

## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 22nd July, 1936.

SECRETNO. 816WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan C.C.F. organizations are reported to have endorsed, in varying degrees, the position of the Communist Party of Canada in regard to the formation of a "United Front". The Alberta Provincial Conference of C.C.F. Clubs recently held at Edmonton went on record in favour of affiliation of the Communist Party to the C.C.F. or, failing the approval of that step by the National Convention of the C.C.F., the granting of power to each province to accomplish this affiliation on a provincial basis. A similar resolution was passed by the recent Saskatchewan Provincial Conference while the British Columbia Convention of the C.C.F. two weeks ago favoured unity with the Communists on vital issues.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERALI. Convention of Workers Benevolent Association

The Workers Benevolent Association held its convention at Winnipeg, Man., on 4th and 5th July, with delegates in attendance from most of its branches in Canada. In addition to the accredited delegates from the association, there were also present a number of others including S. J. Neal, Toronto, of the Finnish Organization of Canada, and I. Shipka and M. Kniazewich, representing the International Workers Order.

The convention recorded a considerable decline in the membership of the association; it was stated that it had decreased to approximately 3,600 members. The causes contributing to this decline were extensively dealt with by J. Navizowski who maintained that the decline was due to some extent to the disruptionist tactics employed by D. Lobay and his followers.

One of the more important matters before the convention was the disposition of the orphanage at Parkdale usually referred to as the "Parkdale Institute". It was said that the institute, although far from being self-sustaining, should be retained in spite of the drain it causes on the financial resources of the association and it was decided to leave matters as they are for the time being. It was pointed out that whereas the purchasing price of the property was \$42,000, the highest offer made thus far was only \$12,000. It was also stated that it would be almost impossible to lease the property at the present time.

Another important item on the agenda was the question of amalgamation with the International Workers Order, it was the unanimous decision of the convention that the association amalgamate with the said Order. The convention also made certain changes in the constitution of the association pertaining to membership fees and payment of sick benefits; it voted \$100 for the Corbin strikers and passed a number of resolutions relating to the alleged persecutions of Ukrainians by the Polish Government, imprisonment of the rioters at Regina, etc. I. Shipka of New York, representing the I.W.O., addressed the convention saying that his organization is endeavouring to obtain a charter from the Canadian Government; he urged the delegates, however, to do all in

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their power to increase the membership of the W.B.A. to at least 5,000 before amalgamation is consummated.

The convention elected the following executive:— M. Hawryluk, chairman; W. Pura, vice-chairman; I. Levicky, recording secretary; W. Rybak, asst. recording sec'y; A. Woytyshyn, sec'y.-treas.; N. Bomba, Mrs. Dumanchuk and I. Lazechko, auditors; M. Shatulsky, A. Popyk, P. Susukaylo and John Navizowski, directors.

On 5th July a large mass meeting held in the Ukrainian Labour Temple marked the termination of the convention. M. Shatulsky acted as chairman and the speakers were John Klybanowski and M. Kniazewich of New York. The latter spoke on the Communist Movement in the U.S.A., pointing out that the Communist Party there has 50,000 active members within its ranks who exert influence over 2,000,000 people; the League Against War and Fascism, he said, has over 2,500,000 members. The United States, he asserted, will soon accept Socialism towards which the country is making steady progress. Canada will follow suit, he maintained.

The majority of the delegates present pledged loyalty to the present leadership and promised to endeavour to counteract the influence exerted by the Lobayists and to bring back within the fold of the association all those led astray by them.

It was expected that the proposed amalgamation with the I.W.O. would meet with considerable opposition at the convention but the fact that the decision was unanimous would tend to show that the men in control of the association succeeded in having loyal and trustworthy delegates elected who could be relied upon. This precaution apparently was prompted by the ever growing influence exerted by D. Lobay and his followers. As matters now stand, it would appear that J. Navizowski and M. Shatulsky, [~~3-4 words~~] are again in control of the association.

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### 3. Tim Buck in Winnipeg. Man.

