

## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

OTTAWA, 30th January, 1936.

SECRETNO. 791WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

Recent reports from various sources would indicate that an effort is being made to organize a delegation of relief camp workers to Ottawa to present their demands to the Federal Government during the latter part of February. The plans call for a delegation comprising delegates from each province and the demands are said to include, in addition to the six already presented to the former Government last year, (a) broadening of the scope of the commission investigating the Regina Riot, (b) greater enforcement of health hygiene and (d) withdrawal of charges against those facing trial at Regina under Section 98 of the Criminal Code of Canada.

There are also indications that the Communists, through the Workers Unity League, are contemplating organizing another trek-on-Ottawa should the Government refuse to meet their demands

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**APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL**

### I. The C.P. and the Trade Unions

In conformity with the instructions of the Communist International to work for one trade union in each industry; for one federation of trade unions in each country; for one international federation of trade unions organized according to industries; and for one international of trade unions based on the "class struggle" the Communist Party of Canada and [~~3/4 line~~]

— are continuing their efforts to bring the existing revolutionary trade unions within the fold of the American Federation of Labor.

This trade union policy of the Communist International and its sections is reflected in the following resolution passed [~~1 1/2 lines~~]

#### RESOLUTION OF TRADE UNION WORK IN DISTRICT #3

(1) The Convention approves the general policy of trade union unity and of amalgamation of the W.U.L. unions, into the A.F. of L. as followed until now.

(2) That the District Trade Union Commission shall be charged with the task of guiding the work of unification of the trade unions through the entire district.

(3) That a wide propaganda campaign shall be launched at once in the entire district explaining the importance of trade union unity and win the workers for this important movement. For this purpose the following should be done:

(a) Speakers' notes to be prepared at once.

(b) Mass meetings, open forums, etc., are to be arranged in all sections. Such meetings are to be called either by the W.U.L. or Unity Committees and attempts are to be made to get A.F. of L. speakers to address such meetings.

(c) The Party organ, and "Unity" the W.U.L. organ, shall be utilized for full discussion and popularization of the trade union unity campaign.

(d) All Party fractions in the A.F. of L. unions shall raise the question of trade union unity in their respective unions and win their union membership for unity.

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(e) W.U.L. Committees shall approach all A.F. of L. unions in each locality, informing them of the development and achievements in the field of trade union unity so that this becomes known to all A.F. of L. members. Emphasis is to be placed upon the importance of such unity for the whole working class and of the possibilities which opens for the organization of the unorganized.

(f) Large Trade Union Unity mass meetings shall be arranged in each important industrial center of the District. A member of the District Trade Union Commission shall be present at each of these mass meetings. A.F. of L. speakers shall, wherever possible, be procured to also speak at these mass meetings. The presence of a member of the District Trade Union Commission shall be utilized in each locality for special meetings with the Section Trade Union Commissions and section Buros for the purpose of drawing up a plan of trade union work in each locality on the basis of conditions prevailing in such sections.

(4) (a) That the District Trade Union Commission shall be instructed to raise the question of trade union democracy and the reinstatement of expelled members from the trade unions and trades and labor councils. This question which is closely connected with the trade union unity campaign, shall be raised in each situation and center as the commission shall deem advisable.

(b) That the general propaganda for trade union unity shall also be extended to the A.C.C.L. and Independent Unions showing that trade union unity will lead to the achievement of industrial unionism and will be instrumental in opposing class collaboration policies and that the unification of the trade unions will make easier the attainment of Canadian autonomy of the A.F. of L. unions.

### **BASIC INDUSTRIES**

(5) The Convention emphasized the necessity of improving and redoubling our efforts in the direction of organizing the basic and concentration industries such as steel, textile, auto and rubber. The main line to be followed in organizing these industries shall be into the American Federation of Labor.

**STEEL** (a) In this industry, the unions which already exist or which will be formed and which shall be eligible for affiliation to the Amalgamated Association of the tin and steel workers shall affiliate with the A.A. Other unions in the steel industry which are not eligible for affiliation to the A.A. shall apply for Federal Local Charter.

