

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 27th November, 1935.

SECRETNO. 783WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

Alderman Jacob Penner and School Trustee Andrew Bilecki, Communists, were re-elected in Ward 3 in Winnipeg's recent Civic election; both topping the quotas necessary for election on the first count, Penner receiving 4,549 and Bilecki 4,499 votes. J. McNeil and A. Brock, Communist candidates in Ward 2, received 1,195 and 1,336 votes, respectively.

At Edmonton where the Communist nominee for Mayor -- Jan Lakeman -- was disqualified on property assessment grounds, the Communist Party did not have any candidates in the field but supported Morris Baker, Mayoralty candidate, and Miss Margaret Crang, Canadian Labour party candidate for Alderman.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

1. Third National Convention of Workers Unity League

The Third National Convention of the Workers Unity League was held on 9th, 10th and 11th November in the Pythian Castle Hall at Toronto, Ont., with 112 accredited and 17 fraternal delegates in attendance. J. B. McLachlan, President of the National Council of the league, opened the

[<#] convention and J. B. Salsberg, representing the Toronto Council of the W.U.L., welcomed the delegates to the city. A cordial letter was received from Mayor James Simpson, Co-operative Commonwealth Federation leader and Vice President of the Canadian Trades and Labour Congress,

regretting his inability to be present; he had been invited by Tom Ewan, National Convention of the W.U.L., to address the opening session of the convention. (Tom Ewan's letter to His Worship was published in full in The Worker a few days prior to the convention.)

Tom Ewan presented the Executive Secretary's report, covering the activity of the league since the last convention two years ago. "The congress is being held", he said, "under the shadow of war and Fascism; the lesson so bitterly learned by the workers of Germany must be brought home to every organization and organized worker in Canada". Reviewing the achievements of the W.U.L. during the past two years he stressed the importance of the developments of an independent press. "Many of the unions now have their own press", he said. "The Workers Unity League", he stated, "is not a section of the Communist Party of Canada, nor is it out to create strife and turmoil". Trade Union Unity; one union - one industry, was the keynote of his report. "The W.U.L. puts forward two questions as the foundation for unity", he said, "the interests of the working class, wages, working conditions, etc., and secondly, that the will of the majority with proper consideration for minority opinions shall be the law of trade unions".

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The "line" laid down by Ewan in his report is reflected in the "Unity" resolution - referred to by the Communist press as the "most important statement of policy made in the sessions" - adopted by the congress; the resolution follows:-

"Whereas, this third convention of the Workers Unity League has learned from the reports of its national secretary, brother Tom Ewan, of the strong efforts made by the Workers Unity League, during the last year, to achieve trade union unity in Canada, and also of the growing desire for unity in increasing numbers of A.F. of L., A.C.C. of L., Catholic and independent unions, and among the unorganized workers; and

"Whereas the reports of the delegates delivered at this convention show the strong desire and the great need for unity in their respective trades and among the working people generally; be it therefore

"Resolved that this third convention of the Workers Unity League of Canada greet the efforts of its national council and of all other unions in their fight for trade union unity; and be it further

"Resolved that this convention extends its appreciation and approval to our affiliated bodies who have, during the past year, striven to achieve unity in their respective industries; and be it further

"Resolved that this third convention, in view of the need for the unification of the trade unions in Canada for the maintenance and

improvement of the daily needs of the Canadian workers, in the defence against the rising tide of reaction, to keep Canada at peace and to defeat the growing menace of company unionism, that this convention call upon the national council to speedily develop the widest campaign for the achievement of trade union unity in Canada and that the national council be authorized to seek the co-operation and assistance of the Trades and Labour Congress, the All-Canadian Congress of Labour, the Catholic unions, as well as independent unions, to achieve this end; and be it further

“Resolved that each affiliated union to the W.U.L. be called upon to take up the question of unity in its own industry and on the basis of the concrete conditions prevailing in each industry, strive to establish one union of all workers in such industry; and be it further

“Resolved that the national council of the W.U.L. should encourage and give guidance to its affiliated unions and help them to achieve unity in the speediest fashion”.

Several fraternal delegates addressed the convention including Kenneth Cameron of the League Against War and Fascism and Fred Hodgson representing the Associated Labour Press. Greetings were also received from several locals of the Amalgamated Mine Workers of Nova Scotia.

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The convention expressed its firm opposition to the merging of the Canadian Pacific and the Canadian National Railways in a resolution which will be forwarded to the Federal Government and the chiefs of the railway unions. In the opinion of the convention Canada's railway problem can be adequately solved by placing the burden upon the shoulders of the railway and finance corporations.

