

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 1st April, 1936.

SECRET**NO. 800****WEEKLY SUMMARY****REPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS
AND AGITATION IN CANADA****Report**

Eighty-nine delegates representing 77 organizations from 24 Ontario municipalities attended the "Provincial Relief Improvement Conference" which opened in Toronto on 26th March. A nine point program which includes the following demands was adopted and submitted to the Ontario Provincial Government:—

- (1) Restoration of all relief cuts to municipalities.
- (2) Slum clearance at trade union wages.
- (3) Full maintenance of youth of 16 and over, complete abolition of the hostels and cash vouchers for all single unemployed men.
- (4) That the Government order all factories to open, and if private owners fail to do this, the Government to take control and supply work at union wages, five days a week six hours a day.
- (5) Non-contributory unemployment insurance.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

I. Dr. Anna Louise Strong in Vancouver, B.C.

Speaking to an audience of approximately 3,000 which filled every inch of space in the Hotel Vancouver’s Crystal Ballroom on 20th March, Dr. Anna Louise Strong, prominent Communist propagandist and editor of the Moscow Daily News, described the U.S.S.R. as a beautiful country where there was no

unemployment, no worry, and everyone was quite happy and contented. The lecture was given under the auspices of the Progressive Arts Club of Vancouver, with Mrs. Edward Mahon acting as chairman. Garfield King, K.C., made all the arrangements relative to the lecture on behalf of the P.A.C., who stated that the net proceeds derived from it would be used to send a cast of the P.A.C. to compete in the Drama Festival at Ottawa with the play "Waiting for Lefty".

In the course of her speech, Dr. Strong frequently referred in a rather sarcastic manner to the system in Canada, and generally characterized capitalism as a system which has brought forth nothing but chaos and unemployment. She contended that "if we as joint owners of one-sixth of the earth's surface have accomplished so much, how much greater would be our accomplishment if we had joint ownership of the entire planet".

It was observed that the audience was made up largely of the better type of citizens. The net proceeds are not known, but it has been said that Dr. Strong paid Income Tax on \$275 which apparently was her fee for this lecture.

Prior to the meeting, Dr. Strong was entertained by the British Columbia Institute of Journalists at the Hotel Grosvenor. She informed her hosts that she did not wish to make a speech on this occasion as she was weary and had already addressed three meetings that day.

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2. Convention of Eastern Section of L.W.I.U. Votes for Affiliation with A.F.L. Body

The Lumber Workers Industrial Union of Canada, Eastern District, held a convention in the Trades and Labour Hall, Port Arthur, on 21st and 22nd March. In addition to accredited delegates from Thunder Bay, Timmins, Sault Ste. Marie and Sudbury districts, fraternal delegates attended from the Trades and Labour Councils of Port Arthur and Fort William. By a unanimous vote, the convention decided to affiliate with the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America (American Federation of Labour) and appointed a provisional committee consisting of Ted Gunrad, W. Niemi, Carl Palmgren and Bruce Magnusson, [§deletion:1/2 line] The charter is being applied for under the name of "Lumber and Sawmill Workers of Ontario".

3. Annie Buller in Winnipeg, Man.

Annie Buller was the principal speaker at a Paris Commune celebration at the Ukrainian Labour Temple, Winnipeg, on 22nd March. Analyzing the present European situation she branded the British foreign policy as "two-

faced and treacherous". She contended that "Britain was financing German war preparations and she would far rather see Fascism than Communism". "All nations are conspiring to smash the Soviet Union, the only country which sincerely wishes and strives to maintain peace", she said. She further maintained that the Canadian workers, being a component part of the international working class, cannot afford to stay aloof, but should be ready and on guard to defend the Soviet Union, the "Fatherland of the working class".

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4. Tim Buck in Montreal

During his stay in Montreal recently, Tim Buck is reported to have addressed over 20 meetings including one in the Carmen Sylva Hall, 3956 St. Lawrence Blvd., on 20th March. His subject on this occasion was "The Communist Answer to the Jewish Problems in Canada". The audience, numbering approximately 500, was almost exclusively Jewish.