**TEXTILE** (b) All groups functioning in the textile plants of the district shall receive special attention and new groups shall be formed in the other textile plants. These independent factory groups shall establish the closest fraternal relations with the Trades and Labor Councils of each locality as well as with the Independent Textile Union in Toronto. At the same time, we shall utilize every avenue to procure the assistance of the

trade councils and the entire labor movement in our efforts to organize the Canadian textile workers as a part of the United Textile Workers' International Union.

**AUTO AND RUBBER (c)** In these industries the Party shall mobilize all its force to commence organizing these workers. We shall approach the Trades and Labor Councils in the centers of these industries and request them to develop unionization drives in these industries. Unions formed in both auto and rubber shall affiliate to the newly formed auto and rubber workers' unions of the A.F. of L.

**(6) GENERAL.** The Convention calls upon the entire Party to mobilize the entire membership and followers and give the lead in a campaign to organize the unorganized workers in our district. This unionization drive shall not be limited to basic industries alone but shall also, extend to lighter industries and to local industries in each community. For this purpose bold aggressive steps must be taken by our Party.

**(a)** Our entire Party membership should enter existing unions, become active in such unions to organize the rest of the workers into their organization.

**(b)** In localities where no unions or Trades and Labor Councils exist, our comrades in such localities shall be instrumental in setting up broad all-inclusive committees for the purpose of beginning a drive to unionize the locality.

**(c)** All newly formed unions shall affiliate to their respective international unions if such exist or shall procure federal charters from the Trades and Labor Congress, if no international unions exist in the given trade or industry.

**(d)** The setting up of new unions and the procuring of charters shall not be prolonged unnecessarily but shall be tackled boldly in each situation. At the same time, we are to be cautious in the open establishing of local unions, to avoid unnecessary discrimination and loss of jobs. Where no council exists, the newly formed local unions shall immediately be used for the purpose of setting up Trades and Labor Councils.

**(e)** For the purpose of developing such extensive unionization campaign, the District Buro, District Committee, the District Trade Union Commission as well as the section trade union commissions shall be responsible for this campaign. The entire membership of the party shall be prepared for this important campaign to draw in tens of thousands of new members into the trade union movement which shall be affiliated to the American Federation of Labor and the Trades and Labor Congress.

### PARTY ORGANIZATION IN THE TRADE UNION WORK

(7) (a) The District Committee shall organize a Trade Union Commission which should guide the trade union work in the whole district.

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(b) All Section Committees shall organize Trade Union Commissions to guide the work in the trade unions and organization of new unions.

(c) In Toronto and other large cities in the district a federation form of fraction leadership should be organized.

- i. Fractions in each union
- ii. Fraction Delegate Council
- iii. Executive of the Delegate Council  
(to include members of trades council)

(d) The District Trade Union Commission should define the work of the Toronto Section Trade Union Commission.

### AGRARIAN T. U. WORK

(8) The D.B. to convene as soon as possible, a District Conference on agrarian work. All sections connected with agrarian work shall be represented at this conference. A permanent Agrarian Department shall be set up and provisions shall be made to ensure the maintenance and growth of this department and guarantee correct work among the Farmers and Agricultural Workers in the District and the formation of such Agricultural Workers' Unions into the A.F. of L.

### PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT IN THE TRADE UNIONS

(9) The Commission recommends to the Convention that we change our policy which was followed until now of forming and maintaining "Opposition Groups" in the Unions. Instead, we shall organize the broadcast progressive movement in the Unions. This progressive movement shall not be narrow nor of a permanent character and limited to genuine progressives and radical workers in each union. Instead, our commissions and fractions shall develop progressive movements in each union on each important issue as it arises and rally the largest number or members of a given union who are prepared to work with us in carrying a given progressive policy. Such a tactic will not result in the formation of permanent and limited progressive groups but will enable us to draw in large number of workers who will help us to carry through progressive policies and reforms in each union.

