

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 2nd July, 1936.

SECRETNO. 813WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

Over 4,000 relief workers were reported on strike on 1st July in six Toronto suburbs for higher relief rates. In Mimico strikers are said to have forced welfare officials from the building and continued demonstrating until authorities partially granted their request. At Lakeview women strikers took possession of the relief administrative offices and held relief officials prisoners in the office while an effigy of Honourable David Croll, Ontario Minister of Welfare, was "hanged" on an improvised gallows. At North Bay, Ont., striking unemployed remained calm and orderly.

With the single unemployed well organized, the leaders of the Single Men's Unemployed Association at Winnipeg, Man., seem determined to stop the men from leaving the city and to continue to use them for demonstration purposes. The men are being advised not to accept railroad work but to remain in Winnipeg.

....

[1]

APPENDICESTable of ContentsAPPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

- Paragraph No. 1. [~~2-3 words~~] C.P. Explains Work Among Children Urges Districts Immediate Attention Be Given to This Phase of Activity; Movement To Be Wider and More Extensive Than Hitherto; Plan Work Within Boys Scouts, Guides, etc.; C.P. and not Y.C.L. To Be Held Responsible for This Task
- " " 2. [~~4 lines~~]

- “ ” 3. Major A.S. Hooper Speaks on Soviet Union; Capacity Audience at Vancouver; Eulogizes Military Power of U.S.S.R.

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

- “ ” 4. BRITISH COLUMBIA
American Seamen Attempt to Force Union Recognition at New Westminster; Crew of S. S. "Condor" Refuses to Load Cargo
- “ ” 5. ALBERTA
Calgary Communists Resolved to Embarrass Provincial Government
- “ ” 6. SASKATCHEWAN
Efforts to Organize Transients Continue [~~deletion: 1-2 words~~] Active in Rural Districts
- “ ” 7. MANITOBA
Winnipeg Single Unemployed Display Militant Attitude
Street Parades a Feature
Mass Meetings Daily occurrence
[~~deletion: 2 lines~~]
Mock Parliament in Legislative Bldg. Planned
38 Men Arrested
Residences of Premier, Attorney General and Minister of Public Welfare Picketed
- “ ” 8. QUEBEC
Labour Party and C.C.F. at Montreal Form United Front with C.P. in Provincial Election
Communists Active in Three Rivers

...

[2]

APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

1. [~~deletion: 2-3 words~~] C.P. Explains Work Among Children

The following "directives" have been issued recently [~~deletion: 2 1/4 lines~~]

FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF A BROAD UNITED CHILDREN'S MOVEMENT

The various situation in the children's movement and the lack of attention paid to this work by the [deletion:word] has caused the Centre to urge immediate measures to be taken to bring about a decisive improvement in the work on this field.

First and foremost, and because of some unclarity and confusion that has prevailed, the political line to be followed in this field must be clarified. For the coming period of time, work among boys and girls proceeds along two main channels:

1. Building a movement among boys and girls on the basis of the setting up of autonomous children's organizations, sponsored by various labor and progressive bodies.

11. Work among established community clubs and institutions (Scouts, Guides, Y.'s, Settlement Houses, etc.)

1. Building A Movement Sponsored By Labor And Progressive Bodies

(a) The basis of building a movement, wider and more extensive than the children's movement today, exists first and foremost in the Trade Unions, the women's and unemployed associations and in the CCF, and other socialist and labor party groups. The possibilities of having these groups initiate activity among boys and girls are real and immediate, depending only on the proper organization of the first steps to be taken. (In Toronto, two CCF clubs have already, on their own initiative, organized clubs; in Hamilton, five groups have been set up by the CCF organization on the mountain-top, thru the indirect work of the Hamilton Children's Council — involving in leadership in addition to local artists, leaders from a boys' [deletion:1 line] camp, respectively, all of whom are sympathetic to the labor movement.)

