

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 17th June, 1936.

SECRET

NO. 811

WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

On 30th June the members of the [~~deletion:2 words~~] Mine Workers Union of Canada and those of independent local unions will vote on re-entry into the United Mine Workers of America, District 18. It is anticipated that the majority of Mine Workers Union of Canada members will vote in favour of the scheme.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

1. The Canadian Youth Congress

The Canadian Youth Congress marks the culmination of several years of systematic work of the Communist Party and the Young Communist League in an attempt to build a united front. It is also to some extent the result of the growth of radical sentiment amongst young people, particularly in the colleges, universities and youth organizations.

The first meeting of the Youth Congress was held in Toronto, Ont., on 24th and 25th May, 1935, and attended by over 300 delegates from about 200 youth organizations, representing an alleged total membership of 162,705. This gathering may be described as the first real manifestation of the mass youth movement inspired by the Communists. There were present delegates from the Y.C.L., Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., Young Men's Hebrew Ass'n., student groups, Co-operative Commonwealth Youth Movement, sports clubs and other youth organization. The keynote at this gathering was sounded by Tim Buck who, in the course of a brief speech, placed before the congress the message of the C.P. which was in effect that there is no way out for the youth save through the abolition of Capitalism. The Communist representation,

although not showing the usual aggressiveness, nevertheless carried considerable weight and was responsible for the adoption of certain radical resolutions including a demand for non-contributory unemployment insurance and for relief work at trade union wages, measures which have been propagated by the C.P. ever since 1929.

The second meeting of the Canadian Youth Congress took place in Ottawa on 23rd, 24th and 25th may this year. While the Toronto gathering of 1935 was confined to Eastern (Ontario & Quebec) representation, with the exception of one delegate from Winnipeg, the Ottawa meeting was truly representative of all sections of Canada. The following is a summary of the representation according to provinces:—

Nova Scotia	6
New Brunswick	1
Quebec	79
Ontario	337
Manitoba	8
Saskatchewan	5
Alberta	12
British Columbia	8

The composition of the congress, according to organizations, was as follows:—

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<u>Church Groups</u>	<u>Orgs.</u>	<u>Deleg.</u>
United Churches	32	42
A.Y.P.A.	9	12
Presbyterian	1	1
Baptist	2	2
B.M.E.	3	4
Unitarian	2	4
Jewish	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	<u>50</u>	<u>66</u>
<u>Y's</u>		
Y.M.C.A.	27	37
Y.W.C.A.	9	9
Y.M.H.A.	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>
	<u>38</u>	<u>50</u>
<u>Political</u>		
Conservatives	4	5
Liberals	7	10
C.C.Y.M.	20	30

Y.C.L.	22	29
	<u>53</u>	<u>74</u>
Students	31	45
Labour Unions	7	8
Agrarian	1	2
Unemployed	4	5
Cultural and Recreational	23	32
Children	7	9
French Canadian	18	25
Co-operatives	5	8
Youth Councils	16	30
Miscellaneous	<u>77</u>	<u>102</u>
	<u>189</u>	<u>266</u>
Grand Totals —	<u>330</u>	<u>456</u>

In addition to the above there were present 22 official observers representing 16 organizations from Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, and Vancouver. The total number of people represented was 343,666, it was reported.

Although officially initiated jointly by the Canadian Youth Council [deletion:3 words] and the League of Nations Society, the real work in connection with this congress was performed by leading members of the Y.C.L. Roy Davis, one of the leading members of the [deletion:1/2 line] acted as intermediary between the Y.C.L., the Canadian Youth Council and the League of Nations Society.

The two main documents adopted by the congress, i.e., "Declaration of Rights of Canadian Youth" and "Canadian Youth Act", were both sponsored by the Communists; the former having been drafted by Tim Buck, Roy Davis and William Kashtan for the Toronto Y.M.C.A. and through it introduced at the congress, while the latter was officially sponsored by the [deletion:2-3 words] Canadian Youth Council at Toronto.

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For tactical reasons, the Communists stayed as much as possible in the background depending on the radical non-Communist delegates in sympathy with the "immediate demands" of the Communists to do their bidding. The issue of Socialism or Communism was not pressed and while explaining the Communist position on some questions the Communists were contented to lead the discussion into channels of "unity" for struggle for what they consider to be the immediate demands of the Canadian youth and against war and Fascism.

The congress elected two delegates to represent the young men and women of Canada at the World Congress to be held in Geneva next September:

Kenneth Woodsworth of Toronto — member of the students peace movement and a very close associate of the members of the National Bureau of the Y.C.L. — and Rene McNicoll, Ottawa, member of the Association Catholique de la Jeunesse Canadienne.

