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ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa,
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SECRET

NO. 803

WEEKLY SUMMARY

REPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS
AND AGITATION IN CANADA

Report

The conviction and unseating of the two Communist Aldermen — MacManus and Mikkleson — at Regina were upheld by the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal recently.

Sydney Stevens and Joe Mottle, two of the 22 on-to-Ottawa trekkers on trial at Regina on charges arising out of the 1935 Dominion Day riot, were convicted on charges of common assault on 17th April and sentenced to seven months hard labour.

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[1]

APPENDICES

Table of Contents

APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

Paragraph No.	1. Attempt to Extend Loggers Strike in British Columbia Support of U.B. of C. & J. Pledged; Affiliation of L.W.I.U. with A.F.L. Assured Conference at Everett, Wash., places Embargo on "Unfair" B.C. Products
" "	2. May 1st Declared Holiday in Sandwich East, Ont.
" "	3. Youth Section of U.L.F.T.A. to Celebrate Tenth Anniversary
" "	4. Communists Continue Agitation for "United Front" with C.C.F. Prepare for Coming C.C.F. National Convention
" "	5. Plan to Liquidate " <u>Young Worker</u> ", Official Organ of Y.C.L. To Issue Non-Party Paper Instead

- “ ” 6. Young Communists to Have Strong Representation at
Ottawa Youth Congress
- “ ” 7. [~~deletion:1 1/2 lines~~]

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

- “ ” 8. ALBERTA
Jan Lakeman Explains Aims of Communist International
[~~deletion:5-6 words~~] to Organize
Unemployed
[~~deletion:2 lines~~]
- “ ” 9. MANITOBA
Winnipeg May Day Conference Meet
Public Holiday on 1st May Urged
A.F.L. Unions Decline to Participate
Winnipeg Office of C.L.D.L. to Close May 1st
- “ ” 10. ONTARIO
Toronto C.C.F. Instructed to Withdraw from May Day
Conference
[~~deletion:3 lines~~]
- “ ” 11. QUEBEC
Notes
[~~deletion:1 line~~]
“Popular Front” Organized Into Groups
Montreal Council of L.A.W. & F. Meet

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[2]

APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

1. Attempt to Extend Loggers Strike in British Columbia

The strike of lumber workers in Camp 8 and Camp 10 of the Victoria Lumber and Manufacturing Company at Cowichan Lake, Vancouver Island, continues and a determined effort is being made to extend it to other lumber camps. An appeal for the extension of the strike appears in the 11th April issue of The B.C. Lumber Worker, signed by Mack MacKinnon, president, and Arne Johnson, secretary-treasurer, which states in part:—

“Union organization is the issue at stake now, recognition of the right for workers to belong to a Union of their own choice, and this in turn means Union conditions, a Union wage scale and working agreement covering the entire industry—the only means by which our present living standards can be preserved.

"The B.C. Loggers' Association have 'thrown down the gauntlet'. And it is our opinion that this challenge must be immediately accepted by beginning the spreading of the Camp 8 and Camp 10 strike into every camp, based on demand for the wage scale and working agreement now enforced in almost every camp and mill in Oregon and Washington!"

The appeal further asserts that A. W. Muir, vice-president of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners, met with representatives of the Lumber Workers Industrial Union and expressed the opinion that the strike must be spread, and that he pledged the full support of the United Brotherhood.

In the referendum recently conducted on the question of affiliation with the United Brotherhood of Carpenter and Joiners of America, 1,048 members of the Lumber Workers Industrial Union voted for and only 23 against affiliation. A. W. Muir is said to have promised immediate action on the application for an American Federation of Labor charter. Mr. Muir is also said to have hinted that the Brotherhood may commence an organizational drive in this province immediately to establish the union throughout the lumbering industry. Meanwhile Mack MacKinnon and Arne Johnson have been empowered to act as representatives of the United Brotherhood in British Columbia.

The situation with regard to the strike and the British Columbia lumbering industry was put before a conference of the Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union held in Everett, Wash., recently, by two delegates from the L.W.I.U. The conference promised the delegates that the National Office of the U.B.C.&J. would be petitioned requesting

[3]

the immediate granting of a charter to the lumber workers in British Columbia. The conference is said to have also voted to donate the sum of \$250 to the Cowichan Lake strike fund and to place an embargo on all unfair logs and lumber products shipped from British Columbia to the other side of the line.