The program of these children's organization will, insofar as it is possible for a children's organization, orientate on the program and aim of the sponsoring organization. The forms, however, must be such as are suitable to the nature and desires of boys and girls. Their activity, in which the content will be incorporated, will take the form of dramatics, sports, literary activities, arts, crafts, music, etc.

(b) However, in order that the working-class may secure the help of all forces that can influence the children for progressive action, our aim must be also to encourage and help all progressive movements to do work among boys and girls. In this manner, the League Against War and Fascism can sponsor peace essays, poster competitions, plays, etc. Women's peace organizations should also be encouraged to do similar work.

Our perspective must be to bring such groups into joint co-operation with the groups sponsored by the labor movement, thus working towards a broad progressive children's federation. The inclusion of such groups can be achieved thru a joint council of leaders in each locality and thru the children's magazine.

[3]

11. Work in Established Community Clubs

The aim of our work in bourgeois-controlled institutions (Y's, Scouts, Guides, Settlement Houses, etc.) is three-fold.

1. To win those children's groups for progressive actions (tag days, to help unemployed marches or working-class camps); participation in progressive projects (slum clearance) and in Canadian Youth Council activities.
2. To strengthen the progressive core in these institutions by correct work among leaders; to win leaders to actively aid the children's work in the labor organizations.
3. To learn the methods and forms of work employed in these clubs and institutions.

In some cases, progressive work in these organizations will proceed much better thru the medium of the Canadian Youth Council. Thru the setting up of a children's committee of the Canadian Youth Council, projects can be set into which the existing community clubs are drawn (as, for instance, the Arts and Crafts Exhibit and Peace Poster Campaign held by the Children's Committee, C.Y.C., in Toronto in February).

Struggle for the Needs of the Children

The development of struggles and campaigns for the special needs of the children has suffered in the past due to misconceptions as to the role of the children's movement in these struggles. It has been thought that the children themselves should initiate and carry thru such struggles. This policy brought only negative results as, in the first place, the campaigns, not being supported or carried thru by the adult workers' organizations, usually came to naught. Nor were the parents willing to have their children act as shock troops of economic struggles. It is essential that parents be interested and drawn into the struggle for children's needs and, thus, into the work of building a broad children's movement.

At the same time, however, workers' organizations, trade unions, etc., are more willing than ever to support movements that will fight undernourishment and child labor and that will strive for better housing and better educational facilities for the children. The possibilities exist to build wide popular united front movements, uniting CCF clubs, trade unions, women's organizations, church organizations, etc., on such issues.

The role of the children's movement must be to stimulate organizations to take up those issues. Individual leaders and children's committees, who are closest in touch with the conditions of the children, should visit organizations to obtain action on various issues, lecture at clubs on conditions of children, obtain newspaper publicity and become acquainted with social workers and win them over for actions initiated by the labor movement on behalf of children. IN ALL ACTIONS TO IMPROVE ECONOMIC CONDITIONS FOR THE CHILDREN, THE VARIOUS WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD PLAY A LEADING ROLE.

In line with these outstanding tasks, the following immediate steps should be taken:—

(a) In each locality, the interest of the existing trade unions, CCF clubs, women's organizations, and unemployed associations should be secured, taking as an immediate issue the need of providing recreational facilities (playground space, camps, outings, sports activity) for boys and girls for the summer. The organization of baseball teams, outings, nature jaunts, can be definitely sponsored by such organizations, as well as developing campaigns to have the city provide better facilities for summer recreation for the children.

(b) The suggestion should be made to local branches of the League Against War and Fascism that they initiate and carry on peace education work and enlightenment work on the meaning of Fascism among children. This can be done, not necessarily thru the organization of special children's groups, but also thru poster and essay contests, dramatic competitions, etc., in the existing groups.

[4]

(c) The sponsorship of the children's magazine must be broadened out so that not only in content but also in sponsorship, the magazine will be suitable for children of all sections of the labor movement, as well as the leftward-moving sections of the middle-class and farmers. In this connection, the content of the magazine must be further improved. The editorial policy must be based on providing a magazine, progressive in tone, with the underlying theme of influencing boys and girls to become friendly to labor and to accept the aims and aspirations of the labor movement as their own.

