

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 15th April, 1936.

SECRET

NO. 802

WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS
AND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

Acting on a court order, the Regina (Sask.) City Council on 7th April adopted a motion unseating the two Communist Aldermen —McManus and Mikkleson — recently convicted under a provincial statute prohibiting from holding public office those in debt to the city. By-elections are being held over pending the outcome of the appeal entered by the two men.

The Relief Camp Workers' Union is said to be planning to hold an Inter-Provincial Conference at Calgary during the early part of May. No large attendance is anticipated due to lack of funds.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

1. Communists Prepare for “May Day”

Tim Buck, in the name of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Canada, in a statement addressed to “all working men and women, labouring farmers and the youth”, published in the Communist press, calls for united ranks on the occasion of next May Day marking the fiftieth anniversary of this event. Reminding the Canadian workers that May Day was born in America in 1886 the Communist Party calls on “its brothers in the C.C.F. to join hands in great May Day demonstrations and meetings throughout the country and thereby give a lead to all suffering people to act for themselves and their families in relieving the heavy burden of poverty and insecurity”. The manifesto further calls on Canadian workers to “down tools on May Day” and to join the Communist Party of Canada.

Efforts are being made by the Communists throughout the country to make this year's May Day an outstanding event of the revolutionary movement in Canada.

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(A) At Toronto, Ont.

The joint May Day Conference at Toronto, Ont., held its second session at the Labour Temple, on 3rd April. Ben Spence, C.C.F. acted as chairman and Norman Freed, of the C.P., as secretary. The meeting disclosed that the conference now comprises 328 organizations represented by 500 delegates. Fifty thousand copies of a May Day bulletin are to be printed and Tim Buck's radio broadcast on the night of 14th April is to be taken over by the conference for the purpose of advertising and further organizing the May Day celebration, it was decided. The meeting resolved to issue 100,000 leaflets in various languages for distribution on May Day; further that the Minister of National Defence at Ottawa be approached for the use of the Armouries on that day. A motion was also introduced to the effect that an attempt be made to make May Day a national holiday in Canada.

Tom Mann, noted British Communist, will be the main speaker at Toronto's celebration, it has been definitely announced.

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(B) At Montreal, Que.

A May Day Conference held at the Labour Temple, St. Dominique St., Montreal, Que., on 5th April, was attended by 33 delegates representing 22 organizations including two "Right" Wing bodies, i.e., the Verdun C.C.F. and the Plumbers and Steamfitters Union. G. Smith, of the Verdun C.C.F., officially opened the conference and called for the election of a chairman and secretary. Langlois, of the Association Humanitaire, was elected chairman and Alex Gauld, C.P., secretary. Max Armstrong reported on the activities of the provisional May Day Committee, stating that a letter had been sent to the Mayor asking for permission to hold a May Day parade to be followed by an open air mass meeting on Fletcher's Field and to which a reply had been received stating that permission for a parade could not be granted. Neither would the Mayor definitely commit himself as to whether permission would be granted for the open air meeting, Armstrong reported. After a lengthy discussion in the course of which some of the delegates insisted on a parade and an open air mass meeting it was proposed that some sort of compromise be made with the Chief of Police. Alex Gauld suggested that a demand be

made for a parade but that instead of heading the parade with a Red Flag a Union Jack or Canadian flag be used. It was finally decided to leave the whole matter for the present to the provisional Committee and that, in the mean time, a delegation consisting of Max Armstrong, Charles E. Perry, and F. X. Poirier should interview the Chief of Police and obtain a definite declaration from him.

(C) At Winnipeg, Man.

Isidore Minster, [~~deletion:3 words~~], broached the question of a united May Day demonstration at a meeting of the Trades and Labour Council (A.F. of L.) at Winnipeg, Man., on 3rd April. He urged the council to join in the demonstration, at the same time threatening that if the A.F. of L. did not take part in this united front that he would call on all unions independently to support the demonstration. No action was taken by the council, but Minster was informed that the matter would receive further consideration and that the head offices of the various unions would be requested to give a decision in the matter.

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Hitherto the A.F. of L organizations in Winnipeg have refused to take part in the annual May Day demonstration and should they agree to support May Day this year a precedent will be established which, no doubt, the Communists will exploit to the fullest extent.

(D) At Vancouver, B.C.

Jack Taylor and Tom Ewen were the speakers at a meeting held under the auspices of the Ex-Service Men's League, Vancouver, B.C., on 5th April. T. Hogan, of the C.P. of Canada, acted as chairman. Jack Taylor, speaking of the preparations for May Day in the City of Vancouver, reported that on 4th April a conference was held in the O'Brien Hall with delegates from the C.C.F. and fraternal organizations in attendance. The conference, he said, resolved to make next May Day the best and largest celebration in the history of Vancouver.

Tom Ewen, speaking on the same subject, characterized May Day as an international day of struggles and demonstrations the world over. Speaking of strike struggles in Canada Ewen maintained that they have been very successful as they have shown the workers the need for organization and have schooled them in the art of strategy and tactics.

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2. C.C.F. Convention Rejects Communist "United Front" Proposal

The Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, Ontario Section, in convention at Toronto, on Good Friday, reaffirmed its determination to "enter into no alliance with any other political party or group", especially the Communist Party. The Communist proposal for a united front was defeated by a vote of about three to one following a hectic session. The whole topic of a united front was opened up immediately following the Executive Committee's report; Arthur Williams, Reeve of East York, acting as the main spokesman for the Communist Party.

