

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 26th August, 1936.

SECRETNO. 821WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

Two major strikes are in progress at present in the Province of Ontario.

At Cornwall approximately 1,700 employees of Courtaulds (Canadian) Limited struck two weeks ago for recognition of the newly formed Rayon Workers Industrial Union—an affiliate of the United Textile Workers of America—and for higher wages.

On 19th August 450 workers employed at the Dominion Glass Company at Hamilton, Ont., came out on strike demanding recognition of their unions—the Flint Glass Workers Union and the Glass Bottle Blowers Association. A late report states that 300 workers of the company's plant at Wallaceburg have decided to join the ranks of the Hamilton strikers.

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[1]

APPENDICESTable of ContentsAPPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

- Paragraph No. 1. "People's League for Peace and Freedom" Proposed Plan Evolved by A. A. McLeod and Dr. Harry Ward To Be Submitted to Brussels Congress Views and Objects Outlined
- " " 2. Canadian Delegates to World Peace Congress At Least Four Well Known Communists Included in Delegation
- " " 3. Communist Campaign in Aid of Spanish United Front Government
C. P. of C. Issued Appeal to Trade Unions

C.C.F. and Progressive People
 Successful Meeting Held in Toronto, Ont., by C.P.
 Toronto Jewish Anti-Fascist Conference Plan to Raise
 \$10,000

- “ ” 4. C.P. Not Contesting Deferred Election in The Pas, Man.
 Alderman Penner Withdrawn
- “ ” 5. Maritime Federation resolved to Embarrass Shipping
 Interests in Vancouver, B.C.
 Plan to Boycott any Ship Carrying Vancouver Cargo
- “ ” 6. William Gallacher in Canada —
 (A) AT Hamilton, Ont.
 (B) “ St. Catharines, Ont.
 (C) “ Sudbury, Ont.
 (D) “ Timmins, Ont.
 (E) “ Fort William, Ont.
 (F) “ Winnipeg, Man.

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

- “ ” 7. BRITISH COLUMBIA
 [deletion:5 lines]
- “ ” 8. ALBERTA
 Tom Ewen Speaks at Communist Meeting in Edmonton
 L.A.W. & F. Officially Endorses Miss Crang as
 Delegate to Brussels Congress
- “ ” 9. SASKATCHEWAN
 Single Unemployed Active in Saskatchewan
 Meeting in Saskatoon
 Demonstration at Yorkton
- “ ” 10. MANITOBA
 Defence Movement in Winnipeg Adopt New Tactics
 John Navizowski Lectures on Spanish Revolution
 Winnipeg Fur Workers on Strike

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[2]

APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

1. "People's League for Peace and Freedom" Proposed

A proposal for a People's League for Peace and Freedom parallel to the League of Nations has been evolved by A. A. McLeod, national chairman of the Canadian League Against War and Fascism, and by Dr. Harry F. Ward,

chairman of the League in the United States of America; it is to be submitted to the forthcoming World Peace Congress at Brussels, Belgium, by the sponsors. The idea is for existing peace organizations in various countries to form an international organization based on a duly signed and executed pact or covenant between them which will act as a clearing house for "peace" activities. It is not intended to supplant the League of Nations. The plan also calls for the formation of a permanent secretariat of five members at Geneva. Administration of the world organization is proposed to follow the lines of the League of Nations with an assembly composed of five representatives from each nation participating in it and meeting at least once every two years. The aims and objects of the new league are stated as follows:—

"(1) Promoting the organization of National Leagues for Peace and Freedom (or such other name as may be selected) which shall combine all anti-war and anti-fascist forces in their respective countries, i.e., all forces seeking peace and freedom.

"(2) Co-ordinating the activities of these national leagues and focusing their activities upon the same objectives at the same time.

"(3) Continually arousing the whole world concerning the struggle for peace and freedom at specific points.

"(4) Bringing before the League of Nations, or any other combination of governments such as the proposed Pan-American League, anywhere in the world the needs and demands of the peoples of the world for peace and freedom in concrete form".

The pact which each organization would be called upon to sign stipulates:—

"(1) Refuse to take part in, or in anyway support, an aggressive war.

