

## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

SECRET

Ottawa, 13th May, 1936.

NO. 806WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS  
AND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

Five logging camps and thirteen shingle mills were reported on strike in British Columbia, on 6th May, for higher wages and recognition of the newly formed Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union, A.F. of L. The Vancouver and New Westminster District Trades and Labor Council went on record as endorsing the effort of the Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union to enforce union recognition.

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The trials of the on-to-Ottawa trekkers on charges arising out of the Regina Dominion Day riot came to a close on 12th May with the conviction of Stanley McKinnon. Nine men were sentenced to jail terms ranging from six to eighteen months; five were acquitted and proceedings were stayed in nine other cases. Joe Belabeck, 15 year old Winnipeg youth, who was tried in the Juvenile Court, was given suspended sentence.

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 (A) TORONTO - C.C.F. and Trade Unions Participate;  
 20,000 in Parade; 28,000 Attend Meet-  
 ing in Queens Park; Over 8,000 at  
 Arena Meeting; Tim Buck and Tom Mann  
 Main Speakers; Ben Spence Active as  
 Chairman; Students Disturb Queens  
 Park Meeting

- (B) MONTREAL - Parades Banned by Police, 3,500 Attend Meeting in Mount Royal Arena; Stewart Smith of Toronto Principal Speaker
- (C) HAMILTON - 500 in Parade; 1,000 Attend Meeting Sam Carr of Toronto Main Speaker
- (D) WINDSOR - 700 in Parade; Meeting in Lanspeary Park
- (E) TIMMINS -250 Parade; 500 Attend Meeting; Harvey Murphy Main Speaker
- (F) KIRKLAND LAKE - Open Air Meeting Attended by 300, No Parade
- (G) WINNIPEG - 5,000 Parade; 8,000 Attend Market Square Meeting; No Disturbances
- (H) THE PAS - 200 Attend Meeting
- (I) REGINA - 700 in Parade; Open Air Meeting in Park; Mayor Ellison Among Speakers
- (J) PRINCE ALBERT - 200 Attend Meeting; No Parade
- (K) ESTEVAN - May Day Meeting Under Auspices of C.C.F.
- (L) EDMONTON - 1,700 in Parade; Elmer Roper, C.C.F., and Jan Lakeman, C.P.C., Speakers at Meeting in Market Square
- (M) CALGARY - Parade Banned by Police; 700 at Meeting in Victoria Pavilion
- (N) CROW'S NEST PASS -Activities Centre in Bellevue; No Disturbances
- (O) LETHBRIDGE - 250 Attend Meeting
- (P) VANCOUVER - 6,000 Parade; Meeting in Stanley Park, C.C.F. Speakers Predominate
- (Q) FERNIE - Hold Parade and Mass Meeting
- " " 2. Tom Mann at Windsor, Ont.  
Speaks at Windsor Arena; Welcomed by Mayor Bennett
- " " 3. Winnipeg Communists Demonstrate Before Hungarian Consulate
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- " " 5. [~~deletion:1 line~~]
- " " 6. Arthur Evans Departs for Northern B.C.
- " " 7. Misha Korol Sent to Sudbury; Eddie Sarman to Oshawa and Ottawa
- " " 8. Ben Spence, J. M. Conner, Mrs. J. Laing & Four Clubs Expelled from C.C.F.

APPENDIX NO. I: GENERALI. May Day in Canada(A) Toronto, Ont.

Toronto, this year, witnessed the largest May Day celebration in the history of that city. Approximately 20,000 marched in three different parades converging on Queens Park where a mass meeting was held attended by approximately 28,000 persons. A mass meeting at the Arena Gardens, Mutual Street, in the course of the evening, attended by about 8,500 people, brought the May Day celebration to a conclusion.

In addition to the Communist Party of Canada and the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, a number of international and Canadian local trade unions participated. A feature of the parade was the great number of banners, slogans and floats depicting the poor economic status of the workers, particularly those on relief. The Young Pioneer Section, numbering approximately 1,000 children in their Pioneer uniforms, formed a conspicuous part of the parade. The head of the parade reached Queens Park about 3.00 p.m. where Tom Mann, noted British Communist leader, Tim Buck of the Communist Party of Canada, D. Nesbitt, Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union, B. Spence, C.C.F., and G. Watson, of the Trades and Labour Council, reviewed the demonstrators. As each section passed the Parliament Buildings jeers and insults were shouted at the Provincial Government officials who witnessed the demonstration from the windows and doors. Ben Spence was elected chairman for the day. Tim Buck was the main speaker at the meeting in Queens Park and Tom Mann occupied the spot light at the meeting in the Arena.

