

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 27th May, 1936.

SECRETNO. 808WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS
AND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

Over 400 delegates are said to have attended the Canadian Youth Congress held in Ottawa, 23rd to 25th May. The Communists, who originally planned the event, appear to be rejoicing at its results and the tendencies displayed by a considerable number of the delegates in attendance. The congress confirmed the "Bill of Rights" and the "Canadian Youth Act", the two main measures sponsored by the Communists.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL1. The Bill of Rights of the Canadian Youth

The following is a [~~deletion:2 lines~~] for the Young Men’s Christian Association at Toronto with the understanding that the latter would submit same, if necessary in an amended form to the National Youth Congress at Ottawa:—

THE BILL OF RIGHTS OF THE CANADIAN YOUTH

"Two hundred and forty seven years ago, the representatives of the freedom loving people of England unwilling to accept further the imposition of an unjust and tyrannous rule; tired of living in constant fear for their very lives, indignant with the luxurious life of a very few, while the great people lived in darkness and penury; dissatisfied with the disregard of rights won in generations of hard effort, came together and presented to the temporal powers a BILL OF RIGHTS for the redress of their grievances.

"According to the examples set by our forbears, we, the Youth of Canada, gathered together in a most representative Parliament, herewith set forth our grievances and declare our own BILL OF RIGHTS.

"We feel the gravity of responsibility cast upon us. We are the sons and daughters of the builders of our land. We are desirous of helping our people. But lack of work and limitation of opportunity present the best use of our ability. Greed rules the hearts and minds of men who deny us work and security. We, young people, who have come thousands of miles to this Parliament, are willing to sacrifice. We wish to give our very best to build a Canada that is a land of peace, freedom and progress, that offer justice and happiness to its people. We are willing to transform ourselves so that we can make our people happy. We wish to learn and to work. Through sacrifice and joint labour we hope to help to build our country, so that it can satisfy the full needs of all.

"Cognizant of our shortcomings and righteously indignant because of the failure of our country as it is today to satisfy our needs and desires, along with those of the whole people, we declare in the spirit of that Bill of Rights that established the traditions of freedom of the British people that:—

"Whereas the young people of our country do not secure the opportunity for study and work to which we are entitled; whereas fear of insecurity, because of loss of employment, illness and old age, prevents the full and happy life of youth; and whereas many young people are unable to marry, establish a home and raise a family because of lack of resources due to unemployment, low wages and small incomes, viz:

1. Nearly 300,000 young people are unemployed, although our country is rich.
2. Students graduating higher schools and leaving primary schools do not secure employment.
3. Young people employed in industries receive wages that are not sufficient for a proper enjoyment of the gifts of life available in our country.
4. Tens of thousands of capable students are unable to graduate from the higher schools and enter the universities because of lack of funds.

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5. Young farmers are unable to establish their own homesteads because of insufficient means, nor are able to remain on their father's land because of his low income.

6. Professional young people graduating from the universities find lack of suitable positions and are either unemployed or are forced to do work which does not need their training.

7. The sons and daughters of the great majority of the small business people cannot share the small income of the fruit of their father's industry which is being threatened by trusts and are faced with unemployment.

"And WHEREAS the various governments of our country did spend large sums of money for the maintenance of armed forces and did increase such sums in recent years although the youth of Canada suffered want and privation and was denied the right to work and education and, whereas Canada, although a member of the League of Nations did not fulfill the peaceful desires of its peoples and did not aggressively assist the carrying out of sanctions against aggressor nations.

