

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 24th June, 1936.

SECRETNO. 812WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

Alderman Margaret Crang, "United Front" candidate, is said to have polled 6,428 votes in the Provincial By-Election held at Edmonton on 22nd June. D. Ainley, C.C.F. candidate, received 2,248 votes.

—

Singing, shouting, several hundred single unemployed men demonstrated before the City Police headquarters at Winnipeg on 24th June, protesting the arrest, on the night before, of 38 men for creating disturbances on street cars. They remained in their positions until the men were released. The 38 men will appear for trial on 30th June.

—

Unemployed of Toronto and nearby townships plan to converge on Queen's Park on 26th June to demand a return of relief to the standard of 1935. They will enter Queen's Park at 2.00 p.m., where a mass meeting will be held.

[1]

APPENDICESTable of ContentsAPPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| Paragraph No. 1 | Y.C.L. Emphasizes Importance of Canadian Youth Congress Aim to Popularize "Declaration of Rights" and "Youth Act" Passed by Congress; Forces of League To Be Mobilized to That End |
| " " | [deletion: 1 line] |
| " 3. | H.W.C. National Convention; Progress Recorded; Aim to Organize Hungarian Farmers in West |
| " 4. | Western Ontario District Convention of C.P. Registers |

- Growth in Membership
- " " 5. Leaders of C.P. in Manitoba Meet in Conference at Winnipeg.
200 Attend; Membership in District Increased 407
Since Last December; New Units Formed; Sale of
Clarion Down; James Litterick, C.P. Candidate in
Provincial Election
- " " 6. Canadian Veterans Delegation to Visit U.S.S.R.
- " " 7. Appeals of Regina Rioters Dismissed

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

- " " 8. BRITISH COLUMBIA
C.P. Meeting in Vancouver Well Attended
M. L. Bruce Speaks on new Government in France
Mack McKinnon Resigns from Lumber Workers Organiz-
ation and C.P.
Oscar Salonen, Organizer of Section No. 3, C.P.
Bill Mahoney Suspended from C.P.
- " " 9. ALBERTA
Miss Margaret Crang — "United Front" Candidate in
Edmonton By-Election
Split in C.C.F. as a Result of Her Candidature
Unemployed Single Men Meet in Edmonton
- " " 10. MANITOBA
Winnipeg Single Unemployed Demonstrate
2,000 Meet in Front of Legislative Bldg.
Picket Building on 17th June
Attitude of Men Militant
3,140 Said To Be in S.M.U.A.
- " " 11. ONTARIO
C.P. in Toronto Engaged in Slum Clearance Campaign
Demonstration in Queens Park
Tim Buck Main Speaker
[~~deletion:3-4 words~~] for Southern Ontario Records
Little Progress Among Steel Workers
- " " 12. QUEBEC
Front Populaire at Montreal Not Allowed To Use parks
for Meetings.

...

[2]

APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

1. Y.C.L. Emphasizes Importance of Canadian Youth Congress

Stressing the importance of the Ottawa meeting of the Canadian Youth Congress, the National Executive of the Y.C.L., in a lengthy circular letter dated 10th June, 1936, to all District Committees, states inter alia:—

“The congress showed the desire on the part of the youth to unite and to struggle. The adoption of the Declaration of Rights shows that the young workers and students do not want to continue living in misery, that they want a rich and happy life. Fighting for every need of youth, we can show the youth that its full rights can only be granted by socialism.

“By passing the Youth Act, the congress opens a new perspective before the youth generally. We must now be the best fighters for the Act. We must do all we can to get thousands of endorsements and to help develop a mass campaign”.

With regard to the Youth Act, the circular instructs:—

“(a) We should make sure that the Youth Act is sent to every organization for endorsement. There should be held no meeting of any kind, youth or adult, where we do not make efforts to secure endorsement of the Act. We should at once proceed to approach all LOCAL UNIONS, TRADES & LABOR COUNCILS, individual labor leaders, to get their endorsement.

