

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

OTTAWA, 19th February, 1936.

SECRETNO. 794WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

The Communist Party of Canada is aiming to initiate a wide campaign among all sections of the unemployed with a view to organize them for mass action under Communist leadership. Suitable organizers are to be placed in the field to supervise the campaign in the various districts.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL1. Political Bureau of Comintern Issues "Directive"
on C.L.D.L. Work in Canada

The Political Bureau of the Communist International recently issued a "directive" on the Canadian Labour Defence League — Canadian Section of the International Red Aid — which deals with the tasks confronting the organization in Canada. The "directive" is interesting. It shows that the leaders of the Comintern at Moscow are keeping in close touch with the situation in Canada, and that they are controlling and supervising Communist activity in this country. The "directive" referred to follows:—

"FOR THE REORGANISATION OF THE CLDL AND THE BUILDING OF
A PEOPLE'S DEFENSE MOVEMENT"1. (a) Present Situation

The outstanding feature of the terror and persecution of the ruling class of Canada in the recent period, is the fact that it involves not only communists, but thousands of striking workers unemployed, farmers even middle class elements. Section 98, as the Regina events have proven, is no longer directed only against the Communist party, but it is being employed now to outlaw trade unions. Regina events further show that the attacks of capitalism take in other strata of the population besides the working class (arrest of Rev. East, indiscriminate shooting, Alberta farmers).

Nearly two thousand people in 1935 were arrested for labor activities — two year sentences and deportations have been carried out (Noranda, Coleman, etc.) French Canadian (Riopel) and Anglo-Saxon workers (Beat-tie, Haslam, Douglas, etc.) are more and more being subject to attacks — the struggles of the workers and farmers have been met with armed forces of the government (Regina, Vancouver, Corbin). The large corporations such as INCO, are throttling all vestiges of civil liberty, reactionary bands, in some instances openly fascist, are terrorising communities (Flin Flon vigilantes, Citizens League, Vancouver, anti-semitic societies and papers in Quebec, etc.) The government continues its attack on culture through a rigid customs ban — in short, Canada is developing similar tendencies towards fascism that are current in other capitalist countries.

"(b) Growing Unity of the Forces of Progress

At the same time big changes have taken place in the whole Canadian labor movement, a progressive awakening among masses of middle class, church and professional people on the issues of fascism, reaction and for the preservation of democratic liberties. Unity is rapidly

developing in the trade union, political and defense field. The rapid merging of the WUL into the AFL changes the whole character of future strike struggle — it means in the defense field, the shifting of the whole emphasis on AFL masses. The growing unity of the CP with the CCF strengthens and gives greater favorable significance to the struggle of the party for legality. The setting up and activities of the Regina and other Citizens Defense Committees, which have brought into action church people and intellectuals as well as trade unions and the CCF, brings the stage of unity a big step nearer in the defense field.

All these conditions prove not only the necessity for the creation of a broad people's defense movement, but also its splendid possibilities. The very unexact and non-partisan nature of the defense issues serve to make the defense front the broadest in the whole struggle of the common people.

"2. The CLDL in This Situation

"(a) Rich Achievements of CLDL

Since its inception, particularly during the last few years, the CLDL has a rich history of struggle and achievement having successfully defended thousands of workers. It carried through a widespread movement against Section 98 and achieved an important measure of unity, spreading its influence among great sections of the toilers and in this way laying the basis for the building of a broader defense front.

"(b) This natural development, however, has been impeded by the hidebound sectarianism within the organization and leadership of the CLDL which is responsible for an actual decrease in membership since 1933 (17,000, now less than 15,000, of which 5,000 are dues paying). Its affiliations are mainly those of mutual benefit and fraternal organisations close to the Party with very few trade unions or CCF clubs. The CLDL appears before the masses as a reputed communist organisation and has in many instances carried through tasks, campaigns and methods of work which are those of the CP. Its very structure was based on that of the Party.. So saturated is the CLDL with 'old' Party forms and ideology, that it cannot by itself grow into a broad people's defense movement, although it is essential that it must transform itself so that it can play an important part in the upbuilding of same.