"(2) Demand that their governments reduce their armed forces and armaments to the minimum required for defence of their borders and coasts from invasion; this minimum to be determined by a People's Commission after hearing the judgment of experts.

[3]

"(3) Proclaim the invader of any nation an enemy of mankind; demand that their governments order all diplomatic, commercial and financial relations with the invader cease until the invading forces are withdrawn; endeavor themselves by People's Action to stop any war supplies, loans or credits going from or through their country to the invader.

"(4) Support and initiate measures designed to secure equal access for all nations to all things needed for their development but with full and special regard to the rights of all peoples in the colonial or so-called backward countries.

"(5) Resist all attempts to prevent or stop people from expressing and organizing themselves in behalf of those, or any other, measures that seek to secure peace and freedom throughout the world".

2. Canadian Delegation to World Peace Congress

At least 14 delegates from Canada will attend the World Peace Congress in Brussels, Belgium, according to an announcement of the national office of the League Against War and Fascism at Toronto, Ont. Some of the delegates sailed from Montreal, Que., on 21st August on board the Cunard White Star Liner "Aurenia". Included in the delegation are at least [deletion: 1/2 line] A. A. MacLeod of Toronto; Alderman Margaret Crang of Edmonton; Tim Buck, general secretary of the Communist Party of Canada; and Everet G. Ridgemount of Fort William.

3. Communist Campaign in Aid of Spanish United Front Govt.

Appealing to the trade unions, Co-operative Commonwealth Federation and progressive people, the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Canada, in a manifesto issued recently, calls for immediate aid to the Left Wing Government of Spain in its fight against the Fascists. The manifesto reads, in part:—

"Fascism, which boasts of its love for its country and denounces Communists as haters of their country, sets against the Spanish people the dregs of Europe, members of the Spanish Foreign Legion, and compels colonial troops to foully murder the people of Spain.

"The Spanish fascists were encouraged in this attempt by the manner in which Hitler and Mussolini have been allowed to openly prepare war and to carry through the rape of Ethiopia.

[4]

"Hitler and Mussolini have plotted with their Spanish blood brothers to bring about this armed attack upon the Spanish people and their government. Every possible aid is being given by the fascist powers to the mutineers, in the form of money, guns, airplanes, ammunition and the concentration of warships in Spanish waters. Hitler and Mussolini are seeking control of the Balearic Islands and Spanish Morocco in return for their aid to the Spanish fascists, in order to advance their war plans and strengthen their military and naval positions.

“The National Government of Great Britain which is leading the armaments race, which has steadily aided Hitler, which refused to permit the League of Nations to curb Mussolini, is directly interested in the victory of fascism in Spain.

“It refuses the right of the recognized Spanish government to coal its warships in British ports; it refuses to sell arms to the Spanish government directly violating its responsibilities to a government it formally recognizes.

“British imperialism with Hitler, Mussolini and the Japanese rulers hope for a fascist victory in Spain; they dread the success of the people’s movement. Therefore, the so-called ‘neutrality’ which has been declared is in reality assistance to the fascists in Spain—because it establishes an embargo on the shipment of arms to the Spanish government with which it can defend itself against its attackers.

“The Spanish people are the front-line fighters in the world battle against fascism and for democracy.

“Their cause is our cause. A victory for General Franco and his bosses will mean a setback for the cause of peace and democracy, and an encouragement for the forces of war and fascism.

“We people of Canada must recognize our responsibilities. It is our duty, to our Spanish brothers and to ourselves, to do everything we can to assist the growing movement among the forces of labor for assistance to the Spanish people. We must not fail them!

“Let us organize a mighty united front movement of solidarity with the Spanish people! Send resolutions of support to the Spanish government! Send deputations to the Spanish consulates and representatives here, pledging the aid of the workers of Canada to the heroic Spanish people!

“Demand of the Canadian government that it declares against the embargo upon the shipment of needed materials to the Spanish government, and that it supplies to the Spanish government the arms, fuel and food it needs!

“Trade unionists! Collect funds in your locals for the Spanish people! Join with the unions of Britain, the U.S.A., France and the U.S.S.R. in this!

“C.C.F. brothers! Let us together mobilize big mass meetings, demonstrations and parades to focus attention on Spain and on the need for every Canadian lover of liberty to back up the daring fight of the Spanish common people!

