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No. 1

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 8th July, 1936.

SECRETNO. 814WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS
AND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

The Canadian Committee of the "People's Olympiad" consisting of [~~deletion:1 1/2 lines~~] "Canadian Amateur Sports Federation", plan to send a number of athletes to Spain to take part in the Olympiad to be held at Barcelona in the latter part of July, in opposition to the Olympics in Berlin, Germany. The athletes, nine in number, include Sam Luftspring of Toronto, Jewish welterweight boxing champion of Canada, and Baby Yack, Ontario flyweight champion from Toronto. All travelling expenses are being paid by the committee in charge at Barcelona. The Canadian Committee has been appointed by the Communist Party of Canada.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

1. Communists Celebrate Repeal of Section 98 of the
Criminal Code

Repeal of Section 98 of the Criminal Code met with general approval and rejoicing among the Communists of Canada. Tim Buck, in a special appeal published in the Communist press, called for wide celebrations of its repeal on 4th July.

At Toronto, on the said day, a cortege headed by a coffin, in which reposed an effigy of Section 98, borne on the shoulders of six pall bearers behind whom marched the chief mourners, chief among whom was a person clad in a

uniform evidently intended to represent the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, moved slowly into Queens Park where the burial rites were performed. Among the mourners were a number of men in top hats apparently impersonating Members of the Canadian Senate, and following the mourners came the participants, singing and shouting slogans. Upon arrival in the park the demonstrators grouped around the Band Stand where they were addressed by the following speakers: Sam Scarlett, Sam Carr, Tom Ewen, Stewart Smith, Annie Buller, Tim Buck, all leaders of the Communist Party, and George Watson, representing the Toronto and District Trades and Labour Council. The contention that the repeal of Section 98 was not the work of the Liberal Government but was the result of united action on the part of the working class in an effort to combat the forces of the "bourgeoisie" formed the keynote of their speeches.

Tim Buck, speaking on behalf of the C.P., is reported to have said: "Now that we are legal there is no reason why our membership should not mount to 20,000 or 30,000 before our 1937 congress". He pledged on behalf of his party to recruit 100,000 new members into the American Federation of Labor unions before the Trades and Labour Congress in 1937. He, however, warned the audience that reaction is advancing on other fronts and urged the working class to fight to "preserve their democratic liberties". He appealed to the people to come into the ranks of the C.P., claiming that Communism is "the head and blood stream of the world forces fighting for peace and freedom".

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2. Overwhelming Majority of Western Miners Vote for Return to U.M.W. of A.

Latest reports would indicate that an overwhelming majority of the members of the Mine Workers Union of Canada, formerly one of the strongest affiliates of the Workers Unity League, voted to enter the United Mine Workers of America in the referendum held on 30th June. Incomplete returns of the referendum show that 1,467 have voted for and 290 against joining the U.M.W. of A. It is also reported that several independent miners' unions have voted to enter the U.M.W. of A.

The referendum was taken as a result of a joint conference of the U.M.W. of A. and the M.W.U. of C. held at Calgary some time ago. Transfer of the membership into the U.M.W. is expected shortly.

3. Pat Forkin of "Daily Clarion" Staff To Go To Moscow

In compliance with a request contained in a cable received by the Communist Party of Canada from a Soviet press agency to send Pat Forkin, now on the staff of the Daily Clarion, to Moscow to act as the Soviet correspondent of the Daily Clarion, Pat Forkin is to depart for Moscow shortly to act in the said capacity.

4. Tim Buck to Assist in Election Campaign in Winnipeg

Tim Buck is scheduled to arrive in Winnipeg on 9th July to participate in the Provincial election campaign waged by the Communist Party on behalf of Jim Litterick, its official candidate, in one of the Winnipeg constituencies.

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[~~deletion:1/2 line~~] the directives instruct:—

“(a) That meetings be held with all progressive elements in the C.C.Y.M. in order to review the work of the C.C.Y.M., the attendances manifested and the perspectives. On the basis of such discussions it should be proposed that as soon as official intimation is received of the convention, branches discuss matters and send in resolutions to the convention or Resolutions Committee. The resolutions are to deal with the question of endorsement of the Youth Congress, the Youth Act and Declaration of Rights of Canadian Youth, minimum wage unionization of youth within the A.F. of L., building of a labour sports movement, work amongst students, support of Advance, and unity of working class youth organizations centering around immediate issues.

(b) Every effort must now be made to strengthen Communist influence within the C.C.Y.M. and a more intensive drive made for joint activity around specific issues.

(c) Every effort must be made to help elect and assist “progressive” delegates to attend the National Convention”.

Regarding the Trades and Labour Congress, the directives emphasize the need for presenting resolutions through Party and league fractions to have them passed at union meetings. The resolutions are to centre on unionization of unorganized youth, minimum wage, Youth Act, endorsement of the youth congress, building of a labour sports movement. In addition to the passing of resolutions the leaders are instructed to immediately consider the question of insuring the election of “progressive” young people as delegates to the congress, particularly in Quebec and Southern Ontario.

