

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 20th May, 1936.

SECRETNO. 807WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS
AND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

General Ponderoux, who is one of the leaders of the "Peoples Front" in France, is scheduled to address an anti-war and anti-fascist meeting at the Mutual Street Arena in Toronto, Ont., on 22nd May. According to Norman Freed, [deletion:3/4 line] General Ponderoux will be used by the Communist Party for contacting progressive and near radical elements with a view to building a "Peace" Movement in Canada and the U.S.A. He is to sponsor a "National Peace Conference" in Canada in support of the International Peace Conference to be held in Geneva in September. He has been invited to attend the Canadian Youth Congress in Ottawa as a guest speaker.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL1. Lumber Workers Strike in B.C.

Latest reports from Vancouver would indicate that 10 logging camps, 11 shingle mills and one lumber mill are now on strike, involving approximately 1,200 organized lumber workers. Fifteen thousand are reported to be still at work. From a careful survey of the situation it appears that the majority of the strikers who arrived in Vancouver from the camps recently are dissatisfied with the methods used to bring them out. Dissatisfaction also exists over the delay in getting additional camps out on strike and some of the loggers openly stated that if no more camps come out on strike shortly they will go back to work.

The leadership in Vancouver is making preparations, however, for centralizing the strike activities through committees in Vancouver. The Chinese employees at some of the shingle mills are said to be one hundred per cent with the strikers.

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2. Toronto Regional Council of C.C.F. Repudiates
Provincial Council

Complete repudiation of the action taken by the Provincial Council of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation in Ontario, together with unconditional support of those members ordered expelled, was voiced by the majority of the members of the Toronto Regional Council at a meeting of the council on 11th May. The council is said to have passed the following resolution, moved by Mrs. Loeb:—

“WHEREAS the Regional Council had agreed to take the initiative in the May Day Celebrations,

“and WHEREAS the Regional Council has instructed its President and its Secretary to go ahead with arrangements already made

“and WHEREAS the newly elected Provincial Council has deemed it wise to ask for the expulsion of those officers of the Regional Council.

“I move that we express a vote of confidence in our President, Ben Spence, and in our Secretary, Jas. McArthur Conner.

“At the same time I move that we express our appreciation to Dr. Rose Henderson and Jean Laing for their untiring and faithful work for the cause of Socialism”.

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Dr. Rose Henderson, in a statement given to the radical press shortly after the meeting, indignantly protested that she had never in all her life been guilty

of a dishonest action. "If Woodsworth can co-operate with the Liberals and Conservatives", she said, "when it suits his purpose, how much more so is it our right to band together with other labour parties for the liberation of the working class".

Mrs. E. Morton, [deletion:word] leading figure in the East York Workers Association, one of the clubs expelled by the Provincial Council, ridiculed the ruling of the Provincial Council saying that "it is a gross insult to our workers who stay night and day protecting the threatened families".

The action of the Ontario Provincial Council of the C.C.F. in expelling B. H. Spence and other leading members of the Toronto Regional Council appears to have aroused considerable opposition and needless to say the Communists are utilizing the incident in the interest of their United Front policy. The Daily Clarion of 13th May, makes the following editorial comment:—

"The actions of the Toronto Council is a hopeful sign of the manner in which honest workers refuse to be bull-dozed into breaking with their united front policies in the name of a mythical 'democracy' and 'discipline'. It is encouraging to see the revulsion of a large section of the membership against the Tammany Hall methods which characterized the expulsions.

"We greet our C.C.F. comrades on the Toronto Council and in the clubs. If they keep determinedly to the line of unity, develop and enlarge that line, refuse to be intimidated by demagogic appeals to a false 'democracy' and a hypocritical 'discipline', then the right wing leaders will either be compelled to quit their sabotage position or be in a position of Generals without an army".

3. Political bureau of C.P. of C. Urges Liquidation of Sectarianism

The Political Bureau of the Communist Party, in a recent circular addressed to the district bureaus and section committees of the Party throughout Canada, urges greater vigilance and alertness in carrying through the "line" of the VIIth Congress of the Communist International. It also upraises the work of the Party

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since the IXth Plenum of the Central Committee, calling attention to the mistakes made by the Party organs in the light of the decisions of the said plenum. The Political Committee records considerable progress in the fight against sectarianism in the Party. It, however, emphasizes the need for a complete liquidation of this sectarianism which, it is alleged, remains the main

obstacle to the carrying through of the VIIth Communist International Congress decisions in the fight for the "United Front". The Political Bureau regrets that in Nova Scotia the members of the party pursued a "Leftist" course in dealing with the question of unity among the Mine Workers and that they failed to appreciate the stand taken by John L. Lewis for industrial unionism, thus weakening rather than strengthening the fight against Lewis, class collaboration and for unity in the U.M.W. of A. on a programme of struggle.

