

## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 15th January, 1936.

SECRET

NO. 789

WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATION IN CANADA

## Report

Leslie Morris, who for the past year occupied a position on the Anglo-American Secretariat of the Comintern in Moscow, is reported to have returned to Canada. The Worker of 14 January, commenting on his return, remarks:-

"Entirely recovered from a very serious mastoid operation, Leslie Morris, former Editor of The Worker, is back into the struggle. Readers of our paper will remember that Morris was forced to give up his duties in December, 1934, because of an old condition becoming aggravated and requiring immediate attention".

Approximately 175 men went on strike at the Lac Seul Relief Project Camp near Hudson, Ont., on 11th January; the strike is said to have been engineered by [deletion:3/4 line] who were sent there from Winnipeg for that purpose.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

I. Conference of L.W.I.U., B.C. District

The Lumber Workers Industrial Union, B.C. District, affiliate of the Workers Unity League, held a Wage Scale Conference at Union Headquarters, 130 West Hastings St., Vancouver, on 29th December, 1935. J. Brown, Executive Board member, greeted the delegates and drew attention to the presence of the delegates from the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners (A. F. of L.). Among the delegates present were George Mawson,

Northwest representative of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, Seattle; delegates Kruger, Klingman and Anderson from the Anacortes Local of the Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union; delegates Taylor and Clark from the Olympia Local, Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union; Jack Stevenson from Vancouver Local No. 452, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America.

The report of the Executive Board to the conference was given by Al. Parkin, Editor of The B.C. Lumber Worker. The keynote of his report was "unity with the American lumber workers' unions as the basis of a struggle for a higher wage scale and improved working conditions".

J. Stevenson, of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, in Vancouver, described the changes now taking place within the American Federation of Labor, pointing out that the general trend is towards industrial unionism and away from the old form of craft unions. He stressed the importance of unity and pointed out that affiliation with the American Federation of Labor would greatly strengthen the position of the British Columbia lumber workers. He cited the longshoremen's strike as an example of where isolations from the American Federation of labor had helped to defeat the union.

G. Mawson addressed the gathering beginning with an outline of conditions in the United States sawmills and logging camps previous to the strike of last spring. He related how in

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less than a month after the organizing campaign was started a strike broke out which tied up practically the whole lumber industry of Washington and Oregon for a period of four months. He declared that the Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union, which is affiliated to the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, now has 294 locals established in three States with a total membership of 50,000. He said that the lumber workers in the States were anxious to see the Canadian lumber workers follow their example and warned against remaining isolated from the A.F. of L. and the workers across the International Boundary. He proposed that the Lumber Workers Industrial Union become part of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners.

Delegate Taylor declared that in an interview with the American operators he had learned that their chief competitors were the British Columbia lumber operators and that due to the low wage rates prevailing in British Columbia there was a danger of the American bosses attempting to reduce wages below the present rates. He was of the opinion that the best means of preventing such a move was to establish one union and thus bring the Canadian rates up to the American standard.

R. Kerr, Organizer for the Workers Unity League, outlined the program of his organization for the establishment of trade union unity.

The following resolutions were passed by the conference:-

- (a) **RESOLVED:** That this Wage Scale Conference of the Lumber Workers' Industrial Union, held on Sunday, December 29th, 1935, expresses dissatisfaction with the new scale of wages as proposed by the logging and sawmill operators, and realizing that the basis for any struggle of the lumber workers in B.C. for higher wage rates rests on the support of organized labor as a whole and the U.S. lumber unions in particular, recommends that the Executive Board carry on negotiations with the American Lumber Unions towards unity of the Lumber Workers' Industrial Union with their organization, and be it further

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**RESOLVED:** That following the achievement of such unity with the American Lumber Unions, we propose a new wage scale to be worked out in conjunction with representatives from the U.S. industry and from the camps and mills in B.C., a scale that will be more in accordance with the real needs and demands of the workers in the industry.

