

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 11th December, 1935.

SECRETNO. 785WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

A public meeting, attended by approximately 400 delegates and visitors, at the Victoria Theatre, Toronto, Ont. , on the evening of 6th December, marked the opening of the Second National Congress of the Canadian League Against War and Fascism. Mayor James Simpson welcomed the delegates to Toronto, and wished the congress every success.

The general Waterfront Strike at Vancouver was officially called off on 9th December, 1935.

[2]

APPENDICESTable of ContentsAPPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

- Paragraph No. 1. Situation on Vancouver's Waterfront Strike To Be Called Off Shortly
L. & W. T. W. of C. and V. & D. W. W. A. in State of Disintegration
- " " 2. C. C. F. Leaders Reject C. P. "United Front" Proposal
- " " 3. B. C. Fishermen Endorse Federation Proposal Made by C. P.
- " " 4. Communists Active Among Food Workers
Murdock Clarke and W. Chibrie Arrested in Calgary
- " " 5. Communist Controlled Italian Publication Makes Appearance
- " " 6. Communists in Municipal Elections
(A) Hamilton, Ont.
(B) Lac du Bonnet, Man.
(C) Kitchener, Ont.

- “ ” 7. O. C. Doolan Transferred from Edmonton to Assume Position of Business Manager of The Worker
- “ ” 8. Relief Camp Workers Union Active in Relief Camps Ernest Cumber Makes Statement in Vancouver Conference in Kamloops, B. C. Intend Calling a One-Day Strike in Support of Men Awaiting Trial at Regina

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

- “ ” 9. ALBERTA
Edmonton Council of L. A. W. & F. Unable to Finance Full Delegation to Toronto Congress
- “ ” 10. MANITOBA
Banquet Marks End of Glos Pracy Drive in Winnipeg Tim Buck and Antonina Sokolicz Are Guest Speakers
- “ ” 11. ONTARIO
Policy of Y. C. L. Explained at Toronto Meet Sam Carr, Bill Kashton, - Main Speakers
[~~deletion: 1 1/1 line~~]
- “ ” 12. QUEBEC
[~~deletion: 4 lines~~]
Dress Pressers of I. U. N. T. W. Decide to Join A. F. of L.
- “ ” 13. THE MARITIME PROVINCES
[~~deletion: 1 line~~]

[3]

APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

I. Situation on Vancouver's Waterfront

It is anticipated that the strike on the waterfronts of Vancouver and [~~deletion: 1 line~~]New Westminster will be officially called off in the near future. Delegations are reported to be conferring with their former employers with a view of returning to work under acceptable conditions. The picket line has disintegrated to the point where only the “hangers-on” are taking an active part in it.

[~~deletion: 1 line~~], recently stated to an intimate of his that the best policy to pursue now was to call the strike off and get as many men of the

old guard back to work as possible and commence organizing all over again.

[3<#] The Longshoremen and Water Transport Workers Association and the Vancouver and District Waterfront Workers Association both are now endeavouring to present as leaders entirely new figures. [3<deletion: 1 word] is reported entirely without the scope of active participation as advisor and leader, and Emery is serving a term of imprisonment. [3<deletion: 1/4 line] continue active in the general Strike Committee.

There is a distinct feeling of lassitude and defeat prevalent through the strike organizations and signs of disintegration of the Longshoremen and Water Transport Workers Association have grown more pronounced recently. Ostensibly the general Strike Committee with representatives on it from all the striking units of the association, is still functioning but underneath the indications are that it is practically defunct.

[4]

2. C. C. F. Leaders Reject C. P. "United Front" Proposal

[3<#] The Central Committee of the Communist Party, as well as the Manitoba District Bureau, addressed a letter to the National Council of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation proposing the formation of a wide "people's anti-Capitalist Party" and suggesting that the C. C. F. should provide the basis for such a Party.

According to press reports the National Council, which held a two-day session in the Chambers of Commerce Building at Winnipeg, recently, replied by deciding to "consistently maintain and to press more vigorously the existing C. C. F. policies" and the maintenance of "rigid independence from all other political parties.