The afternoon meeting at Queens Park was interrupted by a small number of young students who unfurled a white and black Swastika banner accompanied by shouts "Heil Hitler". About 200 radical youths closed in on them and a bitter fist fight ensued. The students were finally overwhelmed and forced to take refuge in the Parliament Buildings. The disturbance lasted long enough to disrupt the speech making. Later in the afternoon, when conditions had about returned to normal, another fight broke out between a group of students and radicals. This time the students had a larger

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backing and provoked the fracas by organizing a rival mock meeting, their cheers and cat calls drowning out the voice of the radical speakers. The students were eventually chased from the park.

In addition to Tim Buck, the meeting was also addressed by Arthur Williams, Reeve of East York, A. A. McLeod, of the League Against War and Fascism, and several others.

The programme of the meeting at the Arena Gardens included mass singing, gymnastics, dancing and speech making. In addition to the address presented by the feature speaker — Tom Mann of England — speeches were also given by George Watson, Dr. Rose Henderson and Reverend R. J. Irwin. On a specially erected platform sat chosen leaders of the Communist Party, Co-operative Commonwealth Federation and the Canadian League Against War and Fascism. The spirit prevailing was distinctly Communistic. Ben Spence, the chairman, was the only one standing to attention when the National Anthem was played with the audience remaining seated.

Tom Mann's daring remarks evoked tremendous cheers and applause. He scorned weak mouthed phrases and emphasized that he has now been a Communist for 40 years and hoped that he was worthy of being classed as an agitator. He remarked that the Communists do not wish to kill the Capitalists but to force them to work. He admitted widespread ignorance amongst the working class but this he blamed upon the ruling class of today who, he said, "live by a system of legalized robbery". He declared that nothing short of a complete destruction of Capitalism must be the aim of the working class. To this end he urged the formation of the united front. At least 1,000 men and women gathered in front of the building and listened to the speeches made possible through the facilities of a loud speaker.

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(B) Montreal, Que.

Approximately 3,500 people, of whom twenty-five per cent were French Canadians, attended a mass meeting in the Mount Royal Arena to celebrate May Day in Montreal, Que. Parades were banned by the police authorities and no attempt was made to hold one. Jean Peron, the first speaker, gave a short outline in French of the victories achieved by the various "Popular Fronts" in Europe and urged the formation of a "Popular

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Front" movement in Canada.

Evariste Dube also addressed the meeting in French. Introduced as the official representative of the French Section of the C.P., he spoke on the present dispute between the two rival unions on Montreal's waterfront.

Alex Gauld, in the course of a very brief speech, stressed the importance and significance of trade unionism and urged unity in the trade union.

Stewart Smith, [deletion:3/4 line] was the principal speaker. He presented a resume of the struggle of the international proletariat against the rise of Fascism. He charged that British interests are aiding German Fascism by extending loans to Germany. He also accused the present Federal Government

of Canada of indirectly aiding German Fascism by advancing credits to Germany and by backing up the British foreign policy. Referring to the coming visit of the German cruiser "Emden" to Montreal, he said that if the cruiser is allowed to dock it would constitute an insult to the progressive minded Canadians. He also dealt at some length with unemployment conditions in Canada and concluded his speech by asking the audience to stand up in Communist salute and reply to the following questions:— Are you against Fascism? Are you against war? Are you against reaction? Are you all for unity? The audience shouted "yes" in every instance. Smith was given a tremendous ovation on concluding his speech.

The Communist leaders were quite disappointed at the size of the audience; a far larger attendance had been anticipated.

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(C) Hamilton, Ont.

A parade followed by a mass meeting in the Market Square featured May Day in Hamilton, Ont. Approximately 1,000 attended the meeting which was addressed by John Hunter, of the C.P. of Canada, Joe Morris, of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, Mrs. Barclay Evans, Art Williams and Sam Carr of Toronto, representing the [deletion: 1/2 line] the latter being the main speaker. Approximately 500 participated in the parade which was headed by 50 Young Pioneers who, during the march, sang the "International". Posters and banners protesting against war, Hitlerism, Fascism, and unemployment were carried by the demonstrators. A float of

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the Canadian League Against War and Fascism brought up the rear.

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(D) Windsor, Ont.

At Windsor, Ont., over 700 people, after parading through the streets, converged on Lanspeary Park where an open air meeting was held addressed by Reeve B. Levert, William Rigby, Arthur Seal, Reginald Morris, George Ketcheson and others. Communist Alderman Tom Raycraft was the marshal of the parade and also chairman of the meeting. The meeting was orderly and quiet. The marchers on arriving at the park were augmented by a crowd of several hundred that awaited their arrival.

