

NO. 1

## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 9th September, 1936.

SECRETNO. 823WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

The strike of 1700 textile workers at Cornwall, Ont., was called off on the morning of 4th September, following a conference between officials of Courtaulds Company (Canada) Limited and strike leaders at which an agreement was reached guaranteeing substantial wage increases and improved working conditions. Recognition of the union, one of the main demands of the strikers, was not granted, however.

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2. Drive for "Daily Clarion" Planned

The editorial board of the central organ of the Communist Party of Canada, the Daily Clarion, has set aside the month of October during which a sustaining fund of \$17,500 is to be raised in order that the paper may continue for the next six months. The quotas allotted to each district of the Communist Party are as follows:—

Southern Ontario.....	\$7,000
Alberta.....	1,500
Manitoba.....	1,500
Quebec.....	1,500
Northern Ontario.....	1,500
Western Ontario.....	1,200

British Columbia.....	1,200
Central Ontario.....	800
Saskatchewan.....	600
Maritimes.....	200

Preparations for the campaign are now under way and committees have been appointed in many cities and towns throughout Canada.

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3. Ontario Conference of Unemployed in Toronto, Ontario.  
24th-26th September

Preparations are being made for a province-wide convention of unemployed organizations to be held in Toronto, from 24th to 26th September, it was announced by G. Harris, secretary of the Ontario Workers Federation on Unemployment, following a meeting of the Toronto and District Conference of Unemployed on 1st September. Harris predicted one of the largest conventions ever held with at least 250 delegates from various points of the province attending.

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4. General Strike Discussed at Winnipeg, Man.

Refusal on the part of the large fur manufacturers at Winnipeg to negotiate with the fur workers who are now out on strike has given rise to considerable agitation among the organized trade unionists in Winnipeg in an endeavour to create a sentiment for a general strike. On 2nd September J. B. Graham and W. J. Nelson, secretary and president of the Winnipeg Trades and Labour Council, respectively, issued a call to all union executives affiliated to the American Federation of Labour to attend an emergency meeting on 4th September to discuss the problem arising out of the fur workers' strike. A press statement issued following a secret session of the council on 1st September intimated that the calling of a general strike was discussed and would be considered at the emergency meeting on 4th Sept.

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5. William Gallacher in Canada

(A) At Regina, Sask.

William Gallacher addressed a meeting attended by approximately 800 people in the City Hall Auditorium at Regina on 22nd August. The meeting,

held under the auspices of the Communist Party of Canada, was called to order by Peter Lindsay (Kozak) and the speaker was introduced to the audience by ex-Alderman T. G. McManus.

William Gallacher spoke for approximately one hour and a half devoting most of his speech to the United Front Movement. Referring to Canada and Canadian affairs he stated that the people are living in misery because of the Capitalist system and the graft indulged in by Government officials. He suggested that if the workers and farmers would organize and unite in common action there would be no exploitations. He further suggested that the Canadian workers and farmers could learn a great deal from the experience of the People's Fronts in Spain and France. He warned the audience that the same forces that are at work in Great Britain are also operating in Canada and that "Canada's possibilities can never be realized if the clammy, dying hand of decaying British capital is allowed to remain". Appealing for a United Front, he touched upon what he pleased to term, the "insidious

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propaganda at work to divide the Canadian workers", particularly in the Province of Quebec. Referring to the results of the recent Quebec Provincial election, he said that it clearly indicates that Canada is already confronted with Fascism, and prophesied that this movement would spread from the Atlantic to the Pacific. He concluded with an appeal to every Canadian man and woman to work in an endeavour to make Canada a great force in building up a new world.

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(B) At Saskatoon, Sask.

On 23rd August William Gallacher addressed a meeting at the Exhibition Grounds at Saskatoon sponsored by the North Saskatchewan section of the Communist Party of Canada. He was introduced to the audience, numbering approximately 800 persons, by A.C. Campbell, [deletion: 1/2 line] The speech which he gave on this occasion was largely a repetition of the one given by him at Regina on the previous day. It is noteworthy that on both occasions he was enthusiastically received by the audience.

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(C) At Edmonton, Alta.

William Gallacher arrived in Edmonton on 24th August and was welcomed at the station by approximately 60 Communist Party members and sympathizers. In the course of the evening he addressed a mass meeting in the Empire

Theatre which was attended by approximately 1,100 people. J. Lakeman acted as chairman and the subject of Mr. Gallacher's speech was "British Isles and World Affairs". He accused the British Government of trying to liquidate the depression by spending huge sums on armaments without showing any sympathy for the unemployed. Speaking of the conditions in Spain, he stated that the rebel forces would be crushed with the sympathy and assistance of the "civilized world". He said that the Fascists forfeited their hopes of victory by failing to gain control in the first forty-eight hours of fighting and that the socialist forces were steadily gaining strength. He claimed that the Spanish war is embarrassing the British Government for, should the Fascists win, Britain will have to acknowledge

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Mussolini's control of Spain as well as Northern Africa. He said the only remaining hope for Britain is to form an alliance with France and Russia. He predicted the downfall of the National Government in Great Britain and the election of a Labour Government.