The Political Bureau condemns the liquidatory tendencies towards the Y.C.L. which have made their appearance in several localities. It urges the District Bureaus and sections to build up the Y.C.L. and assist in its effort to create unity with the C.C.Y.M.

4. Conference of Relief Camp Workers Union, B.C. District, at Kamloops, Listless Affair

Delegates from relief camps in British Columbia, representing the British Columbia district of the Relief Camp Workers Union, met in conference at Kamloops on 25th and 26th April. The main item on the agenda was the question of affiliation with the Maintenance of Railway Employees.

Officials of the Railway Maintenance and Way Employees Union, the discussion revealed, have thus far evaded the issue of affiliation on constitutional grounds, and on the grounds that the R.C.W.U. was not eligible to join the M. & W.E. organization.

The conference directed its attention towards the building of the union and extending its organizational structure to conform to the conditions of new relief projects. It decided to carry through an intensive unionization campaign in the camps, so that as the men go out to the new relief projects, they will start as an

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organized body of men with sufficient flexibility to insure quick adaptation to the new conditions.

The conference instructed its Executive Committee to continue negotiations with the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada on the question of affiliation and the securing of district or local charters for the union.

5. Western Miners Conference Endorses "Unity" Move

A conference of miners' representatives from 35 local unions at Calgary, on 12th May, approved of plans to amalgamate the various unions under the

United Mine Workers of America. The 74 delegates in attendance represented independent unions, the Mine Workers Union of Canada, as well as locals of the U.M.W. of A. The conference, starting on 11th May, was sponsored officially by the Alberta Federation of Labour under the leadership of Fred White, who also presided over the proceedings. Carl Berg, secretary of the Alberta Federation of Labour, acted in the capacity of secretary at the conference. Tom Ewen, general secretary of the W.U.L., addressed the gathering making a strong plea for amalgamation under the banner of the U.M.W. of A. The conference resolved to submit the whole question to a referendum vote. All non-U.M.W.A. organizations were requested to apply for a U.M.W.A. charter by 1st July. Robert Livett, president of District 18, U.M.W.A., was instructed to go to Washington, D.C., to convey the decisions of the conference to John L. Lewis, president of the International Union. The delegates in attendance voiced the opinion that if the 7,000 miners of Alberta and the Crow's Nest Pass would become organized, the union would be in a position to declare a closed shop throughout the mining area.

6. Plan to Publish Radical Paper in Regina

Plans are afoot to publish a radical weekly paper in Regina to be known as The Advocate. The editors are to be Alex Tooth, B.A., [deletion:2 lines] student

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publication of the said university. Alex Tooth when interviewed recently said in regard to the policy of The Advocate,—

"Editorially we will attempt to give voice and unity to the desire for reform that is felt on the part of most people today. In the past Westerners have quarrelled too much over political differences to agree and act on major things that are absolutely necessary to their happiness and well being. In our news columns we aim to present a true and fearless picture of the world today in relation to the everyday life of the people".

The C.P., said to be connected with this new publication, is desirous of keeping in the background. It has, however, trusted representatives on the editorial board.

7. Result of "Todowymazu" Campaign

The Ukrainian Labour News for 11th May reports that the campaign conducted by Todowymazu, (society for assisting the liberation movement of

Western Ukraine), during the month of January for "political prisoners" in Poland, netted the sum of \$3,243 and 362 new members. The report further states that in the last 12 months 600 new members joined Todowymazu and that between 1st March, 1931, and December, 1935, the organization collected \$20,398.53 for "the revolutionary movement in Western Ukraine". This sum was apportioned as follows:—

For the revolutionary movement in Western Ukraine	\$10,217.05
" " " " " Canada	6,677.30
" " Canadian Labour Defence League	3,453.43

From the above figures it will be seen that although the stated purpose of Todowymazu is to assist the liberation movement in that part of Poland and Rumania referred to as Western Ukraine, nearly 50% of the money collected was used for revolutionary purposes in Canada.

8. R.C.W.U. Inactive in Saskatchewan

The activities of the Relief Camp Workers Union in Saskatchewan are at a stand still at present. It is said that the R.C.W.U. has discontinued organizational activities in the Dundurn Relief Camp for the time being where conditions are reported to be satisfactory.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

9. Notes

Arthur Evans is said to have addressed approximately 225 persons in the Moose Hall at Prince Rupert on 3rd May, his subject being "The on-to-Ottawa trek and the Regina Dominion Day riot". He appealed for support and funds to fight what he termed the "unjust and vicious" sentences meted out to those convicted at Regina recently on charges arising out of the said riot.

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[deletion:name] arrived in Vancouver on 7th May from the Bridge River area. He reported that things are very quiet there with little interest shown in trade unionism of either the A.F. of L., the A.C.C.L. or the W.U.L. He is said

to have been detailed to attend the Miners' Conference at Calgary which opened on 11th May.

