it is presumed that a considerable sum of money has been sent out of Canada for this particular purpose.

8. Shipment of Smuggled Communist Literature Seized

[3<#] On 19th October members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police at Niagara Falls, Ont., effected a seizure of a shipment of smuggled literature consisting of 2,183 assorted pieces of Communist publications, most of which has been prohibited entry into Canada, on Navy Island situated in the Niagara River on the Canadian side. The shipment after having been smuggled

[11]

across the river had been abandoned. It had been kept under observation for some considerable time but no one appeared to claim it. All names, addresses and marks of identification had been torn off the parcels which consisted of Communist literature emanating from Moscow, Paris, London and New York. It is suspected that the literature was sent to Niagara Falls, N.Y., from New York City to be smuggled into Canada.

This incident supports the belief, held now for some time, that most of the Communist literature printed outside Canada which is being circulated in Canada, has been smuggled into the country.

[12]

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCESI. BRITISH COLUMBIA

9. [deletion: 1 line]

[deletion: 3 lines]

II. ALBERTA10. Edmonton C.P. Starts Educational Classes

[deletion: #] Weekly educational classes will be held by the Communist Party in Edmonton every Tuesday from 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. at 9810 Jasper Avenue, under the leadership of [deletion: 2 words] The material for the lectures will be taken from "The Structure Of The Communist Party" and "The Resolutions Of The Seventh Congress Of The Communist International". In addition an open educational class is to be commenced under the leadership of [deletion: 1 word] The latter is to be open to non-Party members and the subject which will be taught is "The Building Of Socialism In Canada".

III. MANITOBA11. Memorial Meeting in Winnipeg

[deletion: #] The Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association in Winnipeg held a memorial meeting at the Ukrainian Labour Temple in memory of M. Lenartowich recently. John Navizowsky acted as Chairman; the stage being appropriately decorated for the occasion with flowers and colours draped round the portrait of the deceased.

The program commenced with a funeral march rendered by the choir. The following persons contributed speeches eulogizing the deceased for his ardent devotion to the cause of

[13]

Communism: Saul Simkin, Communist Party; M. Shatulski, Ukrainian Workers Farmers Press; M. Seychuk, Young Communist League; Mrs. Lysets, Women's Section, U.L.F.T.A.; M. Straub, German Workers Farmers Association; W. Urban, Russian Workers Clubs; W. Dutkiewich, Polish Labour Temple; L. Vassil, Workers Unity League; and John Boychuk, representing the Ukrainian revolutionary mass organizations.

The affair, staged purely for propaganda purposes, was quite an impressive one and concluded with the singing of the "International".

[3<#] The Ladies International Garment Workers Union at Winnipeg, Man., which some time ago absorbed the Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union, is being gradually turned into an instrument of the Workers Unity League. The Communists, members of the former Needle Trades Workers Industrial Union and who constitute a large percentage of the union, are utilizing every opportunity to strengthen their position with the ultimate aim of ousting the American Federation of Labor leadership. The election of a new Executive Committee held during the latter part of October resulted in the election of 15 Communists or members of the Workers Unity League and nine A.F. of L. members. [3<deletion: 1/3 line], who are considered the main leaders of the W.U.L. forces in Winnipeg, especially in the needle trade industry, were not elected to the Executive, however, though they are the real leaders of the Communists in this organization.

[3<#] M. Shatulski gave a lecture on the importance of the workers' press and the role it plays in the Revolutionary Movement before an audience of approximately 200 in the Ukrainian Labour Temple at Winnipeg, Man., on 29th October. The lecture served to introduce the forthcoming press fund

[14]

campaign which is being held during this month by the Ukrainian revolutionary mass organizations throughout Canada. In the course of his lengthy speech he stressed the need for a strong and healthy workers' press as the main instruments and organizer of the "class struggle". He pointed out that the Ukrainian Labour News as a daily cannot exist on subscriptions alone as it carries practically no advertisements and, therefore, has to rely to a great extent on donations and contributions other than the regular subscription fees.

