

## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 20th November, 1935.

SECRETNO. 782WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

The Communist Party of Canada is now mobilizing its forces for a "drive" on behalf of The Worker, its central organ. The month of December has been set aside for this purpose; the objective being \$10,000 in cash donations and 2,000 new subscribers.

Tim Buck, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Canada, sent the following cable to William Gallacher, leader of the Communist Party of Great Britain, in his recent election to Parliament:

"Nine thousand members of the Communist Party of Canada and tens of thousands of class conscious fighters for a better world greet with joy your election. We are certain you will carry high the banner of international Communism".

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#### APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

##### 1. Situation on Vancouver's Waterfront

The leaders of the striking longshoremen at Vancouver, B.C., seem very perturbed at the weakening of certain sections of the membership of the [deletion: #] organization. It is claimed that rumours set adrift by the Shipping Federation of British Columbia are responsible for the growing distrust of the men of the Strike Committee. A Vancouver newspaper recently carried a news item stating that the Shipping Federation had reported that 70 or 75 of the striking longshoremen had applied for reinstatement. This is being vigorously denied by the leaders of the strike.

Since the publication of the report by the Honourable Mr. Justice H. H. Davis, Commissioner of the inquiry into the waterfront dispute, it has been noted that a decided rift has taken place among the members of the striking union and a good many have returned or are thinking of returning to work.

[3<#] Every effort is being made by the leaders to make it appear that international support is gaining momentum each day. Thus, for instance, a leading article in Ship and Dock, now appearing daily in the form of a strike bulletin, of 9th November says in part:—

**“The struggle has been unique. Today it stands out as one of the finest examples of solidarity and determination ever shown in strike-struggle on this continent.**

“It is unique, inasmuch as the responsibility of breaking our ranks was accepted by the forces of the state, even before the struggle started. The most prominent feature has been the preponderance of police, and the harshness of the courts.

“It is unique in that, after five months, the position of the workers has materially strengthened. Usually, after such a prolonged struggle the resistance of the workers has weakened. Usually in that length of time all the cards have been played, and the workers have acknowledged defeat and given up the struggle.

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“This struggle has proved an exception. After five months we find that international support has closed the port for us and today we find the battle has swung definitely in our favor.

“It has been a five months cycle. The first five started with the employers on the upper hand. Slambang they flooded the docks with scabs previously recruited; the docks were turned into armed camps immediately; the police turned their terror loose; Mayor McGeer took the lead in the Council in blocking any relief for the locked-out workers. All forces that could be gathered were thrown en masse against the workers.

“But the ranks did not break.

“Heroically the strikers carried on. Ships of other countries avoided B.C. ports. Today we are swinging into the second cycle, with the power of solid ranks and international support definitely placing the waterfront workers in the winning position.

“The U.S. Coast ships were first to come to our aid. Seventeen regular sailings into this port were cancelled. Then the situation became so that there was a possibility that at any time the U.S. workers would clamp a ban on unfair ships. As a result continental ships avoided B.C. Then the

usual fall increase in shipping came around. Wheat poured into the Coast, but there were no ships to carry it.

"Today we find less than one-third of the usual number of longshoremen at work in B.C. ports, while every U.S. Coast port is working to capacity.

"And what are the prospects?

"The prospects are that within a short time all U.S. ports will place a ban on any ship to or from strike ports.

"The second cycle finds us with the weapons on our side. Putting our men in gaol no longer means a victory for the Shipping Federation. The support of our brother longshoremen and seamen in other ports will mean a victory for the workers".

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## 2. Ivan Emery Convicted

[3<#] Ivan A. Emery, President of the Longshoremen and Water Transport Workers of Canada and leader of the longshoremen's strike at Vancouver, was found guilty of counselling an unlawful assembly by jury at the Assize Court at Vancouver on 6th November. He was arraigned on three counts, one of inciting to riot and two of counselling an unlawful assembly. After three hours' deliberation the jury brought in a verdict

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of guilty on the second count with a strong recommendation for mercy.

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## 3. Second Congress Against War & Fascism

[3<#] Preparations are being made to hold the Second Canadian Congress Against War and Fascism in Toronto, Ont., on 6th, 7th and 8th December; it is to open with a great rally in Maple Leaf Gardens on 6th December. An invitation to attend the congress has been extended by the National Council of the Canadian League Against War and Fascism to all groups and organizations opposed to war and Fascism. The National Committee has also invited Heywood Broun, American columnist, Mary Van Kleek, Bishop Francis J. McConnell of Brooklyn, N.Y., to attend the congress. The National Council, in a call for this congress, urged all supporting organizations "to begin systematic and energetic work, to secure the building of more and stronger local committees so that the congress will have at least 1,000 delegates representing every section of the country". The basis of representation will be two delegates for every organized group

plus an additional delegate for every 250 members or major fraction thereof.

