

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 22nd January, 1936.

SECRET

NO. 790

WEEKLY SUMMARY

REPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS

AND AGITATION IN CANADA

Report

Legal action has been instituted with a view to unseating Reeve elect Arthur Williams of East York, Ont., and Aldermen Peter Mikkleson, and T. P. McManus of Regina.

Eighteen single unemployed were arrested and charged with disorderly conduct and damage to property after a spontaneous disturbance in a relief kitchen at Calgary on 11th January.

The strike of relief camp workers at Dundurn Unemployment Relief Project was officially called off on 20th January; all strikers returned to work.

—

[2]

APPENDICES

Table of Contents

APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

- Paragraph No. 1. Stewart Smith in Winnipeg, Man.
Addresses Well Attended Mass Meeting in Walker Theatre on 10th January
Explains World conditions and Decisions of VIIth Congress of C.I.
Speaks to Railroad Workers in Labour Temple on 13 January
- “ ” 2. John Cosgrove in Calgary
Reviews on-to-Ottawa March Before Large Audience on 12th January
- “ ” 3. Matt Shaw in Lethbridge, Alta.
Speaks at Communist Meeting on 5th January
- “ ” 4. Financial Statement of W.B.A. Shows Large Balance
- “ ” 5. Jugo-Slav Communists in Canada Support Communists in

- Jugo-Slavia
- “ ” 6. German Communist Organ Grows
- “ ” 7. Pamphlet “Hitlerism in Canada” Rejected by National Office of L.A.W. & F.
- “ ” 8. The “Back Into the A.F. of L.” Movement —
- (A) Toronto, Ont.
J. W. Bruce (A.F. of L.) Supports Movement
- (B) Vancouver, B.C.
Convention of I.S.W. (A.F. of L.) Disputes
Seating of Fraternal Delegate From
F. & C.W.I.U.
- [~~deletion:2 lines~~]
- (C) Edmonton, Alta.
Jan Lakeman Expelled from Edmonton Trades and
Labour Council and Convention of
Alberta Federation of Labour

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

- “ ” 9. BRITISH COLUMBIA
C.P. in B.C. Starts Registration of Members
- “ ” 10. ONTARIO
[~~deletion:2 lines~~]
Toronto Council of L.A.W. & F. Hold Symposium at
Union Station
- “ ” 11. QUEBEC
Communists Active Among Unemployed
[~~deletion:2 lines~~]
Communists Attempt Demonstration at Hockey Match
[~~deletion:1 line~~]

—
[3]

APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

1. Stewart Smith in Winnipeg, Man.

Over 1,200 people attended a mass meeting in the Walker Theatre at Winnipeg, Man., held under the auspices of the Communist Party, on the evening of 10th January. Alderman Jacob Penner, in opening the meeting, stated that it was the first mass meeting held openly under the direct auspices of the Communist Party in the Province of Manitoba since the Party was declared an unlawful association by the courts of Ontario in 1931. James

Litterick urged the people to join the Communist Party and announced that similar meetings would be held from now on.

The speaker of the evening was Stewart Smith who, in the course of a two hours' talk, reviewed world conditions making special reference to the decisions of the Seventh World Congress of the Communist International held in Moscow recently. The Communist Party, he said, is not a Party of the U.S.S.R./or any other individual country but is a Party international in scope embracing the working class of the whole world. Capitalism and Communism, he remarked, are facing each other in the final struggle for power. He severely condemned Fascism, referring to Mussolini and Hitler as beastly, blood thirsty fiends. He particularly emphasized the growth of the United Front Movement in France where, he alleged, the working class is united in a struggle against rising Fascism. The major portion of his speech was based upon G. Dimitroff's speech at the Seventh Congress of the Comintern on "The United Front Against Fascism and War", which has been published in pamphlet form in many languages.

A collection for the "fighting fund" of the Communist Party netted several \$10 bills, a few \$5 bills, a number of \$2 and \$1 bills, and some silver. The result of the collection was not announced.

[4]

At this meeting it was announced that the Headquarters of the local branch of the Communist Party is now situated at 210 Chambers of Commerce Building. The meeting was considered a great success, due partly to the fact that same had been advertised over Radio Station C.J.R.C.