The convention resolved to call upon all unions to aid the strike of the Vancouver Longshoremen and to demand the release of Ivan Emery and William Squires, imprisoned strike leaders. The convention condemned the “British Columbia Citizens' League and demanded its dissolution; it demanded the repeal of Section 98 of the Criminal Code and, if the Senate should prevent such repeal, that a law be passed stopping its enforcement.

The convention passed a resolution protesting the charge against Bob Wright, W.U.L. Organizer in Montreal, of “conspiring to raise wages”; passed a resolution condemning the Quebec “Arcand Bill” and urging all unions to act against similar legislation in other provinces. It further demanded the withdrawal of the charges against Arthur Evans, Matt Shaw and other on-to-Ottawa leaders, and the unconditional release of the imprisoned Noranda strike leaders and the five Montreal radicals recently convicted on charges of sedition. Included in the demands of the convention

is a demand for immediate opening of full diplomatic and trade relations with the Soviet Union. The convention also advocated a complete boycott of all goods from Germany, and the six hour day and the five day week. The convention further voted to affiliate as a national body to the Canadian Labour Defence League and the League Against War and Fascism.

J. B. McLachlan was re-elected to head the W.U.L. for another year; Tom Ewan was re-elected as General Secretary.

[✂#] The Central Committee, elected during the concluding

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session, consists of the following: James B. MacLachlan, T. A. Ewen, T. C. Sims, F. Collins, A. Buller, J. B. Salsberg, M. Klig, J. Gershman, S. Scarlett, R. G. Wright, P. Philips, E. B. Rose, Henri Laroque, W. Gibbons, Kenneth Scott, Maud McKenzie, H. Segal, Mrs. D. Joanisse, W. L. Haysey, R. Riopel.

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2. C.L.D.L. Wages Campaign for "Class-War" Prisoners

[✂#] The recent National Convention of the Canadian Labor Defence League decided to launch a special campaign during the months of November and December in aid of the "class-war" prisoners and their dependants.

A recent circular issued by the Organization Department of the league stresses the importance of this campaign and its propaganda value. It is claimed that "there are now 135 political prisoners in Canada" and that the C.L.D.L. is obliged to provide winter relief for their dependants.

The circular offers the following suggestions for the "dramatization" of the campaign:-

(1) Bring pointedly home to the members of trade unions and other working-class organisations the fact that members of their organisation are behind the bars and looking to them for support. Particularly do they expect support during the Christmas season.

(2) Approach petit-bourgeois people, be bold and tell them that while they are living in comfort working class fighters are enduring prison torture and emphasise that they should contribute money for the aid of prisoners or at least donate an article for the PRISONERS' RELIEF BAZAAR which we will mention later.

(3) Invite former political prisoners to speak at Branch and other meetings on the work of prisoners' relief.

(4) Set up collection boxes in all working class halls. Attach to the front of these boxes a cut-out large cardboard "Christmas Stocking". Paint the cardboard shape red and inscribe a suitable slogan upon it.

(5) Arrange "Christmas trees" in local workers' Halls. Urge the members and people in the neighborhood to bring gifts and money for prisoners and their dependants to the tree. Just before Christmas arrange a

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social event in connection with stripping the tree. Have refreshments and take up a collection.

(6) Organize a Christmas Relief Bazaar on as big a scale as possible. Rally all possible assistance in the collection of articles for sale at the Bazaar. Try to get groups of women to sew things for the Bazaar. If there are any sympathetic artists, people who can paint or model or carve, get them to make things for the Bazaar. The Bazaar should be held a few days before Christmas, it should last two or three days in a large town. Games of chance should be utilised. Refreshments should be sold. In the evenings dances be arranged. A small admission charge to the Bazaar to be levied. The hall in which the Bazaar takes place should be appropriately decorated.

(7) Have collectors with "Christmas Stocking" boxes stand at the entrance of all large workers' meetings.

(8) Persuade workers and middle class people to hold "Christmas parties" at their homes for the purpose of raising funds for relief.

(9) Have artistic posters painted. The National Office had hoped to prepare these and sell them to the Districts. However, almost complete lack of funds at the centre at present makes this impossible. Posters should show prisoners behind the bars; prisoners' wives with babies in their arms, etc., etc.

(10) The National Office will endeavour to have printed a quantity of "Prisoners' Relief Collection Lists". These lists will be suitably illustrated and will bear stubs on their sides of various denominations which can be torn off and given to the donors. To obtain these lists, Districts and Branches must send in five cents per list with their orders.

(11) The National Office will try to obtain some funds to print additional materials. Christmas post-cards, posters, etc. But it is extremely doubtful whether this will be possible as no credit can be obtained from the printer.

As part of the campaign the circular also urges that demands be made for the release of the prisoners at Christmas time.