The Executive Committee of the Lumber Workers Industrial Union, B.C. District, an affiliate of the Workers Unity League, is reported to be preparing a referendum ballot on the question of affiliation to the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of North America. The Executive Committee met with W. Page of the said Brotherhood on 9th January to

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discuss the conditions of the merger and to further clarify the situation in order that the membership of the Lumber Workers Industrial Union may be supplied with the necessary information. In the event of the merger materializing the local units of the Lumber Workers Industrial Union are to retain full autonomy affecting their membership providing their decisions did not jeopardize the existence of other locals.

## 2. Agitation Among Relief Camp Workers of Manitoba and Western Ontario

A report from Winnipeg states that the question of a new trek on-to-Ottawa by the camp workers [~~deletion:4 1/2 lines~~] The discussion revealed that should the Federal Government refuse to meet the demands of the camp workers it is the intention of the Communists to stage and lead another march on-to-Ottawa; [~~deletion:2½ lines~~] The Cities of Winnipeg and Brandon have been selected to serve as concentration centers for the Province of Manitoba in the event of a mobilization of camp workers for the trek.

[~~deletion:2 words~~] a member of the Unemployed Single Men's Association, is to proceed to Shilo Camp to agitate among the inmates of that camp and [~~deletion:3 words~~] is said to have been dispatched to the said camp for the same purpose.

[~~deletion:2 words~~] a prominent agitator of Winnipeg, is said to be organizing the single unemployed in the suburbs of Winnipeg.

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The first issue of the "camp paper," published by the Communists in Winnipeg in mimeographed form and intended for distribution among the camp workers of Manitoba and Western Ontario, has been released. It is called "The Way Out" and the following leading article from it indicates the line of action contemplated by the agitators:-

**"NATIONWIDE CAMP DELEGATION TO SEE KING AT OTTAWA  
IN FEB.**

**"Calling all camps! Listen in boys in the slave camps from Ethelbert in Northern Manitoba to the slave camps at Hudson, Ont. We have good news**

for you! Get a load of this, boys from Whitemouth, Caddy Lake, Margate, Shilo and every other camp in the district: The camp workers will interview King at the opening sessions of Parliament: to prepare the Manitoba delegation and to strengthen our union, a District Conference of relief camp workers will be held in Winnipeg on Feb. 22-23, where we hope to have all Manitoba Camps represented.

"This shows the truth of the old saying that where there is a will there is a way. If Old Man Bennett figured he was thru with the Camp Boys, we are not going to allow Mr. King to harbor any such illusions. The planks calling for the abolition of the Slave Camps and the institution of a program of WORK and WAGES were prominently pushed into the forefront in the Election Literature of the Liberals. The elections show that the Canadian people in their overwhelming majority makes it crystal clear to the King Gov't. that slave labor must be abolished and a program of WORK with WAGES established. Mr. King and his Cabinet must now implement their words with action. The purse-strings of the rich must not be allowed to strangle the youth of our country. The wealthy profiteers must be made to come across. They have more than they need, while our youth are forced to slave their young lives away in slave camps from one end of the country to the other. The rich can afford to pay!

"At the Winnipeg Conference, details of which will be published later, the program of the camp workers as embodied in the Charter of the Trekkers, together with new questions of vital concern to the welfare of our boys, will be fully gone into so that our delegates going to Ottawa can voice the needs of every camp worker in the District.

"This raises the main question at this time, the building of the union in every camp in Manitoba. Organization will lend a mighty emphasis to our demand for a better life. Organization will force Mr. King to listen to the slaving camp workers and the common people of this country, instead of listening to the rich. Fellow camp workers everywhere! Build the Union as our pioneering forefathers built their covered wagons to reach their objective. They conquered the wilderness where now stands our idle factories. We must conquer the selfish aims of the rich who deny the youth of

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our nation the fruits of the toil of our forefathers. From waterboy to camp cook, every man a union man! All to the fore for WORK & WAGES. Let our voices echo in the ears of Mr. King.