“Let us join with the democratic forces of the whole world in stopping intervention by the imperialist powers, in breaking through the embargo imposed under the guise of ‘neutrality’, in assisting the Spanish workers and peasants to defeat their enemy!

[5]

"Here lies the duty of every Canadian who is for peace, democracy and liberty!

"Long live the People's Front of Spain! Common people of Canada let us do our duty".

On 17th August over 4,000 people attended a meeting in Queens Park, Toronto, Ont., in response to a call issued by the Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of Canada in support of the Spanish People's Front. Norman Freed acted as chairman and the speakers were Stewart Smith, [deletion: 1/2 line] of the Communist Party, and James Litterick, recently elected as M.L.A. in the City of Winnipeg on a Communist Party ticket.

Tracing the events leading up to the present rebellion, Stewart Smith stated that the "People" of Spain were fighting the struggle of the workers of the entire world against Fascism. He stated that it was the Communist Party of Spain that called for the army of the working class. He appealed to the audience for unity and for funds in aid of the Spanish Government.

James Litterick, who received a very enthusiastic reception when he appeared on the platform, spoke along similar lines, condemning war and Fascism. He offered the sum of \$40 towards the support of the Spanish Government out of his first Government cheque.

It was announced that this meeting was the first of a series of meetings which the Communist Party was endeavoring to hold. Two minutes' silence was observed during which the audience was treated to the "Russian Funeral March" played by the band of the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association. The collection netted the sum of \$405 which will go towards the fund for the "defence of the Spanish people".

The Toronto Jewish Anti-Fascist Conference is reported to be planning a special campaign in aid of the Spanish Government with the object of raising \$10,000. Calls are to be sent out for a conference of all Jewish organizations affiliated to the Anti-Fascist Conference.

4. C.P. Not Contesting Deferred Election in The Pas

Alderman Jacob Penner, who was slated as the Communist Party standard bearer in the deferred election at The Pas (Man.), has been

[6]

withdrawn following a survey of the situation in that constituency. Jacob Penner returned to Winnipeg from Flin Flon on the evening of 17th August.

5. Maritime Federation Resolved to Embarrass Shipping Interests in Vancouver, B.C.

Recent reports from Vancouver indicate that the Maritime Federation of the Pacific intends to pay more attention to the Port of Vancouver with a view to forcing the Shipping Federation to employ International Longshoremen's Association labour.

On 1st August the S.S. "Hollywood" of the McCormick Line arrived in Vancouver and the crew refused to give steam to any longshore labour excepting members of the International Longshoremen's Association. The local agent and the stevedores refused to be so dictated to and the ship sailed for Seattle, Wash., U.S.A., where she landed 200 tons of cargo that had been destined for Vancouver. The crew then said this cargo was "unfair" and they refused to sail unless it was taken back on board. Then the ship sailed again for Vancouver to take the final test. Arriving there on 6th August the crew again demanded I.L.A. labour. The Shipping Federation of British Columbia refused and the ship sailed again.

A day later the Matson Line S. S. "Mana" came into port to load 3,600 tons of cargo for Hawaii. Ships of this Line heretofore have loaded and discharged without embarrassment but this ship was stopped within two hours and sailed empty handed, the crew refusing to work without I.L.A. shore labour as a result of instructions received by wire from San Francisco. These ships both sail under U.S. West Coast Shipping Articles.

On the morning of 11th August the Isthmian Line S. S. "Steel Voyager" arrived to load for England. She proceeded without trouble as her crew is signed on under Atlantic Coast Articles and does not see eye to eye with the Maritime Federation of the Pacific.

It is understood that the Maritime Federation of the Pacific proposes to boycott any ships of any flag when in United States West Coast ports if those ships loaded or unloaded cargo at Vancouver.

[7]

Oscar Salonen and Ivan Emery, leaders of the 1935 longshore strike at Vancouver, are said to be quite active again in an endeavour to cause trouble in Vancouver port.

6. William Gallacher in Canada

(A) At Hamilton, Ont.

