

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 3rd June, 1936.

SECRETNO. 809WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

In conformity with the "United Front" policy laid down by the VIth World Congress of the Young Communist International, the Young Communist League of Canada has decided to discontinue the publication of The Young Worker — its official organ for the past 12 years — and to publish a non-party semi-monthly magazine instead to be known as the "Advance". The new publication, the first issue of which will be released on 15th June, is to serve the movement for the building of a non-party Youth League and is destined to educate the youth of Canada "in the spirit of struggle for their daily needs and, for a new social order".

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Leading Communist functionaries from various parts of Canada are said to be congregating in Toronto to attend an enlarged Plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Canada.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

1. Strike of Lumber Workers in B.C.

On 16th and 17th May the Striking loggers in British Columbia voted on the question of continuing the strike or returning to work. Seven hundred and forty-five votes were cast, 447 of these in favour of continuing and 298 for returning to work. Camps 8 and 10 at Cowichan Lake refused to vote, being adamant in their refusal to return to work under the conditions offered by the operators.

The Communist Party leadership at Vancouver considers the strike as lost as the response to the call for a general walk-out has been anything but encouraging.

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3. "Daily Clarion" Drive Short of Objective

The result of the May campaign on behalf of the Daily Clarion, as announced by the campaign manager on 30th May, shows that only thirty-four per cent of the objective of \$12,500 has been reached. An itemized account of the standing of the various districts, as per 30th May, is given below:—

| | \$ | % |
|--|-----------------|-------------|
| Alberta | 709.96 | 47.3 |
| South Ontario | 1,512.81 | 42.0 |
| Sudbury | 166.41 | 27.9 |
| Timmins | 301.01 | 25.0 |
| British Columbia | 269.50 | 22.4 |
| Maritimes | 41.85 | 20.9 |
| Quebec | 220.41 | 18.3 |
| Port Arthur | 199.73 | 16.6 |
| Manitoba | 190.20 | 15.8 |
| Saskatchewan | 45.30 | 7.5 |
| Campaign Committee, U.L.F.T.A. | <u>600.00</u> | |
| TOTAL — | <u>4,257.18</u> | <u>34.0</u> |

The various campaign committees have been given until 6th June to turn in the money raised; the final results of the drive will be published in the 13th June edition of the Daily Clarion.

4. Toronto Trades & Labor Council Swings to the Left: Industrial Form of Unionism Endorsed

On 21st May the Toronto District Trades and Labor Council, at its regular meeting, went on record by a vote of 95 to 7 declaring the industrial form of organization as the only solution to the organization of the unorganized worker in industries. The resolution adopted by the Council reads in part:—

"Therefore, be it resolved that the Trades and Labor Council goes on record in favor of an industrial form of organization as a necessary step in unionization of the unorganized workers in mass production industries; endorses the work of the Committee for Industrial Organization in this regard as progressive, supports it as an essential part of trade union democracy, the right of a minority to continue its appeal to the broad masses of membership and rejects the contention that this must inevitably lead to dualism".

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Another important decision arrived at at this meeting was that which dealt with the status of the members of the Council who held membership in the C.P. of C. On this point the delegates voted almost unanimously to remove from the constitution of the Council the clause which was inserted in 1929 denying to members of the C.P. the right to sit on the Council.

The Council also named [~~§~~deletion:1 1/2 lines] as one of its nominees as labor's representative on the Toronto Transportation Commission.

The fact that these policies were adopted at this meeting is of special significance. The action of the Council reflects the ever growing influence of the Communists in the Council and the A.F. of L. movement generally.

It is perhaps timely to recall the time when the anti-Communist clauses were inserted into the constitutions of many unions and some Trades and Labour Councils in Canada. It was in 1929 when most of the active Communists were expelled from the unions and some of the Councils throughout Canada. The Communists and radicals that were ousted are now back in the A.F. of L. unions and are taking the lead in the movement for industrial unionism within the frame-work of the A.F. of L.

This movement for industrial unionism, headed by John L. Lewis, international president of the United Mine Workers of America, and which has been propagated by the Communists and disciples of the Moscow Red International of Labor Unions since 1921, has now reached such proportions that a split in the A.F. of L. appears to be imminent and unavoidable. The executive council of the A.F. of L., according to an Associated Press despatch of 31st May, is said to be planning to suspend its nine strongest unions which have more than one million members. The craft union group led by William Green, president of the federation, is said to be prepared to get rid of all the industrial unionists who follow John L. Lewis and other leaders of this movement for industrial unionism. William Green and his group are said to be willing to sacrifice one-third of the federation's membership and a great portion of its finances rather than effect a compromise.

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5. A.F.L. Charter Granted to New Westminster Longshoremen

The Convention of the International Union of Longshoremen held at San Pedro, recently, is reported to have granted a charter to the New Westminster Longshoremen's Local. [Xdeletion:4 words] and other leading radicals of the longshoremen in Vancouver have registered satisfaction at the granting of this charter and expect to build up branches in Vancouver on the chartered local at New Westminster which is being now looked upon as the parent body.