III. Forces

In order that these tasks may be carried thru, the [~~word~~] will have to tackle the basic problem in the children's movement, i.e., the question of forces. The first consideration should be for the assignment of forces within each organization where they have influence (trade unions,

women's organizations, etc.) for the immediate initiation of work with children. At least one alliance person should be assigned, by the fraction in the organizations decided upon, for this work. His task will then be to gather around himself a number of non-alliance people to train in the work and to form a children's committee for that organization. Good possibilities exist for recruiting school teachers, Settlement House workers, etc., for this work. The alliance should realize that these form a fine source from which to draw cadres — already trained to a certain extent — for the children's movement and should give this field of work precedence when assigning them for work, sometimes, if necessary, taking them out of other work to strengthen cadres in the children's movement.

IV. Alliance Leadership

In order that the alliance leadership be enabled to supervise and direct more closely the work on this field, a reorganization is needed of the method by which the alliance leads in this work; it is necessary first and for all that we completely establish once and for all the responsibility of the alliance over work in the Children's Movement. An erroneous idea exists that this work is the special charge of the Young Communist League. This is incorrect. We charge all [deletion:word] with responsibility in this connection, and, in order to tie the work in the field more closely with the alliance, recommend:—

(a) That a special Children's Committee be established by the [deletion:word] with one member of the [deletion:word] on it, to direct the work. The committee is to report regularly to the [deletion:word] This committee to have a representative on the Women's Commission and to work very closely with that body.

(b) That the Women's Commissions should work in close connection with the Children's Committee to be established by the [deletion:word], having a member from the Children's Committee on that body. The Women's Commission should also take the initiative in developing campaigns for the summer needs of the children, interest women's associations in the organization of boys' and girls' clubs, summer camps, etc.

(c) In the large cities, the Section Committees are charged with responsibility for the development of the Children's Movement in each section. The aim should be the appointment in due time of a section organizer for children's work; to be appointed by the alliance. This organizer could deal with the fractions and alliance units in the section, aiming at establishing children's sections in the most important organizations in that section and also the strengthening of the existing children's organizations.

(d) A fraction, of all alliance members in children's work, should be established. This fraction is to receive regularly directives from the National Alliance Fraction in the Center.

(e) Immediate discussion with Alliance Fractions in CCF clubs, trade unions and other organizations, should be arranged by [~~deletion:word~~] to discuss ways and means to initiate activity among boys and girls by their organizations.

(f) The Section Committees or local committees to investigate the work of community clubs (bourgeois-led organizations) in each section, appointing an alliance member to lead such investigation. The aim of such action should be the assignment of forces to work in these clubs, to bring together and crystalize the progressive forces in them with the aim of establishing alliance or YCL fractions in them.

[5]

[~~deletion:page~~]

[6]

[~~deletion:page~~]

[7]

3. Major A. S. Hooper Speaks on Soviet Union

Major A. S. Hooper of London, England, addressed a capacity audience at the Royal Theatre, Vancouver, B.C., on the evening of 21st June, under the auspices of the Vancouver Branch of the Friends of the Soviet Union; hundreds of people, unable to gain admittance, were turned away. Major Hooper spoke on "Russia and Her Policy for Peace", claiming that the Soviet Army of 1,300,000 is an instrument of peace and that it is composed only of willing fighters who are taught a "conscious discipline". He described the manner in which the Red Army soldier is educated in the fundamentals of Communism and the importance of his individual function in the army before being introduced to a rifle. "Japan and Germany are the two enemies Russia fears", he said. He generally eulogized the military power of Russia claiming that aerial transport of troops, supplies and even tanks has been developed to such a pitch that entire divisions with all their equipment can be landed behind enemy lines at once. "Russia", he said, "does not touch the British Empire anywhere and no conflict is possible between the two nations". He also stated that there has been an immense change in the feeling towards Russia in England in the last three years. He claimed that the English people were beginning to realize that they cannot leave Russia out of their calculations, especially any efforts towards collective security.