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The Citizens Defence Committee in Vancouver is expected to take a new lease of life with [redacted] in charge of affairs, replacing [redacted] one of the leaders of the on-to-Ottawa trek, has been taken away from the R.C.W.U. and placed in charge of the Citizens Defence Committee.

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[redacted], and stalwart supporter of the Anti-War League programme at Vancouver, resigned from the Executive Committee of that organization as a result of the recent meeting held in the Auditorium at which major General Smedley Butler was the guest speaker.

The meeting was a costly affair, and [redacted] has realized that through [redacted] the C.P. is imposing on her generosity in the matter of demands for financial support.

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[redacted] is preparing to launch a new mimeographed sheet as the official organ of the B.C. League Against War and Fascism. While preparing his mimeographed sheet [redacted] is maneuvering with [redacted] to secure the temporary appointment of [redacted] 1/2 line] the B.C. Workers News. The resignation of [redacted] from the Executive Committee of the league has had the effect of causing [redacted] to withdraw her financial support from the league.

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II. MANITOBA

10. Higher Educational Course Started by U.L.E.T.A. at Winnipeg

A well attended concert meeting at the Ukrainian Labour Temple on the evening of 10th May marked the opening of the new course of training in Marxian Political Economy conducted by the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Ass'n. at Winnipeg. The course will last for six months and is said to be attended by 42 students, five of whom are young women. The students, ranging in age from 20 to 25 years, have been specially selected for this purpose at various points of Canada. Three teachers have been appointed to give the necessary lectures, viz: [redacted] 1/2 line]

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The District Plenum of the C.P., Manitoba district, which was to have taken place at Winnipeg this month, has been postponed, it was announced by [deletion:1 line]

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[deletion:name] speaking at a meeting of officers of former branches of the Canadian Labour Defence League at Winnipeg on 10th May, stated that the C.L.D.L. has outlived its usefulness and that it was necessary to replace it by a more suitable instrument which will be capable of attracting a wider circle of people. [deletion:1 line] suggested that a committee be elected, the function of which would be to extend the newly organized defence organization. [deletion:2 1/4 lines]

It had been decided on a previous occasion to change the name of C.L.D.L. to "Citizens Liberty Club". At the suggestion of [deletion:name] it was decided to change the name of the new organization to "Winnipeg Citizens Defence Movement" in order to have uniformity throughout the country.

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Sam Carr, [deletion:1/2 line] is reported to have addressed a meeting of about 500 Jews in the Hebrew Sick Benefit Hall at Winnipeg on 7th May. He spoke in Jewish giving an outline of the history of the Jewish people as viewed by the Communists. He condemned the Zionist Movement claiming that it was inspired by nationalists and fascists.

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III. QUEBEC

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The Party records a noticeable improvement in general activities during the past six months, especially in the French speaking field. Two major gains have been made. The C.P. has obtained indirect control over the "Popular Front" unemployed movement and was successful in organizing the local Youth Congress.

The YCL has 350 members, twenty per cent of whom are French Canadians. This organization too has recorded improvement along general lines during the past six months. [deletion:10 lines] Another improvement which

may be recorded is in the sale of the Young Worker, the official organ of the league. Approximately 500 copies of each issue are now being distributed in Montreal. The outstanding achievement of the league, however, has been the setting up of the local Youth Congress which holds great possibilities from a propaganda point of view. The local and national leadership of the league considers this Youth Congress as a major achievement in their efforts to create a united front.

In the trade union field the W.U.L. has been completely liquidated; the W.U.L. unions have either entered A.F. of L. or went out of existence. Thus, a number of the Communists have become members of the A.F.L. and thereby also members of the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada. Although the influence and strength of

[11]

C.P. members in those unions is not very large at present, prospects of strengthening their influence are very favourable.

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Nominally the C.L.D.L. is still in existence with a paper membership of approximately 500. Though it was decided to let the C.L.D.L. slowly go out of existence no provisions were made to replace it.

The League Against War and Fascism, [~~deletion: 1/2 line~~] has a membership of approximately 500 of which 240 are fully paid up. No noticeable gains have been made in this sphere.

The Friends of the Soviet Union [~~deletion: 2 1/2 lines~~] It derives its financial support largely from the sale of literature which averages approximately 6,000 pieces a month. The bulk of the literature comes directly from the Soviet Union.

A new theatre group, [~~deletion: 1 line~~] has made remarkable progress during the past six months. Its membership has almost tripled in this period. It now has 80 active participants.

The [~~deletion: 3 words~~] Canadian Workmens Circle (Jewish) has also grown considerably during the past six months. [~~deletion: 1 1/4 lines~~]

The Icor Organization is divided into two branches with a total membership of approximately 100. The membership, however, is entirely passive and carries on very little work.

The language mass organization including the U.L.F.T.A., F.O.C., R.W.C., H.W.C., G.W.F.A., J.S.W.C. and others remained unchanged.

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