

NO. 1

## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 29th July, 1936.

SECRETNO. 817WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

James Litterick, [~~3-4 words~~] of the Communist Party of Canada, polled a total of 5,760 first choice votes in Manitoba's general election held on 27th July. He was placed second among the twenty-one candidates contesting the ten seats in the Winnipeg constituency. His election as the first member of the Communist Party to sit in a Provincial Legislature in Canada has been conceded.

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#### APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

##### 1. Relief Project Workers Union Conference

The Relief Project Workers Union, formerly known as the Relief Camp Workers Union, British Columbia district, held a Provincial Conference at Kamloops, on 11th and 12th July. Complete unionization of all projects, establishment of Grievance Committees on all projects and fraternal co-operation with all trade unions and progressive organizations are the three main points of the programme adopted by the conference. The first point depends upon organizational work amongst the men in recruiting them into the union,

the strength of which was given officially at 300 for British Columbia. The second point, it was revealed, is practically accomplished; there are only two projects where Grievance Committees have not been established and the reason given was that conditions in these camps were tolerable. The third point on fraternization with trade unions is to be achieved by frequent visits of delegations to the various Trades and Labour Councils to remind them that the Relief Project Workers Union is in existence and is waiting for admission into the American Federation of Labour.

A long discussion on the cessation of work on the projects in the fall took place with all delegates contributing. It was decided that organizational work should be intensified and it was felt that the action of the authorities would depend a great deal upon the strength of the union. In this connection a resolution was passed which reads, "That we instruct the Bureau to strive towards close co-operation with other Western Provinces with a view towards a joint conference on matters of policy".

The conference resolved to commence agitation for the eight-hour day and a minimum wage; Grievance Committees should function boldly and should be instrumental in informing the employer that he is dealing with union men.

It is anticipated that the immediate activities of the Grievance Committees will take the form of harassing the Department of Labour for improved standard of board, blankets, compensation and medicine, first aid and sanitary facilities.

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## 2. The Polish Labour Farmer Temple Association

The Polish Labour Farmer Temple Association at its last convention held in Winnipeg, Man., recently decided to change its name to "The Polish People's Association" and to transfer within six months the Central Executive Board, together with the press, to Toronto, Ont. It also endorsed the amalgamation of the sick benefit section to the International Workers Order and amended the constitution to suit the requirements of the United Front policy of the Communist Party.

The convention disclosed that three new branches had been organized during the year, thus bringing the total number of branches throughout Canada to 20. It was further revealed that the organization has three women's branches, seven children's schools, seven amateur groups, six orchestras and four choirs. The total assets of the association amount to \$20,000, it was said.

W. Dutkiewicz, editor of Glos Pracy, was severely criticized for having formed little cliques in the organization, and was accused of factionalism.

Although refused a seat on the Executive Committee, he was retained as editor of Glos Pracy. The enlarging of Glos Pracy from eight to 12 pages was bitterly condemned and characterized as a waste of money.

The Winnipeg branch received much praise for the splendid work that it performed. Other locals, particularly those in the Prairie Provinces, have remained stagnant and quite inactive.

The convention observed that only a small percentage of the 145,000 Poles living in Canada belong to any organization; it decided to make a determined effort during the coming year to recruit as many as possible into the association.

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### 3. Provincial "Single Workers Union" Organized in Sask.

As a result of a conference held in Regina, Sask., on 14th and 15th July the Single Workers Union of Saskatoon and the Regina and Moose Jaw branches of the National Transients Union became amalgamated into one provincial-wide union called "The Single Workers Union". This step, it was pointed out, will make it possible to absorb the single

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unemployed in the principal cities and towns of Saskatchewan and will be the means of forming a strong provincial-wide unemployed men's union.

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### 4. A. A. McLeod to Head Delegation to Geneva Peace Congress

A. A. McLeod, national chairman of the League Against War and Fascism, has been named by its National Bureau to head the league's delegation to the World Peace Congress which is to take place at Geneva this September. It is reported that the delegation will consist of about 20 people who are being selected in various centres of Canada.

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### 6. Tim Buck in Saskatchewan (A) At Regina

Approximately 2,000 people heard Tim Buck speak on "Unity of the People's Front" in Wascana Park, Regina, on 14th July. In introducing his

theme Buck briefly referred to the repeal of Section 98, giving the C.P. and the Canadian Labour Defence League full credit for its repeal.