- (b) **RESOLVED:** That in view of the situation now existing in the sawmill section of the lumber industry, where the majority of the workers are unorganized, and in view of the fact that the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners is now taking steps to organize in the sawmills, that this Wage Scale Conference of the Lumber Workers' Industrial Union, held at 130 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, B.C., on Sunday, December 29th, 1935, calls upon all sawmill workers to join the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, and pledges the fullest support from the loggers in building the organization and in the struggle for higher wages and better conditions.

Before adjourning five delegates were nominated to attend the Conference of the Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union at Tacoma, Washington, on 4th and 5th January, the delegation chosen consisted of Al. Parkin, Mac McKinnon, Nelson, O. Arseneau and Heuston.

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## 2. Students Peace Congress

The National Congress of the Student Peace Movement, first of its kind in Canada, was held at the Toronto University, Toronto, Ont., on 30th and 31st December, 1935, with approximately 100 delegates in attendance representing the following

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**schools and colleges:-**

McGill University	Montreal	45 delegates
University of Toronto	Toronto	30 "
University of Montreal	Montreal	2 "
Baron Bying High School	"	
Strathcona High School	"	
MacDonald High School	"	
Verdun High School	Verdun	
University of Manitoba	Winnipeg	
Queens University	Kingston	2 "
Harbord Collegiate Inst.	Toronto	
Central Technical School	"	
High School of Commerce	"	

The majority of the delegates were from Montreal of which [~~3/4~~line] Among those who took an active and leading part in the congress were the following [~~1/2~~line]

<del>name</del>	Toronto
<del>name</del>	"
<del>name</del>	"
<del>name</del>	Montreal
<del>name</del>	"
<del>name</del>	"
<del>name</del>	Toronto

A resolution adopted by the congress read in part:-

"We students gathered here together from all parts of Canada, realizing the imminence of a new world war unless every effort is exerted to prevent it, have determined to organize our forces in a united stand for peace. We declare that we consider armed warfare to be against the best interests of the vast majority of the people of all countries. Inasmuch as war destroys material and spiritual values built up through generations of progress, and betrays the creative aspirations of youth, it must be opposed".

The congress resolved to initiate a "Student Hour for Peace" to take place about the third week in March, during which all classes are to be suspended; further, that arrangements be made for [3<deletion:3 words] to tour Western Canada for the purpose of spreading the idea of the one hour peace demonstration among the students of the Western universities and colleges.

The congress was not considered a success because of the narrow representation; only Ontario, Quebec and Manitoba were represented.

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### 3. Stewart Smith on Tour

Approximately 350 persons listened to Stewart Smith explain the decisions of the Seventh Congress of the Communist International in the Orange Hall at Sudbury, Ont., on 4th January. A. T. Hill acted as Chairman.

Smith asserted that the U.S.S.P. and the Communist Parties throughout the world are out to fight for peace and that every attack upon them aids the Capitalists in their war preparations. He said that the reactionary element shall not be allowed to continue its attack upon the Communists. He requested the workers employed in the nickel industry of the Sudbury area to join the world's front for peace. After describing how the workers of Germany are suffering under Fascism he said that the Capitalists of Canada have endorsed Fascism in preparation for war. He challenged the right of the International Nickel Company to export war material. He also described the wonderful progress made in the U.S.S.R. under the leadership of the Communist Party and requested the audience to join the Communist Party of Canada. His concluding remarks were received with great applause, and the collection taken at this meeting netted the sum of \$50.

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### 5. Relief Camp Workers to Send Deputation to Ottawa, Ont.

Tom Ewen, General Secretary of the Workers Unity League, announced on 6th January that the relief camp workers fo the country are to send a deputation to the Federal Government soon after Parliament meets. "The same memorandum that was presented to Mr. Bennett will be placed before Mr. King", he said, in making the announcement following a meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Workers Unity League. "The struggle

is not over by any means, and that is the reason the demands are now being placed before the new government", he added.

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### 6. Tom Ewen to Tour Country

Announcement was made recently at the Head Office of the Workers Unity League at Toronto, Ont., that Tom Ewen is to embark on an all-Canadian tour shortly. Aside from visiting all the important centres, he will attempt to contact logging and mining camps in Alberta and British Columbia. The tour is to continue for a period of four or five months and will concentrate mainly upon two objectives — popularizing the decisions of the Third Congress of the Workers Unity League and extending the sale and circulation of Unity, the official organ of the Workers Unity League.

