

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 27th December, 1935.

SECRETNO. 787WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

Conditions at Dundurn (Sask.) Camp are reported to be improving daily. Warned by the Camp Authorities the strikers would be docked 60 cents a day for days not worked, many of the men have returned to work during the past few days. On 24th December only 280 of the inmates remained on strike.

East York (Ont.) striking relief recipients returned to work on 21st December. The organization which led the strike is contesting the forthcoming Municipal elections with a full slate of candidates.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

1. Manifesto of Communist Parties of British Empire

In conformity with the anti-war and anti-fascist policy of the Communist [~~deletion: 1 word~~] International the Communist Parties of the British Empire have issued the following joint manifesto:-

“To the People of the countries of the British Empire:

“The imperialist rulers of the people and lands of the British Empire are feverishly preparing for war, to gather the sums needed for which a handful of rich exploiters, headed by the National government of Britain, are imposing still heavier burdens on the people. War Alliances

have been concluded between the British government and those of Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. The British Empire, dominating one-fifth of the world's surface, stands behind Hitler Germany, encouraging the fascist madmen to war upon the Soviet Union. Britain is feverishly preparing for war against Italy for seizure of Abyssinia. It seeks new markets and new lands for its exploiting purposes. Back of all schemes to hurl the masses into a bloodbath more terrible than the last war is to be seen the hand of the British war makers.

"British imperialism needs the military, naval and economic aid of the Dominions and colonies. It needs men to send to the battlefields; it needs women and youths to make munitions.

"In the Dominion countries, the capitalists of which look to a new war to gain greater riches at the expense of the people, military and naval expenditures increase.

"The CANADIAN capitalists boast that their output of war metals are the greatest in history. They send the young unemployed into forced labour camps to build air bases. They look to a new war to sell their surplus wheat and to pile up new riches. The AUSTRALIAN government is extending its naval strength and adding to its military forces. The NEW ZEALAND capitalists are paying increased attention to war preparations. The British government with the aid of the Dominion politicians, strives to break down the opposition of the IRISH FREE STATE government to a War Alliance with Britain and thereby to crush the fight of the Irish people for freedom. The ruling White Groups of SOUTH AFRICA have sunk their differences and joined hands with the British government to defeat the Negro people and harness them into service in the coming war. In NEWFOUNDLAND, Britain sees a strategic base in the event of war with its chief imperialist enemy, the United States. The countries under British subjection in the Middle and Far East, in Africa and the Pacific, constituting the overwhelming majority of the British Empire, are counted upon by British imperialism for war purposes. Vital, naval, military, and air bases are being extended in these countries at the cost of the toiling people. The British rulers,

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in partnership with the most powerful capitalist groups in the Dominions, are getting ready for a world war.

"The British imperialists, the most powerful capitalist groups in the Dominions, the sections of the native ruling groups in the subject countries, are striving to place the toilers of the countries of the British Empire at their mercy in the coming war. They plan, in their own interests as owners and exploiters, to bring endless sufferings and

catastrophe to the people. The British rulers are planning war as they did in the years before 1914. And we know that to-day the outbreak of war in any part of the world will mean a world war.

“To break down the opposition of the people to war, British and Dominion governments are increasing their terror against the workers and farmers, against the fighters for national liberation in the colonies. The jails are filling with people who are fighting for the political rights, for bread for their families. Fascism, the bloody dictatorship of the most brutal capitalists, is rearing its head. The British rulers foment national feelings, and incite race hatred to spit the toiling people and render them helpless.

“One of the main objects of these war plans of British imperialism is the SOVIET UNION, which is pursuing the path of peace, which fights to preserve peace, which is bringing happiness and joy to its millions. The Soviet Union does not want war. The Soviet Union seeks only to improve and make more content the lives of its people. The Soviet Union thus earns the hatred of the imperialists, while it wins the respect and love of the masses of the people.

“The imperialist war makers look upon the rich fields and mighty factories of the Soviet Union with greedy eyes. They wish to dupe the toiling people of the imperialist world into taking arms against this great country of the common people. They must fail in this foul attempt!

