

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 8th January, 1936.

SECRET

NO. 788

WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS
AND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

Tim Buck, Communist candidate for Board of Control in the recent Toronto Civic election, received a total of 20,975 votes, or approximately one out of every six votes cast. Only four of the 763 polling sub-divisions showed no vote at all for Buck, while 56 showed him leading the polls. His vote was more than double the number polled for the Communist candidate (Mrs. T. Buck) last year.

The vote for straight Communist candidates for Alderman rose from 6,281 in 1935 to 9,213 this year; for Board of Education it rose from 3,397 to 11,109. These figures exclude the two United Front candidates in Ward 8 — P. A. Hughes for Alderman and Robert Thompson for School Board — who polled 681 and 1,969 votes, respectively.

Latest advice from Regina indicates that things are quiet in Dundurn Relief Camp with only approximately 80 men remaining on strike.

—

[2]

APPENDICESTable of ContentsAPPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

Paragraph No. 1. Communists in Civic Elections

- (A) Toronto, Ont.
Communist Vote Shows Strength; Tim Buck Receives
20,975 Votes
- (B) East York, Ont.
Arthur Williams Elected Reeve
- (C) Fir Mountain, Sask.
Henry Holmberg Elected Reeve

“ 2. The Worker Drive

Efforts to Increase Sale in Toronto
A "Daily" by 1st May Is Objective

- " " 3. [deletion:2 lines]
 " " 4. Arthur Evans at Victoria, B.C.
 Addresses Meeting in Foresters Hall
 " " 5. Sam Carr in Winnipeg
 Expounds "United Front" Policy of C.P.
 " " 6. [deletion:3 lines]
 " " 7. Fourth Convention of F.C.W.I.U.
 "Trade Union Unity" Keynote of Convention
 Aim to Create Federation of Fishermen
 " " 8. Situation on Vancouver's Waterfront
 Situation Unsatisfactory
 Trouble May Occur in Early Spring
 [deletion:1/2 line] Until Charter Secured
 from A.F. of L.

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

- " " 9. BRITISH COLUMBIA
 [deletion:2 lines]
 Communists in Vancouver Worried over Poor Response
 to B.C. Workers News Appeal
 C.P. Training School Opens in Vancouver
 " " 10. MANITOBA
 Weston Railroad Workers Industrial Union in Process
 of Liquidation
 " " 11. ONTARIO
 Fort William Communists Active in Interest of
The Worker
 " " 12. QUEBEC
 [deletion:5 lines]
 Stewart Smith Speaks at Open Meeting

[2(a)]

Paragraph No. 12. (continued)

- C.L.D.L. Secretariat Meet in Montreal
 League in Process of Disintegration
 C.L.D.L. Mass Meeting a Complete Failure
 " " 13. THE MARITIME PROVINCES
 Anti-Fascist Meeting in Glace Bay

[3]

APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

1. Communists in Civic Elections

(A) Toronto, Ont.

The showing made by the Communist candidates in this year's Civic election in Toronto, Ont., compared with the figures of last year, is as follows:-

BOARD OF CONTROL

	<u>1936</u>		<u>1935</u>
Tim Buck	20,975	Mrs. Tim Buck	9,935
Gain over previous year 11,040			

ALDERMEN

	<u>1936</u>	<u>Ward 1</u>		<u>1935</u>
Harry Bell	2,830	Thomas Cooney		856
		<u>Ward 2</u>		
Thomas James	412	Thomas James		465
		<u>Ward 4</u>		
J. B. Salsberg	2,343	Meyer Klig	1,068	
		<u>Ward 5</u>		
Stewart Smith	1,967	Stewart Smith		1,871
		<u>Ward 6</u>		
H. Stephenson	1,661	H. Stephenson		1,576
		<u>Ward 8</u>		
(no candidate)	-	A. Hambleton		<u>445</u>
	<u>9,213</u>			<u>6,281</u>
Gain over previous year, all Wards, 2,932				

BOARD OF EDUCATION

	<u>1936</u>	<u>Ward 1</u>		<u>1935</u>
A. Hambleton	1,030	Harry Bell		1,056

Ward 2

Mrs. S. Smith	1,546	Mrs. S. Smith	1,235
---------------	-------	---------------	-------

Ward 4

John Weir	2,347	J. B. Salsberg	1,106
-----------	-------	----------------	-------

[4]

Ward 5

Annie Buller	2,275	(no candidate)	-
--------------	-------	----------------	---

Ward 6

Mrs. T. Buck	<u>3,911</u>	(no candidate)	
	<u>11,109</u>		<u>3,397</u>

Gain over previous year, all Wards 7,712

—

(B) East York, Ont.