3. Situation on Vancouver's Waterfront

[3<#] Latest information from Vancouver, B.C., would indicate that although picketing is being continued the strike of the longshoremen is losing force. It is said that over 200 members of the Vancouver and District Waterfront Workers Association have returned to work. Among those seen at work at Pier "D" on 18th November was Alan Walker, former Secretary of the Vancouver and

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District Waterfront Workers Association.

The Army and Navy Veterans Association is reported to be making preparations with a view to assisting striking longshoremen who are ex-service men returning to work. These men are to be organized into a unit of the Army and Navy Veterans Association and as such will approach the Shipping Federation for reinstatement.

4. Blairmore Communists Support Ethiopia

[3<#] The Town Council of Blairmore, Alta., at a meeting held on 5th November passed a resolution pledging support to the Emperor of Ethiopia, Haile Salassie. The resolution forwarded by the Mayor to the Emperor reads:-

"The mayor and council of Blairmore convey best wishes for success over Mussolini, the oppressor of the Italian people and war-monger. We pray for your victory which will help free the Italian people and the world. Blairmore people salute".

5. World Committee To Be Represented at Canadian Congress Against War & Fascism

[3<#] A. A. McLeod, National Chairman of the League Against War and Fascism, announced that Sonya Branting, daughter of the Premier of Sweden, Hanns Eisler, German composer, and Roger Baldwin, head of the American Civil Liberties Union, will represent the World Committee Against War and Fascism at the Second Canadian Congress Against War and Fascism to be held in Toronto, Ont., on 6th, 7th and 8th December. He further announced that the American League Against War and Fascism will be represented by Professor Robert Morss Lovett, Editor of the "New Republic", and that Eleanor Brennan would be attending as the representative of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

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6. Vancouver Branch of Progressive Arts Club Stage
"Waiting For Lefty"

The Progressive Arts Club of Vancouver, B.C., presented "Waiting For Lefty", by Clifford Odets, at the Ukrainian Labour Temple, 805 Pender [§<#] Street, East, on the nights of 8th, 9th and 11th November. On every occasion the hall was filled to capacity with approximately 600 people in attendance, a good portion of whom paid 50 cents for reserved seats.

The play was well received by the audience composed of people from many walks of life. The background or dominating scene of the play was a meeting of a Taxi Drivers Union in New York called to determine whether a strike should be called in protest against the "starvation" wages the men are receiving.

This play, it is expected, will be shown by the company in different places throughout the province.

A New York critic comments on this play as follows:--

"A Milestone was ... the appearance of 'Waiting For Lefty', a fifty-minute play on the New York taxi strike ... this drama, with its head-on union meetings scenes, its flashbacks into the homes of cab drivers, its action swirling from stage to orchestra pit, and back to stage again ... the most directly agitational of all working-class plays written to date in America, it added stature to revolutionary drama".

The Progressive Arts Club at Vancouver is headed by [§<deletion: 2 words] and in the production of this play he was assisted by [§<deletion: 1 word] of the Vancouver Little Theatre Society.

7. Tim Buck in Winnipeg, Man.

[§<#] Tim Buck arrived in Winnipeg, Man., on 16th November to supervise the Civic election campaign and the reorganization of the Party forces at that point. During Sunday afternoon, the 17th November, he addressed a large election rally at the Ukrainian Labour Temple and in the course of the evening he addressed a gathering at the Worker's Theatre. On the 18th he spoke over Station C.J.R.C. from 6.30 to 6.45 p.m. on matters pertaining to the election campaign.

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II. ALBERTA9. Edmonton Communists Concentrate on Unemployed

Leaders of the Communist Party in Edmonton are now concentrating their efforts with a view to organizing the unemployed single men in that city.

On 10th November the Unemployed Single Men's Protective Association held a meeting at Emery Hall, 9636 Jasper Avenue, with approximately 250 people in attendance. J. Lawrence acted as Chairman and a young man named Miller as Secretary. In outlining the agenda the Chairman severely condemned the present relief system and appealed to the unemployed single men to join the Unemployed Single Men's Protective Association and the Relief Camp Workers Union.

The meeting was addressed by W. Mentz of the Canadian Labour Party; Mrs. Grace V. Murdock, Edmonton Council of the Canadian League Against War and Fascism; F. Clarke, Relief Camp Workers Union; L. Rodman and J. Nicholson, Unemployed Single Men's Protective Association. The spokesman of the Unemployed Single Men's Protective Association outlined the demands of the unemployed single men which included; cash relief work for trade union rates of wages, abolition of relief kitchen, unemployment social insurance and free medical and hospital attention.