Major A. S. Hooper also addressed, along similar lines, a poorly attended meeting under the auspices of the Victoria Branch of the F.S.U. in the Chamber of Commerce Building, Victoria, B.C., on the 19th.

....

[8]

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

4. American Seamen Attempt to Force Union Recognition at New Westminster

The Shipping Federation of British Columbia is said to have signed a five-year agreement with the Vancouver Longshoremen's Ass'n, and the Canadian Waterfront Workers Ass'n., two organizations which came into being as a result of the strike of 1935 and in opposition to the [deletion:3-4 words] Vancouver and District Waterfront Workers Ass'n. Recently the New Westminster longshoremen, who came out on strike last year in sympathy with the Vancouver waterfront workers, obtained a charter in the International Longshoremen's Ass'n. (A.F. of L.). The American union seamen recently promised to take action against the longshoremen working the Ports of Vancouver and New Westminster. This took form at New Westminster on 18th June when the crew of the S.S. "Condor" of the Grace Line refused to give steam to load several hundred tons of cargo. The procedure to be followed by the I.L.A. in their effort to gain union recognition, in opposition to the newly organized Canadian unions not affiliated with the A.F. of L., is to be as follows: An American ship coming to New Westminster will be notified by the New Westminster I.L.A. that sufficient labour to handle the work of the ship would be waiting and available at the union hall. The Americans are to refuse to work with any crews other than the ones carrying I.L.A. cards. At Vancouver, so far, American ships have voiced no protest because the I.L.A. charter granted to this port is issued only to the coastwise longshoremen; the American ships are classified as "deepsea going" vessels. It is understood that the Trail smelter, which has been sending all its concentrates and fertiliser through New Westminster until recently, is now sending this freight direct to Vancouver when consigned to American ships: thus causing a considerable loss to the Port of New Westminster and a traffic gain to Vancouver.

II. ALBERTA

5. Calgary Communists Resolved to Embarrass Provincial Govt.

The Communists at Calgary, having no legitimate or reasonable grievances to put before the relief authorities, are now utilizing every

[9]

petty excuse to embarrass the Provincial Government.

At a meeting of the executive of the Calgary and District Unemployed Ass'n., held on 20th June, J. Miller reported on behalf of the Single Men's Unemployed Ass'n. that the single men were holding a meeting on 22nd June in the "Red Square" at which delegates would be appointed to interview the Relief Commission on the matter of relief grants to the single unemployed. He also stated that the single men were planning to hold mass meetings three or four times a week in order to attract the attention of the public.

Following a mass meeting called by the Calgary and District Unemployed Ass'n. on 17th June, Murdock Clark, one of the speakers, urged the people attending the meeting to form a parade and march to the Western Canada High School where Mr. Aberhart and L. Maynard were to speak. Approximately 300, including 20 Chinese, responded and marched to the school grounds but were prevented from entering by the City Police.

III. SASKATCHEWAN

6. Efforts to Organize Transients Continue

Efforts on the part of the Communists in Saskatchewan to organize the transients into a "Single Workers Union" continue. The Saskatoon Branch of this organization is said to have now 111 paid-up members. [deletion:name] is reported to have left Saskatoon for Biggar on 22nd June to commence organizing relief recipients in rural municipalities.

IV. MANITOBA

7. Winnipeg Single Unemployed Display Militant Attitude

At about 11.30 a.m. on 20th June a side-walk parade left 217 1/2 Logan Ave., Winnipeg, the headquarters of the Single Men's Unemployed Ass'n, in single file proceeding along Main Street and Portage Avenue. Groups of men entered the Metropolitan and Woolworth Stores and other restaurants where the men remained seated over an hour drinking one cup of coffee. Another group of 100 men went into the Post Office where each mailed a post card to Premier Bracken, having been provided with 1¢ each by the organization to

buy a stamp. The object, of course, was to create a nuisance, thereby attracting the attention of the public.