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**6. Strong Delegation of C.P. of C. Attend IXth Congress of
C.P. of the U.S.A.**

The IXth Congress of the Communist Party of the U.S.A., held in the Metropolitan Theatre, New York, from 24th to 28th June, inclusive, was attended by the following delegates from the C.P. of C.: Tim Buck, general secretary; Sam Carr, [✂deletion:2-3 words], J.B. Salsberg, [✂deletion:2-3 words] Tom Ewen, [✂deletion:2-3 words], Annie Buller, [✂deletion:2-3 words]; Norman Freed, [✂deletion:3-4 words] Stan Buchanan, [✂deletion:3-4 words]; Leslie Morris, editor of Daily Clarion; Hollawell, [✂deletion:3/4 line] and Joe Gershman, [✂deletion:3-4 words.]

The congress is said to have marked a milestone in the development of Communism in the U.S.A. It was attended by 751 delegates representing 48 States, Canada and Mexico.

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Tim Buck addressed the congress on behalf of the C.P. of C. He dealt mainly with three questions affecting the life of the Canadian Party, i.e., the Party's legality, repeal of Section 98 of the Criminal Code, and the on-to-Ottawa trek of relief camp workers of last year. In dealing with Section 98 he stated that its repeal constitutes a decided victory for the C.P. of C.; further, that henceforth the C.P. will be able to strengthen its position openly and legally.

Dealing with the on-to-Ottawa trek he is reported to have quoted the following, being a distortion of a telegram sent by Assistant Commissioner Wood to the Commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police at Ottawa:—

“We have opened up an office on the Market Square for registration for Dundurn Camp. We do not expect many to register. However we are cutting off their food supplies and they are prohibited to leave the city. Must turn public sympathy against them. If this fails however cavalry, machine guns and bombs will prove effective in convincing them to accept our terms. Our position is strategically situated on the Market Square where we can deal effectively with them. Wire reply.

Woods.”

The foregoing, a gross misrepresentation of facts and typical of Communist tactics, has apparently been quoted to illustrate to the American “comrades” the severity of the “class struggle” in Canada.

Speaking of the growth and the numerical strength of the C.P. in Canada, Buck informed the congress that it had 10,000 paid-up members within its ranks.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

8. Leadership of R.C.W.U. in Vancouver Marking Time

The leadership of the Relief Camp Workers Union, B.C. district, at Vancouver is said to be marking time but is watching developments following the closing of the relief camps on 1st July. It is stated that most of the camp contacts have been lost to the Vancouver headquarters but that they have gone into the extra gangs on the railroads where they are expected to carry on organization with a view to creating as much friction on the job as possible. It is anticipated that with the closing down of the railroad jobs and the completion of the harvest, the transients will converge on Vancouver. The consensus of opinion of the C.P. leadership in Vancouver is that with no possibility of the men earning sufficient money to carry them over the winter, either at the harvesting or the railroading, they will be in excellent mental condition to accept Communist propaganda.

The Citizens Defence Movement, B.C. section, will hold a conference in Vancouver on 15th August. An appeal to various organizations to endorse the conference had been issued. Although still in existence, the Canadian Labour Defence League, it is anticipated, will be liquidated in the very near future and its work transferred to the Citizens Defence Movement.

The New Age Bookshop, founded by the Communist Party at Vancouver some few months ago, was liquidated on 29th June following a special bureau meeting held on the previous day. The Bookshop is stated to be in debt to the extent of \$1,200.

II. ALBERTA

9. L.A.W. & F. Tag Day in Edmonton a Failure

The Edmonton Council of the Canadian League Against War and Fascism held a tag day on 27th June. Owing to it being poorly organized, only \$56.50 was collected.

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Approximately 75 persons demonstrated at the City Hall in Calgary, on 22nd June, in support of a delegation that met the City Council demanding a twenty-five per cent increase in relief. The demand presented by the delegation was tabled by the City Council. The demonstration was very orderly, and following the interview the demonstrators marched to a vacant lot where they were addressed by the leaders of the delegation.

III. SASKATCHEWAN

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IV. MANITOBA

11. Demonstrations of Single Unemployed in Winnipeg Continue

The Single Men's Unemployed Ass'n. at Winnipeg staged a parade on Saturday, 27th June, attended by approximately 1,000 of its members. The parade left 217 1/2 Logan Avenue at 10.00 a.m. and marching four abreast proceeded to the Market Square where several hundred additional men joined it. The parade then proceeded south to Portage, thence west on Portage and turning at Memorial Boulevard returned on Portage and Main to the Market Square. Returning to the Market Square, orders were given by the marshal for the fours to lock arms and on reaching Main Street the demonstrators staged what is known as a "snake walk" parade, tying up the traffic for about 20 minutes. As some street cars attempted to break through the parade the men pulled the trolleys off and smashed several windows.