Another resolution urging to end, once and for all, the controversy over united front activities and recommending that the convention should urge the National Council to call a conference of executives of all other socialist, farmer and labour groups in Canada,

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"Right" and "Left" Wing, for the purpose, if possible, of amalgamation and the establishment of one nation-wide political organization united in programme and policy, was also defeated.

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3. Al. Parkin To Be Member of "Daily Clarion" Staff

Al. Parkin, [~~deletion: 1/2 line~~] and editor of the B.C. Lumber Worker, is to leave Vancouver, B.C., shortly for Toronto, Ont., to take up a position on the staff of the new paper, the Daily Clarion. He is said to have been selected for the position on account of his trade union experience.

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4. George Drayton Transferred to Winnipeg, Man.

George Drayton is said to have been transferred from Vancouver, B.C., to Winnipeg, Man., to act as Communist Party trade union organizer for Manitoba.

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5. Y.C.L. Prepares for "Youth Congress"

The National Bureau of the Young Communist League at Toronto, Ont., under date of 31st March, issued a "directive" to all District Committees

dealing with the preparations for the Canadian Youth Congress which is to open in Ottawa on 23rd May. It reads in part:—

“Up to the present time the working class representation in the Canadian Youth Congress Movement has been very weak. This constitutes a major weakness, inasmuch as a lack of such representation creates a tendency for much discussion on youth problems, but is not followed up by positive and constructive activities. We refer especially to the poor representation from organized labour, the trade unions. Proper inter-relationship between the trade unions and the CYC Movement can create the possibilities of organizing thousands of young workers hitherto unorganized.

“It is proposed that at least 150 young trade unionists from all Canada shall be delegated to the Ottawa Congress. This requires intensive work for us in the short period of time left. It is obvious that these delegates will come mainly from the important industrial centres, such as Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton, Winnipeg, Vancouver, etc. In order to give other districts suggestions on how to speed this work, we will enumerate the steps Toronto has taken, and propose all other cities follow suit, or add to or alter details suitable to their locality.

“A leading comrade involved in trade union work has been chosen to personally supervise and ensure trade union delegates to the congress. This comrade is to work with a number of YCLers active in trade union work. It is proposed that a meeting be called of a few comrades (youth & adult) from each union, where the question shall be thoroughly gone into and guarantee that the call be discussed and delegates elected. At all times the possible

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benefits to the trade unions from participation in such a movement should be stressed. Efforts must be made to take up the question of sending a delegate from the Trades and Labour Council. The comrade put in charge and the committee working with him must have a list of AFL and other unions at hand, know when they meet and where, and see that someone is there to speak on the question. Where we have no YCL or members in a union, efforts should be made to contact a member thereof, so that he should speak favourably when the call is discussed. The comrade in charge should keep in close touch with the local WUL organizer for advice and help.

“We cannot stress too much the importance of trade union representation at the congress and, obviously, the amount of such delegates will depend on how the YCL works to secure them. If a sufficient number of trade union delegates will attend the congress, there is the possibility of convening a special session on youth and the trade unions. Such a session would,

possibly, in co-operation with the Dominion Trades and Labour Congress, work out a number of concrete measures for the unionization of young workers in certain industries. We must stress, however, that speed is required in this work, otherwise the unions will have met and we will be unable to secure delegations”.

In another “directive” the National Bureau urges the selection of delegations from small towns and cities and the appointing of members of the Young Communist League competent for this task. It also announces that a National Conference of the Young Communist League will take place in Ottawa immediately after the Youth Congress.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

6. Vancouver Defence Committee Meeting

Approximately 1,000 people attended a public meeting of the Vancouver Citizens Defence Committee in the Auditorium on 3rd April. A. M. Stephen acted as chairman and the speakers were Maurice Rush, of the C.P. of Canada, Reverend R. N. Matheson, Mildred Osterhout and Reverend Sam B. East, of Regina, the latter being the main speaker.

Reverend S. B. East reviewed at great length the proceedings of the Royal Commission inquiring into the Dominion Day riot at Regina, commenting that it was not a fair trial; that the relief camp workers were poorly represented, and that the members of the Commission showed “favouritism to the police authorities”.

Maurice Rush spoke on the “struggles of youth” maintaining that youth is being exploited in the various industries. He urged the youth to become organized and to make a concerted fight against war and Fascism.

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II. ALBERTA

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III. MANITOBA

8. John Navizowski Lectures on Franco-Soviet Pact

John Navizowski gave an illustrated lecture on the Franco-Soviet pact in the Ukrainian Labour Temple at Winnipeg, Man., on the afternoon of 5th April. He explained that there were two wars in preparation, one between the different nations which he thought was of minor importance, and one between capitalism and communism. The working class, he said, would turn capitalist war into civil war followed by a revolution which will lead to the overthrow of the capitalist system and the establishment of proletarian rule. Speaking of the Soviet Union he maintained that it is well armed and prepared to cope with any situation that might develop.

John Boychuk also spoke briefly urging the audience to support the campaign which will be waged during May on behalf of the new Communist organ, Daily Clarion.

IV. ONTARIO

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The Citizens Defence Movement recently organized in Toronto, Ont., held a conference on 7th April, in the Labour Temple, at which it was decided to petition the Attorney General for the Province of Saskatchewan to withdraw the charges against the 22 relief camp strikers who were arrested at Regina in connection with charges growing out of the Dominion Day riot. Beckie Buhay Ewen moved that a campaign be started immediately for the release of the imprisoned Stratford and Pembroke relief strikers. Mrs. E. Morton reported that a Tag Day held on 4th April in East York Township, in the interest of the Regina rioters, had netted \$64.10. She further

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stated that permission to hold a similar Tag Day in Toronto was refused by the city authorities.

V. QUEBEC

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