Stewart Smith addressed a well attended meeting of railroad workers in the James Street Labour Temple on 13th January. His speech was generally a repetition of the one he presented at the Walker Theatre on 10th January, except that he also discussed briefly the amalgamation of the two railways in Canada, in connection with which he contended that it was a group of financiers in the East who desire the merger. He characterized this proposed amalgamation as the most reactionary manipulation, and urged the workers to do all in their power to prevent same.

2. John Cosgrove in Calgary, Alta.

On the 12th January the Grande Theatre at Calgary, Alta., was the scene of a successful mass meeting held under the auspices of the Calgary Citizens Committee. Approximately 1,800 people attended and the principal speaker

was John Cosgrove, marshal of the on-to-Ottawa trek staged last year by the Relief Camp Workers Union. The meeting was also briefly addressed by Fred White, ex-M.L.A., and Mrs. Gostick, M.L.A.

John Cosgrove presented a general outline of the history of the on-to-Ottawa trek, featuring the grievances of the relief camp workers. Alluding to the killing of Detective Miller at Regina on 1st July, he stated that the killing was witnessed by two people who are willing to testify that they saw an R.C.M.P. kill the Detective. On concluding his speech Cosgrove called for donations to assist in paying for the

[5]

defence of those who are facing trial at Regina on charges arising out of the 1st July riot. The collection netted approximately \$110.

3. Matt Shaw in Lethbridge, Alta.

Matt Shaw addressed approximately 100 men and women in the Burgman Hall, North Lethbridge, Alta., on 5th January. Joe Boker, [~~deletion:4 words~~] occupied the chair. Matt Shaw related the history of the strike of the British Columbia relief camp workers and the subsequent trek on-to-Ottawa. He blamed the Royal Canadian Mounted Police for the murder of Detective Charles Miller at Regina on 1st July.

4. Financial Statement of W.B.A. Shows Large Balance

The following is the financial report of the Workers Benevolent Association for the fourth quarter of 1935 as published in the Ukrainian Labour News of 6th January, 1936:-

PROCEEDS

October	\$5,383.34	
November	3,778.32	
December	<u>6,345.03</u>	
Total		\$ 15,506.69

EXPENDITURES

October	\$4,131.44	
November	2,950.55	
December	<u>2,402.17</u>	
Total		<u>9,484.16</u>

Balance for last quarter ...	\$ 6,022.53
Grand total balance brought forward from third quarter	<u>\$100,351.28</u>
Grand total balance for year ending 31st December, 1935	<u>\$106,373.81</u>

—
[6]

5. Jugo-Slav Communists in Canada Support Communists in Jugo-Slavia

The Jugo-Slav Communist organ, Borba (The Struggle), of 14th January contains a letter addressed by the Communist Party of Jugo-Slavia to the Patronage Committee of the Jugo-Slavian Workers Clubs in Canada requesting additional financial support. The letter acknowledges the receipt of 22,644 dinars by the Red Relief of Jugo-Slavia from Canada in 1935. Most of this money is said to have been used for political prisoners and their dependants in Jugo-Slavia.

6. German Communist Organ Grows

D.A.Z. — Deutsche Arbeiter Zeitung (German Workers News) of 15th January announced that \$1,200 were collected throughout Canada in the recent campaign conducted in the interest of this paper. As a result the publication will be enlarged to six pages and will appear regularly once a week.

7. Pamphlet "Hitlerism in Canada" Rejected by National Office of L.A.W. & F.

The pamphlet "Hitlerism in Canada", written by A. M. Stephen of Vancouver under the aegis of the B.C. Section of the League Against War and Fascism, has been rejected by the National Office of the league on the ground that it contains uncomplimentary remarks on the Aberhart administration of Alberta. [deletion:3 lines] This agreement apparently was not known to the B.C. Executive Committee until after the pamphlet was printed and put into circulation on 23rd December, 1935.

[7]

The pamphlet lists "the Aberhart Social Credit Party" as one of the Fascist organizations in Canada and as an organization "actively engaged in anti-semitic propaganda."

8. The "Back Into the A.F. of L." Movement.

(A) Toronto, Ont.

Over 1,000 people attended a mass meeting sponsored by the Toronto District Council of the Workers Unity League in the Strand Theatre, Toronto, Ont., on 12th January. J. B. Salsberg acted as Chairman and in his opening speech explained the progress made in connection with the "unity" negotiations sponsored by the Workers Unity League. He remarked that there are certain individuals that are reluctant to amalgamate with the "reactionary" American Federation of labour, but that in spite of all obstacles "trade union unity" is becoming a reality.