“How can the British imperialist be prevented from hurling the whole world into a new and terrible slaughter? Only by a movement of the common people of all countries--the workers, the farmers, the peasantry, the professional people, the small tradesmen, the youth and the women. If these millions of toiling people of the British Empire, who have no interest in war, who will gather only death and destruction from a war, set their faces against the war plans of the imperialists, bitterly fight NOW, BEFORE the war breaks out, against all war preparations, then the imperialists can be foiled in their dastardly plans.

“The Communist Parties of the countries of the British Empire call upon the people to strengthen their anti-war fight regardless of political and other differences, to build a powerful movement of the common people against war and for peace!

“We call upon the people of the Dominions to force their governments to repudiate the war agreements with British imperialism!

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“We call on the people of Great Britain to band their efforts to bring down the National Government, the Government of oppression and

reaction, and to work for the election of workers' representatives who will fight for peace!

"We call upon the peoples of the Colonial and semi-Colonial and so-called independent countries of the British Empire to strengthen their fight for National Liberation, and thus become one of the most powerful forces against the war policy of British imperialism.

"We urge the people of Britain and the Dominions to realise their responsibilities to the millions of oppressed colonial people on whom British imperialism depends for its existence!The people of Great Britain and the Dominions cannot be free until the shackles of colonial exploitation are stricken from the bodies of the colonial millions!

"The Communist Parties of the British Empire countries call upon the people of these countries to safeguard the Soviet Union from attack by British or any other imperialist power, and to aid the fight of the Soviet Union for peace by forming the anti-war front of all the common people against war!

"What will happen in the immediate future rests with the toilers of our countries!PEACE OR WAR?If we set our faces against war, if we hold the lives of ourselves and of our loved ones dearer than the profits of a handful of exploiters, if we realise that all races, the peoples of all religions, that no matter what political opinions we may possess--we have one common enemy to fight, the imperialist war plotters, then the bloody world war now being planned can be averted!

"We, the people, must decide. Let us take up the fight for peace as never before!

"Unite against WAR!Unite for Peace!

"Communist Party of Great Britain

"	"	"	Australia
"	"	"	Canada
"	"	"	Egypt
"	"	"	India
"	"	"	Iraq
"	"	"	Ireland
"	"	"	New Zealand
"	"	"	Palestine
"	"	"	South Africa

2. Arthur Evans on Tour

(A) In Medicine Hat, Alta.

On 11th December Arthur Evans addressed approximately 250 people at the Moose Hall, Medicine Hat, Alta. , giving his version of the trek-on-
[3<#] to-Ottawa with its attendant Dominion Day riot at Regina. He explained that the principal purpose of the meeting was to raise funds for the defence of those awaiting trial at Regina.

A resolution demanding the setting over of the criminal cases at Regina until after the Commission inquiring into the Regina riot has rendered its decision was put to the meeting and passed unanimously. The collection taken at this meeting amounted to \$37. 50.

(B) In Calgary, Alta.

[3<#] While at Calgary, Alta. , Arthur Evans addressed two meetings; one on the evening of 12 December at the Labour Temple, and the other on the following night in the Laurendeau Hall. Both meeting were held under the auspices of the "Calgary Citizens Committee" and presided over by Jack Cosgrove.

Reviewing the events leading up to the trek on to Ottawa Evans remarked that the movement first started on 7th December, 1934, when some 200 men converged on Vancouver after having been discharged from a camp in British Columbia. He told of the trouble in Vancouver referring particularly to the clash with the police in the Hudson's Bay store and the treatment accorded to the strikers by Mayor McGeer and the citizens of Vancouver. He then recounted his experiences as head of the delegation which interviewed the Dominion Government at Ottawa, and cited the six-point proposal of the strikers. Speaking of the 1st July riot at Regina he asserted that the police planned to break up the Market Square meeting in an attempt to break up the march. He stated that while addressing the crowd from a

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platform on the Market Square on the night of 1st July he and Cosgrove had been informed that the police had arrived in vans and had surrounded the meeting grounds. "Just then a whistle was blown, the police poured out of the vans and I jumped down from the platform into the arms of several R. C. M. P. plain clothes men who started to drag me to a waiting van", he said. Evans asserted that the police were armed with wagon wheel spokes and baseball bats.