"3. Immediate Tasks

"(a) The Struggle Against Sectarianism

All energies of the party and CLDL leading fractions must be exerted to combat the sectarianism that stifles the organisation. This can best be done by strengthening, initiating and correctly directing all united front actions around burning national, international and local defense issues. Methods of agitation and propaganda must be further changed so that the

language is simplified and brought up to date to the needs and thoughts of the common people. The issues of defense must not be confused with political theories or campaigns of the Communist Party.

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The CLDL must lay emphasis upon winning the middle class, professional and church people, and must thus make its methods of approach palatable to all of these strata. It must cease insisting upon rigid forms and discipline, or demands upon membership and groups. People from various strata of the community, particularly non-Party and CCF'ers, must be brought into national, regional and local leadership. We must cease the practise of communist monopoly of leadership. Democratic forms must be encouraged in every way and emphasis placed upon the initiative and rights of the lower bodies. The whole organisation must be directed towards the strengthening of the branches into bodies that carry forward intense united front activities on defense issues in their locality.

"(b) United Front Activity Must Be Uppermost

The burning issue of the day which must serve as the medium for changing the whole activity of the CLDL and for laying the basis of a people's defense movement, is that of the appeal of Section 98, linking this up with the cases of the Regina trekkers and the general struggle for civil and democratic rights.

The Regina Citizens Committee, which now calls itself the National Citizens Defense Movement, can become the initiator of all this activity -the Party and CLDL national and local fractions shall aid it to mobilise in the shortest possible period the widest united front from coast to coast, through mass actions, a signature drive, a broad delegation to Ottawa, utilising to the full the Liberal Party's pledge for the repeal of Section 98. Through the Regina Committee, all existing Citizens Committees shall be strengthened, new ones set up, statements from prominent citizens, similar to that of Ralph Connor, procured — all favorable Regina inquiry evidence popularized and the ground thoroughly prepared for the coming trials.

"(c) Other Defense Forms To Be Developed

Steps must also be taken to organise united front committees and organisations on international issues, such as persecution of the Jews and all progressive elements in Germany, to start in Quebec a united front organization of aid to the Catholic victims of Nazi terror, etc. Organisation of foreign-born people for aid to the victims of the fascist countries from which they come along the lines of the Todowymazu or other practical methods — and committees or organisations against deportations and for the right of asylum, should be developed on a very broad scale.

According to local conditions, committees or membership organisations for relief of a particular political prisoner or generally, must be launched, drawing in women in great numbers into sewing circles, mothers' committees, etc., as well as middle class, church and business people.

Issues such as 'recognition of political prisoners', 'ban on literature by customs' and particular infringements of rights of small business people and middle class elements should be utilised for a broad movement of people from the middle classes. Lawyer's groups to defend labor cases and study Canadian jurisprudence in relation to democratic rights should also be set. Trade union defense

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groups on the basis of strike arrests, farm groups based on persecutions during foreclosures, etc., and any other groups that it is possible to set up on issues that agitate any particular number of people to be undertaken.

"(d) Perspective of a People's Defense Movement

Correct united front development along these lines, particularly intensified work of the CLDL through all its committees and branches for the carrying forward of these tasks will lay the foundation for a broad people's defense movement on a federated and membership basis. This movement shall be based upon the following three points:—

1. Struggle for civil and democratic rights of the people.
2. Defense of all arrested and persecuted by reaction.
3. Relief for all victims of reaction and fascism.

In such a movement, besides all these defense forms, the mass of trade union bodies (these should become the backbone of the whole movement), CCF clubs, church, farm and other organisations will be drawn in. The perspective is that the CLDL itself shall merge into this broad movement.