Buck contended that Zionism offers no solution to the problems of the Jews. He eulogized the efforts made by the Soviet Union with a view to establishing a Jewish autonomous state in Eastern Siberia known as Biro-Bidjan, which, he said, was given to the Jews as a home. Speaking of anti-Semitism in Canada, he charged that in Toronto whole sections were barred to the Jews; that it was almost impossible to obtain living quarters in the better sections of the city.

He explained how, last summer, at Winnipeg Beach most of the cottages displayed signs reading: "No Jews Allowed", "Gentiles Only", etc.; and remarked that he could not understand how the Jews could possibly put up with all this. He urged the "comrades" to unite in an effort to fight anti-Semitism or the Jews in Canada would have to face the same crisis as Jews are facing in Germany today.

Buck expressed himself well pleased with the progress of the movement in Montreal.

5. "Der Kampf" to Appear Only Once a Week

Der Kampf, Jewish organ of the Communist Party of Canada published in Toronto, in its 27th March edition, contains a lengthy declaration under the caption "A Word from the Editorial Council" which explains that the paper will henceforth appear only once a week in six-page form. The principal reason given for this change from a twice weekly back to a weekly is that the Morgen Freiheit, Jewish Communist daily published in

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New York, is now allowed entry into Canada; the ban placed upon it by the Customs Department having been lifted recently.

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6. Ontario "Youth Hunger March" Planned: To Coincide
with Ottawa Youth Congress in May

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until the latter part of May and transform it into a "youth" march to coincide with the "Youth Congress" which will open in Ottawa on 23rd May.

Special efforts are to be made to induce the youth to join in this march which is to be held under the joint auspices of the Communist Party, the Young Communist League, and the Co-operative Commonwealth Youth Movement. On reaching Toronto the marchers are to remain for three days and after presenting their demands to the Ontario Government, they will proceed to Ottawa.

A Hunger March Central Committee has already been set up which includes [~~deletion: 1/2 line~~] chairman; [~~deletion: name~~] communist organizer, central trek leader; [~~deletion: 3/4 line~~] Niagara Falls;

[~~deletion: 3/4 line~~] T. Buck, [~~deletion: 3 lines~~]

It has been decided to hold dances, concerts, etc., for the purpose of obtaining funds for the march. Unemployed

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ward organizations in Toronto, as well as the subsidiaries of the C.P., have been instructed to raise funds for this purpose.

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7. Regina Mayor Confers with C.P. Leaders in Winnipeg

While at Winnipeg on 20th March, Mayor Ellison of Regina visited Communist Party headquarters at Room 200, Chambers of Commerce Building, and is said to have held a lengthy conference with the two Communist Party representatives on the Winnipeg City Council—Jacob Penner and J. M. Forkin. He is said to have discussed the question of unemployment relief and the United Front movement. He is alleged to have boasted that the "United Front" in Regina is an accomplished fact and is achieving good results.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCESI. BRITISH COLUMBIA8. W.E.S.M.L. to Join Canadian Legion

The Executive Committee of the Workers Ex-Service Men's League at Vancouver held a meeting on 22nd March and after a lengthy discussion decided that the league should join the Canadian Legion. It was agreed that inasmuch as the Ex-Service Men's League stands too much to the "left" and thus finding it impossible to make contact with other ex-service men, it would be best that the league merge with the Canadian Legion. The general procedure to be followed will be to have all present members of the Ex-Service Men's League work themselves into the small branches throughout the province and commence agitation on minor issues with a view to obtaining sympathizers. Agitation on more important issues is to be left in abeyance for the time being. [deletion:4 1/2 lines]

Refusal of the company to negotiate with the striking lumber workers at Camp No. 10, Cowichan lake, Vancouver Island, resulted in a strike of the men employed at Camp No. 8 which is also operated by the Victoria Lumber Company.

II. ALBERTA9. Calgary Unemployed Seek Support of C.W.U.

The Camp Workers Union at Calgary is said to have been approached by the Calgary and District Unemployed Association with a view to getting the support of the camp workers for a general strike of unemployed in the city of Calgary which is being contemplated in the event of the city refusing to grant a fifty per cent increase in the relief rates. It is understood that a conference of camp workers will be held in Calgary some time during the early part of April.

