

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 2nd September, 1936.

SECRETNO. 822WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

Efforts are being made in the more important centres throughout Canada to collect funds to aid the Madrid Government in its fight against the rebels.

A "United Committee to aid the Spanish People's Front" has been formed in Toronto, Ont., to co-ordinate the collection of funds. An All-Canada fund has been opened by this committee and money cables are to be sent from Toronto to Spain each Wednesday through the International Federation of Trade Unions.

Approximately \$2,000 has already been collected in Toronto, according to reports made at a meeting of the Toronto Committee held on 27th August.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERALI. Lithuanians Hold Convention in Montreal, Que.

In an attempt to form a United Front of Lithuanians in Canada a number of Lithuanian organizations met in convention at Montreal, Que., recently and formed a permanent organization to be known as the Canadian Lithuanian Congress.

The convention, held on 1st and 2nd August, was opened by K. Juskevicius, chairman of the Initiative Committee, and the introductory address was presented by K. Kilikevicius, secretary of the Initiative Committee. V. Raila (Toronto), J. Zukauskas (Sudbury), P. Matulaityte, M. Gudas and J. Lesevicius (all of Montreal), were elected to the Presidium. Committees were elected as follows:—

Credentials Committee —	O. Indreliene, P. Pajuodis (Toronto), J. Vilkelis (Montreal).
Resolutions Committee —	J. Yla (Toronto), J. Paliliunas (Winnipeg), P. Suplevicius (Montreal).
Press Committee —————	J. Valunas, A. Kovoliunas (Toronto), K. Kilikevicius (Montreal).
Secretaries for the Congress —————	J. Lesevicius, P. Matulaityte.

Greetings were delivered by D. M. Solomskas of Brooklyn, N. Y., Masnickas of Montreal, A. Morkis and V. Jusaitis of Toronto, P. Suplevicius of Montreal, Adams of the [deletion:2-3 words] of the Communist Party of Canada, J. Paliliunas of Winnipeg, K. Lapienis of Hamilton, A. Jankauskas of Brooklyn, N. Y., and others.

Z. Janauskas spoke on the present Government of Lithuania and the political situation in that country.

The Credentials Committee reported the attendance of 90 delegates, two of whom were from the U.S.A. representing 82,500 Lithuanians in that country. The remainder of the delegates represented a number of Lithuanian organizations in Canada with a total membership of 3,400. Among the organizations represented were:—

- (1) Lithuanian Grand Duke Vytautas Independent Club,
Montreal
- (2) Sons & Daughters of Mutual Aid Society, Montreal
- (3) Canadian Lithuanian Sons & Daughters Mutual Aid
Society
- (4) American Lithuanian Workers Literary Society

(5) Toronto & Hamilton Branches of the American Lithuanian Alliance

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Montreal supplied 54 delegates, Toronto 22, Hamilton 3, Sudbury 6, and Winnipeg, Fort William and Stewart, Ont., each sent one delegate.

K. Kilikevicius delivered a lengthy speech on the Canadian Lithuanian Movement in aid of the people of Lithuania. He pointed out that out of 10,000 Lithuanians in Canada 3,500 are organized and that approximately 5,000 are reading Lithuanian newspapers and periodicals. He appealed to the delegates to carry out the decisions of the congress.

The congress elected a National Central Committee consisting of seven members, all of whom are resident in Montreal:—

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|---------------------|--|
| (1) M. Masnickas | — Grand Duke Vytautas Ind. Club |
| (2) O. Vilkaitiene | — “ “ “ “ “ |
| (3) K. Kilikevicius | — Mont. Sons & Daughters of Mutual Aid Society |
| (4) Z. Janauskas | — Mont. Sons & Daughters of Mutual Aid Society |
| (5) P. Suplevicius | — Mont. Sons & Daughters of Mutual Aid Society |
| (6) P. Matulaityte | — Amer. Lith. Workers Lit. Sty. |
| (7) J. Lesevicius | — “ ” “ ” “ |

The congress decided to print postal cards in the Lithuanian and other foreign languages bearing anti-fascist slogans to be mailed to Lithuania. The congress further resolved to issue anti-fascist buttons for distribution among the Canadian Lithuanians; to organize Lithuanian language schools, circulating libraries and to revive national culture; to support the delegation to be sent to Lithuania by the American Lithuanian Congress to investigate conditions among the anti-fascist prisoners in the Lithuanian prisons; that the elected Central Committee keep constant contact with the Canadian League Against War and Fascism; to raise funds in aid of the Lithuanian people struggling against fascism.