William Gallacher addressed a well attended meeting in the Arena at Hamilton on 10th August; his subject being "The rise of fascism". Canada, he

said, was already facing disruptive elements through the organization of Fascist movements in Quebec designed to foster racial hatred between English and French people. He pointed to Spain as an example where the Leftist—anti-Fascist forces—struck back defending democracy. In England the Fascists are protected by police because they are performing a function for capitalism, he stated.

(B) At St. Catharines, Ont.

On 11th August, William Gallacher spoke at a meeting organized by the Communist Party of Canada at St. Catharines. A number of people in attendance are said to have come from various points throughout the Niagara Peninsula and Buffalo. Greetings were delivered to the speaker on behalf of the Communist Party organizations in Welland, St. Catharines and Niagara Falls. One of the visitors from Buffalo brought greetings from the Communist Party of the U.S.A. Leslie Morris, editor of the Daily Clarion, spoke for the Central Committee of the Communist Party and for his paper.

(C) At Sudbury, Ont.

On 14th August, William Gallacher addressed a meeting in the Palace Rink at Sudbury which was attended by approximately 600 people. His speech was largely a repetition of the ones given on previous occasions. Short talks were also given by Sam Scarlett and A. T. Hill, well known functionaries of the Communist Party.

[8]

(D) At Timmins, Ont.

Arriving in Timmins on the afternoon of 16th August, William Gallacher was met at the station by a cheering crowd numbering several hundred. In the course of the evening he addressed a well attended meeting in the Skating Rink and made a very spirited appeal on behalf of the "people" of Spain, resulting in the collection of approximately \$350. He was given a banner by the Young Communist League and the Kirkland Lake miners presented him with a pipe.

(E) At Fort William, Ont.

W. Gallacher was the principal speaker at a meeting arranged by the Communist Party of Canada in the Civic Auditorium at Fort William on the evening of 19th August. He presented a short resume of his experiences in the British House of Commons, displaying a profound hostile attitude towards the National Government. He charged that German militarism is being financed by British capitalists. Speaking of his experiences in the Province of Quebec he observed a distinct Fascist tendency on the part of the French Canadians and said that the French Canadians were being organized by the Fascists. In conclusion he appealed to the Anglo-Saxons and French Canadians as well as foreign-born residents to forget national differences and to unite for the struggle against Capitalism.

Short talks were also given by T. Borman, [deletion: 1/2 line] Alderman Batters, Alderman Howard and J. Quinn.

The auditorium was filled to capacity, approximately 750 people attended.

(F) At Winnipeg, Man.

William Gallacher arrived in Winnipeg on the morning of 20th August and was met at the station by approximately 300 people. In the evening he was the feature speaker at a mass meeting held under the auspices of the communist party of Canada in the Walker Theatre. The meeting was attended by approximately 1,600 people, and speeches were also given by Jacob Penner—chairman of the meeting—and James Litterick,

[9]

Communist M.L.A. A unique feature of this meeting was the presence on one platform of the two only Communist Members of Parliament in the British Empire today.

William Gallacher, as usual, was very bitter against some of the leading British Statesmen whom he characterized as "leaders of a group dragging Britain into a new war for the preservation of Capitalism". He asserted that Fascist tendencies were becoming more pronounced in the United Kingdom. Speaking of the Spanish Civil War he charged that the British Government has stationed the Navy to protect the Fascist rebels as they crossed the Strait of Gibraltar.

Before William Gallacher spoke, James Litterick appealed for a fund of \$500 to be raised in Manitoba in aid of the Spanish Government. The collection netted \$330 and written pledges for another \$107 were received. Gallacher's speech was well received by the audience.

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[10]

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCESI. BRITISH COLUMBIA7. Notes

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II. ALBERTA8. Tom Ewen Speaks at Communist Meeting in Edmonton

Tom Ewen was the feature speaker at a meeting of the Communist Party at Edmonton on the evening of 9th August. Approximately 400 people attended. Ewen spoke on the recent District Convention of the Communist Party and on conditions in Alberta. He remarked that the people of Alberta are being ruled by "tools of the Capitalists of St. James Street in Montreal" and asserted that Premier Aberhart was merely the representative of finance capital. He urged the people of Alberta to join the Communist Party or at least support its policy.