“(b) M.P.’s City Councils, Provincial Legislatures, M.L.A.’s, Aldermen, School Boards, etc., should be made to record their endorsement of the Bill and the widest possible publicity given to such endorsements.

“(c) Special attention should be paid to the Youth Clubs of the Liberal and Conservative parties to get their endorsement of the Act and support of the Bill. (Declaration of Rights.)

“For the purpose of helping to organize as wide a discussion as possible, the National Conference of the YCL decided that we would distribute at least 15,000 copies of both the Declaration of Rights and the Youth Act throughout the YCL. We are enclosing tentative quotas. The material will be out in a week’s time and orders should begin coming in at once, payment in advance”.

Emphasizing the need for systematic work on the part of the lower units, the circular directs:—

“The Section Committees should assist in the formation of progressive groups within the youth organizations in their areas and give constant leadership to our comrades participating in the work of these groups.

“UNITS especially should be helped to contact youth groups in their areas and should work to find local issues around which to rally the young people, connecting them up with the Youth Act. Such issues can be found in the fight for aid to the unemployed, in the struggle for playgrounds, minimum wages, etc., etc. Various clubs participating in the Youth Coun-

cils should be contacted for the purpose of formation of committees around these issues.

[3]

"The work of every member of a unit should be checked up, so as to guarantee the best possible work within the organization to which our comrades belong. RECRUITING of the best young people in the Youth Congress movement can and should proceed with rapidity, so as to strengthen the movement as a whole. Where there are certain elements in the local movements who would not fit into our units as they are now established, we should be prepared to build special units for them. On the other hand, we should in each city attempt to build up YMCA and United Church, etc., units which would deal with the problems of mobilizing the youth in their organizations.

"In deciding on the need for recruiting at least 100 members of the various congress organizations into the YCL, the National Conference of the YCL considered that this was one of the main guarantees for the carrying out of the congress decisions and for the organization of action for the Declaration and Act".

[~~3~~deletion:2/3 page]

[4]

[~~3~~deletion:1/3 page]

3. H.W.C. National Convention

The Hungarian Workers Club held its National Convention in Hamilton, on 25th and 26th May last, with 45 men and 13 women delegates present representing the various branches throughout Canada. The convention recorded considerable progress during the last year, particularly with regard to the consolidation of its organizations throughout Canada. One of the main achievements recorded was the expansion of the Communist organ Kanadai Magyar Munkas now appearing twice a week. The organizing of the Hungarian farmers in Western Canada was named as one of the principal tasks confronting the organization in the immediate future.

4. Western Ontario District Convention of C.P. of C. Registered Growth in Membership

The Western Ontario District (District No. 6) of the Communist Party of Canada met in conference at Fort William, on 18th June, with 52 delegates present representing the various cities and townships in the district. T. Borman, [deletion:2-3 words] delivered the main report stressing the necessity of increasing efforts in the campaign against war and Fascism. His report revealed that the Party in the district has now 350 active members, 120 of whom were actively engaged in industries. The reported numerical growth of the organization was the most notable achievement of the party in the district.

[5]

The Party, it was alleged, has grown by almost 200 members since the last convention, while the percentage of trade unionists in the Fort William and Port Arthur sections has increased well over fifty per cent.

5. Leaders of C.P. in Manitoba Meet in Conference at Winnipeg

Approximately 200 delegates attended a District Conference of District No. 7 (Manitoba) held at Winnipeg on 12th, 13th and 14th June. J. Litterick, [deletion:2-3 words], opened the convention reviewing past activities and the future tasks of the Party. As a special task he gave the election of one member to the Provincial Legislature in the forthcoming Provincial election. George Drayton, [deletion:2-3 words], reported on the League Against War and Fascism, stating that the league has not functioned properly during the past, that it was too weak, and urged more attention being given to this particular phase of Communist activity. Other reporters included Bill Ross, of the Young Communist League; Walter Wiggins, of the Farmers Unity League; George Taylor, Mrs. Barker, Molly Brown, of the Canadian Labour Defence League, Mrs. Johnston, John Navis (Navizowski), D. Bindas, [deletion:1/2 line] of the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Ass'n; Jock McNeil, prominent in the Weston Shops; I. Minster, A. Brock, Dr. Magid and I. Levi.

