

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

OTTAWA, 25th March, 1936.

SECRETNO. 799WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS
AND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

The management of "The Worker", central organ of the Communist Party of Canada, announces that the paper is to appear daily commencing May 1st, under the name "Daily Clarion". The new edition will be off the press early each morning, in time to be on the news stands before eight o'clock, and ready to catch trains, buses and trucks which will take it to Southern Ontario and east to Montreal in time for sales that day. A week-end edition which will contain the most important news of the week will be published for readers in Western Canada and far-off places who cannot subscribe to a daily paper.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

1. Proposed On-to-Ottawa Trek Cancelled

[~~deletion:1 line~~] that the Communist Party central office at Toronto has definitely decided to abandon the proposed trek of camp workers on to Ottawa. Communist leaders feel that the venture would not meet with public support since the Dominion Government has announced its intention to close the camps by next July. The Communist Party administration, however, has decided to sponsor “hunger” marches on to provincial capitals.

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2. Movement for Unity Among Nova Scotia Miners Progressing Favourably.

The Communist inspired movement for unity between the Amalgamated Mine Workers of Nova Scotia and the United Mine Workers of America, district #26, is reported to be progressing favourably. Mass meetings are being held in various mines in Nova Scotia at which the five-point programme advanced by the Communists is being discussed, and in many instances adopted.

The five-point programme urges complete autonomy in Nova Scotia; all transactions during wage negotiations to be reported to the membership; and that nothing in the constitution can set aside any referendum on wage contract or election of officers.

A joint committee has already been established, and it is felt that the merging of the two organizations is only a matter of time. It is the intention to have only one union in the coal fields of Nova Scotia in future, viz.- "The United Mine Workers of America."

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3. Young Communists Prepare for Ottawa Youth Congress

The National Bureau of the Young Communists League has sent the following letter to all District Bureaus of the league throughout the country:—

"We can tentatively inform the districts regarding the fare arrangements for the Congress. There will be special trains from Toronto and Montreal. These trains will pick up all delegates en route and also take on the delegates from Southern Ontario and Eastern points. The fare will be about \$5 plus a surcharge of one or two dollars to go towards helping the western delegations.

There will probably be a special Congress Colonist car from Vancouver picking up all Western delegates and, if necessary, a few cars beginning at Winnipeg.

The discussion showed that the Vancouver and other far western delegates will be expected to pay \$20 towards their fare (Winnipeg about \$15) the rest will be added by Congress Committee. A maximum aid quota will be set.

The fares will be 1 cent a mile from the West, fare and a quarter from Port Arthur, 1 cent a mile from the east and southern Ontario and Quebec.

The Call will be out in the provinces by the end of the next week. Election of delegates should begin even before the Call has been issued and funds should be collected at once.

Thus far the National YMCA and National YWCA have agreed to take part on the organizing committee. The CCYM and the YCL are already on it. Please rush news for the Young Worker."

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4. [~~deletion: name~~] appointed C.P. Representative on Comintern in Moscow.

[~~deletion: name~~] prominent Communist Party functionary, has been sent to Moscow to act as Canada's representative on the Communist International

for a period of one year. The Communist Party centre at Toronto pretends that Sims has withdrawn from the movement temporarily on account of ill health.

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5. Tim Buck Speaks in Montreal and Verdun

Tim Buck was the principal speaker at a mass meeting held in the Prince Arthur Hall, in Montreal, on the 11th of March, to celebrate the victory of the People's Front in Spain. The hall was packed; there being approximately 1,100 people in attendance with Sam Carr of Toronto occupying the chair.

Tim Buck was given a very enthusiastic ovation when he made his appearance on the platform. He gave a brief outline of the history of the Spanish revolution and explained how the victory of the People's Front in Spain affects the situation of the Popular Front in France. Speaking of the Canadian situation, he warned the Canadian people that Fascism is already laying its foundation in Canada. He urged the audience to join in a united front against this "menace".