6. Beet Workers Strike in Alberta Settled

A strike involving approximately 1,100 beet workers in the Lethbridge (Alta.) area came to an end on 27th May after the strikers had voted to return to work. The strike was brought about principally on account of the Beet Growers Association refusing to recognize the Beet Workers Industrial Union of Canada, an affiliate of the Workers Unity League, and to further negotiate with the representatives of that organization. The executive of the B.W.I.U. demanded the right to check all individual contracts between employer and employee. This the beet growers also refused to accept. The strike was called off after the beet workers had agreed to sign individual contracts at \$20 per acre. The settlement was achieved following an ultimatum by the growers issued on 26th May demanding immediate acceptance of the offer of \$20 per acre and repudiation of any Communist alliance which meant non-recognition of the B.W.I.U. According to reports the demands of the B.W.I.U. were not met.

7. Beet Workers Strike in Ontario

A strike of beet workers, led by the [Xdeletion:3 words] Beet Workers Union, is said to be in progress in the Chatham (Ont.) area. Reports in the Communist press would indicate that the strike movement is gaining ground and that in some instances the strike is meeting with the support of the growers. An effort is being made by the Communists to bring the two factions together in an effort to raise sugar beet prices.

8. Canadian Athletes Invited to "People's Olympiad" in Spain

An Associated Labour Press [~~deletion:word~~] despatch, appearing in the 29th May issue of the *Daily Clarion*, states that Canadian athletes have been invited to participate in the "People's Olympiad" scheduled for 22nd to 26th July, at Barcelona, Spain, organized in opposition to the summer Olympic Games in Berlin. The despatch goes on to say that Ronald Stewart, formerly of Victoria, B.C., and who had been deported from Canada following a term at Oakalla (B.C.) Jail for inciting to mutiny, is one of those active in organizing the event. Stewart is said to have been expelled from Spain some time ago but returned to the country after the "Left" victory at the polls.

9. Communists in Vancouver Issue New Mimeograph Sheet

A new mimeograph sheet is to make its appearance on the waterfront in Vancouver called "The Maritime Worker". [~~deletion:1 line~~] The sheet is being printed in the rear of the New Age Bookshop, [~~deletion:3/4 line~~]

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. ALBERTA

10. Edmonton Communists Form "Unity Committee"

The Edmonton Communists were instrumental in forming a so-called Unity Committee, headed by J. Lakeman, [~~deletion:3/4 line~~] for the purpose of co-ordinating the activities of the progressive element in Edmonton and to call a conference on 2nd June to discuss the desirability of running a "People's" candidate in the forthcoming provincial by-election. The Communists are endeavouring to persuade the Canadian Labour Party to support the nomination of Alderman Miss Margaret Crang as candidate for the vacant seat in the Provincial Legislature. It has been reported that the Central Council of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation at Edmonton has definitely decided not to contest the election despite the efforts of the C.P. to persuade the said council to take part in a united campaign. Jan Lakeman, who has been nominated as the standard bearer of the C.P. to contest that seat, will very likely be withdrawn in favour of Alderman Miss Margaret Crang.

On 16th May 72 Chinese, led by William Griffin and I. Matthews, paraded to the office of the Alberta Relief Commission at Calgary with a view to placing their grievances before the officials of that commission. William Griffin and I. Matthews acted as their spokesmen. On being informed by Mr. Eadie, of the Alberta Relief Commission, that he had no power to deal with their requests, the Chinese demonstrators asked Matthews and Griffin what they should do. They were told "Stay here till you get your demands". The Chinese then refused to disperse unless Matthews and Griffin gave orders. In consequence, the two leaders were arrested by the police and charged with being members of an unlawful assembly. The demonstrators showed inclination to fight but Matthews ordered them to disperse. [deletion:2 1/2 lines]

The unemployed Chinese, who constitute a distinct section of the Calgary & District Unemployed Association, have held numerous meetings recently and have displayed a distinctly militant attitude.

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The Edmonton Council of the Canadian League Against War and Fascism met in the Bradburn-Thomson Block, on 22nd May, with [deletion:name] acting as chairman and [deletion:name] as secretary. At this meeting it was decided that an Anti-War and Anti-Fascist Conference be held in Edmonton on 16th and 17th July to which delegates from all parts of the province will be invited. It was further agreed to have A.A. McLeod of Toronto and several outstanding public people, who are in sympathy with the movement, attend this conference.

At this meeting it was revealed that two of its members and most active workers in the L.A.W. & F. — the [deletion:1/2 line] — will be leaving Edmonton on a three months trip to Europe with Russia as their objective. The trip, it is said, will be made via England, France and Sweden and will be for the ostensible purpose of studying social conditions at close range. They are to return to Edmonton in the early part of September.