The formation of the Canadian Youth Congress is strictly in line with the "united front" policy prescribed by the Communist International and the Young Communist International. The question of a united front against Fascism and war stands out as the most pressing problem confronting the leaders of the Communist International. "Unity at all costs" is the slogan that has been advanced, even if it means, as Marcil Cachin — leader of the C.P. of France and now a member of the French Senate — remarked in the course of a discussion at Moscow some time ago "to ally ourselves with the devil". The devil, in this instance, apparently means the bourgeois youth of Canada.

The Communist policy with regard to the unification of the Canadian youth is indicated in the following quotations from the report presented by William Kashtan, national secretary of the Y.C.L. of Canada, at the VIth World Congress of the Y.C.I. held at Moscow in Sept., 1935:—

"The resolution and report of Comrade Michael, with which the Canadian delegation is in full agreement, shows that we are not only faced with the task of making tactical changes in relation to the masses of youth, but that we are confronted with the problem of completely transforming our YCL. There is no question but that this is a revolutionary change and one leading in the direction of changing our YCL from a narrow organization into a broad mass non-Party organization, standing at the head of wide sections and strata of youth. Such a sharp and complete change in the YCL also demands a break with our past sectarian methods of work. Every Canadian YCL'er will have to bear this in mind.....

"What conclusions can we draw for our League from these developments? Firstly, that without a correct approach to the youth and their organizations we will not be able to move ahead one iota.

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Secondly, that we must break fully with our sectarian approach to these youth and work in a bold, flexible, approachable manner.

"We tell the Canadian youth openly: 'We are not out to break your organizations, we want to carry on a joint struggle of the young generation in defence of our needs, against fascism and war. We want to help transform your organizations into such as will truly take up and defend your daily needs'.

"We tell the Canadian Christian and Catholic youth and in particular the French Canadian youth: 'We respect your beliefs, although we do not share

them. We want you to join us in common and joint struggle for an improvement in the conditions of our lives and against the destroyers of our young generations'.

"The Canadian Youth Congress, a genuine united front of the young generation, shows this to be possible. The Youth Congress, although organized by a group of young people, is nevertheless the result of the systematic work of the Party and League for many years, to forge the united front".....

"The congress showed us that we must take the youth as they are and not as we would like them to be. The majority of the delegates were opposed to using the term 'fascism', Why? although they passed a resolution condemning 'the rule of the few over the many'. The delegates from the churches (95 of them) drew up a resolution condemning war 'in the spirit of Jesus of Nazareth'. It is clear that were the YCL not to take into account the feelings and sentiments of the youth we would have isolated ourselves from them. In the YCL itself there were tendencies to force our ideas down the throats of the delegates and place issues before them which they were not and are not as yet ready to accept. This shows us the need for correctly sensing the degree of radicalization of the youth and not speaking in general terms of radicalization".....

"To illustrate how unity of action can bring the problems of the youth before the entire population and the government, we wish to bring to the attention of the congress the great strike of the young people in the labour camps of Canada.....

"The Party and YCL were able to correct their methods of approach and initiated the building of a broad organization, the Relief Camp Workers Union. Through positive work around the issues that affect the relief camp workers it was built up throughout the length and breadth of Canada. Innumerable struggles were organized for better conditions and on general issues facing the youth in individual camps. The slogan for trade union wages, the right to the franchise and against military supervision of the camps won the support of wide sections of the camp youth and a general camp strike was called in April of this year in the Province of British Columbia. The government of the province kept passing the buck to the Federal Government, and vice versa".....

"The transformation of the YCL into a non-party youth organization immediately raises before our League the possibilities of a rapid growth and building of the youth movement. Already at the present time we can visualize the drawing in of the youth organizations that are connected with the militant and revolutionary language mass organizations as well as others. With the achieving of organic unity with the CCYM, and involving

in this process the farm youth organizations in the countryside, we can have the perspective of building such a non-party youth organization with a membership of about 25,000 in the next period of time. Together with this there is the need of training a cadre of young people, to lead such an organization — a cadre that can really challenge the capitalist class.”

The Ottawa meeting has been hailed by the Communists as a great success and as a vindication of their united front tactics. While it cannot be looked upon as a Communist gathering, Communist influence was

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very much in evidence. The Continuation Committee which was elected by the congress includes many leading members of the Y.C.L., some as the official representative of the Y.C.L. [deletion:1 line]

The proceedings of the Ottawa Congress were carefully watched by Tim Buck, general secretary of the C.P. of C., who attended the meeting as a spectator, [deletion:1 1/2 line]

[deletion:5 lines] He further stated that attempts on the part of the anti-Communist “Jeunesse Patriote” delegates from Quebec to disrupt the congress were defeated by the correct tactics of the young Communists who refused to be provoked but concentrated their attention on delegates such as McNicoll of Ottawa and thereby winning the support of a large block of the French Canadian delegates. The Conservative and Liberal youth delegates were never a danger from the point of view of capturing the congress, he said, as they did not come forward with a suitable programme. He also remarked that the congress showed that it was possible to persuade people from non-Communist organizations to speak in favour of the Communist position.

