

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

OTTAWA, 18th March, 1936.

SECRETNO. 798WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

Communist efforts to organize the unemployed throughout the country continue. Harvey Murphy, [deletion: 1 1/4 lines] reported that over 3,000 unemployed have been organized in Toronto during the past two months.

At Stratford, Ont., 23 relief strikers, mostly members of the executive committee of the local unemployed association, arrested recently following a clash with police, have been convicted on charges of intimidation and obstructing police.

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A. E. Smith, general secretary of the Canadian Labour Defence League, sailed from New York on 14th March to represent Canada on an international delegation going to Bulgaria to protest the arrest of 20 leaders of the national Macedonian liberation movement in that country.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

1. Principle of One Miners' Union in Western Canada Endorsed

Following negotiations between the executives of the Mine Workers Union of Canada and the United Mine Workers of America during the Wage Scale Conference of the Mine Workers Union of Canada held in Calgary on 2nd, 3rd and 4th March, the Alberta Federation of Labour is said to have agreed to sponsor a general Miners' Conference with the object in view of forming a single miners' Union.

The M.W.U.C. Conference was addressed by Tom Ewen, national secretary of the Workers Unity League and Fred White, president of the Alberta Federation of Labour who stressed the need for unity in Alberta coal fields. The conference is said to have been attended also by representatives of four independent miners' organizations who pledged their support for an all inclusive miners' organization. The conference, in addition to going on record for one miners' union, deliberated on the question of improving the working conditions throughout the mining camps of Alberta and British Columbia. It instructed the schedule committees to seek an increase for the lower paid men and to strive for one year agreements in the camps where such have expired.

The decision of the two Alberta miners' unions to form a single union embracing the miners of that province and of Eastern British Columbia has been hailed by the Communists as a great step forward in their campaign for unity. The M.W.U. of Canada is to sink its identity as a member of the W.U.L. and it is anticipated that in future the organization that will predominate in Western Canada will again be the United Mine Workers of America, District 18, with the Communists in control.

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2. Unrest in Alberta Provincial Relief Camps

Considerable unrest is reported to exist in relief camps operated by the Alberta Provincial Relief Commission due largely to the announcement made by the Dominion Government to the effect that inmates of all Federal Relief Camps are to receive a pay of \$15 per month commencing 1st March.

On 7th March a delegation of the Unemployed Single Men's Protective Association from Calgary and Edmonton, headed by J. Hollopeter, interviewed the Provincial Government regarding the payment of \$15 per month to inmates of relief camps under the jurisdiction of the Provincial Government. The Honourable Dr. W. W. Cross, Minister in charge of unemployment relief, informed the delegation that the financial position of the province at this time was such that it would be impossible to pay \$15 per month without additional assistance from the Federal Government.

It is generally understood that unless the province agrees to pay the men \$15 a month, a general strike affecting these camps will be called. The demand for a \$15 per month pay is receiving the support of the organized unemployed workers of Calgary and Edmonton.

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3. United Farmers of Alberta Affiliate with League Against War & Fascism

Affiliation of the United Farmers of Alberta to the Canadian League Against War and Fascism was announced by A. A. McLeod, national chairman of the league. Official application, together with affiliation fees, was received at the national office of the league at Toronto on 9th March. McLeod stated that the step taken by the United Farmers of Alberta is of extreme importance as "it opens the way to a solid front against reaction and war in that province".

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4. Beckie Buhay Ewen Explains New Defence Movement

Addressing a special meeting of the leaders of the Canadian Labour Defence League in Montreal on 7th March Beckie Buhay Ewen of Toronto declared that the VIIth Congress of the Communist International definitely decided to liquidate the International Red Aid and its sections throughout the world as rapidly as possible. Speaking of the activities of the C.L.D.L. she said that although it records considerable achievements the organization had allowed itself to become a second Communist Party with the result that it found it impossible to build defence movements along broad lines. "It now remains for us, the C.P. and the C.L.D.L., to initiate some new form of struggle that will have a wide appeal to the broad masses of the people", she said. She cited the Regina Citizens Defence Committee as the ideal form of defence organization. The C.P., she stated, had decided to extend this form of defence movement throughout Canada, to serve as a national citizens defence movement. In order to popularize this new movement Jack King, the national secretary, is now touring Eastern Canada and is taking the lead in setting up small citizens defence committees in various cities. This new approach is already showing good results, she maintained, and Jack King, through his connections with C.C.F. clubs and leading progressive elements, has succeeded in winning over people that the C.L.D.L. or the C.P. could never approach. Beckie Buhay then proceeded to explain how this national citizens defence movement will function. It will not be built on a dues paying membership basis; neither is it intended to build branches. There will be a national centre but each city will have its own defence organization which will concentrate on local issues. The movement is to be as broad as possible embracing all shades of political opinion. The C.L.D.L. is not to be liquidated, however, until the new movement is organized throughout Canada.