Before closing the meeting, Sam Carr made an appeal to the audience to join the Communist Party. He boasted of the action of the Party in Toronto in opening official offices in the down-town section, and claimed that the membership of the party is steadily growing. The collection netted \$77.25.

On the 15th of March, the Legion Hall at Verdun was the scene of the first "open" meeting of the Communist Party of Canada ever staged in that city. The speakers were Stanley Ryerson and Tim Buck, and the attendance numbered approximately 500 people.

Buck outlined the history of the Communist Party in Canada, dealing particularly with the illegal status of the party after the conviction of the eight party leaders in Toronto in 1931. He pointed out how, shortly after his release from Kingston Penitentiary, he addressed a meeting of about 8,000 people in the Maple Leaf Gardens at Toronto in defiance of all orders. He claimed that the openly defied the Police authorities to arrest him, but that "the thousands who had come to hear him prevented

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Police interference". "The very fact that the Communist Party of Canada has offices in the down-town business section of Toronto, and is listed in the telephone Directory, is sufficient proof that Communism is getting a wonderful foothold." he said.

He also described the "struggles" of the Communists in France, Spain, Germany and England, comparing them with those of the workers in Canada.

He contended that the Communist party offers the only solution to the world-wide crisis, and urged the audience to join the Communist party in the fight for the abolition of capitalism. He made a very impassioned appeal for funds for the branch of the Party in Verdun. The response is said to have been liberal; the sum of money collected was not announced, however.

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6. Graham Spry and Sam Lawrence Selected to
Represent C.C.F. in F.S.U. Delegation to
U.S.S.R.

Graham Spry, a provincial executive of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation and editor of the C.C.F. paper "New Commonwealth" of Toronto, and Sam Lawrence, C.C.F. Member of the Ontario Provincial Legislature [~~deletion:3 words~~] have been selected to represent the C.C.F. in the delegation which is being organized by the Friends of the Soviet Union to visit the U.S.S.R. this spring.

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7. Alf. Campbell Transferred to Alberta

Alf. Campbell, of the Toronto office of the Canadian Labour Defence League, has been transferred to Alberta to take charge of the C.L.D.L. work in that province.

[~~deletion:1/2 line~~] is being transferred from Toronto to Winnipeg to replace [~~deletion:name~~] who is being sent to Toronto.

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8. Communist Move to Oppose Placing Relief
Camp Men on Railways

A recent report from Vancouver states that the Relief Camp Workers' Union is negotiating with the Maintenance-of-Way employees with a view to reaching an agreement between the two bodies in order to be able to oppose what the Communists term the "farming out" of the relief camp men to the railroad Companies. The Maintenance-of-Way employees are said to be taking the stand that the Government intends to hire out the relief camp men to the railroads as a preliminary to reducing their standard of living.

Commenting on the action of the Dominion Government in connection with the relief camps, the Communist organ "B.C. Workers News" on the 13th of March, after condemning the Government scheme, advises:—

"No time should be lost by the Relief Camp Workers' Union in getting in touch with the organization of the Maintenance-of-Way men and establishing friendly, fraternal relations with them, looking towards unity of the two organizations in the common interest of both."

Similar agitation has been observed in Winnipeg among the railway employees and relief camp workers. A recent letter sent by the Camp Workers' Union to the Unemployed Railwaymen's Association reads:—

"We, the Camp Workers' Union, think that these ex-railway men who are now on relief should get railway work first. Then employ the ten thousand. We also expect that the railway Companies will classify these men who are not railway workers and the wages will be

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set as follows: Government payment \$15.00 per month; Railway Company 10¢ per hour in addition and up to 16¢ per hour if employed on special work. We cannot clothe ourselves and have any money left over, if they should classify the men as mentioned.

Would your Union please take this matter up.

Trusting for a reply,

Comradely yours,

(Signed) A. Prett, Secretary,
C.W.U."