2. May 1st Declared Holiday in Sandwich E., Ont.

The Worker of 14th April announces that the Sandwich East (Ont.) Council, headed by Reeve Ben Levert, declared 1st May a civic holiday. It is further claimed that the Border Cities are making preparations for the largest May Day demonstration in the history of these cities.

3. Youth Section of U.L.F.T.A. to Celebrate Tenth Anniversary

The Youth Section of the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association comprising 1,800 members in 70 branches throughout Canada set aside the week 20th to 26th April to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the inauguration of this section.

4. Communists Continue Agitation for "United Front" with C.C.F.

Unperturbed by the defeat sustained at the hands of the "Right" Wing in the recent convention of the Ontario Section of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation at Toronto, the Communists are now organizing their forces for the National Convention of the C.C.F. which is to be held this summer. An editorial captioned "The Fight for Unity Is Not Lost" appearing in the 16th April issue of The Worker summarizes the events of the convention as follows:—

"There is no cause for the Communist Party to revise its struggle for the united front; we are going forward. But there is cause to sound the alarm at the danger of the C.C.F. being completely devitalized and perhaps strangled to death'.

"Such is the summary of the Communist Party, speaking through Stewart Smith, in estimating the results of the Ontario C.C.F. convention last week-end.

"For C.C.F. rank and filers who practice and support the united front in their daily work to believe that any kind of death blow has been struck at the cause of unity would only serve to strengthen the position of the right wing leaders of the C.C.F.

[4]

"Efforts on the party of the right wing to discourage and destroy the united front on issues such as May Day can be expected. Such elements will draw encouragement from the C.C.F. convention decisions.

"But it is obvious to every thinking worker that the Ontario decisions do not represent the actual course of events in the C.C.F. working class membership. A great gulf is apparent between the anti-united front decisions and the actual daily practice of the united front in hundreds of immediate struggles.

"Therefore, life and the course of events is on the side of unity. The main obstacle in the way of the further advance of the united front is the right

wing leadership. As in France, these leaders can be compelled by their membership to change their position. What is needed from now until the national convention of the C.C.F. this summer is an increasing display of joint action by C.C.F. and Communist workers on the basis of the needs which confront them in common".

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5. Plan to Liquidate "Young Worker", Official Organ
of Y.C.L.

The National Bureau of the Young Communist League is planning to liquidate the league's organ—The Young Worker—and replace it by a non-Party paper. A circular issued by the bureau to all District Bureaus and branches of the Y.C.L. throughout the country, dated 10th April, on this matter, reads in part:—

"For some time, the National Buro of the YCL has been considering the need for launching a paper of a non-party character which would take the place of the Young Worker and would represent all the forces in the youth movement working towards the aim of establishing a United Youth League.

"Having this in mind, the National Buro has been striving to introduce a number of decisive changes in the present Young Worker (Size of the paper, contents, make-up and even sponsorship) to create a base for the establishment of a non-party youth paper. But, in spite of these changes, the name of the paper and the sponsorship is still the same; that is, it is still the official organ of the YCL which to a great degree limits the possibility of obtaining a much wider sponsorship and support.

"We, therefore, consider it advisable now to take a further step in this direction by changing the name of the Young Worker and by broadening out the sponsorship of the paper, it will not longer remain the official organ of the YCL but a paper of all those organizations who favor the idea of building a United Youth League.

"The National Buro has already taken steps to approach the Youth Section of the ULFTA, Youth Section of the Finnish Mass Organizations, CCYM, and others to become the supporters and the builders of such a paper.

"The paper can become one of the main driving forces for the building of a United Youth League. It will be a non-party paper inasmuch as it will not be attached to any political party but it will definitely be a working class - political, educational and social - paper for the youth.

“The editorial policy for this paper will be worked out concretely by all the organizations who favour the idea of such a youth paper but generally it will reflect and give a lead to the struggles of youth against war and fascism, for the political, economic and cultural aspirations of the youth and for socialism. It will not be a Communist paper in a sense that everything will be written and presented from our point of view. Opinions of non-Communists will also be reflected in such a paper. However, the Communist position on all youth problems will be reflected in articles written and signed by young Communists who are in the organizations sponsoring the paper.

“It is clear, however, that this paper will not print articles and editorials which are against the interests of the working class, nor will it tolerate articles slandering the Soviet Union”.