The Communists, utilizing the League Against War and Fascism as a means to advance this particular phase of their activity, have advanced the following plan of action:-

(1) To form committees against war and fascism in every important industry and centre, particularly in basic war industries. To secure the support of all organizations and individuals seeking to prevent war, paying special attention to labor, farmer, veteran and unemployed organizations, and to interest as well the middle classes.

(2) To organize mass meetings, demonstrations, lectures, parades and similar activities in order to make popular this Plan of Action and to publish leaflets, pamphlets and journals. To agitate and propagate for the widest struggle against war and fascism.

(3) To work towards the stopping of the manufacture and transport of munitions and war supplies through

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mass demonstrations, picketing and strikes.

(4) To demand the transfer of all military expenditures to the relief of the unemployed and the replacement of the present inadequate relief measures by a system of unemployment and social insurance and an adequate public works program.

(5) To expose everywhere the extensive preparations for war and to oppose all developments leading to fascism in Canada. To resist the increasing use of armed police against the workers and farmers and to fight against the suppression of the workers' rights to strike and picket. To uphold freedom of speech and assembly. To oppose such fascist measures by our federal and provincial governments as Section 98, the Arcand and David Bills in Quebec, and the growing fascist tendencies in all provinces.

(6) To give effective aid to all anti-fascist fighters in those countries where fascism is either established or threatening.

(7) To specially enlist women and youth in the movement against war and fascism and to secure the sympathy and interest of the teachers, university professors and leaders of all youth organizations.

(8) To protest against the arbitrary and fascist-like banning of papers, books and periodicals by the federal government and to insist upon the right of the citizen to decide for himself what literature he will read and import.

The official organ of the League Against War and Fascism - "Action" - published monthly at Toronto and which is in its third month of publication,

has reached a circulation of 10,000 copies per issue. The league has been successful in obtaining the active co-operation of a number of influential people in Canada, a number of whom are members of the National Council.

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#### 4. Eighteenth Anniversary of October Revolution

The eighteenth anniversary of the Bolshevik seizure of power in Russia was fittingly celebrated by the Communists in all important centers of Canada. The celebrations, in most instances, were held under the official auspices of the Friends of the Soviet Union.

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##### (A) In Toronto, Ont.

A mass concert meeting in the Massey Hall on the evening of 9th November marked the celebration of the eighteenth anniversary of the October Revolution by the Communists in the City of Toronto. The meeting [3<#] was arranged by the Toronto District Committee of the Friends of the Soviet Union and the attendance number approximately 2,000. Fred Hodgson, National Chairman of the F.S.U., acted as Chairman and Victor A. Yakhontoff, formerly a Major-General in the Russian Army and Minister of War in the Kerensky Government was the principal speaker. Tim Buck also spoke extending greetings in the name of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Canada.

Victor Yakhontoff told his audience of the "tremendous" progress made in the U.S.S.R. during recent years and compared the status of the people living under the Soviet regime with that under Czarism. He claimed that the secondary position occupied by Russia prior to the Revolution was due to the unlimited powers in the hands of the aristocracy who, he stated, kept the masses in ignorance and subjugation. He claimed that the Soviet Union today is one of the most foremost industrial countries in the world, deriving seventy-five per cent of its national revenue from industrial sources. Speaking of education he pointed out that under Czarism only approximately thirty-five per cent of the people were educated while today over ninety per cent are educated. He also asserted that the Soviet Union was the only country in the world which struggles sincerely for peace and the welfare of the whole world.

Tim Buck generally glorified the Soviet Union. He stressed that the advance of the Soviet Union lies primarily with the workers in the different countries. He said that the first task of the Communists is to make the workers of Canada understand that what is being done in the Soviet Union today will be done in Canada tomorrow.

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A short talk was also given by Jack Cowan. Musical selections were rendered by the Ukrainian Band and the Jewish Choir. The result of the collection was not announced.

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(B) In Montreal, Que.