### 7. "Darbininku Zodis" Expands

J. Broga, Manager of the Lithuanian organ — Darbininku Zodis — writing in the 9th January issue of his paper, reports that during the recent drive conducted on behalf of this paper the unexpected sum of nearly \$3,000 and 400 new subscribers have been secured. As a result of this drive Darbininku Zodis will be enlarged to six pages beginning with the next issue.

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## APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

### I. ALBERTA

#### 8. [~~1~~ line]

[~~2 1/2~~ lines] J. Lakeman outlined the present economic and political situation throughout Canada and dealt with the future tasks of the Party among the working class; he observed a great change in the party membership and leadership in Edmonton; also a rapid radicalization of the workers and farmers. "Today", he said, "the Communist Party is on the road to becoming a dominant political factor in Canada and as such we must work to win the confidence of all the workers and farmers". He predicted that in a short while the Communist Party will be in a position to lead and control the trade union movement and the political movement of the workers throughout the Dominion. Referring to the situation at Edmonton he stated that the Central

Committee of the Communist Party had been successful in forming a united front with the "Left" wing of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation and that as a result of this step a joint manifesto will be issued calling for the formation of a "People's Party". "Mass organizations must become a militant and revolutionary movement throughout Alberta and our task is to give it the necessary revolutionary leadership", he said.

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Matt Shaw addressed a public meeting in the Eagles Hall, Medicine Hat, Alta., on 2nd January; about 75 people attended. A resolution, demanding that the trials of those arrested at Regina on 1st July be put over until after the fact finding Commission had completed its hearings at Regina, was passed by the meeting. Shaw related the history of the on-to-Ottawa trek, featuring the grievances which the trekkers

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brought to the attention of the authorities.

On 3rd January he delivered a similar address before a small audience in the Coalhurst Community Hall, Coalhurst, Alta.

His appeal for funds met with poor response in each instance.

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## II. MANITOBA

### 9. Leith McMurray at Todowymazu Meeting

Leith McMurray addressed a capacity meeting under the auspices of Todowymazu in the Ukrainian Labour Temple at Winnipeg, Man., on the afternoon of 5th January. Speeches were also given by P. Lysets and John Boychuk.

McMurray depicted the life in Soviet Ukraine, drawing a very rosy picture of conditions there. He emphatically denied that there was any shortage of food in that country. He stated that the workers are enjoying the fullest imaginable comfort of life and that the standard of living is rising steadily.

Lysets dealt with conditions in Western Ukraine depicting conditions under Polish regime as horrible, miserable and shocking. He asserted that there were 54,000 political prisoners in Poland.

Boychuk, in his brief speech, referred to the U.S.S.R. as a land of plenty. He said that another few years of peace will see the standard of living reach the climax in the U.S.S.R.

A resolution demanding the immediate release of all political prisoners in Poland was passed and sent to the Polish government.

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Arrangements are being made for the gradual liquidation of all Workers Unity League unions in the City of Winnipeg, Man. As in the case of the Needle Trade Workers Industrial Union, [deletion:6 lines]

The Truckers Association, at present on strike, will request a charter from the American Federation of Labor at the end of the strike.

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**III. ONTARIO**

**10. Disturbance in Dominion Dress Company  
Factory, Toronto**

On the afternoon of 8th January approximately 35 Organizers and agitators of the Needle Trade Worker Industrial Union broke into the factory of the Dominion Dress Company, Adelaide and Peter Streets, Toronto, Ont., and, after accusing the workers employed therein of not belonging to the Dress-makers Union of the Workers Unity League, began throwing things around and smashing windows. This invasion followed several warnings by agents of the Workers Unity League and although the visit was of short duration the mob remained long enough to convince the workers that they had begun to take drastic action in an endeavour to unionize the shops. Two Organizers, H. Bayer and J. Hilf, were arrested and charged with 'assault' and 'causing malicious damage'. They appeared before Magistrate J. E. Jones on 13th January and were remanded until the 15th.

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