Tim Buck arrived at Winnipeg at 9.00 a.m. on 11th July and was met at the railway station by approximately 100 men, ninety-five per cent of whom were foreigners. Tim Buck gave the Communist salute and spoke a few words to the gathering thanking the local Communists for coming to the station to welcome him.

During the evening Tim Buck addressed approximately 3,000 people at the Exhibition Grounds, relating the history of the C.P. of C. and emphasizing its role and importance played in connection with the

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campaign for the repeal of Section 98 of the Criminal Code. "We can make it impossible through mass support for any Government to say that the Party is illegal", he declared.

James Litterick, C.P. candidate in the Provincial election, also addressed the audience contending: "and we'll soon have Section 133 off the statute books". To lend colour to the meeting an effigy of Section 98 was burned.

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4. William Gallagher, Leader of C.P. of G.B.,  
to Tour Canada

William Gallagher, prominent British Communist, will arrive in Canada a week later than originally anticipated, the Communist Party headquarters at Toronto announced recently. Gallagher will arrive in Montreal, Que., on 8th August. His itinerary given out by the C.P. follows:—

August	8-9th	—	Montreal, Que.
"	10th	—	Hamilton, Ont.
"	11th	—	St. Catharines, Ont.
"	12th	—	Windsor, Ont.
"	13th	—	Toronto, "
"	14th	—	Sudbury, "
"	16th	—	Timmins, "
"	18th	—	Port Arthur, Ont.
"	20th	—	Winnipeg, Man.
"	21st	—	Brandon, Man.
"	22nd	—	Regina, Sask.
"	23rd	—	Saskatoon, "
"	24th	—	Edmonton, Alta.
"	25th	—	Calgary, "
"	26th	—	Blairmore, "
"	27th	—	Drumheller, Alta.
"	29th	—	Vancouver, B.C.
"	30th	—	Nanaimo, B.C.

On 31st August Gallagher will leave for Chicago, Ill., U.S.A., arriving there on 3rd September. He will leave on the 6th for the east and will address meetings in Glace Bay and Halifax, N.S., on 10th and 11th, respectively. From Halifax he will proceed to New York, N.Y., U.S.A., and will sail for home from that city on 17th September aboard the "Aquitania".

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5. [~~2-3 words~~] at Toronto, Ont., to  
Inaugurate Wide Defence Movement

[~~2 lines~~] to consider primarily the defence of those arrested in Toronto suburbs as a result of their participation in the recent unemployed disturbances.

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Stewart Smith emphasized the need for a wide defence movement along the following lines: (a) fight against relief cut of the Provincial Gov't. connecting it with the fight for the release of the arrested; (b) self-defence of some of the accused and Party agitation and propoganda; (c) legal defence.

It was agreed that more pressure must be brought to bear on the Provincial Government with a view to forcing same to head a delegation of municipal authorities and unemployed to Ottawa to compel the Federal Government to accept greater responsibility for the unemployed. It was agreed that this campaign must be connected with the demand for the release of the accused and the Ontario Government must be bombarded with delegations representing the arrested and their wives, trade unionists, C.P. of C., and other groups, demanding the unconditional release of those facing trail.

Harvey Murphy, [~~3/4 line~~] who was arrested along with 30 others as a result of the recent disturbances, was instructed to write an article for the Daily Clarion outlining the history of the Unemployed Movement in the townships.

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6. Alberta Provincial Council of C.C.F. Favours  
Affiliation with C.P.

The Provincial Council of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation of Alberta is said to have passed a resolution urging the National Council of the C.C.F. to "open negotiations with the C.P. with a view to exploring the possibilities of affiliation of the C.P. of Canada with the C.C.F."

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7. First Convention of Lumber & Sawmill Workers Union  
Listless Affair

The First Convention of the Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union, formerly the Lumber Workers Industrial Union, an affiliate of the Workers Unity League, was held at Vancouver, B.C., on 2nd and 3rd July. The attendance was not as large as expected and the interest shown by those delegates present was thoroughly disappointing to the officialdom of the organization. [~~dele-~~

tion:1/2 line] delivered the report on behalf of the Executive Committee, reviewing the events since the convention of the L.W.I.U. held last year, and touching on the

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proposal to affiliate with the American Federation of Labor. He pointed out that the union could claim full credit for two wage increases that the operators have put into effect within the past few months.