"4. The Party's Tasks

These important changes in the work and leadership of the CLDL and for the building of a people's defense movement can only be brought about if the whole Party thoroughly supervises this work and carries on a campaign of full enlightenment. To change the present rigid, mechanical leadership role of the NEC and District Committees of the CLDL, so that these bodies give popular agitational leadership and direction, means that the Party must organise fraction work on a functioning basis, not in the past mechanical manner of large SOS meetings and steering committees, but through regularly placing the defense question on the agendas of all Party bodies and lower units, working out concretely in each locality the points in this main plan. Strengthening of the democratic process in the CLDL

and the initiative of the branches will depend mainly on the strengthening of the leadership in the branches. Therefore, the Party in each locality must give serious attention to the question of leadership in the CLLD, particularly that of drawing in non-Party elements.

We feel that it will be necessary in order to supplement and strengthen these general Party tasks and to clarify this whole question, that a member of the national party fraction of the CLLD shall tour the country for this purpose at a later date."

Acting upon the document from Moscow the national "fraction" of the Communist Party of Canada [~~deletion: 1 line~~] has issued the following instructions:—

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1. That the N.E.C. of the C.L.D.L. issue a short statement based upon this document.
2. That it send out personal letters to every District Central Council secretary of the C.L.D.L. dealing with the activities to be engaged in by the respective districts in accordance with the situation.
3. That the Educational Department of the C.L.D.L. prepare a series of educational outlines and articles for the districts of the C.L.D.L.
4. That within the next two months members of the National Secretariate of the C.L.D.L. cover points in Eastern Canada to mobilise the D.C.C.'s for the tasks embodied in the document.
5. That the proposed national tour be carried out at later date (after SS and TAE tours).
6. That an enlarged N.E.C. meeting with representatives from Eastern districts of the C.L.D.L. be convened at an early date.

2. National Secretariat of C.L.D.L. Discusses Regina Defence Committee

The Regina Defence Committee constituted the main item under consideration at a meeting of the National Secretariat of the Canadian Labour Defence League held at 331 Bay St., Toronto, on 30th January. Beckie Buhay Ewen reported that the Regina Citizens Defence Committee was lagging behind its task and that its treasury was empty. She attributed this state of affairs primarily to the weak position of the district organizer and the district

bureau of the Communist Party at Regina, and to the fact that no national functionary of the Canadian Labour Defence League had been attending the Royal Commission inquiry at Regina. She further stated that Arthur Evans has, of late, been playing a "lone hand" issuing various statements without first consulting the Defence Committee. This, she said, has resulted in various splits within the committee. After a lengthy discussion on the matter, it was resolved:—

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- (a) To immediately revive the various Regina Defence Committees throughout the country, who will in turn call conferences of a broader nature for the defense of the Regina cases.
- (b) To Circulate a petition calling for signatures against Section 98 and for the withdrawal of charges against the trekkers; the objective to be 500,000 signatures.
- (c) To issue special Regina collection lists in an attempt to raise at least \$200 for the Regina defense cases.

3. General Fang Chen-Wu in Canada

General Fang Chen-Wu, a native of Anhwei Province and former Chief Lieutenant of the Christian General Feng Yu-Hsiang, was the guest speaker at a meeting held under the auspice of the Canadian League Against War and Fascism at the Central Technical School, Toronto, on the evening of 9th February. A. A. McLeod, National Chairman of the League, occupied the chair and speeches of welcome were extended to the guest speaker by Leslie Morris, Communist Party of Canada, Luigi Palermo, Italian anti-fascist leader, J. B. Spencer Pitt, Negro lawyer, and a representative of the German Workers and Farmers Association.

General Fang Chen-Wu spoke in the Chinese language and his address was interpreted by a Chinese of New York who accompanies the speaker on his tour. Fang Chen-Wu advocated a united front of the Chinese people against Japanese aggression in North China. He charged that Japanese imperialism is disturbing the peace of the world, defying the whole world. This, he said, is shown by her withdrawal from the League of Nations, by her occupation of Manchuria and North China and by her defiant stand at the London Naval Conference. North China, he continued, possesses raw materials for armaments which Japanese imperialism intends to exploit in order to strengthen her position. He criticized the international powers for allowing Japanese violation of international treaties; condemned

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Mussolini's campaign against Ethiopia and charged that the Nanking Government in China does nothing to counteract the aggressive policy of Japan in Northern China. In answer to questions from the floor he stated that no war can be expected between Japan and the Soviet Union in the immediate future as Japan is trying to conquer Northern China first and thus consolidate her position in Manchukuo and Northern China before attacking the Soviet Union. Replying to a question as to whether he represented the Nanking Government or the Red Government in China, he remarked, "I am for humanity and happiness of mankind". At this juncture the chairman ruled that the question was out of order.