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II. ONTARIO

11. "Peace" Rally in Toronto

The Mutual Street Arena at Toronto was the scene of a "United Peace Rally" on 22nd May. It was officially sponsored by the Canadian League Against War and Fascism and the speakers included General G. Poudroux of France, Reverend George Dickson, Rabbi Maurice Eisendrath and Arthur Jackson. A. A. McLeod, of the C.L.A.W. & F., acted as chairman.

Dressed in the uniform of his official rank in the French Army, General Poudroux told the gathering that not even neutral nations will derive any benefit from future wars and that future wars would aggravate the world's depression instead of lessening it. He claimed that many who did not fight in the last war got rich by corruption, speculation and theft. "A generation of profiteers, greedy, without scruples or any cultural core threw a monkey wrench into the whole mechanization of credit, production and distribution of wealth", he said. He foresaw a sort of "war Communism" arising out of a future war. "Such war Communism imposed by the gravity of events and by the difficulty of distribution of food supplies would have to set up amidst a general terror and misery", he declared. Italy's attacks upon Ethiopia were

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termed by the speaker as "just a colonial expedition and an unglorious massacre of the weak by the strong". He urged a large representation from Canada at the World Peace Conference in Geneva in September. General Poudroux spoke in French, his speech being translated into English by Professor Felix Walters of the University of Toronto. His speech was well received by the audience who numbered approximately 3000.

The other speakers also called upon the people of the Dominion to become "peace conscious" and rally behind the peace movement.

The collection taken at this meeting netted over \$700.

III. QUEBEC

12. General G. Poudroux Speaks in Montreal

About 4,000 people packed the St. James Market Hall in Montreal on the afternoon of 24th May to hear General Poudroux speak, under the joint auspices of the United Veterans of Canada and the League Against War and Fascism. The guest speaker was introduced by A. A. McLeod, of the national office of the L.A.W. & F. at Toronto, who also appealed to the audience to unite against war and Fascism irrespective of colour or creed.

General Poudroux spoke against war and dictatorships, appealing to the Canadians to support the world peace movement. His remark "We must not go to war and we must not let anyone else go to war" were received with great applause and formed the theme of his speech. He eulogized the "Popular Front" movement in France and its victory which led to the formation of a "Left" Wing government. The new government will mark a new era of progress for the people of France, he contended.

The next speaker, who made the appeal for funds, declared that there was also a "Popular Front" in Quebec that "will make every politician tremble". The collection netted over \$60. An Italian donated a gold coin which caused McLeod to remark, "This donation expressed the sentiment of the Italian people in Canada". A war veteran, ex-Private Boudreau of the 22nd Regiment, donated his Service Medals. Bids for these medals were called for by McLeod and three bids were made, the highest being \$2. The bidder receiving the medals handed same back

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to General Pouderoux who, in turn, presented them to ex-Private Boudreau. This ceremony drew much applause.

T. Wood and F. X. Poirier, both members of the C.P. and leaders of the local branch of the United Veterans of Canada, appealed to the veterans to unite under the banner of their organization. He said that the present objective was to obtain a bonus of \$2,000 for all war veterans in Canada and that the only way to secure that bonus was through action.

The meeting is regarded by the Communists as a great success in so much as it helped to extend the "Left" Wing movement. The French organ of the C.P., Clarte, greatly featured the visit of General Pouderoux.

The L.A.W. & F. gave a banquet in honour of General Pouderoux at the Edinburgh Cafe on the evening of 24th May. Approximately 182 persons attended under the chairmanship of Dr. Bethune. Speeches were given by A. A. McLeod, General Pouderoux and George Mooney.

General Pouderoux is said to have left Montreal for New York on the evening of 25th May. The General seemed quite put out over the fact that the L.A.W. & F. sponsored all his public appearances. He feared that the league, by doing so, would prevent the collection of funds from people who do not care to associate themselves with the radical element but who otherwise would be willing to contribute towards a "peace movement".

A projected open air meeting of the "Popular Front of the Unemployed" at Fletcher's Field on Sunday, 24th May, did not materialize. Permission to hold this meeting had been refused by the city authorities but the leaders of the "Popular Front" boasted they would hold it in any event. It is estimated that about 400 people gathered on Fletcher's Field on that evening but they were easily dispersed by the City Police before the meeting got under way.

In order to encourage the news vendors who are selling the Daily Clarion in Montreal, it was decided that all Communist Party members and "Left" Wingers in the needle trades working in the downtown section shall purchase their copies of this paper from the news stands

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in place of obtaining it through their local units of the C.P. It is said that to date 45 news stands in Montreal are handling this paper. It was also decided in order to build up the circulation to hold a house-to-house canvass on Sunday, 31st May, and that all members not taking part in this campaign will be suspended from the C.P. for two weeks.

[~~deletion: 1 1/4 line~~] reported that the sales of Clarte have been gradually improving and that the French Section is now selling over 600 copies per week.

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