[3<#] Branches of the Canadian Labour Defence League in Winnipeg are reported to be in the process of disintegration. Some of the branches are said to be almost extinct. This is due to the intensive election campaign and the excessive debt carried by the District Central Committee. Failure to raise funds has also had a very discouraging effect upon the members. The absence of arrests in the district is also held responsible for this condition.

IV. ONTARIO

12. Lecture on Soviet Russia in Toronto

[3<#] A. K. Dawson, under the direction of Fred W. Darby of the World Travel Institute, New York, presented an illustrated lecture on "Soviet Russia As It Is Today" at the Eaton Auditorium, College and Yonge Sts., Toronto, on 29th October.

A. K. Dawson excelled himself in giving a very sympathetic explanation of the lantern slides and motion pictures in an endeavour to present the "sunny side" of the Soviet Union. The pictures represented places and scenes in Moscow, stressing the cleanliness of the cities and the construction programme now in the process of execution. The message conveyed by Mr. Dawson was to the effect that there is no unemployment in the Soviet Union, that the Soviet Union has outstripped other

[15]

countries in industrial progress and that the country is, generally, on the road to prosperity.

The lecture was received with warm applause. The attendance, mostly people of the middle class, numbered approximately 1,000.

[3<#] The Ukrainian Labour Farmer Mass Organizations in the Thunder Bay District held a conference in the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association at Fort William, Ont., on the night of 27th October to discuss primarily the press fund campaign staged on behalf of the Ukrainian revolutionary press during the month of November. In this regard the conference resolved to raise \$400 in the district; the quotas being Fort William \$135; Port Arthur \$115; West Fort \$75; and Fort Frances \$75.

[3<deletion: 1 word] one of the main delegates in attendance, spoke at great length comparing notes on the work accomplished by the branches in the various localities. His report revealed a falling off in the activities of the branches in Fort William and a slight decrease in membership. He suggested that during the November press fund campaign an endeavour be made to enroll new members and generally activate the membership. [3<deletion: 2 words] of West Fort also reported a decrease in membership in his locality.

[3<deletion:7 lines]

The conference resolved to participate more actively in the Municipal elections and also to work with a view to stimulating more interest in the development of the Women's Section.

[16]

V. QUEBEC

13. Notes

[#] [deletion: 2 words] reporting to a meeting of the Montreal Council of the League Against War and Fascism on the 29th October, stated that the anti-war mass meeting held in the Montreal High School Auditorium on 23rd October, under the auspices of the Anti-War Conference, was a complete failure owing to lack of advertising. The attendance was less than 300 and the meeting was generally badly managed; outside speakers were allowed to speak too long with the result that the official speaker of the League Against War and Fascism, [deletion: 2 words] who was listed as the final speaker of the evening, had little opportunity to expound the aims and objects of the league. The result was that all speakers spoke in favour of the League of Nations and the International League for Peace, giving the audience the impression that the local Anti-War Conference was merely a pacifist organization.

After discussing [deletion: 1 word] report the Council decided that an attempt be made to strengthen the Executive Committee of the Anti-War Conference and to keep a close check on it in order that such mistakes be avoided in the future.

[#] Sam Carr is said to have visited Montreal recently over the week end. Tim Buck is expected to proceed to Montreal shortly to assist in the reorganization of the Communist Party in the Montreal District.

[17]

The local Canadian Labour Defence League Secretariat in Montreal met on 29th October with [deletion: 1 line] in attendance. The Secretariat decided to hold a mass meeting at the Prince Arthur Hall on the 10th November at which reports will be presented on the proceedings of the recent National Convention by the Montreal delegation attending same. After a lengthy discussion on the financial position of the league in Montreal it was decided to ask the National Office at Toronto to institute

a drive with a view to raising \$100.00 for the French Section in Montreal in order that its activities may be continued.