The letter of the C. P. to the National Council read in part:-

"In spite of the fact that the Liberal party succeeded in securing a large majority in parliament, the election results show the rapidly growing disillusionment of great numbers of workers and small business people in the two old parties. . . . Those who voted against both old parties, but not for the parties of labor, were at the same time expressing their extreme discontent and seeking a solution to their every day economic and political problems.

"The facts of life itself are imposing upon the labor movement of today the task of guiding this discontent away from the fascist channels

into the channels where the people will have the opportunity to give fullest expression to their discontent and their demands.

"It is our opinion that this can be accomplished through the building of a wide people's party, embracing the workers and farmers and the disillusioned small business people. We believe that the C. C. F. provides the basis for such a party; could indeed become such a party.

"The Communist Party, in stating such a position, wishes to point out that it is deeply interested in the building of such a party, and desires to be part of the great movement against capitalism that such a party would represent."

[5]

3. B. C. Fishermen Endorse Federation Proposal Made By C. P.

The Convention of the British Columbia Trollers Association held at the Victoria Hall, Vancouver, on 21st, 22nd and 23rd November endorsed unanimously the resolution injected by the Communist fraction calling for [X<#] the federation of all fishermen's organizations in British Columbia.

The Japanese Fishermen's Protective Association, representing 1,100 fishermen, has also signified its willingness to sign the federation manifesto. The B. C. Fishermen's Protective Association and the United Fishermen of British Columbia are considering the resolution.

[X<#] The draft manifesto, submitted by the C. P. fraction to the B. C. Trollers Association and other fishermen's organizations, proposes the following:-

- (1) Joint price and wage conferences (drafting of agreements).
- (2) Winter relief, health and social insurance.
- (3) To organize the unorganized.
- (4) Conservation of the fisheries.
- (5) Representation of fishermen on all Government commissions.
- (6) The right to organize, strike and picket.

[X<deletion: 1/4 line] of the Fishermen and Cannery Workers Industrial Union, left for Seattle on 30th November to attend a Fishermen's Convention at which ways and means are to be considered for bringing the fishermen of the Pacific Coast into an organization similar in its scope and aims to the Pacific-Maritime Federation.

4. Communists Active Among Food Workers

[§<#] A determined effort is being made by the Communists operating through the Food Workers Industrial Union, section of the Workers Unity League, to organize the food workers

[6]

throughout Canada.

At Winnipeg the movement, centering around the flour mill workers and the baking industry in general, is headed by [§<deletion: 1 line]

At Calgary [§<deletion: 1/4 line] has been appointed Business Agent of the Food Workers Industrial Union and an effort is being made to organize the restaurant and hotel employees of that city. The organizers of the Food Workers Industrial Union in Calgary have succeeded in calling a strike of restaurant employees affecting the employees of four establishments.

Murdock Clarke and W. Chibrie were arrested recently by the Calgary City Police on charges of intimidation. It is alleged that these organisers were trying to force some of the restaurant proprietors into signing a new wage agreement with their employees.

5. Communist Controlled Italian Publication Makes Appearance

[§<#] The appearance of an Italian publication entitled Il Lavoratore, a weekly published at Toronto, marks another step forward in the growth of Communist influence in Canada. It supplies an important link in the chain of Communist controlled "language" publications and its principal mission will be, for the time being, the spreading of anti-Fascist and anti-war propaganda among the Italians in Canada.

6. Communists in Municipal Elections

(A) Hamilton, Ont.

[§<#] Three Communist candidates contested seats in the Civic election in Hamilton on 2nd December. John Hunter, Communist candidate for Mayor, polled 2,186 votes or approximately six per cent of the total number of votes cast; Bruce

[7]

Smith, Communist candidate for Alderman in Ward 6, polled 383 votes out of a total of 8,499; Michael Hutchison, Aldermanic candidate in Ward 5, polled 330 votes out of a total of 6,579.