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The People's Front, he said, would not and never could be a revolutionary Party such as the Communist Party is. The C.P. does not intend to abandon or change its revolutionary programme and intends to continue its revolutionary work within the "People's Front", he said. He appealed to the people of Saskatchewan to form a People's Front consisting of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, Socialist and Labour Parties, Social Credit Party and the Communist Party, and to sink their political differences in the interest of the immediate needs of the common people.

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(B) At Assiniboia

On 16th July, in the course of the afternoon, Tim Buck addressed approximately 500 persons at the Fair Grounds in Assiniboia. The audience consisted of people from the surrounding district; a party of 22 under the guidance of William Sidorak had arrived in a truck from Wood Mountain and another small party arrived from Flincoff. The meeting, held under the auspices of the Assiniboia section of the C.P. of Canada, was officially opened by Harry Wood who claimed to be the district secretary for Southern Saskatchewan.

Tim Buck spoke for approximately one and one-half hours emphasizing the need for a united front against Capitalism.

Ivan Birchard also spoke presenting a brief eulogy of the main speaker.

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(C) At Shaunavon

In the course of the evening on 16th July, Tim Buck delivered a similar address before 500 people in the Skating Rink at Shaunavon. The meeting was held under the auspices of the C. P. of C., Shaunavon branch. He related some of his experiences whilst serving his term of imprisonment in Kingston Penitentiary and generally urged the formation of a united and anti-Capitalist front.

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(D) At Swift Current

Approximately 200 people, mostly farmers, attended Buck's meeting in the Skating Arena at Swift Current, on the evening of 17th July. On this occasion

Buck outlined the history, aims and objects of the C.P. of C., and stressed the importance of economic organizations

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as a medium of advancing the economic status of the workers and farmers of Canada.

William Searle acted as chairman and a short talk was also given by one named Rumback, a local tailor who said he is leaving for Soviet Russia in the near future.

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(E) At Biggar

On 18th July, in the p.m., approximately 120 people heard Tim Buck speak in the local park at Biggar, expounding the need for a united front of farmers, C.C.F., Social Credit and unemployed against Capitalism. He spoke at length on the proposed reduction in relief payments in the West and compared Western relief rates unfavourably with relief payments in Eastern Canada. He also gave a brief outline of the history of Communism, stating that Communism originated in England and not in Russia, as generally conceived.

Ivan Birchard, who accompanied Buck on his tour, acted as chairman; he also spoke on the repeal of Section 98 of the Criminal Code.

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(F) At Saskatoon

On the evening of the 18th July Tim Buck addressed a meeting of approximately 1,400 persons at the Cairns Field in Saskatoon. A.C. Campbell, [deletion:3-4 words] acted as chairman and in his introductory remarks referred briefly to the repeal of Section 98 of the Criminal Code. Tim Buck began his speech by relating the history and the struggle for the repeal of Section 98 emphasizing the fact that its repeal has made it possible for the C.P. of C. to come out in the open and to operate as a legal organization. The main body of his speech dealt with unity and the question of the united front against Capitalism. Dealing with relief and the unemployed movement he laid particular stress on the action of the striking relief recipients in the Toronto suburbs giving the impression that the tactics adopted by them, i.e., resort to violence, was the only method by which the unemployed could expect to attain their demands.

A. C. Campbell, in closing the meeting, appealed for recruits and stated that anyone interested in joining the C.P. could see him after

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the meeting. The meeting was conducted under the auspices of the Communist Party of Canada.

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(G) At Crystal Lake

On 19th July Tim Buck delivered a similar address before approximately 1,500 people, most farmers, at a picnic at Crystal Lake, urging the people to form a united front against Capitalism.

It is interesting to note that Buck emphasized the methods used by the unemployed in Ontario recently, citing same as an example to be followed by the unemployed in other parts of the country if they are to gain their ends.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

7. Communists in Vancouver Discuss Recent Provincial  
C.C.F. Convention

The Communist Party at Vancouver held a so-called "information meeting" in the Ukrainian Labour Temple, 805 Hastings St. E., on 14th July. The attendance was about 650 and the subject under discussion was the recent British Columbia Provincial Convention of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation. Robert Kerr, chairman, after opening the meeting, welcomed Tom Ewen to Vancouver.

The first speaker, Fergie McKean, [~~deletion:2-3 words~~] outlined the various elements which compose the C.C.F., i.e., Right, Centre, and Left Wing Groups. The Centre Group, led by Dr. Telford and Arnold Webster, he thought, was the most dangerous from the C.P. point of view. He had great praise for the Left Wing, led by E. E. Winch, Roger Bray and Colin Cameron who made a great showing in the recent convention and who, he said, are vigorously pushing within the C.C.F. the position of the C.P. with regard to the united front.