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(E) Timmins, Ont.

May Day was observed in the Town of Timmins, Ont., in an orderly manner, the radical element confining their activities to a peaceful parade and meeting. Approximately 250 persons participated in the parade and the meeting in the Finnish Hall, following the parade, was attended by approximately 500 people. Harvey Murphy, now of Toronto, was the principal speaker. He called on all unions and organizations to join the united front movement.

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(F) Kirkland Lake, Ont.

At Kirkland Lake, Ont., May Day was observed by approximately 300 persons who attended an open air meeting on Duncan Avenue. Joseph Eleniuk was the chairman and speeches were given by William Rogers of Timmins and Harry Raketti of Kirkland Lake. The meeting was of brief duration owing to a heavy rain. Following the meeting a concert was held in the Ukrainian Hall.

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(G) Winnipeg, Man.

Approximately 5,000 took part in the May Day parade at Winnipeg, Man., and 8,000 attended a mass meeting in the Market Square marking the termination of the official May Day demonstration. The parade returned to the Market Square at 8.40 p.m. and the meeting that followed was addressed by A.W. Atwater (chairman), A. King, of the Manitoba Conference of Unemployed, Bill Ross, representing the Youth Section, Reverend Shaver, Alderman Forkin, who spoke as the elected representative to the City

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Council but not representing the latter, and James Litterick of the C.P. The speeches all centered around the question of unemployment, Fascism and war.

Litterick also explained the aims, policy and programme of the Communist Party and generally eulogized the U.S.S.R. where, he said, unemployment has been abolished once and for all.

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(H) The Pas, Man.

At The Pas, Man., May Day was celebrated by about 200 people at an open air meeting at which speeches were given by several local agitators.

(I) Regina, Sask.

About 700 people, men, women and children, led by a brass band, paraded in the City of Regina, Sask., on 1st May and following the parade listened to short addresses in Broad Street park given by Mayor A.C. Ellison, Alderman J. M. Toothill and C. M. Fines, T. G. McMannus, J. B. McLeod, Reverend S. B. East and Matt Shaw. The speakers urged the solidarity of the People's Front. The assembly passed two resolutions; the first, sponsored by Matt Shaw, one of the on-to-Ottawa trek leaders, asked reconsideration by the City Council of the request of the Citizens Defence Committee for a tag day for the trekkers' defence; the second demanded of the German Government the release of Ernst Thaelmann, German C.P. leader, and all anti-Fascist prisoners. A feature of the parade was a float depicting a prison cell. It was occupied by some of the on-to-Ottawa trekkers and a sign on the truck read "Mothers, Defend Your Boys". No untoward incident marked the parade which was witnessed by hundreds of people lining the side walks.

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(J) Prince Albert, Sask.

At Prince Albert, Sask., although a permit for a parade had been issued by the police authorities, May Day activities were confined to a mass meeting in the Labour Temple which was attended by approximately 200 people.

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(K) Estevan, Sask.

May Day activities in Estevan, Sask., consisted of a meeting and dance held under the auspices of the C.C.F. Approximately 175 people were present and speeches were given by several local C.C.F. leaders.

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(L) Edmonton, Alta.

About 1,700 people took part in the May Day parade at Edmonton, Alta. An old wagon drawn by five members of the Communist Party and loaded with sacks of sawdust representing capital headed the parade. On the sacks of sawdust sat three participants representing Capitalism, Fascism and War; the latter being represented by a fellow dressed as a soldier with an imitation machine gun. Behind the wagon marched four men carrying a black coffin bearing on its side the word "Capitalism", also the inscription "Here Lies the Body of War and Fascism". After this came four grave diggers carrying

shovels beside a banner with the inscription "People's Unity", the Grave Digger of Capitalism". A conspicuous section of the parade was headed by a truck depicting the Relief Camp Workers Union. The parade returned to the Market Square at 8.20 p.m. where the participants were addressed by Elmer Roper, representing the C.C.F., and Jan Lakeman representing the C.P. of Canada.

Following this meeting, May Day celebrations and meetings were held in the Emery Hall, Scandinavian Hall, Ukrainian Labour Temple and Russian Hall.

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(M) Calgary, Alta.

May Day celebration at Calgary, Alta., was confined to a mass meeting in the Victoria Pavilion which was attended by approximately 700 people. Permission to hold a parade was refused by the local authorities. The speakers at the meeting included Charles Vernon, Andy Hogarth, [deletion:name] A. McAllister, C.C.F., Vivian Wilcox, Y.C.L., Fred White and William Irvine. A telegram was received from the Toronto May Day Committee wishing the Calgary proletariat good luck.