[~~3/4 line~~] reported that the lack of funds had been one of the chief factors responsible for the early termination of the last strike. Collections taken through the Vancouver local for the strike fund totalled \$5,000, he said. [~~1/2 line~~] he pointed out that debts at the present time totalled \$601.64 including debts left over from the 1934 strike.

The convention elected the following officers for the ensuing term:—

President.....	[ <del>name</del> ]
Secretary-Treasurer & Business Agent.....	[ <del>name</del> ]
Delegate to Trades & Labour Council and Editor, <u>B.C. Lumberworker</u> ..	[ <del>name</del> ]
Business Mgr., <u>B.C.</u> <u>Lumber Worker</u> .....	[ <del>name</del> ]

[~~1 1/2 lines~~]

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## APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCE

### I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

[~~1/3 page~~]

Approximately 800 people attended a meeting staged under the auspices of the Canadian Labour Defence League in the Royal Theatre, Vancouver, on 12th July. Malcolm Bruce, Tom Ewen and Bill Mahoney were the speakers. Malcolm Bruce, using as his subject "Section 98", gave an outline of the history of and the "struggle" waged by the Communists for the abolition of this Section of the Criminal Code. The repeal of this Section has made the C.P. legal, he contended. He appealed to the audience to join the C.P. and to work for a united front of all progressive elements.

Tom Ewen also dealt with Section 98 describing some of the instances wherein Section 98 had been used by the authorities. He also closed with an appeal on behalf of the C.P. to those present to join its ranks.

Bill Mahoney spoke very briefly, outlining the purpose of the C.L.D.L. and the work it has done to have Section 98 repealed.

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## II. ALBERTA

### 9. Edmonton Single Unemployed Demonstrate in Parliament Bldgs.

On 6th July approximately 300 unemployed men, members of the Unemployed Single Men's Protective Ass'n. at Edmonton, staged a side-walk parade to the Legislative Buildings and there crowded into the fourth floor corridor of the building in an effort to interview the Minister

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of Public Works, the Honourable W.A. Fallow, in regard to a statement alleged to have been made by the Minister to the effect that the Government were finding it very difficult to procure workers for road and highway projects. Finding the Minister of Public Works absent, the demonstrators insisted on seeing the Honourable E.C. Manning who eventually received a delegation headed by J. Nicholson and Orville Asselson. Following the interview Orville Asselson addressed the demonstrators informing them that the demands of the single unemployed, including the abolition of the Edmonton relief kitchen, cash relief \$1 per day, etc., would be taken up by the Cabinet at its next meeting on 9th July. The demonstrators then left the Parliament Buildings and paraded back to the Market Square where J. Nicholson gave a short report on the interview with the Honourable E. C. Manning and appealed to the crowd for support in the movement to enforce the unemployed single men's demands.

On 10th July a similar number of men gathered at the Market Square at Edmonton for the purpose of appointing and supporting a delegation to the Provincial Government in regard to their demands. Having been advised by the Chief of Police that no parade of any description would be allowed, the men decided that they would meet in front of the Parliament Buildings without staging a parade and then hear the report of the delegation. The delegation was admitted to the Council Chamber at 4.05 p.m. where they were received by the Cabinet. The interview continued until 6.10 p.m., following which Orville Asselson reported the result of the interview to the men who had gathered in front of the Parliament Buildings. Asselson stated that the delegation had received a very favourable reception and that the Cabinet would give a reply



to the unemployed men's demands at a later date. The crowd dispersed at approximately 6.20 p.m. without causing disturbances.

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[§deletion: 1/2 line] returned to Edmonton on 10th July from a lecture tour throughout Northern Alberta conducted on behalf of the League Against War and Fascism. He reported that the meetings held were very successful and that he had succeeded in organizing a small number of "Unity" Committees in rural districts.