"And WHEREAS [~~deletion: 3 lines~~]

"All of which is utterly and directly contrary to the known standards of belief of the Canadian people and is injurious to the further extension of peace, freedom, justice and happiness of this realm,

"And thereupon the said delegates of youth groups representing young people of Canada, pursuant to our respective letters and elections, being now assembled in a full and free representation of this nation's youth, taking into our most serious consideration the best means for attaining the ends aforesaid, do in the first place (as our ancestors in like case have usually done) for the vindicating and asserting their ancient rights and liberties, declare:

1. We desire work. We want to do creative labour that will benefit the whole people of our country. We should like to build schools, hospitals, recreational centers. We want to replace slums — to open up virgin territories — lands and forests. We want professional and intellectual employment for those of us that have the training to be teachers, engineers, agronomists, etc. We propose to make jobs for youth by making it possible for all children to attend school, by abolishing child labour and by pensioning the old, who have contributed their share to the upbuilding of our country and are entitled to a happy old age.

If private enterprise cannot give us jobs, we petition the government to open up the closed factories to give us work, using the produce of our labour to benefit the unemployed and the poor farmers.

2. We want economic security. To establish certainty of employment, we propose a redistribution of wealth and opportunity, so as to satisfy the needs of the whole people. Considering that the need of the people is unlimited and that we are unable to buy back all that is produced in the factories, mines, mills and farms because our buying power is limited, we propose that greed should give way to consideration of public weal and that all should be in the first instance produced for the use of the people and not in consideration of profit.

We petition the government to open public works to employ that portion of youth that cannot be absorbed by private enterprise. Such works are to be financed at the expense of those who do not desire to give youth employment. While there are still young people out of work, we propose that the government shall guarantee adequate relief aid to them, making no restrictions upon them because of age, colour, political opinion or because he or she is single. To further improve the conditions of our whole people, we propose that a system of social and unemployment insurance

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shall come into effect to help the unemployed, the ill and the aged.

3. We wish to study. We propose that the governments shall take immediate measures to provide sufficient funds for the education of all young people under 18, particularly aiding the rural communities in the construction and staffing of high schools. We propose that the universities be free to students who have attained sufficient scholastic standing in high schools. We petition the government to establish bursaries and scholarships for all needy students. We propose the reform of the whole system of education, so that it may serve youth to adjust itself to conditions as they are, as well as to prepare them for making our country a better place for the life of its people.

4. We propose the extension of recreational facilities. Knowing that a healthy mind is not possible without a healthy body and that recreation is one of the greatest needs of youth, we propose that means be provided for the establishment of recreational and community centers in all communities of our country and especially in the rural communities and in the Indian reservations. For the improvement of cultural life, we believe that financial aid and encouragement should be given to artists, sculptors, musicians and painters, etc.

5. Mindful of the British traditions of freedom of speech, assembly, organization and press, we declare:

a. That the pretended power of suspending the laws or the execution of laws by authority of the government without the consent of Parliament is contrary to the interests of youth.

b. That it is the right of youth to petition the government and that all commitments and persecutions for such petitioning are contrary to the interests of the youth.

c. That excessive bail ought not to be required nor excessive fines imposed nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

d. For the redress of all grievances and for the amending, strengthening and preserving of the laws, parliament ought to be held frequently.

The breach of these rights established by the tradition of our people we fully condemn and call upon the youth of our country to jealously guard its rights. We declare illegal in the eye of youth, governments by terror and violence directed against the people. Opposing dictatorship, we cannot but reject the inhuman rule established by fascism in Germany and Italy where all freedom has been destroyed and where youth is being converted into cannon fodder.

6. We want PEACE to rule the world. We have no interest in war. We are fully mindful of the fact that Canada cannot be at peace with the world unless she helps bring peace into the world. We want our government to live up to all conditions of the Covenant of the League of Nations and to oppose any effort to weaken the League of Nations as a body that can act as an instrument of peace. We want Canada to take the lead in the effort for securing total disarmament of all countries. Those who oppose the League of Nations sanctions; those who oppose disarmament — such we consider enemies of youth. Peace cannot exist without freedom. We support the efforts of all the small and subjected peoples to secure and retain their freedom. We propose that our government shall establish responsibility to the people in matters of foreign policy. We oppose conscription and we demand that on matters of maintenance of peace or war, the people shall be asked to vote by ballot.