John Matts also addressed the meeting, explaining the progress that is being made in the Provinces of British Columbia and Alberta with regard to organizing the camp workers into the Camp Workers Union. He remarked that organizers from British Columbia who are unknown in Alberta were getting into the camps situated in the latter province and that organizers known in the Alberta camps were being sent into the British Columbia camps. He assured Evans that the camp workers stood one hundred per cent behind the ones facing trial at Regina. He intimated that a big demonstration on a large scale would be staged shortly. He remarked that the Camp Workers Union is being organized on a national scale, from coast to coast, and that the ones going to camps were "well armed with literature and resolutions". He intimated that some 'break' would occur early next spring or summer.

The collections taken at the two meetings netted \$51. 34.

John Matts, discussing the affairs of the Relief Camp Workers Union following the meeting in the Laurendeau Hall, remarked that the Communist Party was directing all the activities in the camps and that it considered the Camp Workers Union its stronghold now.

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(C) In Vancouver, B. C.

Arthur Evans was the principal speaker at a meeting held under the auspices of the British Columbia Joint Defence Committee at the Moose [X#] Hall, Vancouver, B. C., on 15th December. The hall was filled to capacity and many had to be turned away at the door. It is said that approximately 1,000 people were in attendance.

Evans' speech was a repetition of the ones given on previous occasions, dealing with the history of the B. C. relief camp workers' strike and the trek on-to-Ottawa.

Evans concluded with an appeal for funds in aid of the defence of the men awaiting trial in Regina. The amount collected was not announced.

3. [Xdeletion: 1 word] Contemplates Issuing Own Paper

[X#] [Xdeletion: 1/2 line] to a Ukrainian Communist at Regina, Sask. , in which he expressed the hope that he would be able to issue a paper twice a month commencing 1st January, 1936, in opposition to the Ukrainian Labour News, organ of the Communist Party. The object of the paper, he

says, will be to expose the machinations of the Navizowsky clique and to treat working class problems in a "true working class manner".

4. "Glos Pracy" Press Campaign Result

[9<#] Glos Pracy (Voice of Labour) of 21st December reports that the sum of \$1,652. 26 has been collected as a result of the recent press campaign conducted on behalf of this paper.

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5. W. U. L. Unions to Affiliate with A. F. of L.

J. B. Salsberg, District Organizer of the Workers Unity League, Toronto, [9<#] recently announced that three affiliates of the W. U. L. have decided to take measures to affiliate with the American Federation of Labor.

At a special meeting of the Fur Dressers and Dyers Industrial Union of Toronto (W. U. L.) held on 11th December it was unanimously decided to apply for a charter in the International Fur Workers Union (A. F. of L.). The decision to affiliate to the International Union is in conformity with the policy adopted at the Third National Convention of the W. U. L. It is said that one of the major requests of the Industrial Union will be the immediate starting of an organizational campaign with a view to organizing the fur dressing and dying industry outside Toronto.

The general Executive Board of the Shoe and Leather Workers Industrial Union, also an affiliate of the W. U. L. has issued a call to all locals inviting them to a conference in Toronto on 21st December, for the purpose of discussing affiliation with the A. F. of L. and establishment of one union in the trade.

The Shirt, Overall, Pants and Leather Jacket Local of the International Union of Needle Trade Workers decided to approach the United Garment Workers (A. F. of L.) with a proposal to merge the two unions.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCESI. BRITISH COLUMBIA6. McKean & Foley Discredited

[X<#] As a direct result of the failure of the waterfront strike in Vancouver two figures who were prominent in the early stages of the dispute have been pushed into the background of the movement, thoroughly discredited. These are [X<deletion: 2 1/2 lines] They are being looked upon by the Lumber Workers Industrial Union as interlopers, and it is freely predicted that if either of the two have anything to do with the negotiations of the L. W. I. U. to gain admittance into the A. F. of L. the scheme will fail.