Tom Ewen, General Secretary of the Workers Unity League, pointed out that in the face of acute depression and Capitalistic opposition, unity in Canada was indispensable. He pointed out that the American Federation of Labour has become more militant and the centre of strike activities on the North American Continent. He also directed attention to the fact that the American Federation of Labour is the largest single labour organization in existence. He assured the audience that the Communists are not going back into the American Federation of Labour in order to disrupt it but with a view to work in harmony with the other members of the Federation for the bettering of the standard of living of the working class. He intimated that the merging of the Workers Unity League with the American Federation of Labor will finally result in the amalgamation of all trade union centres in North America.

John W. Bruce, a leading A.F. of L. trade unionist, was introduced as the champion of the Unity movement. He

[8]

emphasized the achievements of the American Federation of Labor and condemned all dual movements. He felt that the Workers Unity League was taking a step in the right direction by amalgamating with the American Federation of Labor but warned the Communists that if they planned to disrupt the American Federation of Labor from within they would fail. "If the Communists intend to build a fighting and militant machine within the American Federation of Labor they are welcome", he said.

(B) Vancouver, B.C.

George Miller, of the Vancouver Fishermen and Cannery Workers Industrial Union, together with three others from Bellingham, Washington, U.S.A., attended the convention of the International Seamen's Union (A.F. of L.) at Astoria, Wash., on 5th January. The Organizer of the International Seamen's Union challenged the seating of Miller and after two hours' discussion withdrew from the gathering taking with him the Secretary of the convention. After half an hour's absence from the meeting the Organizer and Secretary returned and gained the floor for the purpose of reading that part of the Constitution of the American Federation of Labor which deals with known Communists or organizations under the control of the Communist Party. Miller denied membership in the Communist Party, also that his organization is controlled by the Communist Party of Canada. The debate lasted the greater part of the day and at the end the American Federation of Labor organizer suggested that the three hours' debate be deleted from the minutes and that Miller be seated. Miller refused to be seated unless the discussion was retained in the convention minutes. Another hour was spent in discussing the stand taken by Miller and finally the fraternal delegates from Bellingham and Vancouver withdrew

[9]

altogether leaving the anti-Communists in full possession of the field.

The stand taken by the leaders of the International Seamen's Union at this convention would indicate that the Communists will experience considerable difficulty in connection with the execution of their "back to the A.F. of L. policy".

—
[deletion: 1/4 page]

(C) Edmonton, Alta.

Jan Lakeman, [deletion: 2 words] was expelled from the Edmonton Trades and Labour Council on 7th January, under the provisions of Article 5, Section 4 of the American Federation of Labor Constitution, a ruling barring Communists from representation or recognition in any central body or State (Provincial) Federation of Labor. Two weeks prior to his expulsion, Lakeman, who sat on the Council representing the local Carpenters Union (A.F. of L.), defeated Carl Berg, President of the Council, for election as delegate to the

convention of the Alberta Federation of Labour. Lakeman's expulsion is said to have been obtained only by a narrow margin.

During the opening session of the 20th Alberta Federation of Labor Convention at Calgary, on 13th January, Carl Berg, Secretary of the Federation, was again successful in securing the unseating of Lakeman, representing the Edmonton Local of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, on the ground of his being a Communist.

[10]

His election as delegate to the Federation Convention by the Edmonton Trades and Labour Council is taken by the Communists as an indication of a rising revolt on the part of the rank and file against the officialdom of the American Federation of Labor, and it is anticipated that with the support of the rank and file Lakeman will be back on the Trades Council in the near future.

[11]

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

9. C.P. in B.C. Starts Registration of Members

The Communist Party in British Columbia has commenced to register all members throughout the district. The registration blank supplied to each member contains 34 questions, some of which are:-

How long in Canada?

Nationalized?

Occupation?

Employed or unemployed?

Where employed?

Are you a member of a trade union?

If not, state reasons.

How many members of the party in your shop or mill?

Do you occupy any select position in the trade union?

To what other organizations do you belong?

What official position do you hold in these organizations?

To what organization or clubs do your children belong?