[~~2~~ lines] The bulk of the delegates in attendance represented the various branches of the American Lithuanian Workers Literary Society and the Canadian Lithuanian Sons and Daughters of Mutual Aid Society, [~~1~~ line]

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3. Textile Workers' Strike at Cornwall, Ont.

The strike of 1,700 workers at Courtaulds (Canada) Limited at Cornwall continues.

On 27th August a special membership meeting of the newly formed local union of the United Textile Workers of America, re-endorsed the former demands presented to the company and rejected the proposal of Mr. Johnson, president of the company, who demanded that the agreement be redrafted. There are 27 points in the union demands which include from 2¢ to 10¢ increase in wages for four departments, ten per cent increase in the other departments; recognition of the union and improvements in sanitary conditions.

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Frank Love, arrested on charges of illegal picketing, who was released on \$4,000 bail, was given a great ovation when he was elected on the Negotiations Committee.

Negotiations for a settlement in the dispute came to an abrupt close on 31st August when company officials emphatically declared they would recognize no union.

Addressing strikers on the evening of the 31st, Arthur Laverty said the union must be recognized in order that concessions could be made permanent. Laverty would not commit himself on what action would be taken by the strikers. "We are going to picket the plant", he said. At his suggestion the strikers paraded in front of the plant at the close of the meeting, singing union songs "to show the company we are determined to have the union recognized".

4. The Communist Party and the Textile Strike at Cornwall, Ont.

[~~deletion:3 lines~~] The main discussion centered around the textile strike at Cornwall.

[~~deletion:2-3 words~~] reported that the strike leadership had committed two major errors during the early phase of the strike, (a) making an agreement with the employers to permit the shipment of silk from the factory and (b) in weakening the picket lines through failure to give it a militant and mass character. [~~deletion:name~~] also alleged that demoralization in the ranks of the strikers was becoming noticeable, caused through pressure that is being

brought to bear by the house wives on their husbands to stay off the picket line for fear of possible arrest or injury, and secondly, through the failure to stop silk shipment. [deletion:6 lines]

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[deletion:1 1/2 lines]

[deletion:name] placed before the Bureau the following three suggestions to be carried out in case present negotiations with the Courtaulds Company should fail:—

- (1) To stop the shipment of silk.
- (2) To organize activity in support of the strikers by arranging meetings in Toronto and at other points; organizing of collections, etc.
- (3) To spread organization among the textile employees in factories at Toronto, Hamilton and Welland.

With regard to suggestion No. 1 he proposed to organize demonstrations at Scarboro and points near Cornwall where the trucks could be stopped; "even if the silk is not destroyed at least the drivers can be lectured on carrying silk from a factory where there is a strike", he remarked. He maintained that there exists a favourable situation for organizing a union and strike action in the Simpson's Knit and Royal Silk Knit factories in Toronto.

In the discussion that followed [deletion:name] agreed with [deletion:name] suggestions but felt that the idea of patrolling the highway near Scarboro would not be workable in view of the fact that the [deletion:word] Transportation Company of Toronto, which is being employed by Courtaulds to carry the silk, had many trucks engaged in hauling other commodities between Montreal and Toronto. He suggested that the Strike Committee in Cornwall should organize action on the highways leading from Cornwall which would lessen police attention on the factory picket line; he concluded by remarking: "Rolling rocks down a hill at the trucks is one sure way of stopping them if the picket line can't".

[deletion:name] concurred in [deletion:name] remarks and opposed demonstrations at Scarboro, stating that it would be difficult to organize them and would be detrimental to the strikers' cause at this particular moment. He maintained that it was "more important to stop production rather than stopping the shipment of silk". He proposed that [deletion:name] should go to Cornwall while negotiations were under way in order to assist the leadership so they may know how far to retreat which is "daily becoming an apparent necessity".