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We are ready for sacrifice to aid in the maintenance of peace. To keep Canada out of war, we must help keep war out of the world. To make actions in favour of peace effective, we rally in nickel mines and smelters, in railways and ports to teach youth to defend peace and to act in favour of peace at all times. We declare illegal in the eyes of youth all acts, bills, laws which facilitate the breach of the state of peace whether in our country or in any country in the world. We extend our hand to the youth of the world to DEFEND PEACE.

And we do claim, demand and insist upon all and singular the premises, as our undoubted rights and liberties, and that no declarations, judgments, doings or proceedings to the prejudice of the young people in any of the

said premises, ought in any wise to be drawn hereafter into consequence of example.

To which demand of our rights we are particularly encouraged by the declarations of educational, social, labor and political leaders as being the only means of obtaining redress and remedy therein.

Having therefore an entire confidence that the whole people of Canada will perfect the deliverance so far advanced by the youth of Canada and will help preserve these from violation of youth's rights, which we have here asserted and from all other attempts upon our religions, rights, organizations and liberties."

2. The Canadian Youth Act

The [~~deletion:3 words~~] Canadian Youth Council at Toronto, Ont., recently prepared a document which is to be known as the "Canadian Youth Act" and which is to be widely circulated in an endeavor to build up the Youth Movement and to compel the Government to grant its demands. The document will be submitted to the Ottawa Youth Congress and through it to Parliament. The original draft of the "Act" reads:—

"An Act to provide for Youth —

"Whereas unemployment and lack of opportunity have prevented His Majesty's youthful subjects and other youthful persons resident in the Dominion of Canada from rendering their country the service which they owe it and have inspired discouragement among the said youthful subjects and residents to the point of national emergency and concern.

"And whereas it is expedient in the public welfare that substantial encouragement and opportunity be offered the said youthful subjects and residents in Canada to be of use in the country's development,

"Now, therefore,

"HIS MAJESTY, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate and the House of Commons of Canada, enacts as follows:

1. This Act shall be known as the Canadian Youth Act.
2. A Commission to be known as the Canadian Youth Commission is hereby constituted and shall consist of a chairman and members, both male and female, who shall be appointed by and whose salaries shall be fixed by the Governor in Council.

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A) The number of commissioners, the number thereof necessary to constitute a quorum and the number thereof necessary to constitute a voting

majority by the governor in Council shall represent the following groups in the following proportion:

- a) One third to be representatives of farm and labour organizations.
- b) One third to be elected representatives of Youth organizations.
- c) The remainder to be representative of social service, education, recreation, and consumer' organizations.

3. The Commission shall have the power and authority:

A) To make such arrangements with the provincial government as may be necessary to administer this Act.

B) To appoint and fix salaries of local boards for the purpose of local administration in such districts as the Commission may assign within each province, which boards shall be constituted in the same manner as the Commission in accordance with the proportions prescribed in section 2 (A) hereof, provided that the one third membership reserved for farm and labour representation may in case of rural and urban districts be varied to give all or a greater part of this membership to farm or labour representatives in accordance with the nature of the district.

C) To make such regulations as may be deemed necessary for the administration of this Act generally, not inconsistent with the terms hereof, which regulations shall have the same force and effect as if enacted herein.

4. The Commission shall:

A) Provide funds in the form of scholarships and bursaries for needy students in secondary, high, vocational and technical schools, which scholarships shall cover fees for tuition and books together with living expenses as may be deemed necessary in each case. These scholarships and bursaries shall provide for a sum which, apart from tuition and books, shall in no case be less than dollars per month.

B) Provide funds for needy undergraduate and graduate students in institutions of higher learning in form of scholarships and bursaries similar to those described in section 4(a) hereof; but no such scholarships shall provide a sum which, apart from tuition, shall be less than dollars per month.

C) Institute college projects for the employment of needy undergraduate and graduate student at regular rates of wages hereinafter provided, save that such wages shall in no case be less than dollars per month.

D) Provide funds for the extension and development of systems of vocational training and vocational guidance.