The question of the Relief Camp workers' attitude towards a strike has been the subject of considerable discussion in Communist party circles at Winnipeg. The Communist leaders have expressed the opinion that it would be very difficult to get the Relief Camp workers to come out on strike at the present time.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

9. Relief for Discharged Camp Workers Demanded in Vancouver

Approximately two hundred people attended a meeting in the Orange Hall, 341 Gore Avenue, Vancouver, on the 16th of March, held in the interests of the men discharged from the relief camps for cause. It was asserted that 170 of these "Black-listed" men are now in Vancouver. The meeting was addressed by a number of speakers, including Sam Shearer, Kennedy, Cumber, Mrs.

Drummond, Mrs. Ross, [~~deletion: 1/2 line~~] and Arthur Evans, the last named being the principal speaker.

Arthur Evans dealt with the treatment accorded the unemployed and the men in the camps, stressing the need for action. He demanded that the Mayor of the City and the government feed these 170 men now in the city, and urged the audience to bring sufficient pressure to bear in order to force the authorities to act.

"Should Canada Support Sanctions" formed the subject of a debate between Malcolm Bruce and Don Smith in the Moose Temple, 636 Burrard Street, Vancouver, on the 15th of March. A.M. Stephen acted as chairman, and the debate attracted about 1,000 listeners.

Taking the affirmative, Malcolm Bruce sketched the present set of European alliances and described the role of the League of Nations as "safeguarding capitalist interests." Smith's contention was that he spoke for thousands of Canadian youth when he said that he would go to Jail in preference to going to war. Bruce in rebuttal maintained that the attitude of going to jail was incorrect, but the correct line was to join the "capitalist army" with the intention of wrecking it.

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The debate, held under the auspices of the "League Against War and Fascism", was staged primarily with the object of bringing in elements which have never been subjected to propaganda before. It has been decided that other debates be arranged and staged at the C.C.F. clubs, and it is hoped by this means to familiarize the members of the C.C.F. clubs with the sight of Communist speakers such as Malcolm Bruce on their platforms.

A meeting of the Workers' Ex-Service Men's League at Vancouver held on the 9th of March was addressed by L.G. Parnell, prominent member of the C.C.F., on the need of an ex-servicemen's organization that will "fight for the cause of the ex-servicemen, forming a united front with the other workers' organizations". The speaker claimed that this would force the authorities to make concessions such as increase in pensions and possibly a bonus, similar to the one granted in the United States of America.

II. ONTARIO

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[~~3/4~~:1/2 page] the District Bureau despatched a circular to all sub-Districts and Sections urging that immediate steps be taken to form a broad front against the budget of the Provincial Government. The circular also stresses the need for a wide representation at the unemployed conference on the 26th of March with a view to securing the endorsement of the conference of the Communist Party demands. It instructs:—

“The independent activity of the party must be used to rapidly advance the united front with the C.C.F. We should inform the C.C.F. that we are calling such and such a meeting or demonstration and inform them that we are prepared to make a united front affair if they desire to participate.”

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III. QUEBEC

11. “Popular Front” Meeting in Montreal Attracts Large Audience

The “Popular Front” in Montreal held its third mass meeting in the Atwater Market Hall on the afternoon of the 15th of March, with approximately 3,000 people in attendance. The speakers included the following:—

- “Bougie [~~3/4~~:word] — Chief Organizer of Popular Front.
- Jack Munro [~~3/4~~:word] — Central Unemployed Association.
- Mrs. J. W. Lecavalier [~~3/4~~:word] — Ligue de Solidarite Feminine.
- Mrs. Lebrun [~~3/4~~:word] — Women’s Unity League
- Chas. E. Perry [~~3/4~~:word] — Les Sans-Travails de St. Edouard.
- Jean Perron [~~3/4~~:2 words] — C.C.F.
- Emile Godin - Association Humanitaire.
- Oscar Latreille - C.C.F.
- Rev. Clark - Afro-Canadian League.”

Emile Godin made the threat that if free light is not granted to the unemployed by the end of the month, “they will not be the only ones to be without light, the rich will suffer the same fate.”

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