[11]

Jan Lakeman also spoke on conditions in Alberta and the Social Credit Movement. He declared that the Communist Party was not against social credit but was opposing social credit as it stands today in the Province of Alberta. He further declared that the Communist Party throughout the province was against signing registration forms for basic dividends.

The Communist Party at Edmonton held a meeting of unit and section leaders on the afternoon of 9th August at the Russian Hall attended by 32 members including Tom Ewen, who addressed the meeting on the proceedings of the District Convention of the Party held in Calgary recently.

J. Lakeman spoke on the Daily Clarion and Party finances urging that every Party member should seriously fulfil his duties in that regard. He also suggested that leaflets be issued and talks be given over the radio explaining the "crisis" in Alberta.

R. C. Mason reported that the expenses during the past month exceeded the income and that the Party was \$140 in debt.

The Canadian League Against War and Fascism at Edmonton assembled in conference at the Masonic Temple on 11th August and formally endorsed Alderman Miss Margaret Crang as delegate to the World Peace Congress which is to open in Brussels, Belgium, on 3rd September.

III. SASKATCHEWAN

9. Single Unemployed Active in Saskatchewan

The newly formed Single Workers Union at Saskatoon, Sask., held a mass meeting at the Market Square on the evening of 13th August with approximately 400 people in attendance. William J. Graham acted as chairman and the speakers included E. Gilroy, H. J. Benson, A. C. Campbell and a man named Black. A. C. Campbell, [deletion:1/2 line] assured the audience that the working class would gain little or nothing without a struggle; that in order to gain anything at all the workers must show sufficient power. He urged the workers and farmers to unite in a United Front for common action and through mass pressure force the Government to grant their demands.

[12]

Black and Gilroy spoke along similar lines while H. J. Benson, of the Civic Progressive Association, dealt principally with the local unemployed situation.

Instructions are said to have been issued to every Communist agitator travelling around in the harvest fields of Saskatchewan to agitate with a view to having the transients congregate in the cities on about 15th October.

On 16th August approximately 70 young unemployed men met on a vacant lot at Yorkton, Sask., where they were addressed by Barney Dachis and Sam Ellis, [deletion:1/2 line] After listening to the speeches it was decided to march on the Mayor's house and demand three "substantial" meals per day which, they claimed, they were not getting. They sang several revolutionary songs such as "Marching to Victory" and "The Red Flag". On arrival at the Mayor's house they were advised that the Mayor was not at home. It was decided then to march to the City Police Station and there interview the Chief of Police who, following the interview, arranged to provide all transients with two meals, i.e., an allowance of 60¢ per day until they could find work at a reasonable wage. The decision of the Chief of Police was conveyed to the demonstrators by Sam Ellis who stated that although they had won this particular struggle "the fight was by no means finished".

It has been ascertained that over ninety per cent of the transients congregated at Yorkton recently arrived from Winnipeg. A number of them have refused to go to work at the prevailing rate of wages.

IV. MANITOBA

10. Defence Movement in Winnipeg Adopt New Tactics

At a meeting of the Citizens Defence Committee at Winnipeg held on 17th August it was decided to adopt methods similar to the ones used in Toronto, Ont. It was agreed to make an appeal to all unions with a view to having each union elect five members to form a defence section and to have the activities of these sections co-

[13]

ordinated through a Central Committee. The Citizens Defence Committee as it is constituted now consists largely of Communists, former leading members of the Canadian Labour Defence League.

John Navizowski gave a rather elaborate illustrated lecture in the Ukrainian Labour Temple at Winnipeg, Man., on 14th August, on the Spanish Revolution. More than 200 scenes were shown depicting the different stages of the fighting, and emphasizing the heroism of the People's Front fighters. He urged the audience to come to the support of the Spanish Government in their fight against the Fascist rebels. About 800 people attended.

Three hundred and fifty fur workers in Winnipeg came out on strike on the morning of 11th August following unsuccessful negotiations between the Fur Workers Industrial Union and the employers. The strike, affecting 35 shops, is said to involve ninety-five per cent of the workers employed in the fur industry in Winnipeg. The demands presented by the union centre mainly around the question of union recognition and a closed shop.

The Fur Workers Industrial Union at Winnipeg is said to have received \$10,000 from the International Office to conduct the strike.

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