Following the meeting a banquet was held for Mr. Gallacher which was attended by approximately 100 people including all Labour and Social Credit Aldermen of the City of Edmonton and Dr. Crang. Replying to the good wishes extended by the various speakers, William Gallacher urged all progressive forces, particularly the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation and Social Credit Groups, to unite their forces and oppose all "reactionary" measures of the Alberta Government.

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(D) At Calgary, Alta.

On 25th August William Gallacher addressed approximately 600 people in the Victoria Pavilion at Calgary. The meeting was held under the auspices of the Communist Party with Andy Hogarth acting as chairman. Mr. Gallacher's speech was largely a repetition of the one given by him at Edmonton on the day previous.

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(E) At Blairmore, Alta.

On 26th August William Gallacher addressed a public meeting in the Columbus Hall, Blairmore, Alta., attended by approximately 420 people. Pat Lenihan, [deletion: 1/2 line] presided and introduced the speaker. Greetings were presented to Gallacher from the various branches of the Communist Party of the Crow's Nest Pass district.

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(F) At Vancouver, B.C.

William Gallacher addressed two meetings at the Empress Theatre, Vancouver, on the night of 29th August under the auspices of the Communist Party of Canada. The first meeting, which commenced at 8.00 o'clock and lasted until 9.55 p.m., was attended by approximately 2,000 people, while the second meeting, starting at approximately 10.05 and lasting until 11.00 o'clock, was attended by about 1,500

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persons. The meeting originally was to have been held in the Auditorium on Georgia Street but due to that building having been destroyed by fire a short time ago the Empress Theatre was used, necessitating the holding of two meetings.

William Gallacher was introduced to the audience by Malcolm Bruce. Gallacher's theme was the "United Front"; he supported it by the stories of his Parliamentary experiences related to show that the same solidarity and organization existing among the Fifeshire miners could be established in Vancouver and other parts of Canada.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. ALBERTA

6. Attempt to Bring All Unemployed Organizations Under One Leadership

The Northern Alberta Unemployed Commission, formed some time ago with a view to bringing under one central leadership all unemployed organizations in the district, is now endeavouring to gain sufficient support for a mass delegation to the Alberta Provincial Government during the latter part of this month to ask for a uniform scale of relief throughout the province. Failing a satisfactory result from the interview, an effort will then be made to bring about a relief strike on a province-wide scale to embarrass the Provincial and Municipal Governments.

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## II. ONTARIO

### 7. Bulgarian Mass Meeting in Toronto

A. E. Smith, secretary of the Canadian Labour Defence League, and E. F. Haskell of the U.S.A., who visited Southern Europe as members of an international delegation to investigate conditions in the prisons, particularly in Bulgaria, addressed about 2,000 people in the Massey Hall at Toronto on 30th August. The meeting was held under the auspices of the Bulgarian and Macedonian Clubs of Toronto.

A. E. Smith was given a standing ovation by the audience; he spoke on the war danger in Europe, asserting that war was imminent, and that if it does break out it will not be a Capitalist war or war in the sense of the last World War but "a mighty struggle between opposing social, moral and political philosophies — Fascism and Socialism". Referring to the "peace policy" and the strong defence of the Soviet Union, he stated that "any war against the Soviet Union will be fought on the invader's soil to its sorrow and disaster".

Edward Haskell of New York, president of the Federation of Bulgarian Clubs of America, dealt with the system of governments in the various Balkan countries which he, in company with A.E. Smith and Smelea Voydanoff, visited. He referred to the system of governments

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in those countries as "Fascist dictatorships set up as the direct result of German influence". He charged these governments with torture of political prisoners.

S. Voydanoff, president of the Macedonian People's League, spoke briefly in English and in Bulgarian. He appealed to the Macedonians to unite and assist in the struggle against Fascism in the Balkans. He intimated that an attempt will be made to draw into the anti-Fascist movement in Canada the Macedonian political organization which is holding its National Convention in Toronto this month.

Reverend Atanasoff, Bulgarian United Church Minister, who acted as chairman of the meeting, urged the audience to dissolve all the differences existing between the various Macedonian and Bulgarian organizations and unite in defence of the political prisoners "who are suffering torture and jails for their opinions and their desires to free the people of Macedonia and Bulgaria from the yoke of the Fascist oppressors".