Leslie Morris said that the Chinese people are going through a revolution which must be continued and completed before China can go forward. "They are now rallying under the slogan of a united Chinese People's Army against imperialism to drive out the imperialists and bring about in China a Soviet Government", he declared.

The meeting was attended by approximately 800 people including a small number, about 20, Chinese.

While at Toronto Fang Chen-Wu is said to have been the guest of the Chinese Nationalist Party. He is also reported to have addressed a meeting of 800 Chinese.

As a result of his visit the first branch of the "Canadian Friends of the Chinese People" was organized in Toronto on 9th February with a mixed membership of 30. E.H. Norman has been appointed provisional secretary and plans have been laid to extend the organization throughout Canada.

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4. C.P. of C. to Hold National Congress During July, 1936.

The Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Canada has issued a call for a National Congress of the Communist Party of Canada to be held during July, 1936; the location and exact date, it is said, will be announced at a later date. The circular issued by the Political Bureau on the matter proposes levying a special assessment on the members to assist in defraying the expenses of the congress. All groups of the Party have been asked to immediately commence to raise funds for that purpose.

The following delegate quotas were given to the Party districts; Young Communist League of Canada; Communist Party of the U.S.A.; and all national Fractions of the Party, i.e., Workers Unity League, Canadian Labour

Defence League, Farmers Unity League, Friends of the Soviet Union, Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association, Finnish Organization of Canada, Hungarian Workers Clubs, etc.

| | | |
|---------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| District No. 1 | (Nova Scotia) | 5 delegates |
| " " 2 | (Quebec) | 50 " |
| " " 3 | (Southern Ontario) | 200 " |
| " " 4 | (Central Ontario) | 10 " |
| " " 5 | (Northern Ontario) | 10 " |
| " " 6 | (Western Ontario) | 10 " |
| " " 7 | (Manitoba) | 25 " |
| " " 8 | (Alberta) | 10 " |
| " " 9 | (British Columbia) | 10 " |
| " " 10 | (Saskatchewan) | 5 " |
| Young Communist League | | 25 " |
| C.P. of the U.S.A. | | 5 " |
| National Party Fractions (each) | | 2 " |

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8. Rigg Commission Report Disappointing to Leaders of R.C.W.U.

The report of the Rigg Commission appointed by the Honourable Norman McL. Rogers, Minister of Labour, is causing considerable uneasiness among the leaders of the Relief Camp Workers Union in British Columbia. Fear is being expressed that the Government will endorse the recommendations of the committee and close the relief camps. It is the consensus of opinion that with the camps closed and the youths on the move or staying at home with their relatives organization will be more difficult. The Executive Committee of the Relief Camp Workers Union did not anticipate the possibility of the camps being abolished and another system introduced.

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9. Winnipeg Communists Recommend March on Ottawa if
Camp Workers' Demands Not Granted

The Communist Party of Winnipeg, Man., held a conference on 12th February with the following delegates in attendance:—

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| [&deletion:name] | District Secretary, Communist Party of Canada |
| Alderman Jacob Penner | Friends of the Soviet Union |
| [&deletion:name] | Communist Party of Canada |
| [&deletion:name] | Workers Unity League |
| [&deletion:name] | Young Communist League |
| M. Popovich | Communist Party of Canada, Ukrainian Branch |
| [&deletion:name] | Canadian Labour Defence League |
| [&deletion:name] | Workers Unity League |
| [&deletion:name] | Canadian Labour Defence League |
| Orton Wade | Camp Workers Union |
| [&deletion:name] | Communist Party of Canada |
| [&deletion:name] | Unemployed Single Men's Assoc- iation of Manitoba |
| [&deletion:name] | Unemployed Single Men's Assoc- iation of Manitoba |
| [&deletion:name] | Unemployed Single Men's Assoc- iation of Manitoba |
| [&deletion:name] | Unemployed Single Men's Assoc- iation of Manitoba; Camp Workers Union |