E) College projects shall wherever possible be such as shall approximate the training which such students are receiving in their respective academic pursuits.

5. The Commission shall institute public works and enterprises for the employment, at rates of wages hereinafter provided, of unemployed young persons, including young sons and daughters of farmers not remuneratively employed at home, who are not attending school.

2) The said public works and enterprises shall be designed to provide for the youth employed, apprenticeship training in trades and professions under the direction of qualified instructors; provided that while receiving such training the youth shall receive wages at rates hereinafter provided, and further shall

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not replace or otherwise interfere with the employment of trained persons either youth or adult.

3) The said public works and enterprises shall, in the interest of public health, provide for the extension and development of such facilities as hospitals, sanatoria, clinics, nurseries, and other socially useful projects, with special attention given to rural areas.

4) The said public works and enterprises shall further include the establishment and maintenance of parks, play ground, swimming pools; and musical, dramatic and recreational centres, with special attention given to rural areas; and in addition, in larger centres of population, shall provide for the demolition of slum dwellings and the construction in their stead of adequate and suitable housing facilities.

6. No project shall be of a military nature or in the form of a subsidy to private enterprise.

7. The rate of wages fixed by the Commission for the foregoing project shall not be less than that recognized by labor organizations on fair wage laws for the work performed in the localities affected.

8. "Young persons" and "students" referred to in this Act shall mean male and female persons and students, including sons and daughters of farmers, who have attained their sixteenth birthday and have not yet attained their twenty sixth birthday; and this Act shall cover all such persons without regard to sex, race, origin, colour, creed, or political belief or affiliation.

9. There shall be available for the work of the Commission such funds as parliament shall vote from time to time, including more particularly those funds raised by parliament by appropriate statutes of taxation upon large incomes, gifts and inheritances.

2) The Commission shall make an annual report to parliament through the Minister of Labour."

3. Second National Convention of Icor

Icor held its second National Convention in Montreal on 8th to 10th May, with 76 delegates present representing 35 organizations. A. Shek, general secretary of Icor, reported on its activities in Canada since the last convention, referring particularly to the campaign for Biro-Bidjan.

M. Katz of New York outlined the policies of the Soviet Union towards Biro-Bidjan. A cable was received from "Gezerd" of Moscow signed "Rashkas and Adelman" extending greetings and expressing the conviction that the convention will solve the problems of transforming Icor into a mass organization, strengthening the literary work, intensification of work to popularize the construction of a Jewish autonomous district and for the national policies of the Soviet Union.

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Congratulations were also received from the American Icor and from several branches in Canada.

Among the resolutions passed was one supporting the sending of a people's delegation to Biro-Bidjan. Steps have already been taken in this regard by the American Icor and by Procor in Uruguay in the Argentina, it was stated. The convention instructed its National Executive to arrange for such delegation from Canada consisting of from five to 10 members which is to leave Canada in April, 1937. Another resolution urged Jewish emigration from countries in Europe such as Germany, Poland, Rumania, etc., to Biro-Bidjan. The convention extended a vote of thanks to Der Kampf, Jewish Communist organ in Canada.

The convention elected a National Executive of 51 with Louis Koldoff as national chairman. Included in this Executive Committee are 15 members from Toronto, 12 from Montreal, four from Hamilton, two representing the Niagara district and one from each of the following cities: Vancouver, Cornwall, Windsor, Edmonton, Calgary, Saskatoon, and the rural community of Edenbridge in Saskatchewan.

4. Communists Plan to Hold Emergency Convention of Ontario Section of C.C.F.

The Communists, supported by the "left" wing of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation in Ontario, are endeavouring to call an Emergency Convention of the Ontario Section in their fight against the action of the Provincial Executive Council of the C.C.F. in expelling [deletion:name] et al from the federation for having participated in the May Day demonstration

in co-operation with the Communists. This agreement was reached in a discussion between the [deletion: 1/2 line] on 13th May. The Communist Party is making every effort with a view to widening its influence in the C.C.F. and this Emergency Convention is expected to serve this purpose.