One interesting sidelight of the congress is noteworthy. In the nominations for delegates to Geneva, William Kashtan, general sec’y. of the Y.C.L., was placed second, having obtained two more votes than Rene McNicoll of the A.C.J.C. Kenneth Woodsworth and William Kashtan were, therefore, elected. [deletion:1/2 line]

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In addition to the two official delegates elected by the Ottawa Youth Congress, William Kashtan will also proceed to Geneva as the official representative of the Y.C.L. of Canada. His expenses will be paid by the Y.C.L. and he, no doubt, will receive the active co-operation of Kenneth Woodsworth who will speak officially on behalf of the Canadian Youth Congress representing over 300,000 youth in Canada.

2. Xth Plenum of C.C. of C.P. of C.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Canada held its Xth Enlarged Plenum in Toronto, Ont., from 30th May to 2nd June, with representatives present from all parts of Canada. Tim Buck delivered the main report in which he covered the trends of Canadian economy and politics and the forces determining world history today. His report dealt, as far as Canada is concerned, principally with the crisis that is now taking place within the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, the division within the C.C.F. between those elements who are for unity with the C.P. and those right and centrist leaders who are against such united front. The C.P., as expressed in his report, is prepared to do everything possible to develop the united front movement within the C.C.F. as the main channel through which a Farmer-Labour Party can be

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organized in Canada.

The Programme put forth by the Plenum as a basis for consolidating the C.C.F. is as follows: (a) the fight for social insurance, (b) organization of the youth and the fight for the programme of youth demands adopted by the Ottawa Youth Congress, (c) for the defence of civil liberties and the repeal of Section 98 of the Criminal Code, (d) the building of a wide peace movement, (e) the extension of the federated structure of the C.C.F. and its active participation as an organization in the every day struggle of the working class.

While putting forth this programme the Plenum emphasized that the C.P. does not intend to sink its identity, give up its independent role or give up its right to criticize those right wing leaders who stand in the way of unity.

On the question of the trade unions the Plenum registered a great step forward in the merging of the Workers Unity League unions with the American Federation of Labor unions, but at the same time warned the membership that any attempt to regard this as something complete in itself would be wrong.

With regard to unemployment, the Plenum regarded unemployment insurance as being the outstanding issue on which the majority of the Canadian people may be united.

Announcing the VIIIth Congress of the Party as meeting in Toronto in October the Plenum decided on the following agenda:

- (1) Opening of the congress.
- (2) The road ahead for Canada.
- (3) Building a new world-socialism victorious.
- (4) The Party of the working class.

- (5) Young Canada's tomorrow.
- (6) French Canada awakens.
- (7) The Daily Clarion — people's tribune.
- (8) Reports of committees and resolutions.
- (9) Election of the Executive Committee.
- (10) Closing of the congress.

It was announced that prominent world figures will be invited to the congress which will hold public sessions. Those mentioned were Earl Browder, General Secretary of the C.P. of the U.S.A., Harry Pollitt, England, and Andre Marty, leader of the C.P. of France. The report on organization revealed that the membership of the Party in Canada is now over 10,000, and that it has over 20,000 sympathizers. Summing up at the end of the session, Tim Buck stated that the Party

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is rapidly on the road to becoming a mass Party, that its political line is accepted by all Communists in Canada, and that its ability to carry out these policies in practice is becoming easier each day with the success that the Party is attaining.

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3. "Daily Clarion" Campaign Short of Objective

The drive on behalf of the Daily Clarion has officially come to a close on 13th June, with only 68.8 per cent of the objective of \$12,500 realized. The Alberta district attained first place in the contest, having attained 102.1 per cent of its quota. Quebec came second, having collected 95.9 per cent of its quote and Southern Ontario third, with 86.3 per cent of its quota filled. While the contest has come officially to a close, the various districts have been urged to continue the campaign with a view to filling their quotas. The standing of the various districts, as published in the Daily Clarion for 13th June, is as follows:—

<u>Districts</u>	<u>Funds</u>	<u>%</u>
Alberta	\$1,533.58	102.1
Quebec	1,151.96	95.9
Southern Ontario	3,106.94	86.3
Manitoba	736.81	61.4
Northern Ontario	567.81	47.3
Central Ontario	279.66	46.6
British Columbia	540.75	45.0
Western Ontario	492.80	41.0
Maritimes	62.85	31.4

Saskatchewan	<u>136.78</u>	<u>22.8</u>
Total ———	<u>\$8,609.94</u>	<u>68.8</u>

4. National Convention of I.M.B.F.

The Independent Mutual Benefit Federation held its annual convention in Hamilton, on 23rd May, with 85 delegates in attendance from the English, Hungarian, German and Slovenian sections representing 2,117 members. A representative of the International Workers Order in the U.S.A. was present extending greetings on behalf of that organization which, he said, has a membership of over 100,000.