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### 3. Stewart Smith in Alberta

#### (A) At Calgary

Stewart Smith addressed a capacity audience in the Grand Theatre, Calgary, on 19th January. The meeting was held under the auspices of the Communist Party of Canada and presided over by Andy Houlgrath, [~~deletion:3/4 line~~]

Speaking on the proceedings of the Seventh World Congress of the Communist International, Smith stated that the congress was attended by 1,500 delegates representing 68 countries and that Comrade Stalin was the most important member of its Presidium. He related the difficulty experienced by many delegates getting into Russia to attend the congress, especially the delegates from Germany, Italy and Spain. He spoke of the "tyrannical oppression of the working class in countries under the rule of Fascism" and related the hardships suffered by the radicals in those countries. Speaking of the Seventh Congress he said that its main purpose was to formulate ways and means to fight war and Fascism. In this connection he asserted that it was the Communist International that saved the League of Nations and prevented a war in Europe. "Fascism", he said, "represents the last strand of Capitalism and that Capitalist rule was doomed all over the world".

Regarding the immediate aim of the Communist Party of Canada he said that the Party seeks to create a united front with the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation and the United Farmers of Alberta to combat Fascism. Referring to the Social Credit Party of Alberta he said that its aims were similar to that of the Communist Party, i.e., to raise the

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standard of living in Alberta. He, however, warned his audience that Social Credit will never succeed unless all organizations are united in the fight against Capitalism and the big interests in the east. He intimated that the system cannot be changed without revolution and bloodshed.

The meeting was also briefly addressed by Pat Lenihan who reminded the audience that the Communist Party always fought in the interests of the oppressed and that it would continue to do so in future.

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#### (B) At Lethbridge

Stewart Smith addressed a well attended meeting at the Trianon Hall, Lethbridge, Alta., on 17th January. He was introduced by the Chairman, Joseph Bowker, [~~deletion:2 words~~] as the Chairman of the Canadian delegation attending the Seventh Congress of the Communist International and as

an authority of Communism in Canada. Smith described the congress as an historical event of far reaching consequences. He devoted most of his speech to the decisions of the congress and to the "danger of Fascism".

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(C) At Medicine Hat

Approximately 70 people heard Stewart Smith explain the movement against Fascism in the Eagles Hall, Medicine Hat, Alta., on 16th January. Smith contended that it was only the united efforts and power of the people that could save the world from Fascism. He urged all Canadians who desire peace and democracy to unite in a common front against this threat to civilization.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

L. ALBERTA

4. Calgary Unemployed Demand Fifty Per Cent Increase  
in Relief Grants

The Calgary and District Unemployed Association is said to have circularized working class organizations throughout the province requesting them to support the demand of the Calgary unemployed for a fifty per cent raise in relief grants. It is the intention, provided sufficient support is forthcoming from those organizations, to take a vote on the question of a strike in the event of the demand for a fifty per cent increase not being met.

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[~~deletion: 1/2 line~~] the Communist Party of Canada was the sponsor of a public meeting held at the Emery Hall, Edmonton, on 16th January. The meeting, held officially under the auspices of the Regina Defence Committee, was attended by approximately 350 persons. H. Gerry of Beverly acted as Chairman and the speaker was Matt Shaw, leader of the British Columbia relief camp strikers.

Matt Shaw related the strike of the relief camp workers of British Columbia and the subsequent trek on-to-Ottawa. His speech was, in the main, a repetition of speeches given by him on previous occasions, except that in this instance he said in reference to the killing of Detective Millar, of the Regina City Police, that the latter was "probably" killed by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

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## II. SASKATCHEWAN

### 5. Saskatoon Defence Committee Hold Conference

The Citizens Defence Committee, [~~9~~deletion:1 line] following the Regina 1st July riot, held a conference in the auditorium of the Public

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Library, Saskatoon, Sask., on 17th January. The financial report submitted by the Secretary on behalf of this committee showed that approximately \$600 had been collected since its formation; further, that out of this sum only \$103.40 had been sent to the defence Committee at Regina and that approximately \$474.00 had been spent to defray expenses in connection with the activities of the committee, leaving a balance on hand of \$23.03.

The conference was attended by Jack King, National Secretary of the Co-operative Commonwealth Youth Movement, who addressed the gathering urging the members of the committee to continue their work.

Several resolutions were adopted, one of which demands was the unconditional release of the four leaders of the camp strikers facing trial at Regina, under Section 98 of the Criminal Code.