Wiggins reported the recent formation of a strong Unit at Gypsumville and recommended that the lesser known members of the F.U.L. join the various farmers' organizations with a view to boring from within.

Bill Ross stated that 40 new members were taken into the Y.C.L. during the past two weeks in the City of Winnipeg; also that a new movement has been started known as the "United League of Youth" to serve as a training depot for the Y.C.L. He requested the party to render more support to the Y.C.L.

Saul Simkin, [deletion:2-3 words], reported a total membership of 1,280 in District No. 7, an increase of 407 since last December. Of these only 74 are Anglo-Saxons and 80 are women. He further

[6]

reported the formation of new units of the Party at St. James, St. Vital, Parkhill, Fort Rouge, Charleswood, Gonor, Mears, Angusville, Russell and Gypsumville. [deletion:2-3 words] he said, were I. Minster, Watson and Kapuski. He reported that the treasury was empty and the organization was behind in rent, and other payments. In order to overcome the financial difficulty he recommended that the membership dues be raised.

Aubrey Brock, responsible local agent of The Clarion, reported that the circulation of the paper is only two-thirds of that of its predecessor — The Worker.

James Litterick, recently nominated by the city organization of the C.P. at Winnipeg as its candidate in the forthcoming Provincial elections, was endorsed by the conference with the recommendation that every effort be made to have him elected.

The conference approved of a recommendation to the effect that all foreign language Party organs published in the City of Winnipeg, except the ones published in Ukrainian and Russian, be moved to Toronto.

The conference recorded a considerable growth of the C.P. representation in the A.F. of L. with 26 Party members sitting on the Trades and Labour Council at Winnipeg.

6. Canadian Veterans' Delegation to Visit U.S.S.R.

A delegation of five Canadian war veterans will visit the Soviet Union this summer as guests of the veterans' organizations of the U.S.S.R., it was announced in Toronto recently. The delegation is being organized by Major Fred Fish of the Council of the L.A.W.&F. in Toronto. All expenses after arrival in Leningrad will be defrayed by the U.S.S.R. veterans.

7. Appeals of Regina Rioters Dismissed

Characterized by Chief Justice Sir Frederick Haultain as "absolutely frivolous" and "without merit" appeals made on behalf of Sidney Stevens and Joe Mottl, on-to-Ottawa trekkers convicted at Regina recently on charges arising out of the Regina Dominion Day riot of last year, were dismissed by the Court of Appeal of Saskatchewan. All appeals except one, were rejected; the

exception being Kenneth Forsythe who had his term reduced from six to three months.

[7]

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

8. C.P. Meeting in Vancouver Well Attended

The new Government in France was the subject of an address given by Malcolm Bruce under the auspices of the Press Committee of Unit No. 16 of the C.P. of C. in the Colonial Theatre, Vancouver, on 14th June. Approximately 950 people attended and the collection netted over \$81.

The speaker attributed the rise of Fascism in Germany to the lack of united and timely action on the part of the anti-Fascist forces of that country. He found great fault with the leaders of the Socialist parties and predicted that a similar condition will arise in Canada unless a united front is formed. His remarks were principally directed at Mr. Woodsworth and other socialist leaders in Canada. Referring to the united front in France, he stated that it was led by the C.P.; he predicted that a proletarian victory in France is a certainty. He went to considerable trouble illustrating the strike tactics employed in France and intimated that the Canadian workers may do well to copy same. He concluded with an appeal for a united front, especially against war and Fascism in Canada.