Arthur H. Williams, President of the East York Workers Association and leader of the recent strike of relief recipients of East York, was elected as Reeve in the East York Township election for 1936; he polled 2,727 votes, giving him a majority of 78 over his nearest opponent, John Warren, who was seeking re-election.

—

(C) Fir Mountain, Sask.

A United Front candidate named Henry Holmberg was elected as Reeve in the recent Municipal election at Fir Mountain, Sask.

His election is hailed by the Communists as an indication of the growth of the "militant" farmers movement in that area.

—

2. "The Worker" Drive

In an effort to build up a mass sale of The Worker, organ of the Communist Party, published in Toronto, arrangements have been made to place this paper on sale at 275 news stands in Toronto. It is also said that 94 news boys of this city will handle same.

[5]

Communist leaders expressed the hope that, as a result of the present drive the paper will appear as a "Daily" starting on 1st May, 1936.

The progress of the drive, as reported in a recent issue of The Worker, is as follows:-

<u>District</u>	<u>Subscrip- tions</u>	<u>Sustaining Funds</u>
Maritimes	\$ 2.00	\$ 6.25
Quebec	33.05	105.00
South Ontario	115.85	632.83
Timmins	41.85	234.30
Sudbury	21.55	112.88
Port Arthur	31.90	160.43
Manitoba	46.40	167.63
Saskatchewan	49.40	5.00
Alberta	198.98	610.24
British Columbia	<u>55.25</u>	<u>502.50</u>
TOTAL.....	<u>\$596.13</u>	<u>\$2,537.06</u>

—

[6]

4. Arthur Evans at Victoria, B.C.

Arthur H. Evans addressed a meeting held under the auspices of the B.C. Joint Defence Committee in the Foresters Hall, Victoria, B.C., on 18th

December, 1935. Approximately 200 people attended and W. Caird, local unemployed worker, acted as Chairman.

Evans opened with a bitter attack on what he termed "the slave camp system" and continued to give his version of the strike of the B.C. relief camp workers and their subsequent march on-to-Ottawa. Giving his version of the happenings at the Market Square at Regina on the evening of 1st July he stated that it was an unprovoked attack on peaceful citizens. In this connection he said that more people would have been killed "if the Royal Canadian Mounted Police had not been so drunk with rum that they could not shoot straight". He concluded by appealing for funds for the defence of those awaiting trial at Regina. The sum of \$30 is said to have been collected at this meeting.

—

5. Sam Carr in Winnipeg, Man.

Sam Carr, [~~deletion:1 line~~] has been sent to Winnipeg, Man., charged with the task of stimulating the anti-war and anti-Fascist movement in that city.

He addressed a capacity audience in the Workers Theatre on 23rd December, 1935, explaining the political situation in Europe. He asserted that the statesmen of Great Britain are expounding views favourable towards a Fascist policy. He claimed that England brought Germany to its present position, and would support Italy because of the danger of an uprising among the Coloured people. He further stated that Britain is supporting Japan and that the

[7]

Imperialistic countries generally are formulating a plan of action with a view to attacking the U.S.S.R. Carr also attacked "Lobayism" which he classified as a counter-revolutionary movement definitely connected with the Ukrainian Congress in Europe. The latter, he said, was supported by Hitler Germany.

On 27th December he was the principal speaker at a meeting held by the Scandinavian Workers Club. Approximately 100 people were in attendance and Carr's address centered around the recent Conference of Provincial Premiers with the Federal Government at Ottawa. He also touched upon the activities of the Communist Party, referring particularly to the recent change of its policy. He asserted that the Communists have not abandoned the revolutionary movement but have made this change in order to create a united front of the working class. "It is necessary", he said, "to educate the masses so that they may become class-conscious. Once they have attained the stage of class-consciousness revolutionary action will automatically follow", he remarked.

—

[11]

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

[~~deletion:1/2 page~~]

—

The Communists in Vancouver, B.C., are worried at the poor response to the appeal made by the B.C. Workers News for contributions and subscriptions. The circulation remains stationary, around 3,500, with many criticisms

coming in from points out-of-town on the poor content of the paper in news and politics.