[X<#] [X<deletion: 1 1/4 line] stated that he had spent the greater part of his time in Seattle looking for the individual who was instructed to contact him. When he finally made the connection the American Communist Party representative showed little interest in [X<deletion: 1 word] mission and the possibility of an affiliation of the L. W. I. U. with the A. F. of L.

[X<#] Addressing a meeting on 4th December in the Canadian Labour Defence League Hall, 150 Hastings St. W. , Vancouver, B. C. , J. Kelly, prominent members of the Relief Camp Workers Union, speaking of the camp strike and the subsequent march on-to-Ottawa said:-

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“When we reached Regina we were met by representatives of the Dominion Government who had been sent out to meet us and waylay us long enough for the government to gather their forces together, the R. C. M. P. , the Provincial Police and the City Police, and then without any warning they attacked us and shot down the workers, killing a Regina Detective and wounding a worker who has since died, and Arthur Evans can identify the policeman who killed the Regina Detective if given a lineup of the state’s forces. Now they have appointed a commission to whitewash the actions of the Bennett Government and to get away from the demand of the camp trekkers”.

He called upon all in the audience to stand behind the camp workers’ demand and in their fight for “trade unionism”.

II. ALBERTA

7. [deletion: 1 word] on Prospects of C. P. in Alberta

[#] [deletion: 2 1/2 line] He contended that the "Left" Wingers in the trade unions are now taking leading positions and predicted that the old trade union reformist leadership will disappear for good. He further contended that the C. P. members are becoming increasingly popular among the rank and file of the trade unions and that as a result the Communists can now depend on their support. He stressed the necessity of penetrating the Social Credit Party, United Farmers of Alberta and Co-operative Commonwealth Federation organizations. He also advocated the merging of the Farmers Unity League with the United Farmers of Alberta and the Farmers Protective Association. He further urged the developing of a Canadian-born and British leadership in the Communist Party.

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[#] [deletion: 1/4 page]

III. MANITOBA

8. U. L. F. T. A. in Winnipeg Discuss D. Lobay

[#] A heated discussion marked the meeting of the Winnipeg Branch of the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association on 15th December. The hall was packed to capacity and a great number were turned away owing to lack of space. The speakers, M. Popovich, J. Navizowsky, M. Shatulsky and J. Boychuk, attacked Lobay's pamphlet and the spread of Lobayism in the organization; they sharply criticised those members of the Executive Committee who refused to sign the declaration condemning Lobay's pamphlet.

T. Kobzey, one of the members of the Executive Committee refusing to sign the anti-Lobay declaration, challenged M. Popovich saying that when the latter arrived in Winnipeg following his release from Kingston Penitentiary, at an Executive meeting, obtained all the necessary information with respect to the situation in the organization and that he (Popovich) at the time made a remark to the effect that Navizowsky, who was absent, was using the funds of the organization for his own use. Recent developments would indicate that there is a notable increase in the number who are sympathetic towards Lobay and that a shake-up in the organization is imminent.

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IV. ONTARIO

9. Demonstration of Striking Relief Recipients at Queens Park a Failure

The demonstration at the Parliament Buildings in Toronto on 16th December, held under the joint auspices of the East York Relief Strikers' [28#] Committee and the Toronto Unemployed Council was not a success; only approximately 300 people participated despite all the efforts made by the Communists, Co-operative Commonwealth Federation and unemployed organizations to make an imposing showing. Following the demonstration Acting Premier Nixon and Welfare Minister David Croll met a delegation of the strikers headed by Arthur Williams and Ernest Lawrie and discussed the matter for approximately one hour. The strikers' delegation was informed that the Province could not interfere with municipal administration of relief and that the strikers would have to settle their dispute with the Municipal Councils.

East York relief strikers are said to have returned to work on 21st December, following the refusal of the Township Council to negotiate with the strikers on the grounds that it had no power to deal with them.

The relief workers intend to reopen negotiation with the new Council following its election on 1st January, 1936.