[3<#] Approximately 800 people attended a mass meeting in the Prince Arthur Hall, Montreal, Que., on the evening of 7th November to celebrate the eighteenth anniversary of the October Revolution. The meeting was held under the auspices of the Friends of the Soviet Union with Phillip Pressman acting as Chairman. Napoleon Nadeau was the first speaker. He presented a eulogy of the greatness of the U.S.S.R., attributing same to the October Revolution. He criticized anti-Soviet Union reports circulated in this and other countries, and claimed that they were aiming to misrepresent conditions intentionally. The speaker is said to have had the privilege of visiting the Soviet Union and during his stay there had analysed conditions. He emphatically condemned reports of starvation which he stated emanated from anti-Soviet Union sources.

Israel Hershbein, Chairman of the Montreal local branch of "Icor", spoke next. He explained the function of "Icor", and expressed the hope that the work of "Icor" and the Friends of the Soviet Union will reach a higher level soon.

Sidney Brown, a member of the sports delegation visiting the U.S.S.R. recently, gave an account of his trip to the Soviet Union stating that he found the youth in that country in excellent physical condition. He also denied that there was such a thing as starvation in the U.S.S.R.

The Jewish Culture Centre Choir rendered several revolutionary vocal selections and the New Theatre Group presented a short revolutionary play.

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The collection taken at this meeting barely covered the expenditure.

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[3<#] One of the six meetings arranged by the Friends of the Soviet Union to celebrate this anniversary in the Montreal District took place at 2809 Masson Street in Rosemount. It was attended by approximately 150 people including about 50 members of the Young Pioneers and 25 members of the Young Communist League. The Chairman was a young man named Valentine, a member of the F.S.U., and the speakers were Mrs. Bella Gauld and Napoleon Nadeau. Musical selections were rendered by the German

Youth Orchestra, a group of about 25 children, who were well received. The speakers generally eulogized the Soviet Union and expressed the hope that the time would come that the Soviet system would be established in Canada.

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### 5. Victor A. Yakhontoff in Montreal

[3<#] On 10th November Major-General Victor A. Yakhontoff addressed a meeting under the auspices of the Friends of the Soviet Union in the Windsor Hotel, Montreal, Que.; R. L. Calder, K.C., acted as Chairman. The lecturer was warmly received by the audience consisting of Jews and foreigners of the better class.

Yakhontoff spoke in French and English. He first presented a resume of the Italian-Ethiopian situation. In this connection he claimed that the League of Nations would be but a small obstacle in the way of Mussolini. Speaking of the League of Nations he characterized it as being anaemic and in need of a blood transfusion from the U.S.S.R.

Speaking of the Russia of 20 years ago he described it as a country of extreme comforts, fine breeding and intelligence, but with limitless autocracy at its head. Sketching

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the progress made in the U.S.S.R. since the advent of Bolshevism, he said that whereas Russia prior to the Revolution of 1917 was a predominantly agricultural country, today it is engaged principally in industrial pursuits; that today seventy per cent of the total income comes from industrial sources. Last year, he said, Russia had risen from a nation whose industrial activities were practically negligible before the revolution to a nation ranking only second to U.S.A. He further claimed that in the field of education the U.S.S.R. has also risen to first place and is now publishing more books than any other nation in the world. Speaking of the Russian-Japanese question he said that the imminent conflict which is being talked about was pure newspaper fabrication. He concluded his address by saying that a union of Great Britain, France and the U.S.S.R. would be the means of saving the world from another conflagration.

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### 6. Professor Scott Nearing & Norman Thomas in Symposium at Montreal

[3<#] "How Can We Defeat Fascism" was the topic of a symposium held on the evening of 12th November at the Windsor Hotel, Montreal, between



Norman Thomas and Scott Nearing, both of New York. The affair, arranged officially by the "Saturday Night Club" under the capable leadership of Mrs. Lillian Mendelsohn, was attended by approximately eight hundred people, most of whom were Jews of the better class; The admission fee being \$1.50, \$1.00 and 50 cents. Among the leading Communist Party members in attendance were Fred Rose, Jim Gauld, Paul Moisan, Bresco and Dr. Gottlieb. A Mr. Rice of the Rice Studio Limited acted as Chairman.

Scott Nearing spoke first. He presented an outline of the history of economic developments and world trade from the year 1850, and then dealt with the various forms of Fascism. The latter, he said, was the dying or last phase

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of Capitalism. He inferred that Hitlerism or the Nazi regime in Germany was the worse kind of Fascism. In order to check Fascism, Capitalism must be completely eliminated, he said. For the immediate future the speaker urged the holding of educational meetings, demonstrations against Fascist acts such as the arrest of Thaelmann, etc. And in order to work properly, he said, "we must organize into highly developed revolutionary organizations which have the backing of the mass of the working class". He advocated the formation of a "Peoples Front" similar to the one in existence in France on purpose to prevent the Fascists from seizing power. "This 'Peoples Front' must also be prepared to seize power at the earliest opportunity, the same as the Russians did in 1917", he said.