It was finally agreed by the meeting to accept all of [deletion:name] proposals dropping the definite proposal of demonstrations in Scarboro for

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the time being. A motion was then passed to the effect that [§deletion:name] go to Cornwall any time he deemed it necessary.

[§deletion:name] was placed in charge of the organizing operations in Toronto factories and of caring for the strikers from Cornwall — three girls and one man — who are in Toronto, in an endeavour to publicize the strike among trade unions and at meetings in general.

Another important item under consideration was the Glass Workers' strike in Hamilton, with [§deletion:name] as the main reporter [§deletion:name] stated that the Glass Workers' strike is in its dying stage because of the poor preparations made for strike action. The strike was also weakened by the fact that there were three international (A.F. of L.) unions on strike with no co-ordinating committee to lead the strike movement. He further stated that all three unions were opposed to outsiders picketing. After a brief discussion it was resolved that [§deletion:name] should go to Hamilton to investigate the matter personally and to endeavour to get the Hamilton Trades and Labour Council to assume leadership of the strike if there was still a chance of carrying on.

5. Trades & Labour Congress Asked to Establish Organizational Department and "War Chest"

The forthcoming (52nd) Annual Convention of the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada will be called upon to consider and pass on a resolution which calls for the establishment of an organizational department and the building of a "war chest". The resolution comes from Local 149 of the Upholsterers, Carpet and Linoleum Mechanics Union which is under the leadership of Fred Collins, [§deletion:1 line] Fred Collins, who was one of the principal actors in the Stratford strike of 1933 and who, besides being organizer of the Upholsterers Union, is also president of the Joint Council of Furniture and Allied Trades, is the prime mover for the establishment of an organizational department by the congress. When interviewed recently regarding the purpose of this proposition, he is reported to have said, "Adequate machinery is necessary to cope with the tremendous organizational possibilities;

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this organizational department is the machinery which can organize tens of thousands of hitherto unorganized workers". "The department's task will be to render all assistance possible to all existing American Federation of Labor unions in such industries that, up to the time of this congress, still remain unorganized", Collins stated, He maintained that special attention must be paid

to the unionizing of such industries as textile, rubber, auto, steel and packing. Illustrating the present organizational set-up of many unions he said, "At present we have a number of Federal locals which are to a degree isolated to their own particular locality and have no apparatus to co-ordinate the activities of such locals on a national scale which exists side by side with international union locals in the same industry". Pointing to the fertile field for unionization, he remarked, "At present there is a tremendous upsurge amongst the unorganized for unionization; no better example can be given than Cornwall where a number of industries, up to a few weeks ago, were unorganized". "Then there is the auto industry in Windsor and Oshawa and Kitchener with its shirt factories, tanneries and rubber can bring hundreds of members into the American Federation of Labor", he concluded.

6. "The Nova Scotia Miner" Ceases Publication

The Nova Scotia Miner, published by J. B. McLachlan at Glace Bay, N.S., and which for years has championed the cause of the Communist Party of Canada in that area, particularly among the miners of Cape Breton, has ceased publication. It will be recalled that McLachlan some time ago refused to accept the policy laid down by the Communist Party of Canada with regard to the merging of the two miners' unions in Cape Breton and it has been said that as a result he severed his connection with the Communist Party.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

7. C.P. in Vancouver Inactive

Communist Party activities in Vancouver during the past two weeks have been practically at a standstill.

With the destruction by fire of the Arena and damage to the Auditorium the plans of the Communist Party for exploiting William Gallacher to the best advantage received a setback. Gallacher is to speak at the Empress Theatre which has a seating capacity of only 1700.

In a letter received from the secretary of the North West Council of the Boom Men and Rafters Union it was urged on the British Columbia loggers that every information must be forwarded on the origin of the British Columbia

logs now being towed into Washington. This organization pledges its membership to refuse to handle British Columbia logs declared "unfair" by the B. C. District Council of Timber Workers and Millhands.