Jack Taylor, the next speaker, dealt with the various resolutions passed by the convention quoting those favourable to the C.P. and to the united front movement. He boasted of the fact that some of the resolutions were due to the pressure brought to bear by the C.P. of Canada. He also informed the meeting that the C.C.F. delegation from Nanaimo called at the district office of the C.P. prior to the C.C.F. Convention to get advice relative to the issues confronting the C.C.F. Convention.

Fergie McKean, commenting on some of the points raised by Taylor, made the statement that the C.P. was responsible for the success of the C.C.F. Convention. He went on to say that the C.P. does not desire a split in the C.C.F. for the reason that the C.C.F. is to serve as a foundation for the building of a Farmer-Labour Party with the assistance and advice of the C.P. of C. McKean concluded by stating that the C.P. in British Columbia has a membership of approximately 1,500. "It is up to each and every member", he said, "to get one new member within the next three months and thus increase the membership to 3,000".

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Tom Ewen spoke briefly giving an outline of the Communist activities in the trade unions. He stated that since the Workers Unity League has put its members into the A.F. of L. organization, Communist influence on the Central Councils has increased tremendously. He stated that at Toronto, at the present time, there are 30 Communists on the Trades and Labour Council.

The charter granted some time ago by the San Francisco Convention of the International Longshoremen's Ass'n. to the New Westminster (B.C.) organization is said to have been revoked by the executive of the I.L.A. upon learning that not one member of the New Westminster organization applying for the charter was employed as a longshoreman. The executive also pointed out that the charter granted to the Coastwise Longshoremen at Vancouver is sufficient to cover the two ports.

## II. ALBERTA

### 8. League Against War & Fascism Hold Provincial Convention in Edmonton

The Canadian League Against War and Fascism held a Provincial Conference in the Scandinavian Hall at Edmonton on 16th and 17th July, with 77 delegates in attendance representing 39 organizations. H. Gerry called the conference to order and the delegates were greeted by Mayor Joseph Clark of Edmonton who praised the activities of the leaders of the league and their effort to abolish Fascism. Speeches of welcome were also given by H. Gerry and S.A.G. Barnes. A report given by H. Swanson, representing the Edmonton Council of the league, revealed that the latter represents a membership of 10,000 people. H. Gerry, speaking of the activity of the organization on a national scale, stated that the league has approximately 400,000 members in

Canada. A number of resolutions were passed dealing generally with the activities of the league, and a Provincial Executive was appointed consisting of A.M. Herd, president; Mrs. F. Champion, vice-president; H.G. Swanson, general secretary; J. Egger, treasurer. It was agreed that the executive committee elected at this conference co-operate with the Edmonton Council. It was also agreed that Dr. Kelloway of Calgary, who recently left for

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Europe, be issued credentials and asked to represent the Alberta section of the league at the Peace Congress at Geneva.

An important feature of this conference was the presence of several school teachers from different parts of the province.

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### III. MANITOBA

#### 9. Winnipeg Single Unemployed Hold Meeting in Market Square

Approximately 1,000 people attended a meeting of the Single Men's Unemployed Ass'n. in the Market Square at Winnipeg on 21st July. S. Harkin acted as chairman, and the meeting was addressed by five representatives of the C.C.F. and two members of the C.P. Mitchie Sago of the C.P. predicted that if the authorities continue to ignore the picket line at the Parliament Buildings "5,000 single men will do something about it".

D. Grainger remarked, "If the authorities do not see us we will have to take more drastic steps. We do not care how many of us go to jail and we don't mind the black hole and bread and water. We will still carry on this campaign". The meeting was sponsored by the C.P. under the auspices of the S.M.U.A.; to have the representatives of the C.C.F. appear on the platform and address the meeting was purely a tactical matter.

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George Drayton, [~~2 lines~~] stated that Transients Unions are being formed on every railway job in the West and that it is the aim to link these organizations up into one Single Men's Association extending from coast to coast. Organization of these unions is to be commenced in Manitoba shortly, he said.