Norman Thomas, leader of the S.P.A., disagreed with Scott Nearing on the question of building revolutionary working class organizations dominated by "Russian" interests. He stated that there had been too much "Russian" direction and not enough "world" direction. Thomas described Fascism as Capitalism with its mask off. He contended that Fascism can only come to power when large industrialists need the help of the state. He did not believe that any mass movement at this time can keep a country from Fascism. He ridiculed the present Communist Party tactics for United Front action on the basis of minimum demands. He accused the C.P. for fighting for what it holds instead of fighting for better conditions. He did not believe that the C.P. was sincere in its united front approach to the Socialist international. Thomas also took issue with the Communists on the question of the "dictatorship of the proletariat". He maintained that the word 'dictatorship' scares the people away and at the same time does not assure every one of equal treatment.

The affair netted a profit of about \$450 which is to be divided as follows: local Communist Party \$200; local Workers Unity League \$100; Canadian Labour Defence League \$100,

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and the balance is to remain in the organizational fund of "Saturday Night Club".

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. SASKATCHEWAN

7. Regina "Defence Committee" Hold Mass Meeting in  
City Hall

[3<#] The City Hall Auditorium at Regina was the scene of a public mass meeting on 11th November sponsored by the "Citizens Defence Committee" of Regina. The auditorium was filled to capacity with many standing in the aisles and at the back of the hall. The majority of those present were of foreign extraction composed of the usual crowd which attends the Market Square meetings. The speakers were the Reverend S. B. East, M. J. Coldwell, George Schofield (Swift Current) and Arthur H. Evans. The chair was occupied by Jack King, prominent local "Left Wing" member of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation.

Reverend East, in referring to the Investigation Commission appointed by the Saskatchewan Provincial Government to inquire into the circumstances attending and leading up to the riot of 1st July, said that this Commission would not do any good; what was wanted was a Federal commission with powers to conduct a thorough investigation in all parts of the Dominion. He remarked that the Commission appointed by the Provincial Government would only serve the purpose of whitewashing the police and others.

M. J. Coldwell, the second speaker, spoke much along the same lines as Mr. East. He announced that a delegation has been selected by the Canadian Labour Defence League to go to Ottawa to interview the Prime Minister who is to be requested that he appoint a Royal Commission to inquire into the Dominion Day riot; however the delegation will also ask that the Commission should begin its work in Vancouver to find out why the British Columbia Provincial Government allowed the strikers to leave the province in the

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first instance. The delegation, he announced, consists of M. J. Coldwell, S. B. East and Matt Shaw. He made an appeal for donations to defray the expenses of sending the delegation to Ottawa. Mr. Coldwell announced

that he was speaking as a private individual and not as a representative of any political party.

George Schofield of Swift Current spoke briefly stressing the futility of the Investigation Commission appointed by the Provincial Government.

Arthur Evans, the last speaker, touched only briefly on the Investigation Commission. He directed most of his attention to the police. He stated that he would identify the man who killed Detective Millar if given a complete line-up of "all the police that Assistant Commissioner Wood had in Regina on 1st July". He said, "the Royal Canadian Mounted Police were responsible for Millar's death". He declared he had two affidavits in his possession from persons who had gone to England but did not disclose the nature of those affidavits.

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### II. ONTARIO

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[X#] On Armistice Day, 11th November, approximately 800 men and women marched from the Metropolitan Church, Queen and Church Sts., Toronto, by way of Jarvis and Bloor Streets to Queens Park where they were augmented by about 200 students,

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members of the Students Peace Movement, and then marched to the City Hall increasing their number as they proceeded to approximately 2,000. On reaching the City Hall they were greeted by Mayor J. Simpson who expressed his pleasure in seeing citizens demonstrate for peace on this occasion. Pacifist speeches were made by Rabbi Eisendrath, Mrs. Anna Sissons, National Secretary of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Mrs. Marjorie King and Harry Monkman.

This parade was staged under the official auspices of the League for Peace and Freedom with the Canadian League Against War and Fascism and the Young Communist League of Canada remaining in the background. The last two mentioned organizations were largely instrumental in bringing this demonstration about.

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### III. QUEBEC

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