II. ALBERTA

8. Jan Lakeman Speaks on Spanish Situation at Edmonton

The Spanish situation was the subject of an address given by Jan Lakeman at a poorly attended mass meeting in the New Haddon Hall at Edmonton held on the evening of 16th August, under the auspices of the Communist Party. Lakeman dealt extensively with the events leading up to the present Spanish conflict and described Spain as the battlefield of a Civil War "depicting the conflict between democracy and Fascism". "We must stop any Fascist intervention against the Spanish working class and express our solidarity with the common people of Spain, thus letting the Capitalists of Canada and the whole world know where we stand", he concluded.

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III. MANITOBA

9. P.L.F.T.A. at Winnipeg Hold Festival

The Polish Labour Farmer Temple Association held a festival at the Workers Benevolent Association farm in East Kildonan on 23rd August. The affair was well attended and the programme included stunt flying by two aeroplanes that were chartered for the occasion. Ex-Judge Stubbs, recently elected to the Manitoba Legislature, was the guest of honour and principal speaker. He spoke for approximately one hour pointing out the need for organization and unity of the working class. He also touched upon the European situation, particularly the revolt in Spain. The situation in Europe, he said, was tense and an explosion may be expected at any moment. He prophesied that should another war break out Capitalism will be destroyed for ever. He warned the workers to keep close watch over the leaders such as the Right Honourable Ramsay MacDonald who, he alleged, betrayed the people.

IV. ONTARIO

10. Central Ontario District of C.P. in Convention at Sudbury

The Central Ontario District of the Communist Party of Canada held a District Convention at Sudbury on 23rd and 24th August with 30 delegates in attendance representing 42 units of the Party from Sudbury, Sault Ste. Marie, Espanola, Burritt, Creighton Mine, Beaver Lake and White Fish. It was the first public convention held by the Party in this district since 1930.

A. T. Hill, on behalf of the District Committee, presented the political report dealing with the international situation, particularly the revolution in Spain, and conditions generally in the district. He stated that the International Nickel Company is the greatest supporter of Fascism and "war-maker" in Canada. He told the convention that hundreds of workers and many merchants in Sudbury have approved of the municipal programme of the Communist Party and that it may be possible to organize a mass movement around that programme. The programme includes the establishment of a Greater Sudbury and the incorporation of the boroughs controlled by the International Nickel Co.

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He placed before the convention the following tasks which, he said, confront the Party in the Central Ontario District:—

- (1) The formation of the anti-fascist and anti-war front.
- (2) The building of the trade union movement in the important centres, particularly in Sudbury, Sault Ste. Marie and North Bay.
- (3) Preparation of the municipal election campaign in the various points centering around the slogan "Make The Rich Pay".
- (4) Building of a "fighting and powerful movement of the unemployed and relief recipients."
- (5) Recruiting additional members into the Party.
- (6) Organization of a women's movement with women's councils in every locality as its chief task.
- (7) Strengthening of the Young Communist League.
- (8) The building up of the circulation of the Daily Clarion.

N. Makela, in his organizational report, stated that the Central Ontario District is comprised of 42 units with 321 fully paid-up members; that of this number 42 are French Canadians, 26 Anglo-Saxons, and the remainder Finns, Ukrainians and other nationalities.

The reports of Hill and Makela were approved and the convention resolved to raise the membership of the Party to 600 in the district before the 8th National Convention of the Party, which is to convene in Toronto on 9th

October. The convention also sent greetings to the People's Front in Spain, promising fullest support, and to the Government of the U.S.S.R. congratulating same on the extermination of the "Trotsky terrorists". The convention also voiced its approval of the campaign waged by the International Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers Union (A.F. of L.) to organize the metal miners in the district, and instructed all members of the Party employed in the mining industry to join the union and to spare no effort to unionize the nickel mining industry.

V. QUEBEC

11. Result of Communist Provincial Election Campaign in Montreal Has Demoralizing Effect

The result of the recent Provincial election in Montreal was a severe blow to the prestige of the Communist Party in that city; many of the members of the Party feel considerably discouraged as a result of the poor showing made by the Communist Party at the polls. This can be especially noted among the French Canadians who feel that all the weight was thrown behind Fred Rose's campaign and that not sufficient attention having been paid to the two French Canadian candidates — Dube and Godin. The total cost of the campaign was approximately \$2500. The Party succeeded however in raising sufficient funds to cover all expenses.