The Co-operative Commonwealth Federation candidates who were supported by the Communists, were John Mitchell for Board of Control, who received 8,700 votes out of a total of 95,386; Agnes Sharpe, Charles Turner, John Rae, John Doyle, James Newell and Roy Aindow, all Aldermanic candidates. With the exception of the re-election of Agnes Sharpe, candidate for Alderman in Ward 8, none of the Communist or C. C. F. candidates were elected.

(B) Lac du Bonnet, Man.

[3<#] Three radical "United Front" candidates were elected to the Municipal Council at Lac du Bonnet, Man. , in the Municipal election on 22nd November. Alex Salter, Reeve, was re-elected with an overwhelming majority.

Dan Nolyk, United Front candidate for Councillor, was re-elected also with a decisive majority; and John Beiting, Communist, defeated Gus Larsen in Ward 4.

(C) Kitchener, Ont.

[3<#] Sam Wittke was nominated Aldermanic candidate in Kitchener, Ont. , recently. He is the first Communist to run for the City Council in this city.

7. O. C. Doolan Transferred from Edmonton

[3<#] O. C. Doolan, prominent Communist Party functionary, left Edmonton on 2nd December for Toronto to take over the position of Business Manager of The Worker.

Prior to his departure for Toronto Doolan was given a

[8]

farewell banquet in the Albion Hall at which farewell speeches, praising Doolan's devotion to the Communist Movement, were given by J. A. MacPherson, J. Lakeman, H. Gerry, J. Plante, and S. A. G. Barnes. Replying to these speeches Doolan said:-

"I swear to the Central Committee and through them to the workers of Canada that I will work with them to the best of my ability and to carry on the struggle for the overthrow of the Capitalist system and the establishment of Socialism in Canada".

B. C. W. U. Active in Relief Camps

[9<#] Recent reports indicate that the "Relief Camp Workers Union", affiliate of the Workers Unity League, has become more active in the relief camps particularly in Southern British Columbia.

Ernest Cumber, Secretary of the B. C. Section of the Relief Camp Workers Union, gave an address in Vancouver on 15th November in the course of which he said:-

"There is a movement on foot, the details of which I am not ready to disclose, whereby the relief camps in Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba are all getting themselves organized into a relief camp union and each camp is going to have a delegate appointed who will meet at some place with delegates from British Columbia. All these delegates will draw up a set of demands which are to be presented to the various governments and if their demands are not granted, they are then in a position to go out on strike the same as any large trade union. These delegates will have the same power as trade union delegates and simply will declare a strike in a certain camp for some reason, and then all the rest of the camps in the four provinces will come out in sympathy.

"There will be one thing we won't have to do and that is fight the scabs the way the longshoremen do, because the Government won't be able to find anyone to scab on us on 20 cents a day".

The Relief Camp Workers Union, B. C. District, is reported to have held a conference on 23rd and 24th November at Kamloops, B. C. , at which it was resolved that the immediate "perspective" of the union shall be the defence of the arrested trekkers awaiting trial at Regina. In this connection the conference decided to recommend to the provincial executive

[9]

committee that a one-day protest strike be considered in the immediate future, if possible to coincide with the trials of the accused trekkers. The conference further recommended the selection of two camp workers from each province to proceed to Ottawa, in conjunction with the Legislative Committee of the Workers Unity League, with the object in view of placing the demands of the relief camp workers before the Federal Government.

The report given by the Secretary to the conference states that the union is in a stronger organizational position than it was a year ago; that four hundred new members have been enrolled into organization since the return of the on-to-Ottawa trekkers; and that organizational work is again being conducted in the camps.

[10]

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. ALBERTA

9. Edmonton Council of L. A. W. & F. Unable to Finance Full Delegation to Toronto Congress

[§#] Inability to raise sufficient funds prevented the inclusion of [§deletion: 3 words] in the delegation appointed at Edmonton to attend the Canadian Congress Against War and Fascism. At a meeting of the Edmonton Council of the Canadian League Against War and Fascism held on 29th November it was decided to send a credential to [§deletion: 2 words] who is reported to be confined in hospital in Toronto, in order that he may attend the congress in place of [§deletion: 2 words] along with [§deletion: 2 words] the only delegate from Edmonton.