A call for a "get together" meeting of units involved in the recent expulsion edict of the Provincial Council of the C.C.F. at the Labour Temple, on 27th May, has been issued signed by Major Fred Fish, Mrs. Alice Loeb, Reeve Arthur Williams and J. Warren Gilroy. This meeting is to formulate an official demand for a Provincial Convention of

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the Ontario Section of the C.C.F. based on an amendment to the Provincial constitution proposed at the Easter Convention which provides for the calling of a special convention on demand of twenty-five per cent of the clubs and affiliated units.

Since the expulsion edict of the Provincial Council, many C.C.F. units are said to have protested against the action, including the Toronto and West York Regional Councils, the Spadina and St. Paul's C.C.F. clubs.

5. East and Derby Elected Aldermen in Regina By-Election

The Reverend S. B. East and Alex Derby were elected Aldermen in the Civic by-election at Regina, Sask., on 18th May, replacing McManus and Mikkleson, who were unseated some time ago. The election results were followed by a parade of approximately 2,000 people and a mass meeting at the City Hall steps; the latter being addressed by Aldermen Toothill, East, Fines, Derby and ex-Aldermen McManus and Mikkleson. The newly elected candidates pledged to carry out the policy pursued by the Labour Council (United Front), thus insuring a labour majority on the City Council.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

6. Communists in Vancouver Held Open Air Meeting

Approximately 2,000 persons attended a meeting of the C.P. at Cambie Street Grounds at Vancouver on Sunday, 17th May. The chairman was F. A. (Fergie) McKean and the speakers were Malcolm Bruce and Jack Taylor.

Malcolm Bruce spoke at length on Fascism in Germany, explaining how the leaders of the Social Democratic Party in Germany misled the workers. He intimated that it was quite possible for the same thing to happen in Canada if the C.C.F. is allowed to carry on under the present leadership and refuses to enter into a united front with the C.P. of C. He emphasized the recent victories obtained by the "Popular Front" in France, quoting the united front existing in that country as an example of what should be done in Canada.

Jack Taylor's speech was a tirade against the Vancouver Citizens League, particularly against Tom McInnis and his anti-Communist activities. Taylor also referred to the recent split in the C.C.F., particularly in B.C., stating that William Pritchard, Jack Price, Bob Skinner and McConnell, prominent members of the C.C.F., should all be placed in the same category as McInnis. He appealed to the workers to form a united front and to fight war and fascism in Canada.

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Ed. Pierce, of the Mine Workers Union of Canada, B.C., is reported to have written to the international vice president of the United Mine Workers of America, one Peterson, who is also a member of the Utah State Assembly, with regard to the Vancouver Island coal miners affiliation to the American Federation of Labor. Peterson took immediate action and through his personal representations there will be two organizers out from the international office in the very near future to look over the possibilities of affiliating the Island coal miners with the A.F. of L.

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Arthur H. Evans, who returned to Vancouver recently from his northern tour for the Clarion and the B.C. Workers News, stated that, in the course of his travels, he visited Wells, B.C., and while there observed that the miners were making preparations with a view to calling a strike in the near future. He claims that he left hurriedly because he did not want to be accused by the C.P. of creating a strike situation in that town.

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II. ALBERTA

Z. C.P. in Edmonton Name Lakeman Candidate in Provincial By-Election

The Communist Party has announced the candidature of Jan Lakeman, local leader of the Party, in the Provincial by-election in one of the constitu-

encies of the City of Edmonton, which is to take place on 24th June. In a statement the C.P. expressed its willingness to withdraw Lakeman in the event a People's Front candidate is nominated. The Labour Party at Edmonton is holding a conference on 30th May and if the conference decides to place a Labour candidate in the field and ask the support of all labour organizations in the city, Lakeman will very likely be withdrawn.

Tom Ewen was the speaker at a meeting arranged [~~3/4 line~~] in Edmonton on 13th May; J. Lakeman presiding over the meeting.