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[deletion:name] urged that the C.P. must act immediately to convert the Canadian Labour Party, C.C.F., C.C.Y.M., and the Canadian League Against War and Fascism into a united front movement in Alberta under the leadership of the Communist Party.

Approximately 350 persons attended a mass meeting held under the auspices of the Edmonton Council of the Canadian Federation of Youth, in the Empire Theatre on 15th March. The speakers included H. Gerry of Beverly, Jan Lakeman, Walter Mentz and Alderman James East, all of whom severely criticized the Alberta Provincial budget. A resolution condemning the budget was introduced and adopted unanimously.

III. MANITOBA

45-3-F-5 10. [redacted] in Conference with C.P. Leaders at Winnipeg

[redacted] of the Winnipeg Trades and Labour Council, accompanied by [redacted] of the Railway Workers Union, visited the Communist Party district office on 20th March and in conference with C.P. leaders, including [redacted:3/4 line] reported that he and [redacted] had been discussing the question of placing the relief camp inmates on railway maintenance jobs, and had come to the conclusion that, should the authorities force the "camp boys" to take the jobs in place of the unemployed railway workers, it would be best to call a strike "after the work has been started and the tracks had been lifted".

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[redacted] suggestion is said to have been approved by the Communist leaders.

The Single Unemployed Men's Association of Winnipeg held a meeting in the Cecil Rhodes School (Weston) on 19th March. Only a few attended, and the speakers were [redacted] of the League Against War and Fascism; and [redacted] I.L.P.

[redacted] maintained that something must be done about the unemployed young men in order to avoid trouble. "The Bennett Government held them in check with the R.C.M. Police, and King is doing the same thing; I'd like to see another trek, a trek of 250,000 or 500,000; mass organization is the only thing that'll do anything", he said.

In the course of the afternoon this association held a membership meeting at 217½ Logan Avenue, at which reports were given by the Executive Committee on past activities. The proceedings were of a routine nature.

IV. ONTARIO

11. Toronto Prepares for "May Day"

This year's "May Day" demonstration at Toronto is promising to surpass all previous years in size and significance. A joint "May Day" Conference held under the auspices of the C.C.F., at the Labour Temple, 167 Church street, on 20th March, was attended by 265 delegates representing 125 communists, C.C.F., and other organizations. A permanent May Day Committee was appointed consisting of Ben Spence (chairman); B. Nesbitt (vice-chairman); N. Freed; Mrs. Jean Laing; J. Conner; F. Lazarus; M. Federman; F. Collins; Bert Leavens; S. Smith; S. Buchanan; W. Dennison; M. Klig; S. Scarlett; L. Palermo; S. Kraisman; Arthur Williams; F. Workman; J. B. Salsberg; J. O'Hara and J. MacDonald. A motion was unanimously passed congratulating the C.C.F. on taking the initiative in calling the conference. It was decided to stage three parades starting from three different sections of the city, to converge at Queen's Park at 3.00 p.m. For the evening a hall is to be rented for a mass meeting. In order that the women and children may attend the parade, a request that the schools be closed for that day is to be made.

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Tim Buck and Leslie Morris were the principal speakers at a mass rally held under the auspices of the Central Committee of the C.P. of Canada in the Massey Hall, Toronto, on 22nd March. Sam Scarlett acted as chairman, and short speeches were also given by George Taylor, Y.C.L., and M. Barabash, from the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association.

Leslie Morris, editor-in-chief of The Worker, spoke on "How the Capitalist Press Misleads the Public on the Political Situation and Developments".

Tim Buck devoted most of this time to the international situation and the relative positions of Germany, Britain, France, Italy, and the U.S.S.R., contending that Great Britain has assisted Germany financially and with war materials. He maintained that the Soviet Union is the only nation wanting peace, and in closing appealed to the people of Canada to keep this country from being implicated in another war. Approximately 1,500 people are said to have attended this meeting.

V. QUEBEC

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