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On arriving at the Market Square G. Marsh, G. Nichols, J. Stewart and J. Bayden addressed the demonstrators. G. Marsh remarked, "Well, this will

show the citizens of Winnipeg that the single men are disciplined and there's more to come. This is just a start. John Bracken will be beginning to lose some sleep at nights". G. Nichols predicted that Winnipeg would have "more of these parades". People in attendance were urged to attend the mock Parliament in front of the Parliament Buildings on 30th June.

On the evening of the 29th approximately 1,000 people attended a mass meeting in the Market Square held under the auspices of the Manitoba Conference of Unemployed. G. Nichols, S. Doyle and Towle were the speakers. G. Nichols outlined the programme of the Manitoba Conference of Unemployed, stressing generally the need for unity in the fight against Capitalism. He also urged the audience to vote Communist in the forthcoming Provincial election.

S. Doyle, representing the S.M.U.A., gave a resume of the action taken thus far by that organization. He urged the audience to attend the mock Parliament in front of the Parliament Buildings on the evening of the 30th.

The mock Parliament referred to was held under the auspices of the S.M.U.A. in front of the main entrance of the Legislative Building on the night of 30th June. The audience attending same numbered approximately 800, mostly single men and sympathizers. M. Sago briefly outlined the purpose of the gathering stating that the single men had done all in their power to see the Premier in an effort to put forth their demands but so far had been unable to gain an interview. A number of Bills and Resolutions were read and passed in spite of the objections of the Opposition. The Bills dealt principally with the proposed programme of "work and wages" advocated by the S.M.U.A. The meeting concluded at 9.30 p.m. with the singing of "Hold The Fort", "Solidarity", and other Communist songs.

About 500 attended a mass meeting of the S.M.U.A. in the Market Square on the evening of 1st June. The chairman announced that the meeting was being held to commemorate the Regina riot of 1st July, 1935. G. Nichols delivered a general tirade against Capitalism urging the audience to vote for a united front government.

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W. McNeil related the events at Regina on the evening of Dominion Day of last year, presenting the usual Communist version of the case. S. Doyle advocated general agitation with a view to preventing workers from being shipped from the city to camps and railroad construction jobs. He said that the Single Unemployed Ass'n. is contemplating sending another delegation to Premier Bracken and suggested that should the interview be of no avail a picket be thrown around the Parliament Buildings. Speaking of mass action he remarked, "Well, I say this comrades there are 4,000 of us here. We should

turn into raving maniacs and go up to the Parliament Buildings and I think we would get our demands". Two resolutions condemning the conviction of those Regina rioters tried at Regina during April last were adopted.

V. ONTARIO

12. Unemployed Delegations from Toronto and Suburbs Converge on Queens Park

A parade numbering approximately 700 men and women entered Queens Park at Toronto at about 3.00 p.m. on 26th June to demonstrate in support of a deputation appearing before Acting Premier Nixon and the Cabinet in the Parliament Buildings. Banners and slogans were numerous and a group of young men from York Township carried a model of the shacks constructed by the single unemployed in what has been designated by the unemployed as "Croll Village" in York Township. While the delegation was interviewing the Cabinet a number of speakers addressed the crowd, numbering about 2,000, including Stewart Smith, Sam Scarlett, of the C.P., and A. W. Woods and W. Broadhurst of the C.C.F. At about 5.30 p.m. the delegation reported to the meeting on their interview with the Government. W. G. Harris, leader of the delegation, reported that they had been promised consideration of their request for a more adequate relief system. Ewart Humphries stated that Premier Hepburn and Mr. Croll had been absent as "they were afraid to face the working class". The meeting concluded in a peaceful manner and the unemployed participating in the parade from the six townships and Toronto dispersed without creating any disturbance.

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VI. QUEBEC

13. L.A.W. & F. to Call "Peace" Conference in Montreal, Aug. 4th

The League Against War and Fascism at Montreal is taking the initiative in calling a "Peace" Conference to be held in Montreal, on 4th August. At this conference delegates are to be selected to attend the International Peace Conference in Geneva.

The "Popular Front" at Montreal has decided to discontinue open air meeting and demonstrations for the balance of the summer. It will utilize the

coming election campaign by holding indoor meetings featuring candidates who support its programme.

[~~deletion:1 line~~] it was reported that 20,000 French leaflets containing an open letter to Paul Gouin have been distributed in the City of Montreal. It was further reported that 3,000 copies of Clarte are being printed weekly of which approximately 2,700 copies are being sold or distributed. It is interesting to note that although the expenses in connection with one issue of this paper amount to \$200, the total revenue is said to be only slightly above \$30 per week.

The Canadian Labour Defence League at Montreal [~~deletion:1 line~~] Although it had been decided some time ago to liquidate the organization, no effort has been made to form a new organization to take its place. It was revealed that the situation within the C.L.D.L. was anything but encouraging. After a lengthy discussion it was decided that the English Branch discontinue meetings for the summer; that all language branches merge into one mass organization with the exception of the Jugo-Slavia and the Czecho-Slovakia Branches. The latter, it was said, are in good condition and should not be disturbed for the time being.

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