The registration is being conducted for the purpose of "getting a full knowledge of the national and social composition of the Alliance". The Communist Party Bureau has also opened an intensive educational campaign in every mass organization that the Communist Party has access to. In this

regard every member of the Party able to direct any course of study has been recruited for that purpose.

—

II. ONTARIO

[deletion: 1/4 page]

[12]

by the various delegates indicate that, although the Party has grown little numerically throughout the district, the influence exerted by it has increased considerably during the last few months.

Stewart Smith, supported by the local leaders, urged more intensified agitation and organization with a view to stimulating the movement against war and Fascism. The return of the Communists into the American Federation of Labor unions was also stressed. The Plenum elected the following to the District Bureau and Executive Committee, respectively, for the year 1936:-

Bureau —

Organizer	— G. Boulter
District Secretary	— T. Borman
Fort William Section	
Organizer	— J. Quinn
District Press Agent	— Bruce Lane

Executive —

Marshall	Cotter
Chluchiunk	Magnusson
P. Kidder	Rapenen
Koskmrs	O'Brien
Blazina	D. Ryback
Lotto	Inman
Graiger	Hechimovich

175/7639

David Ryback, one of the more prominent Communist agitators of Fort William, is reported to have proceeded to Kenora, Ont., with instructions to lead the unemployed movement at that place. He is said to have led a delegation representing the Amalgamated Workers of Kenora to the Town Council on 4th January on which occasion he acted as spokesman for the unemployed of that town.

—

The Toronto and District Council of the Canadian League Against War and Fascism held a dinner, and symposium on "A forecast for 1936", in the Oak Room of the Union Station on the evening of 15th January. There were approximately 150 persons present, mostly of Jewish extraction, with Major

[13]

F. Fish acting as Chairman. The speakers were Professor Norman MacKenzie, Reverend Dr. C. H. Huestis, Tim Buck, Professor John Line and A. A. MacLeod.

Professor Norman MacKenzie dealt almost exclusively with the aggressive attitude displayed by Japan in China and the result of the recent London Naval Conference. Referring briefly to the European situation, he remarked that all the small European countries looked to Great Britain and the League of Nations for their safety.

Reverend Dr. C. H. Huestis, speaking from a religious point of view, stated that Fascism spells war and continued that in 1936 the people would be called upon to fight Fascism. In conclusion he advocated the repeal of Section 98 of the Criminal Code.

Tim Buck presented a typical anti-Fascist talk, criticising the invasion of China by Japan, the Italian conquest of Ethiopia and war preparations in general. Speaking of sanctions, he stated that the only sanctions that will have any effect are those enforced by the working class. He prophesied a more intensive conflict in the industrial field in Canada for 1936. Professor John Line generally agreed with Tim Buck, except that he did not think Japan would fight the U.S.S.R. as the Soviet power was too firmly established.

A. A. MacLeod, National Chairman of the League Against War and Fascism, spoke of the financial problem of the league, stating that it had a budget of \$18,000.00 for the year 1936. During his speech cards were handed to the people in attendance asking them to state as to how much money they could contribute during the coming year.

—

[14]

III. QUEBEC

11. Communists Active Among Montreal Unemployed

A campaign for free light and gas [~~3~~deletion: 1 1/4 lines] during the latter part of December resulted in the holding of a conference in the Labour Temple on 12th January between members of the Communist Party and representatives of the Federation of Labor Clubs. The conference, described as a united front gathering, decided to enlarge the campaign and to select a

deputation to see the Mayor with the request to issue free light and gas to the unemployed of Montreal. Chalifoux, leader of the Federation of Labor Clubs, accepted the proposal extended by the Communists and in doing so remarked that should the Mayor refuse to see the delegation, 10,000 people will be organized to demonstrate before the City Hall. The conference was attended by 60 delegates representing various organizations.

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

[15]

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

During the Olympic trial hockey match in the Forum at Montreal on 13th January, three members of the Young Communist League raised a 20-foot banner in protest against the Olympic Games being staged in Germany. The banner was immediately torn down and the Young Communist League members ejected from the hall. Young Communist League members, assisted by members of the Communist Party, succeeded, however, in distributing approximately 5,000 copies of a leaflet bearing the slogans "Boycott the Nazi Olympics!" and "Sportsmanship Is Dead in Nazi Germany!" The leaflet was signed by the Montreal Council of the League Against War and Fascism.

[~~deletion: 1/4 page~~]