6. Young Communists to Have Strong Representation at Ottawa Youth Congress

The Young Communist League has been authorized to send one delegate from each of its units to the forthcoming Ottawa Youth Congress. In addition to the official delegation it is anticipated that the Young Communist League will be successful in having some of its members appointed to attend the congress through other youth organizations. While this will not give the Young Communist League a majority at the congress it, nevertheless, will place the Communists in a very strong position, which will enable them to place their views before the congress, it is said.

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[6]

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. ALBERTA

8. Jan Lakeman Explains Aims of C.I.

The Communist International, its aims and objects formed the subject of an address given by J. Lakeman at a mass meeting held under the auspices of the Communist Party of Canada at the Emery Hall, Edmonton, Alta., on 5th April. Lakeman stated that the developments which have taken place since the Sixth Congress of the Communist International have fully confirmed the

analysis made by the Communist International of the world situation. The Seventh Congress, he said, basing its action on that analysis, found it expedient to change the tactical "line" of the Communist Parties throughout the world. He related the armed struggle of the Russian proletariat against Capitalism and imperialism in 1917, remarking that similar struggles are now taking place in other countries. The main object of the Communist Parties in the various countries at the present time is to prevent the consolidation of Fascist forces, he maintained. Speaking of Canada he declared that only united action would prevent Fascist domination and war. He urged that every effort be made to unite the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation with the Communist Party and other "progressive" political organizations to combat the anti-Socialist forces. These organizations, he said, should amalgamate under the name of "People's Party".

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[~~2 1/2 lines~~], on 1st April, stated that every effort is being made to organize the single unemployed men in the city and relief camps in the Edmonton district. He urged that the Communist Party, [~~1 line~~]—should bring pressure to bear on the Provincial Government to fulfil its promises of a \$25 a month dividend and \$15 per month with clothing and tobacco

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for relief recipients working in relief camps. He further urged that demands be drawn up for work and wages for the unemployed of Edmonton.

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II. MANITOBA

9. Winnipeg May Day Conference Meet

The Winnipeg May Day Conference met on 12th April with 31 organizations represented. Alderman Jacob Penner outlined the purpose and significance of this year's May Day. A. W. Atwater, of the League Against War and Fascism, who acted as chairman, expressed the hope that this year's May Day

[8]

demonstration would be the largest in the history of Winnipeg.

A number of resolutions were adopted including one that two radio broadcasts be given prior to May Day advertising same. Another resolution called for the appointing of a delegation to interview the City Council to request the calling of a public holiday on 1st May. It was decided that all organizations participating in the parade should meet on the Market Square and be ready to move off at 7.00 p.m. The meeting appointed a May Day Committee consisting of 19 individuals, mostly members of the Communist Party and subsidiary organizations. It was noted that only four trade unions were represented, indicating that the leaders of the A.F. of L. appear to be reluctant to give their support to this demonstration. There seems to be a feeling that if they took part in the May Day demonstration they would put themselves entirely in the hands of the Communists.

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The office of the Canadian Labour Defence League in Winnipeg, Man., will be closed on 1st May, it is announced. Instructions to that effect were received from Toronto recently together with a recommendation that all former organizers be installed in the Citizens Liberty Club, the organization which is superseding the C.L.D.L.

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III. ONTARIO

10. Toronto C.C.F Instructed to Withdraw from May Day Conference

The Regional Council of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation at Toronto, Ont., and the local Co-operative Commonwealth Youth Movement have been instructed to withdraw their support from the Toronto United May Day Conference, it was stated by [deletion:name] of the Toronto Bureau of the Communist Party of Canada. As a result the C.P. will carry on with the plans of the May Day Conference with what trade union and C.C.F support it can win.

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IV. QUEBEC

11. Notes

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[~~3~~deletion:3 lines] Germain Desrosiers acted as chairman and Bourget as secretary. Reporting on the "Popular Front" Bourget remarked that the organization was now being organized into groups of 10 members each with a captain at its head.

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[10]

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A meeting of the League Against War and Fascism in Montreal, Que., on 9th April, was attended by approximately 50 people representing 11 organizations, 10 of which were Communist controlled. Norman Lee occupied the chair and Rosalind Adelstein acted as secretary. McCutcheon commented on the poor attendance of this conference and suggested that the league be reorganized. He charged that the Central Executive Committee has held itself aloof from the general membership and that the local council was a too loosely organized body.

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