The report of the executive secretary showed that 947 new members joined the federation during the last 10 months. The convention resolved that in the event of the I.W.O. being successful in obtaining a Canadian charter, the I.M.B.F. will join the I.W.O. and to this end

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the Central Executive Committee be empowered to work out the necessary details for the merger. The Central Executive Committee elected for the ensuing year was as follows: Pasztor, president, J. Blasko, secretary, and Vargo, assistant secretary.

5. "The Advocate" Appears

The first issue of The Advocate published at Regina and backed by the C.P., appeared on 1st June. It has eight pages and plans to appear weekly for the present. The editors are Sid. McArton and Alex Tooth and the business manager is A. W. Miller.

6. "Clarte" to Seek Financial Aid from Jews

A special drive for funds on behalf of the French Communist organ, Clarte, published in Montreal, will be instituted by the Communists of that city during the summer months. It has been decided to run a series of articles on the anti-semitic movement in Quebec and to attempt to collect funds from local Jewish people on that basis. The Communists hope to collect \$1,000 from the Jewish population by that method.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCESI. ALBERTA7. By Election Unity Conference at Edmonton

A By-Election Unity Conference was held in the Scandinavian Hall at Edmonton, on 2nd June, with 77 delegates representing 32 local organizations and about 50 spectators in attendance. The majority of the delegates were from Communist and Unemployed organizations. H. Gerry outlined the aims and objects of the Unity Committee and after considerable discussion it was decided that the conference reconvene on 9th June, the day after the meeting of the Central Council of the C.C.F. at which the question of nominating a candidate is to be acted upon. It was tentatively agreed that should the C.C.F. nominate a suitable candidate the Unity Conference would endorse him. If not, the "Popular Progressive Candidate", Alderman Miss Crang, who has been selected by the radical element, will be put forward as a "United Front" candidate and Jan Lakeman, who has been selected as the official standard bearer of the C.P. in this by-election, is to be withdrawn.

II. MANITOBA8. Single Unemployed Active in Winnipeg

The Single Men's Unemployed Association at Winnipeg has developed into a well organized movement with the [deletion:2-3 words] Church parades, as well as street parades, have helped considerably to attract the attention of the public, and as a result the prestige of the organization appears to be growing. Whereas some short while ago the men enrolled in the various groups of the organization had numbered only 500, the strength is now said to be 1,000.

A tag day held on 13th June as part of the campaign for the abolition of the dining halls operated by the Relief Commission, netted the single unemployed approximately \$750, which will go toward feeding the unemployed during the boycott of the dining halls. On the 15th the boycott was instituted and the single unemployed were reported to be eating in restaurants on the funds collected. Two elderly men were

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attacked after they had ignored the warnings of pickets to enter one of the eating places. No disturbances were reported at the dining halls where a number of men ate their relief meals as usual.

III. QUEBEC

9. Fred Rose and E. Dube, C.P. Candidates in Prov. Election

The C.P., Montreal district, has put forward two candidates in the forthcoming Provincial election: Fred Rose for the constituency of St. Louis and Evariste Dube for St. James. In addition to placing the two candidates the Party is endeavouring to form a united front with the C.C.F. and the Labour Party in other constituencies.

Charles Ouimet, outstanding French Canadian Communist leader at Montreal, died on 8th June. An impressive scene was enacted in the Vandevalac Funeral parlour as a guard of honour held their clenched fists high while those who gathered to honour their dead leader filed past the coffin enshrouded with the Red Flag and the hammer and sickle. On the way to the cemetery the people sang the "International" and at the crematorium Tim Buck, general secretary of the C.P. of C., gave a stirring eulogy of the life of the deceased. His decease is a decided loss to the C.P. in Montreal.

The "Popular Front of the Unemployed" at Montreal attempted to hold a demonstration in Marguerite Bougeois park, Point St. Charles, on the evening of 7th June. Approximately 2,000 people congregated but the police prevented them from holding a meeting. The would-be demonstrators then proceeded to march around the park and from there to a small hall which held approximately 200 people. The balance of the crowd were dispersed.

This marks the third attempt within the last three weeks to hold an open air demonstration and from the increase in the number willing to attend, it would appear that the "Popular Front" movement is making considerable progress.