Mack-McKinnon, at one time recognized as the outstanding personality in the Lumber Workers Industrial Union, has resigned from the presidency of that organization as well as from the C.P. of Canada. He is said to have gone to work in the woods.

Oscar Salonen, formerly one of the leading Communists operating within the Vancouver and District Waterfront Workers Ass'n., is now organizer of Section No. 3 of the C.P. at Vancouver with the "Part-Time Workers Organization" as his particular task.

Bill Mahoney, at one time leader of the unemployed movement at Prince George, B.C., and who took an active part in the movement at Vancouver

subsequent to his arrival from Prince George in June, 1935, is said to have been suspended from the C.P. of C. for reasons unknown.

[8]

II. ALBERTA

9. Miss Margaret Crang. "United Front" Candidate in Edmonton By-Election

Efforts to have Alderman Miss Margaret Crang elected nominee of the C.C.F. in the Provincial By-Election at Edmonton failed. The local C.C.F. Convention held on 8th June selected ex-Alderman H.D. Ainlay as the official candidate of the C.C.F.; Miss Crang receiving a few votes less than her competitor. Having been favoured by the Communists as the United Front candidate, Miss Crang refused to abide by the decision of the C.C.F. Convention and announced that she would run as a United Front candidate, notwithstanding the nomination of Mr. Ainlay, Failure to elect Miss Crang as official nominee of the C.C.F. is said to have caused a split in the C.C.F. which may have far-reaching consequences. Harold Gerry, member of [~~deletion:word~~] and vice-president of the C.C.F. Central Council at Edmonton, immediately announced that he would support the United Front candidate irrespective of party affiliation. Several C.C.F. clubs are said to have sent in resolutions to the Central Council demanding that Ainlay withdraw and that every effort be made to rally CCF. forces behind the United Front candidate, Alderman Margaret Crang.

[~~deletion:6 lines~~]

This decision was put into effect at a Unity Conference held in the Scandinavian Hall in the course of the evening which was attended by 108 delegates representing 43 local organizations or groups with an alleged total membership of 5,000.

The Unemployed Single Men's Protective Ass'n. at Edmonton held a mass meeting at the Market Square, on 12th June, with approximately 200 persons in attendance. Frank Clarke acted as chairman, and the speakers were Harry Johnson, Alderman Miss Margaret Crang, Walter Mentz, Orville Asselson and James Hollopeter. A delegation of

[9]

three were elected to go to the Parliament Buildings to request an answer from the Provincial Government to the demands for "work and wages or cash relief".

III. MANITOBA

10. Winnipeg Single Unemployed Demonstrate

Approximately 2,000 took part in a demonstration and mass meeting in front of the Legislative Building at Winnipeg on the afternoon of 15th June in support of a delegation appointed by the Single Men's Unemployed Ass'n. to interview the Premier in regard to the demands of the association. Jack Stewart opened the meeting at 2.00 p.m. and the speakers were G. Marsh, C. W. Foster, Mrs. Ferguson, R. Towle, Matt Shaw and M. Sago. G. Marsh informed the gathering that the Premier could not be located, that he would not receive the delegation, and that Mr. McNamara, upon being interviewed, informed them that the Premier had not changed his decision with regard to interviewing a delegation which was backed up by a demonstration. Other speakers suggested throwing a picket line around the Parliament Buildings and to retain same until the Premier consents to seeing the delegation. Although very spirited, the demonstration broke up in an orderly manner.

On 17th June G. Marsh organized about 150 men to parade to the Legislative Building for picket duty. On reaching the building shortly after 10.00 a.m. they formed a circle immediately in front of the building and later were augmented by an additional 50 or 75 men. The pickets kept moving along singing "Hold The Fort", "Solidarity", "We'll Drown Old Bracken In His Soup Kitchen Slop" and "We'll Hang Old Bracken To A Sour Apple Tree".