[10]

Approximately 500 people attended a mass meeting in the Market Square on the evening of 22nd June. The speakers included S. Doyle, J. Bayden, M. Sago and Nichols.

S. Doyle outlined the campaign staged by the Single Men's Unemployed Ass'n. since its inception, touching particularly on the delegation which appeared before the Premier and the Relief Commission. He remarked, "We have been turned down and we must take definite action now; tomorrow morning we are going to stage a demonstration in front of Princess and Ross soup kitchen while a delegation will visit Murphy and protest against comrades being cut off relief".

J. Bayden spoke along similar lines stating, "Mr. Bracken is from Missouri, we have got to show him". At this time D. R. Bishop and W. Williams brought into the Square an effigy of Premier Bracken and a quantity of torches. Bayden remarked, "There is no need for me to tell you who this is". (Applause.) He then distributed the torches, about 15 in all, following which the effigy was set on fire and all torches lit to the cheers and the singing of "Hold The Fort" and "Solidarity".

M. Sago remarked, "When I see this straw man burning, this effigy of a petty tyrant, I know he will be swept away in the blizzard of the next election".

The demonstration on the 23rd, referred to by S. Doyle, was not as large as anticipated. While the delegation, headed by G. Marsh and J. Stewart, interviewed Mr. Murphy, Superintendent of Princess and Ross dining hall, the demonstration was being addressed by L. Nichols, secretary of the Manitoba Conference of Unemployed, who remarked, "You have a good army now. Stick together, the married men will be with you Saturday. Forget any idea of work". Stewart, following the interview, addressed the men remarking, "We could not expect anything else from a stooge of the Relief Commission, Murphy. Well, the Bracken Government have thrown out a challenge and we are taking him up on it". The meeting adjourned in an orderly manner.

[~~deletion:2-3 lines~~]

[11]

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

On the evening of 23rd an organized attempt to create confusion on street cars resulted in the arrest of 38 single men who had boarded the cars for that purpose.

On the morning of the 24th J. Stewart led about 50 men in front of the City Police Station in an effort to have the men released. A delegation interviewed the Chief Constable demanding the release of those arrested on the night previously. Following the interview the men were released, three and four at a time, and on joining the demonstration a parade was formed and the men marched away in single file to 217 1/2 Logan Avenue.

At 6.30 p.m. pickets were struck off to picket the residences of Premier Bracken, Attorney General Major and Mr. Clubb. The picketing took the form of small demonstrations and no attempts to do damage were made.

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the S.M.U.A. held on 25th June it was asserted that the married men of the Manitoba Conference of Unemployed would co-operate with the single unemployed. The question of the proposed mock Parliament was also gone into and it was decided that the necessary plans be made concerning same. The matter of conducting the parade scheduled for the 27th was referred to the Strategy Committee. The necessary arrangements were also made for the distribution of thousands of leaflets in which the citizens of Winnipeg are being urged to support the single men in their efforts to have the present system abolished.

[12]

V. QUEBEC

8. Labour Party and C.C.F. at Montreal Form United Front with C.P. in Provincial Election

At a meeting of C.C.F., Labour Party and Communist Party representatives at Montreal, Que., on 21st June, called to discuss the coming Provincial election, it was tentatively agreed to unite on a minimum programme and to run United Front candidates in some of the Montreal constituencies. The C.P. has already placed two candidates in the field, Fred Rose in the St. Louis constituency, and E. Dube in St. James. In all probability these will run as "United Front" candidates.

Leaflets headed "Que Sont Les Communistes" and signed "Communist Party of Canada, Three Rivers Section", have recently been distributed at Three Rivers, Que. Although no definite information is available, it would appear that organizers sent to Three Rivers, from time to time, by the French Section of the Party at Montreal, have succeeded in the formation of units of the Party at that place. It has been reported that the Communist Party has been concentrating on the employees of the Wabasso Cotton Mill in that city.