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5. Ontario Section of L.W.I.U. of C. to Discuss
Affiliation with A.F.L. Organization

Following the action taken by the British Columbia section of the Lumber Workers' Industrial Union, the Ontario Provincial Executive Board of this union has issued a call for a convention to convene in Port Arthur on 21st March to discuss the question of affiliation with the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America. Fraternal delegates have also been invited from the U.B. of C.; pulp and sulphite unions in Fort William and Port Arthur, Kenora and Fort Frances; trades councils of Fort William and Port Arthur and the local saw mill workers' union in Fort Frances.

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7. C.P. in Ontario Formally Applies for
Affiliation to C.C.F.

The Communist Party leadership in Ontario has forwarded a letter to the Executive Committee of the Ontario Section, Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, formally applying

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for affiliation to the latter. The letter asked for the appointing of a committee to meet with the C.P. representatives to discuss the necessary steps to be taken to consummate the proposed affiliation. As yet no reply has been received from the C.C.F. [~~deletion: 3 3/4 lines~~]

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

8. L. & W.T.W. of C. Dissolved

The Longshoremen and Water Transport Workers of Canada was officially dissolved on 2nd March, and the attention of the Communist Party leaders has been turned to the problem of reorganizing their forces on Vancouver's waterfront. Its official organ "Ship and Dock" has also been suspended, the last edition appearing on 11th March, 1936.

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Approximately 130 lumber workers came out on strike at Camp 10, Cowichan Lake, Vancouver Id., on 11th March in protest against the action of the company officials in discharging two union agitators for their activities in camp. Tents, blankets and other stores were sent over to the Island from Vancouver and a call for financial support to all camps has been despatched by the head office of the Lumber Workers Industrial Union at Vancouver.

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The proceeds of a tag day held in Vancouver recently in the interests of those camp strikers facing trial at Regina amounted to \$960.

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II. ALBERTA

9. Call for Edmonton Unemployed Conference Issued

Edmonton Communists have issued a call for a conference of representatives of all unemployed organizations in the city to discuss the Provincial Government relief budget and to prepare a basis for united action.

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The newly organized Edmonton Rooming House Keepers' Association met in the Scandinavian Hall on 8th March with approximately 60 persons in attendance. J. Hollopeter spoke briefly on behalf of the Unemployed Single Men's Protective Association, proposing that the Edmonton Rooming House Keepers' Association executive and that of the Unemployed Single Men's Protective Association meet and draw up a plan of action. The meeting decided to support the demand of the Single Men's Protective Association for a higher lodging allowance.

Considerable stress is being placed upon the organization of the rooming house keepers by the Communist Party as it is felt that in building up such an organization the Party will be able to widen its influence.

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The executive committee of the Edmonton council of the Canadian League Against War and Fascism, on 6th March, decided to suggest to the council at its meeting on 27th march that it call a Provincial Conference in the near future,

and that in the mean time the council act as a provisional Provincial Committee. The Reverend Carl Storm told the executive that he was speaking once a week over C.K.U.A., University of Alberta radio station, for the purpose of advancing the cause of the league. [~~deletion:2 words~~] suggested that the league secretary approach the Mayor with a view to obtain permission to hold a tag day in the near future.

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III. MANITOBA

10. Manitoba Unemployed Conference Active

Fifty-eight delegates representing 34 organizations and a number of private individuals attended a meeting of the Manitoba Unemployed Conference in the John Macdonald School at Winnipeg on 6th March. J. Clancy occupied the chair and the speakers were R. J. Burns, Railroad Workers Association, C.W. Foster, Winnipeg unemployed, and Charles Watson of the Single Men's Unemployed Association of Manitoba.

The 10 point program was read at the opening of the meeting by the chairman who remarked that the unemployed in Greater Winnipeg are determined to see that they will receive a square deal from the government. "If Mr. Bracken and his mob do turn us down after the citizens endorse our 10 point program, all I can say is that Winnipeg will be in a fine mess", he said.

R. J. Burns stressed the need for organization and urged unity among the workers.

C. W. Foster quoted statistics in an endeavour to prove that capitalist economy is responsible for the present crisis.

IV. ONTARIO

11. People's Defence Committee Formed in Toronto

A conference held at St. Paul's C.C.F. club rooms at Toronto on 4th March resolved that a People's Defence Committee of Toronto and district be formed for the defense of the arrested Regina trekkers. About 100 persons were present representing 63 organizations, [~~deletion:1 line~~] Jack King, representing the Regina Citizens Committee addressed the gathering on the charges arising out of the Dominion Day riots at Regina. The resolution to form a People's Defence Committee was brought forward by

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[~~deletion:name~~] leading member of the Communist Party.

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[✂deletion:2 words] is not to tour Southern Ontario, as previously agreed upon, in order that his tour may not clash with that of Mitchell, a leading member of the Ontario executive committee of the C.C.F.

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V. QUEBEC

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