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(N) Crow's Nest Pass

May Day activities in the Crow's Nest Pass centered in Bellevue where a mass meeting was held at the sports field in the course of the afternoon. The participants from points west of Bellevue arrived by train and were met at the station by the local people. Dances and entertainments were held at various points throughout the district during the evening. The mass meeting at Bellevue was addressed by several local leaders including T. Uphill, M.L.A., and Pat Lenihan, [deletion:1/4 line] for the district.

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(O) Lethbridge, Alta.

About 250 persons gathered in Lethbridge on a vacant lot south of the Arena to celebrate May Day. James Sloan, of the Mine Workers Union of Canada, acted as chairman and the speakers were Henry Lundgron, [deletion:1/2 line], Donald Guise, local representative of the Daily Clarion, and Oksana Kuchirin, from the Young Pioneers. No attempt was made to hold a parade.

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(P) Vancouver, B.C.

Approximately 6,000 persons took part in the May Day parade at Vancouver, B.C., which proceeded from Cambie Street Grounds to Stanley Park where an open air meeting was held. The usual banners and floats depicting the "class struggle" were prominently on display. At Stanley park speeches were given by Dr. Lyle Telford, of the C.C.F., Mike McKinnon, Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union, Tom Ewen, of the C.P., Mrs. Dorothy Steves, C.C.F., Reverend R. N. Matheson and Maurice Rush. The speeches centered largely around the question of unity among the working class, especially between the C.C.F. and the C.P. Numerous collections were taken up for various causes but no announcement was made as to the amount obtained.

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(Q) Fernie, B.C.

A parade followed by a mass meeting marked May Day in Fernie. The participants were mostly members of the Fernie and District Unemployed Association. A number of Communist banners were carried and the speakers included Louis Beale and George Arbuckle, [~~deletion: 1/3 line~~]

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2. Tom Mann at Windsor, Ont.

Tom Mann of England was the feature speaker at a meeting in the Windsor Arena, Windsor, Ont., on the evening of 3rd May. The audience numbered approximately 1,200 men and women, and Councillor W. Emery of Riverside acted as chairman. Preceding the main address, short speeches were given by Reginald Morris, [~~deletion:name~~], Oscar Kitching, Essex County Trades and Labour Council, C. W. Daynes, of the C.C.F., and the L.A.W. and F., and Mayor G. Bennett of Windsor. The latter, who spoke for approximately 30 minutes, welcomed Tom Mann on behalf of the workers of Windsor. The Mayor assured the audience that he knows of nothing which could separate him from the cause of labour.

Tom Mann was greeted with cheers and applause. He opened his address with a severe criticism of the Capitalist system. "British Capitalists", he said, "are doing more exploiting and are committing far more robberies than the Capitalists of any other country". "The same British Government that robs the people of England, Scotland and Ireland," he declared, "is robbing China and India". He advised that in case a war should break out, the imperialist government should be handicapped in such a way that would eventually bring

about its overthrow. Referring to the recent election in France he stated that he was proud of the way the people voted and their united front against Fascism. Soviet Russia he depicted as the only country in the world that is not suffering from poverty and unemployment. In conclusion he called upon the workers of Windsor to organize and unite into one united front similar to the one formed in France. An appeal for money to defray the expenses of the meeting resulted in the collection of about \$200.

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### 3. Winnipeg Communists Demonstrate Before Hungarian Consulate

About 150 people demonstrated in front of the Hungarian Consulate at Winnipeg, Man., on 7th May, while a deputation interviewed the Consul and presented a petition containing 3,000 names for the release of M. Rakosi, notorious Hungarian Communist. The demonstration was sponsored by the Hungarian Workers Club. The Consul informed the delegation that he could not forward the petition to the Hungarian Government.

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### 6. Arthur Evans Departs for Northern B.C.

Arthur Evans, recently commissioned to conduct the Communist press campaign in British Columbia, left Vancouver on the night of 27th April for Prince George, the starting point of his campaign.

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### 8. Ben Spence, J. M. Conner, Mrs. J. Laing and Four Clubs Expelled from C.C.F.

Ben H. Spence, chairman of the Toronto Regional Council, C.C.F.; J. MacArthur Conner and Mrs. Jean Laing, together with four of the C.C.F. clubs, who participated in the May Day parade, were expelled on 9th May from the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation by the Ontario Provincial Council. The expelled groups are the Lakeview C.C.F. Club, Earls Court C.C.F. Club, New Dawn, Co-operative Commonwealth Youth Movement, and the East York Workers Association. Dr. Rose Henderson was ordered reprimanded for having spoken at the May Day meeting.

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