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### III. QUEBEC

#### 8. Montreal Communists Discuss Trade Union Situation

[~~3~~ 1/2 lines] delivered the main report. He stated that a most favourable situation exists for the Communist Party and the trade union field at the present time due largely to the liquidation of the Workers Unity League and the return of its members to the American Federation of Labor unions. He remarked that since the change of policy, i.e., the liquidation of the Workers Unity League, over 40,000 new members have been recruited into the American Federation of Labor due to the efforts of the Communist Party. He further remarked that Toronto has led the way on the road to unity and that a most favourable situation exists in the Toronto and District Trades and Labor Council due to the fact that over 50 Communist Party members sit on that council. The decision of the last Plenum of the Communist Party to recruit at least 50,000 new members into the American Federation of Labor has,

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to a large measure, been realized, he said, The immediate objective of the Communist Party in the trade union field must be the transformation of all Trades and Labour Councils into instruments capable of carrying through a policy of organizing the unorganized, he declared. Speaking of the Cornwall textile strike, he said that it was due to the efforts of the Communist Party that the rayon workers were organized. Commenting on the unity movement in the trade union field, he indicated that little progress has been made in uniting the unions of the All-Canadian Congress of Labour with those of the American Federation of Labor. He observed, however, some success as far as the railroad running trades are concerned because of the establishment of a joint committee and the possibility of the unions entering the American Federation of Labor. In the railroad shops the Communist Party units have not been successful and failed to carry through their objective, he said. Communist Party members, he added, appear to be afraid to carry on any work and consequently have failed to gain any sort of footing in those unions. He intimated that the Communist Party intends to set up two concentration units in the railroad shops in Montreal but felt that little progress can be expected because of the dismissal from the jobs of a considerable number of workers who are members of the Communist Party. [~~name~~] further stated that several of the unions organized by the Communist Party, such as the Window Cleaners Union and the Novelty Workers and the Artificial Stone Cutters Unions, have not progressed and have become practically defunct. "Our many weaknesses", he said, "can be blamed on the fact that the [~~1/2 line~~] has functioned badly". "This", he added, "is due, to a large measure, to the fact that the Communist Party



members have not become sufficiently trade union conscious and consequently have not displayed the necessary consistency on the trade union field".

[§deletion:name] reported on the situation in the needle trades industry and the Trades and Labour Council. He stated that a much better relationship exists between the Right and Left elements in the Amalgamated Tailors Section; that the Left Section of this union has succeeded in gaining the respect of the membership and is gradually assuming the leadership. The union is now well advanced towards

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becoming the most progressive union in the city, he stated. This is evidenced by the fact that all delegates from the union to the Trades and Labour Council are Communist Party members or sympathisers. He further stated that the Amalgamated is now engaged in organizational campaigns at Cornwall, St. Johns and Victoriaville and that an attempt will be made to co-operate with the Catholic unions wherever possible. [§deletion:name] urged the establishment of a real Left Wing Group in the Trades and Labour Council and that every effort should be made to increase Communist Party representation on the council with a view to eventually obtaining control. He stated that at present the Communist Party has 21 delegates sitting on the council.

Speaking of the movement for industrial unionism, [§deletion:name] informed the meeting that the [§deletion:1/2 line] has issued instructions to the effect that Initiative Committees must be set up in the trade unions and that through them the activities for the Committee for Industrial Organization be co-ordinated. In closing he remarked that the Communist Party at Montreal had succeeded in electing 20 of their members or sympathizers as delegates to the forthcoming convention of the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada.

Before closing, the meeting elected a [§deletion:3-4 words] consisting of 11 members who will be held responsible for all trade union activity of the Party in the Montreal district. [§deletion:3-4 words] is representative of 11 trades in which the Communist Party is entrenched.

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#### IV. THE MARITIME PROVINCES

##### 9. Cape Breton Communists Urged to Organize Steelworkers

[§deletion:3 1/2 lines] Two letters from the National Office at Toronto were read and discussed. One urged [§deletion:2-3 words] to take immediate action in the recruiting of Party members from the Italian population of Cape Breton. The letter instructed the Bureau to get in touch with "Il Lavatore" and obtain copies for

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circulation among the Italians. [§deletion:name] undertook this task. The second letter urged immediate action in the matter of organizing the Sydney steel workers. It instructed that pressure be brought to bear on the Committee for Industrial Organization in the U.S.A. to begin organizational work among the Canadian steel workers. The [§deletion:name] decided to write to the Committee for Industrial Organization expressing regret that nothing has been done to organize the steel workers of Nova Scotia and to ask that the matter be given immediate attention.

The organization of the steel workers was discussed and the following action decided upon:—

- (1) To carry out a previous decision to circularize United Mine Workers of America locals.
  - (2) To communicate with the United Mine Workers of America headquarters.
  - (3) To communicate with the District Office of the United Mine Workers of America.
  - (4) To organize a small local of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers as a start.
  - (5) To select a local man to organize the steel workers.
  - (6) To organize open Party propaganda meetings in Sydney.
  - (7) That the [§deletion:2-3 words] immediately take up the question of organizing the steel workers in the Pictou County.
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