II. MANITOBA

10. Banquet Marks End of 'Glos Pracy' Drive in Winnipeg

[§#] On 30th November a banquet, attended by 214 guests, in the Polish Labour Temple marked the termination of the campaign staged in the City of Winnipeg, Man. , on behalf of Glos Pracy (Voice of Labor), Communist controlled organ of the Polish Labour Farmer Temple Association. Tim Buck and Antonina Sokolicz were the guest speakers.

Tim Buck congratulated the Polish "comrades" and sympathizers for the splendid support they had given to the Revolutionary Movement in Canada. He recounted the time when the Polish workers commenced publishing a mimeographed sheet under different names in the East just shortly before he (Buck) and the other leaders of the Communist Party of Canada went to Kingston Penitentiary; and now, in hardly more than four years, the Polish comrades had built up "the biggest and best working class paper published in the Polish language on the North American Continent". Buck urged the Polish workers to continue the work with a view to building up a still stronger paper which,

[11]

he termed, was the main propeller of the movement.

Antonina Sokolicz, in a brief speech, warned the workers to watch the enemy of the working class which, she said, is always awake and in readiness to deal a blow to the cause of the workers. In support of her contention she cited two stanzas of a working class poem depicting the shooting of a political prisoner in Poland when he attempted to make his escape from prison.

Several vocal and musical selections rendered by members of the Polish Labour Farmer Temple Association made up the program. It was announced that the campaign would be concluded successfully as most locals of the organization had reported having reached their assigned quotas ahead of the time specified. The object of the campaign is said to be a 12-page weekly Glos Pracy in place of an eight page weekly, as published now.

III. ONTARIO

11. New Policy of Y. C. L. Explained at Toronto Meeting

[*#] The Young Communist League held a mass meeting in the Madison Theatre, Toronto, on 1st December with approximately 400 in attendance. The speakers were Comrade Monkman, East York Unemployed Association, Sam Carr, a representative of the Communist Party of Canada, and Bill Kashton, National Secretary of the Y. C. L.

Monkman dealt with the strike of relief recipients in East York, strongly urging all unemployed to join the unemployed organization and fight for higher relief.

Sam Carr recounted the Youth Movement of the various countries and the necessity of all youth joining some organization. He attacked the Liberal Government denouncing the Right Honourable McKenzie King for maintaining the relief camps throughout Canada.

Bill Kashton, who was a delegate to the Sixth World Congress of the Young Communist International held in Moscow

[12]

recently, gave a report on the proceedings and resolutions of the congress. He stressed three points which were dealt with and endorsed by the congress, (1) organization of non-Communist youth; mass organizations embracing Communists, Socialists and churches in opposition to war and Fascism; (2) merging of the Young Communist League with the Co-operative Commonwealth Youth Movement on the issues acceptable to both

organizations; (3) modification of the policy of the Y. C. L. with a view to admitting members who are not totally in agreement with the general principles of Communism but who are willing to become members of the Y. C. L. He urged the Canadian youth to refrain from taking part in the Olympic games in Germany next year.

Two resolutions were passed by the meeting (a) that the Olympic Committee be instructed to change the place of the 1936 Olympic games from Berlin to some other country; (b) that Bill Douglas, recently imprisoned for his activities in the Crowland Township (Ont.) strike, be released.

[X#] [Xdeletion: 1 1/3 pages]

[14]

[X#] [Xdeletion: 1/3 page]

[X#] In conformity with the new policy of the Workers Unity League the Dress Pressers Local of the Industrial Union of Needle Trade Workers at Montreal decided to follow the steps of the Toronto dressmakers and apply for a charter in the International Ladies Garment Workers of America. A similar stand will likely be taken by the Operators and Finishers Local of the Industrial Union of Needle Trade Workers in Montreal. Joe Gershman, National Secretary of the Industrial Union of Needle Trade Workers, is reported to be in Montreal supervising the reorganization of the various affiliated bodies. He is to bring together all members of the Industrial Union of Needle Trade Workers, and all those who follow its lead, to become the base for a broad organizational International Ladies Garment Workers of America.