On the following day, 18th June, only about half a dozen were lounging around in front of the Building. The Premier is said to have consented to see the delegation on the 19th, provided that no picketing or demonstration is attempted.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the S.M.U.A. held at 217½ Logan Avenue, on 18th June, it was suggested that a delegation visit Premier Bracken on the 19th and that should the Premier fail to keep his appointment a picket line will be thrown around the Legislative

[10]

Building. The delegation that went to see the Premier were interviewed by the Honourable W. R. Clubb, Minister of Public Works, and told that the Government was doing everything possible to find them work; further, that their demands could not be met. This information was conveyed to a mass meeting

in the Market Square which commenced at 8.00 p.m. by D. R. Bishop, head of the delegation. Other speakers were G. Marsh, Millson and S. Doyle who were very bitter in their denunciation of the Government and suggested that some definite action be taken. The meeting, however, adjourned without any concrete action being taken.

The S.M.U.A. movement is reported to be growing rapidly. On the evening of 14th June 3,140 are said to have been supplied with group cards.

The month of June has been set aside by the Young Communist League at Winnipeg, Man., for a campaign on behalf of the paper Advance, the first issue of which is to make an appearance on 15th or 17th June. All league members are expected to contribute to the paper and to build up a substantial circulation in the City of Winnipeg.

IV. ONTARIO

11. C.P. in Toronto Engaged in Slum Clearance Campaign

Approximately 700 people attended a demonstration at Queens Park, Toronto, on 19th June, as part of the "slum clearance campaign" waged by the Communists in that city. It was called particularly to hear the report of the C.P. delegation that interviewed the Provincial Government on 18th June regarding the matter. Tim Buck was the main speaker and short speeches were also given by Sam Scarlett, Stewart Smith, J. B. Salsberg and Frank Haslam. The speakers denounced, in no uncertain manner, the Provincial Government for refusing to increase the relief quota.

Tim Buck, last speaker, was greeted with the singing of the "International". His speech was based on a statement allegedly made by the Attorney General to the delegation to the effect that the Government would act on the people's problems only when "forced" by public opinion. Buck informed the audience that the delegation had

[11]

requested the Government to increase the relief allowance and to build 1,000 homes in Toronto this year as a start to clear the slums.

The slum clearance campaign for which the month of June has been set aside, has been instituted to keep C.P. agitation alive and is to serve as a means of enlarging the scope of the party in that city. A recent "directive" issued by the party deals extensively with the tasks in this sphere. It directs the party

organs and the members at large to do all in their power to dramaticize the issue.

[deletion: 1 1/2 lines] J.B. Salsberg reported that little, if any, progress has been made among the steel workers by C.P. organizations with the exception of the Dominion Wheel and Foundry in Hamilton. He announced that an individual by the name of Miller, of the Steel Workers Union (A.F. of L.), would be coming to Canada in the near future for the purpose of furthering the organization of the steel workers. He urged that every effort would be given Miller by the C.P. organizations, particularly in the Welland, Toronto, Hamilton and Sault Ste. Marie Factories. Miller is said to be an advocate of industrial unionism and a great supporter of the Committee for Industrial Unionism headed by John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers of America.

V. QUEBEC

12. Front Populaire at Montreal Not Allowed to Use Parks for Meetings

A delegation headed by Lucien Dufour, representing the Front Populaire, interviewed the Executive Committee of the City of Montreal, on 17th June, charging brutality on the part of the City Police when breaking up meetings and demonstrations of the organization. The delegation also requested to be allowed to use public parks for meetings; this was refused. They then asked to be allowed to rent Market Halls for meetings; this, they were informed, would be granted at the same rates as to other organizations.

[12]

A few hundred members of the "Popular Front" in Montreal, Que., attempted to hold an open air meeting in the east end of the city at Morgan park, on 13th June. Having been refused permission to hold the meeting, the City Police dispersed the gathering with the result that a number of the demonstrators were injured, although none of them seriously. The demonstration was intended as a protest against the "work-for-relief" plan of the province.