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- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| [&deletion:name] | Unemployed Single Men's Assoc- iation of Manitoba; Camp Workers Union |
| [&deletion:name] | Workers Unity League |
| [&deletion:name] | Camp Workers Union; Unemployed Single Men's Association |
| Alderman Joe Forkin | Communist Party of Canada |

[&deletion:name] stated that the conference was called for the purpose of discussing the single unemployed situation in the Province of Manitoba. After considerable discussion it was decided:—

1. To bring pressure to bear upon the Federal government in support of the demands of the camp workers; and to mobilize trade unions and other

organizations in support of the camp workers' demands for trade union rates of wages in camps.

2. To demand:—

- (a) Non-contributory unemployment insurance.
- (b) Abolition of soup kitchens; and that the single unemployed be given meals at restaurants.
- (c) Abolition of Section 98 of the Criminal Code and withdrawal of charges against the arrested trek leaders at Regina.
- (d) Expenses of the delegation to Ottawa be paid by the Government.
- (e) That in the event of the camps not being abolished, the inmates be given trade union wages.
- (f) Release of all "class war" prisoners and the right to picket.

It was further decided that should the Federal Government refuse to grant the demands of the Camp Workers the conference will suggest to the National Office in Toronto that it call a Dominion wide march on-to-Ottawa to commence on 4th May next.

M. Popovich, one of the eight Communist Party leaders out on parole, who attended the conference left Winnipeg for Toronto on 14th February and he will very likely submit a report of the conference to the Communist Party Head Office.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

10. Situation on Vancouver's Waterfront

The Vancouver and District Waterfront Workers Association continues to exert every effort to keep the spirit of animosity aflame. This is partly due to the fact that the Shipping Federation of British Columbia has definitely black-listed a large percentage of members of the association who participated in the last strike on the waterfront.

Efforts to obtain employment for a sufficient number of men to permit application for an International Longshoremen's Association charter with the American Federation of Labour continue. In this regard it is interesting to note that several leading and influential officers of the American Federation of

Labor in Vancouver are strongly against the Vancouver and District Waterfront Workers Association getting the said charter. It has been reliably reported that steps have been taken to have the constitution of the Vancouver and New Westminster District Trades and Labour Council amended to make it difficult and well-nigh impossible for a radical to enter the Council.

Within the past two weeks the shipping interests of Vancouver have been displaying an active interest in the waterfront situation on the United States Pacific Coast. Those companies in Vancouver that deal largely with tramp tonnage express a modified hope that labour troubles on the United States Pacific Coast will turn buyers of lumber more definitely to British Columbia producers and will divert freight from American centres to the Port of Vancouver. Those lines that operate regular ships from Europe have expressed different opinions and feel that they would suffer equally with American ports if trouble develops on the Pacific Coast. Some of the wharf companies in Vancouver are said to be considering making

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private agreements with the old longshore union so that their docks can get the American ships which, to the present, continue to avoid Vancouver.

II. ALBERTA

11. Communists Active Among Single Unemployed

The Communist Party fraction in control of the Unemployed Single Men's Association at Edmonton met on 3rd February and discussed the affairs of the Single Unemployed Association. [§deletion:name] chairman of the fraction, pointed out that it would soon be time for the single men to take up spring farm labour and that it is the intention of the Relief Camp Workers Union, under the guidance of the Communist Party, to organize the single men both in the larger centers and in relief camps of the province for strike action. He pointed out that this strike must be organized prior to the opening of spring farm labour. In quoting extracts from the press [§deletion:name] pointed out that the closing of relief camps by the Department of National Defence and reopening them under the Department of Labour was merely a move on the part of the Government to subsidize cheap labour for farm work. [§deletion:name] advocated that this movement is strongly opposed by the single men and that in order to bring this about the single men would have to become organized and more active.