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On 8th July all the men employed on an extra gang at Cochrane, Alta., trimming the railway track at that point, came out on strike in protest against the dismissal for cause of one of the men/named [§deletion: 1-2 words]. They insisted that [§deletion: 1-2 words] be taken on again. On the following day George McLeod, provincial organizer of the Relief Camp Workers Union in Alberta, arrived from Calgary. A meeting was held at which the men voted to return to work in the a.m. of the 10th.

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### III. SASKATCHEWAN

#### 10. Strike at C.N.R. Camp Near Regina

Transients employed at a Canadian National Railway camp at Jameson, a few miles east of Regina, declared a one-day strike on 7th July against alleged poor food and rusty dinnerware. Improvement was promised and the strike was called off. The workers employed are former inmates of relief camps.

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### IV. MANITOBA

#### 11. Winnipeg Single Unemployed Stage "Indignation" Parade

On 16th July approximately 800 single men and a number of women assembled at the Market Square in Winnipeg and from there staged an "indignation" parade carrying a large number of banners and singing revolutionary songs. On returning to the Market Square a meeting was held addressed by S. Harkin, A.W. Atwater and M. Sago. S. Harkin stated that the single men are desperate and would never give up the campaign until they had forced the Provincial Government to issue negotiable vouchers and abolished the soup kitchen. M. Sago criticized the report of the City Council Investigating

Committee inquiring into the conditions of the single men asserting that it was only through mass action and demonstrations such as this that the single men would achieve their objective. The audience attending the meeting, and numbering approximately 1,200, consisted largely of single men, and the whole affair was engineered by the Communist Party.

It is becoming increasingly difficult for the Communists to work up any enthusiasm among the single unemployed men and the attendance at meetings appears to be falling off.

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## V. QUEBEC

### 12. C.P. Opens Provincial Election Campaign in Montreal

A mass meeting attended by about 1,500 people marked the opening of the election campaign waged by the Communist Party in St. James Division, Montreal, on behalf of its candidate, Evariste Dube. The meeting was opened in the name of the District Committee by Stanley Ryerson, its secretary. The majority of the audience appeared to be French Canadians and most of the speeches were delivered in French. Fred Rose and Sam Carr spoke in English. The French speakers were Jean Perron, who was introduced as a representative of the Labour Party, Phillip Richer, of the Y.C.L., Mrs. Dube and Emil Godin. Jean Perron stated that Communism was beginning to be understood by the masses and is advancing at a tremendous speed as a result of recent events and victories of the C.P. of C. Among the achievements of the C.P., cited, here and elsewhere, were the repeal of Section 98, the victory of the Popular Front in France and the new constitution of the Soviet Union; the latter being described as an ideal constitution for the workers and as an example to all other countries.

Sam Carr of Toronto, who was imported for the occasion, dealt mainly with recent events in Ontario, featuring the arrests arising out of the forcible detention of relief officials in the suburbs of Toronto. He stated that the C.P. of C. today has a membership of 11,000 as compared with 3,500 prior to 1931.

Dube spoke last, acquainting the audience with his past history and explaining the program of the C.P. in this Provincial election. When he rose to speak he received a very enthusiastic ovation and the "L'Internationale" was sung.

Emil Godin dealt at some length with the anti-semitic movement in Montreal, characterizing as nonsense the claim put forth that the Jews were responsible for the present economic crisis.

The meeting concluded with the singing of "L'Internationale".

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The Labour Party of Canada, Montreal section, voted on 18th July not to sponsor or endorse any candidate for St. Louis division in the forthcoming Provincial election. The motion adopted also provided that no Labour Party member or delegate could take the

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platform in favour of any candidate in the field in that constituency no matter what his Party affiliation. This decision came as the upshot of refusal by Fred Rose, Communist Party candidate, to retire in favour of a straight Labour candidate. The previous stand taken by the Labour Party had been that Fred Rose would not be opposed should he decide to run in any other riding not yet entered by a Labour representative.

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The Popular Front at Montreal held a picnic at the Ville LaSalle picnic grounds on 1st July with approximately 3,000 people in attendance. The profit realized from this picnic amounted to \$172.

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A moonlight excursion held by the League Against War and Fascism at Montreal, on 8th July, attended by 452 people, nearly all Jews of the better class, netted the treasury of the organization \$175.

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