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## IV. ONTARIO

## 10. [deletion:1 line]

[deletion:3 lines]

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[deletion:8 lines] is to co-operate with the C.C.F. organizations, trade unions and interested individuals, and that for the purpose of co-ordinating the campaign a conference is to be called by an Initiative Committee to work out details in connection with the sending of the delegation. He further stated that good support has already been extended by the Toronto Trades and Labour Council and affiliated trade unions; a movement was also under foot to send a woman delegate from Toronto. As part of the campaign plans are being laid for a large "peace rally" on 4th August in Queens Park and Stewart urged the C.P. organizations to make every effort to make it a success. He suggested that the C.P. would make itself felt as a force in this campaign and suggested that every meeting be utilized to bring forward the C.P.'s position on peace. He further proposed that the Toronto organization of the Party issue 15,000 leaflets in support of the campaign.

[deletion:3-4 words] that two shop papers were being issued by the Toronto C.P.; a paper of the steel workers to the General Steel Wares plant in Ward 2 and a C.P. shop paper to the employees of the Massey Harris Company in Ward 5.

[deletion:2-3 words] that the decisions to build industrial units by C.P. members employed in steel and textile plants on a city and then on a ward scale had not materialized, mainly due to the irresponsible work of the section organizers. He urged the district bureau to take action and to remove certain section organizers if such irresponsibility continues.

Following his report the meeting decided:—

- (a) To immediately build industrial units of the C.P. in food, building trades and other trades where industrial units would function.
- (b) To call a conference of steel and textile members for Wednesday, 22nd July, at 8 p.m., at 441 Queen St. West.

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(c) To call meetings on a ward scale of all C.P. members in steel and textile plants to work out concentration on factories and building of unions.

[deletion:2-3 words] that many C.P. members were treating the recent arrest of unemployed leaders on kidnapping charges too lightly with the result that the defence campaign was weakening. Many of the arrested were politically undeveloped and were wavering because of the divided character of the

defence movement, he stated. He urged that a strong defence be organized and that the defence lawyers be united into one group. He further suggested that the pamphlet "Who Are The Kidnappers?" — in the process of preparation — be released as soon as possible in order to give proper direction to the defence campaign.

[~~deletion: 1 line~~] reported on the forthcoming National Convention of the C.C.F. He dealt at length with the favourable situation created by the conventions of the C.C.F. in British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan, together with the movement in the Ontario C.C.F. for unity with the C.P. He proposed the holding of meetings of C.P. supporters and members of the C.C.F. in each ward with a view to carrying through unity resolutions and electing pro-united front delegates to the National Convention. He further proposed that the expelled Regional Council of the Toronto C.C.F. demand reinstatement and delegates' privileges and that arrangements be made for caucus of groups of pro-united front delegates during the convention with one C.P. member attached to each group. His proposals were accepted with an additional proposal by [~~deletion: 1/2 line~~] should work out a resolution for the National Convention of the C.C.F. outlining the need for support to the defence campaign of the arrested unemployed leaders.

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## V. QUEBEC

### 11. Fred Rose Opens Election Campaign in St. Louis Division, Montreal

Fred Rose, C.P. candidate in St. Louis riding, Montreal, opened his election campaign on the evening of 16th July with a mass meeting in the Prince Arthur Hall attended by approximately 750 people. Stanley Ryerson presided over the meeting and the speakers included

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Norman Freed of Toronto, Evariste Dube, C.P. candidate in St. James division, Sidney Sarkin, K. Rowley of the Young Communist League, Sam Carr [~~deletion: 3-4 words~~] of the C.P., and Fred Rose.

Norman Freed assured the audience that the candidate, Fred Rose, had been known to him for many years as "a real fighter of the working class".

Evariste Dube spoke in French urging the people to unite in this election discarding all language and racial barriers.

Sidney Sarkin, speaking in Jewish, dealt at great length with the anti-semitic movement in the Province of Quebec and appealed to the Jewish electors to vote for Fred Rose.

Fred Rose deplored the stand taken by the Poale-Zionist Labour Party with regard to unity and in supporting the Liberal candidate against him. He then delivered a tirade against Mr. Bercovitch, the Liberal candidate, in the course of which he stated that it was the action of men like him that gave rise to anti-semiticism in Quebec.

K. Rowley urged the youth to take a more active interest in the election and to aid in getting Fred Rose elected.

Sam Carr, the last speaker, expressed the hope that the St. Louis division would give a lead to the rest of the province by electing the candidate of the C.P. He also spoke of the unity movement that is being organized throughout Western Canada, citing in particular Winnipeg and Regina.

The meeting adjourned with the singing of the "International". The collection netted \$33; the expenses in connection with the meeting amounted to approximately \$50, it was said.

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