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## III. MANITOBA

### 6. Leslie Morris, Main Speaker at Winnipeg Lenin Memorial Meeting

Leslie Morris, who recently returned from Moscow was the principal speaker at a Lenin, Liebknecht and Luxemburg memorial meeting in the Regent Theatre, Winnipeg, on the afternoon of 19th January. The meeting, held under the auspices of the Manitoba District of the Communist Party and attended by approximately 650 people, was presided over by Alderman Jacob Penner who, in his opening remarks, explained the purpose of the gathering.

Leslie Morris, in his lengthy address, reviewed the life and activities of Lenin, Carl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg, stressing particularly the genius of Lenin. He also dwelt upon the international situation, referring particularly to conditions in Germany under the Nazi regime.

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He stressed the necessity for a "People's Party" in order to fight Fascism in Canada.

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The Winnipeg Branch of the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association held its annual meeting at the Ukrainian Labour Temple on 19th January. A large increase in membership was reported but the actual number was not given. The income for the year 1935 was reported to have been approximately \$15,000.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year: [~~deletion:4 3/4 lines~~]

The meeting is said to have been "packed" with members who are known supporters of the present leadership of the organization and who are opposed to "Lobayism".

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A movement is on foot, instigated by the Manitoba Unemployed Association, Winnipeg, to hold an Unemployed Conference in the City of Winnipeg during the early part of February. With this end in view the various unemployed organizations in Manitoba are being asked to send representatives. One of the demands which is being discussed and which will be submitted to the conference will be that the Federal Government take over the entire relief administration, and that relief be paid in cash.

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#### IV. ONTARIO

##### 7. Toronto Unemployed Demonstrations Failed to Materialize

An attempted demonstration of the unemployed in front of the City Hall in Toronto on 22nd January resulted in a complete failure. Tim Buck, who was to have led the demonstration, did not appear nor did any of the known Communist leaders. A delegation of six headed by Vic Dunn from Ward 4, Toronto, Unemployed Association, went before the Board of Control, protesting the low relief grants received by the unemployed in that Ward. Mayor McBride referred him to the City Relief Investigator. The interview was conducted in an orderly manner.

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## V. QUEBEC

### 8. Anti-Nazi Boycott Conference in Montreal

The Workmen's Circle Hall at Montreal was the scene of an Anti-Nazi Boycott Conference on 19th January. The conference was originally called by Jewish "Right" Wing groups with the idea of enforcing a strict boycott on all German-made merchandise sold in Montreal. Approximately 40 delegates attended including a large number of Communist Party representatives. A report on the anti-Nazi boycott pledge campaign showed that over 3,500 signatures had been secured so far. After a short discussion it was agreed that the drive be continued with a view to securing 50,000 signatures. The possibility of securing the co-operation of stores and manufacturers was also discussed and it was agreed that for the time being only Jewish store owners and manufacturers are to be approached. In this connection it was reported that over 900 letters had been sent to various store owners and manufacturers asking for their endorsement and that over 500 replies had been received pledging support. The conference

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decided that "Vigilant Committees" visit the 400 persons who have not replied to the circular and if they are found to be selling German-made merchandise they will be asked to discontinue doing so. In the event of non-compliance the conference proposed to take the following steps: (a) to picket the plant or store involved; (b) to post lists of all those not in agreement with the request in all trade union halls, etc., urging that the particular store or plant be boycotted; (c) to print the name of the store owner in the various newspaper; (d) to issue leaflets and other forms of propaganda on the matter.

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The League Against War and Fascism in Montreal held a general membership meeting at its local Headquarters, 362 Dorchester St. West, on 23rd January, to hear the report of George S. Mooney of Verdun, one of the Canadian delegates to the recent Congress of the United States League Against War and Fascism held in Cleveland, Ohio. Mooney reported that the congress was attended by approximately 2,400 delegates representing approximately one million and 200,000 members. Further, that it was a very enthusiastic and inspiring gathering.

The speeches given at the congress that impressed him most were those of Robert Miner, Angelo Herndon and Dr. Harry Ward, he said. Mooney concluded his report by stating that many people now fully realize that the

**Capitalist system is about to end, that it would be superseded by a system based on production for use and not on production for profit.**