On 7th February, in the course of the afternoon, the [§<deletion:1 line] Canadian League Against War and Fascism, met and decided that the recommendation of the league's Finance Committee to solicit funds for the "peace ballot" from various local religious and business organizations be put into effect; further, that [§<deletion:name] be elected as chairman of church organization work and

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that [§<deletion:2 words] elected business manager of the local league. It was also decided that a copy of the report on the National Congress, together with the organizational and financial report of the Edmonton Council be sent to all affiliated units in Edmonton.

The foregoing mentioned decisions were submitted to the regular meeting of the Executive Committee of the Council held in the course of the evening of the same day, and as usual, passed unanimously. At this meeting it was also decided that a Provincial Council be set up as soon as possible for the purpose of organizing branches of the league throughout Alberta.

III. SASKATCHEWAN

12. Stewart Smith Speaks in Regina & Saskatoon

Stewart Smith addressed a meeting of approximately 750 people in the City Hall Auditorium, Regina, Sask., on 5th February. T. G. McManus acted as Chairman and, in his opening remarks, commented on the progress of the unity movement in Canada.

Stewart Smith's speech purported to be a report on the VIIth World Congress of the Communist International but was mainly an attack upon Fascism and Capitalism in general. He eulogized the soviet Union but condemned the Government of Canada. He asserted that the Communists will eventually establish real liberty and democracy. "Communists all over the world will sacrifice their lives to prevent another war", he said.

On 4th February Smith addressed a meeting on the same subject in the Ukrainian Labour Temple at Saskatoon. This meeting was also well attended and presided over by William Taylor, [§<deletion:4 words]

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IV. MANITOBA

13. Disturbance at Winnipeg

The Water Street Dining Hall at Winnipeg, Man., operated by the city relief administration, was the scene of a disturbance on 11th February when approximately 400 single unemployed, led by several well known Communists, overturned tables and scattered the food on the floor. Following the disturbance the unemployed marched to the Princess and Ross Street Dining Hall to repeat the performance but found, on their arrival, a strong detail of City Police protecting the property.

V. ONTARIO

14. Communists Operate Training School in Toronto

The National Bureau of the Communist Party is now conducting a training school for Party functionaries in Toronto. The school is attended by about 35 Party members who have been selected for this course of training from various parts of the country. The tuition fee is said to be \$70 which includes meals and room rent for six weeks. The fee is paid by the Communist Party district organizations that sent the pupils to the schools.

Arthur Williams, whose election as Reeve of East York was recently declared invalid by the Master of the Supreme Court, has again been nominated as candidate for that office. A determined effort is being made to have him re-elected.

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James Beattie, prominent Workers Unity League organizer who was imprisoned in Burwash Prison Farm, has been released on parole. Beattie was arrested on 11th March, 1935, as a result of his participation in a strike disturbance at the Victoria Leather Jacket Company in Hamilton, Ont.

VI. QUEBEC15. "Popular Front" in Montreal Grows

The "Popular Front" recently formed in Montreal for the "immediate needs and the defence and protection of the unemployed" is said to have become widespread representing 56 unemployed organizations of which about 30 are "Left" Wing or Communist-controlled bodies.

[~~deletion:name~~] local Communist party organizer, recently remarked that this movement will confine itself strictly to the fight for free electricity to the unemployed and that prospects of attaining its objective were very good. A leaflet, issued by the executive committee the "Popular Front" recently, outlines the immediate aims of this movement. It says:—

"The 'Popular Front', demanding an immediate improvement in our standard of living will start its first campaign of action against the arrogant and exacting attitude taken by the Montreal Light Heat & Power towards the unemployed; and in this regard, we are determined to fight to the limit for the success of our demands which are as follows:—

1. Granting of free electric light to the unemployed, the expense to be borne by the authorities.
 2. Immediate suspension of all legal proceedings taken against unemployed people by the Montreal Light Heat & Power for 'jumping' of meters, etc., and also immediate restoration to liberty of all unemployed arrested for this reason.
 3. Moratorium conceded for 5 years with eventual renewal, of any back account with the Company, and granting of a new and free contract for further light and gas supply".
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