Tom Ewen stated that he had just arrived from Calgary where he attended the miners' conference. He related the decisions of this conference and expressed the hope that the members of the various interested miners' unions will enact the decisions of the conference by referendum vote. The trade union policy of the C.P. of C., he said, must be brought into line with present day conditions. He intimated that the rank and file of the trade unions are prepared to accept the radical leadership which will force the present conservative leadership to change its view or to quit. The new policy, he said, also calls for the organization of the unorganized, particularly those in the more important industries such as railroads, metal, steel, textile, mining and pulp industries. He informed the meeting that he was proceeding east immediately following the meeting.

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The Communist Party at Edmonton held a concert meeting at the Emery Hall on 10th May to celebrate the victory of the "left" wing movement in the recent elections in France. A. Miller acted as chairman and the speakers were H. Gerry and Jan Lakeman. The attendance numbered approximately 300 people. Both speakers referred to the Soviet-Franco Pact as a powerful instrument of the revolutionary movement and a blow to the whole capitalist world. Lakeman, citing the example of the People's Front in France, urged unity among trade unions and the common people of Alberta and Canada.

III. SASKATCHEWAN

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IV. MANITOBA9. Winnipeg Single Unemployed Parade to Government Bldg.
Abandoned

A proposed parade of the Single Unemployed Men's Association in Winnipeg to the Provincial Government Building on 2nd June has been abandoned. Instead, it has been decided, speakers will be sent to all clubs and associations to ask them to support a mass meeting on the Market Square, on 2nd June. Some time prior to the meeting a delegation will proceed to the Legislative Building in an endeavour to secure an answer from the Government regarding the demands of the single unemployed. The delegation will then report the result of the interview to the meeting in the Market Square.

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The demands include:—

- (1) Abolishment of the soup kitchens.
- (2) All single men to be put on a voucher system; \$18 per month for food and shelter.
- (3) Clothes to be issued on a negotiable voucher system.
- (4) Single men on relief to have the right to choose their own doctor in case of illness.

Led by the Communists the Single Unemployed Men's Association has displayed considerable activity and vigor recently and it is understood that if their demands are turned down direct action will be resorted to. It is anticipated that the unemployed will attempt to demolish the relief dining halls. So far, they have been very orderly and no disturbances have taken place.

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Matt Shaw was the main speaker at a meeting held under the auspices of the Citizens Defence Movement on the Market Square, Winnipeg, on 17th May. Prior to the opening, revolutionary songs were sung including "Hold The Fort", "International", "The Red Flag". G. Marsh, of the C.P. of C., acted as chairman and speeches were also given by George Taylor, Y.C.L., and Mrs. Tardiff, C.C.F. After extending "hand shakes of solidarity from the Regina Gaol", Matt shaw reviewed the on-to-Ottawa trek of last year, the Regina Dominion Day riot, and concluded with an appeal for a united front and for funds in support of the appeals entered by the Dominion Day rioters convicted at Regina recently.

George Taylor depicted a revolt of youth on a national scale starting with the on-to-Ottawa trek of last year. He referred to the forthcoming Ottawa Youth Congress as a manifestation of this revolt and maintained that instead

of 2,000 young men being concerned with the issue, as it was the case last year, the Ottawa Youth Congress will represent over 200,000 young people.

Mrs. Tardiff urged the audience to come to the assistance of the fellows convicted at Regina.

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V. QUEBEC

10. Drop in Circulation of C.P. Organ in Montreal

[~~deletion:8 lines~~] Reporting on the sale of the Communist papers, he stated that the circulation of the official organ of the Party, now the Daily Clarion, has dropped considerably since it was turned into a daily, that it had dropped from a circulation of 375 to 125 in the area controlled by this section. In the Montreal district the circulation has dropped approximately fifty per cent, he asserted. He urged the section to concentrate on the sale and circulation of the Daily Clarion as the main objective for the next few months. The local circulation of the central organ must be increased to at least 1,000 copies per day, he said.