The Edmonton Council of the Canadian League Against War and Fascism held a mass meeting on the Market Square on 11th November. Only about 150 people attended. S.A.G. Barnes acted as Chairman and the speakers were Mrs. I. Ringwood, H. Gerry, Reverend Dr. McCall, Reverend Carl Storm and Rice Sheppard. The speeches were directed against war and Fascism and against Capitalism in general.

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On 7th November Matt Shaw related the history of the on-to-Ottawa march before an audience of approximately 200 in the Eagle Hall at Medicine Hat, Alta. He declared the police were entirely responsible for the Regina 1st July riot and the killing of Detective Charles Millar of the Regina City Police. He made a strong appeal to the audience to come to the support of the strike leaders facing trial at Regina.

A protest resolution was unanimously endorsed by the meeting, and the collection netted the sum of \$16.55.

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III. SASKATCHEWAN

10. John C. Cosgrove in Canora & Yorkton

[#] John C. Cosgrove addressed a gathering of approximately 60 people at the Royal Theatre, Canora, Sask., on 10th November. The meeting was held for the purpose of raising funds for the defence of the relief strikers facing trial at Regina. Cosgrove gave his version of the circumstances leading up to the riot on 1st July placing the blame for it and the death of Detective Millar on the shoulders of the police. The collection taken at this meeting netted about \$12.

[#] On 11th October John C. Cosgrove was the main speaker at a meeting held under the auspices of the local Citizens Defence Committee in the City Hall at Yorkton, Sask.

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The meeting was opened by Frank Thorpe who, in the course of his opening remarks, outlined the purpose of the meeting.

John Cosgrove contended:-

- (1) That the B.C. relief camp strikers had a real grievance;
- (2) That the on-to-Ottawa trek was forced upon them;
- (3) That the strikers were assisted on their on-to-Ottawa trek by the police and C.P.R. officials and then stopped by the police at Regina, Sask.
- (4) That the riot at Regina was precipitated by the police after the officers of the relief camp strikers had offered to disband and return to their respective places; the Saskatchewan Provincial Government having under consideration their offer at that particular time.

Cosgrove alleged that ninety per cent of the B.C. relief camp strikers were born within the British Empire and that seventy per cent of them had highschool education. Speaking of himself he said that he was a Returned man having served with the Allied Forces Overseas in the United States Army. He also informed his audience that he served in the Secret Service of the U.S.A. Speaking of the killing of Detective Millar he asserted that he had proof in his possession showing that Millar was killed by the police.

Jospeh Young of Saskatoon also spoke outlining the functions of the Citizens Defence Committee. He said that the latter works in conjunction

with the Canadian Labour Defence League. He said that in the northern part of the province of Saskatchewan 20 such Defence Committees have been set up thus far.

The usual protest resolution was passed and a total of \$8.90 were collected.

IV. MANITOBA

11. Food Workers Union Strike in North Winnipeg

[3<#] The Food Workers Union at Winnipeg, an affiliate of the Workers Unity League, succeeded in calling a strike of the drivers of bread delivery wagons on 19th November. Most of the bakeries in the north end of the city are involved. The strike

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appears to be quite solid and no strike breakers have offered their services so far. The bakeries involved, 16 in number, are owned and operated by persons of foreign descent who are continually having trouble with their employees. [3<deletion: 3/4 line] has been largely instrumental in calling this strike.

V. QUEBEC

12. C.P. in Montreal to Receive Report on VIIth Congress of C.I.

[3<#] The Communist Party in Montreal intends to hold an open meeting in the near future at which a report will be given on the proceedings of the VIIth Congress of the Communist International.

[3<#] At a meeting of the Secretariat of the Canadian Labour Defence League at Montreal held on 19th November it was reported that no meetings had been held by the French Section of the league for the past four weeks owing to the impossibility of securing a meeting hall. It was further reported that [3<deletion: 1 line] had informed the Secretariat that his union was receiving special attention by the "Red Squad" of the City Police Force. In this connection the Secretariat resolved that [3<deletion: 2 words] together with [3<deletion: 1 word] visit the Chief of Police and ask that the "Red Squad" discontinue their visits to the meetings held by the union. A discussion on C.L.D.L. finances disclosed a debt of \$772.53 and that the

organization finds it impossible to secure further credit. In order to liquidate part of the debt it was decided to issue an appeal to all branches and members in general to hold bazaars and entertainments for the purpose of raising funds.

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VI. THE MARITIME PROVINCES

13. C.P. Activity on Decline in Cape Breton

With the departure of Annie Buller from the Cape Breton area shortly after the Federal election, Communist activities have decline considerably [X#] in that region. The Communist Movement is reported to be practically at a standstill.

[Xdeletion: 1 line] of the Steel Workers Union of Nova Scotia, is devoting all of his energy to the building up of the Steel Workers Union. It is said that over 800 steel workers have joined the union since it was reorganized about six months ago.