—

The annual training school operated by the Communist Party in Vancouver, B.C., opened in Clinton Hall on 18th December with an attendance of 30. Most of the students are local but there are several from up country points, none of whom are likely to be outstanding advocates for Communism. Among those attending are [deletion:2 1/2 lines]

—

[12]

II. MANITOBA

10. W.R.W.I.U. in Process of Liquidation

The Weston Railroad Workers Industrial Union, an affiliate of the Workers Unity League, is said to be in the process of liquidation and its members have been instructed to join craft unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor. [deletion:2 words] discussing this matter recently, remarked that the Communists will endeavour to place members of the Communist Party into strategic positions in those craft unions.

—

III. ONTARIO

11. Fort William Communists Active in Interest of "The Worker"

The Communists at Fort William, Ont., are concentrating their energy on "The Worker" drive with all the various organizations endeavouring to reach the one quota allotted to them ahead of time.

—

IV. QUEBEC

[deletion:1/2 page]

[deletion:page [13]]

[14]

[deletion:1/4 page]

The Communist Party in Montreal, Que., held an open mass meeting in the Prince Arthur Hall on the evening of 22nd December, 1935, at which a report

was given by Stewart Smith on the Seventh World Congress of the Communist International. Between 500 and 600 people attended, most of whom were Jews. Stanley Ryerson acted as Chairman, speaking briefly in French and English. Stewart Smith's address was mainly a eulogy of the achievements of the U.S.S.R. He also stressed the importance of developing a strong Anti-Fascist and Anti-War Movement.

The Secretariat of the Canadian Labour Defence League in Montreal, Que., met on the afternoon of 30th December, 1935, with six members in attendance. The first item discussed was the situation in Rosemount. [deletion:2 words] reported that the branch there has become extinct but that there was a possibility of setting up a small C.L.D.L. branch within the Rosemount Tenants League. After a short discussion it was decided that no branch be set up at present in Rosemount but that an attempt be made to set up a small functioning committee within the Rosemount Tenants League.

Another item under discussion centered on the French Branch of the league. It was said that during the past months its membership has been dropping at an alarming rate; that during the month of December (1935) the number of dues paying members had dropped from 300 to 72. It was resolved to make an attempt with a view to forming a non-political club called

[15]

"37" in honour of the Quebec bourgeois revolutionaries of 1837, and to affiliate this club to the C.L.D.L. [deletion:1 line] It was decided that in as much there would be three organizers needed in connection with the formation of the "37" that [deletion:1 line]

[deletion:2 words] reported that 1,000 black bordered letters and envelopes had been printed, most of which were sold at 5¢ per copy, and mailed to the German Consulate protesting the execution in Germany of Rudolph Claus, Secretary-Treasurer of the International Red Aid.

A mass meeting arranged by the Canadian Labour Defence League in the Prince Arthur Hall, Montreal, Que., on 20th December, was a complete failure; less than 200 persons attended. The meeting was held for the purpose of calling for the Christmas amnesty of political prisoners. The speakers were Reverend Joliat, French Protestant Minister, Reverend Myers, of the St. Lambert Anglican Church, and J.S. Wallace, Secretary of the C.L.D.L. The first speaker spoke in French for about five minutes and left the hall immediately after.

Reverend Myers, the next speaker, seemed very uneasy and nervous. Supporting the call for amnesty of the Noranda prisoners, he stated that many people who are now considered great leaders had once been imprisoned and cited Luther, Norman Thomas and a few others to illustrate his point. He expressed the belief that England was gradually turning towards socialism and that Norway, Finland and Sweden will, before long, be countries like Russia.

J.S. Wallace spoke against Fascism criticizing conditions in Germany and Italy. He said that Mayor Houde and the authorities in Quebec were developing a Fascist psychology.

—

[16]

V. THE MARITIME PROVINCES

13. Anti-Fascist Meeting in Glace Bay

A meeting of the Nova Scotia Section of the Canadian League Against War and Fascism took place on 19th December, 1935, in the Y.M.C.A., Glace Bay, with Reverend W. T. Mercer, who had been one of the delegates attending the recent National Congress in Toronto, as the principal speaker. He told of the proceedings of the congress and the determined effort which is being made by this organization to prevent the rise of Fascism in Canada.

—