

NO. 1

## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 16th September, 1936.

SECRETNO. 824WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

Elaborate preparations are under way for the most unusual National Convention ever held by the Communist Party of Canada. Hundreds of delegates representing the various districts and branches throughout Canada are expected to be in attendance.

The convention is to open with a mass meeting in the Mutual Street Arena at Toronto, Ont., on the night of 9th October at which prominent delegates will speak. On the following day, 10th October, the convention will convene in the Alexandra Hall in the King Edward Hotel. It is expected that leading Communists from France, Cuba, Mexico and the U.S.A. will be present.

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[1]

APPENDICESTable of ContentsAPPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

Paragraph No. 1. Fur Workers' Strike at Winnipeg, Man.

Mass Demonstration Planned for 12th September Postponed

" " 2. Labour Day Peaceful Event

Popular Front in Montreal not Allowed to Take Part in Celebration

" " 3. Ukrainian United Front Efforts Opposed by Ukrainian Nationalist Leaders

Navizovski and Shatulsky Address Meeting in Winnipeg

" " 4. Committee for Industrial Organization to Conduct Organizational Campaign Among Steel Workers in Canada  
Open Office in Hamilton, Ont.

- “ ” 5. Communist Agitation Among Farmers in Drought-Stricken Areas of Saskatchewan  
Wiggins and Theodore, [deletion:2-3 words] Address Numerous Meetings in District  
Delegation Visits Regina  
Mass Trek to Regina Intimated

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

- “ ” 6. [deletion:6 lines]
- “ ” 7. ALBERTA  
Anti-War Activities at Edmonton  
L.A.W. & F. Defend Spanish Government
- “ ” 8. MANITOBA  
Winnipeg Anti-Fascists Collect Funds for Spanish Government  
Ukrainian Communists in Winnipeg Conduct Campaign for Children's School
- “ ” 9. QUEBEC  
Montreal Communists Discuss Spanish Situation  
Want Labour Party to Initiate Campaign

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[2]

APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

1. Fur Workers' Strike at Winnipeg, Man.

The fur workers' strike at Winnipeg continues. The Communist element in the American Federation of Labor, particularly in the Trades and Labour Council, [deletion:1 line] have been pressing for direct action in support of the strikers. The Winnipeg Trades and Labour Council at one of its recent meetings decided to hold a mass demonstration on 12th September in support of the strike. At a subsequent meeting, however, held on 10th September, it was decided to postpone the demonstration until the 19th.

The employers organized into the Furriers Guild have rejected a proposal of the Provincial Government to the effect that a Joint Arbitration Council be set up to settle the strike; they continue to refuse to recognize the union to any degree. The union, however, accepted the proposal and the leaders are willing to submit to the findings of an Arbitration Board.

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## 2. Labour Day Peaceful Event

This year's Labour Day was celebrated in the usual peaceful manner by organized labour throughout Canada with the Communists, acting as members of their respective trade unions, taking a leading part.

At Montreal, Que., however, the Popular Front was not permitted to take part in the parade; same being confined to bona fide trade unions in the city.

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## 3. Ukrainian United Front Efforts Opposed by Ukrainian Nationalist Leaders

The Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association at Winnipeg, Man., held a special United Front meeting in the Ukrainian Labour Temple on the afternoon of 6th September. John Navizowski and M. Shatulski, the main speakers, attacked the leaders of the Ukrainian Catholic Brotherhood for the campaign started by them against the Communist Ukrainian element in the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple

[3]

Association and their efforts to achieve a United Front among Ukrainians in Canada and in the Old Country. Claiming that the People's United Front among the Ukrainians is growing, Navizowski said that in Vancouver, B. C., the Ukrainian Catholic parish together with its rector, Father N. Bartman, have endorsed the movement and that similar conditions exist at Brantford, Ont.

Navizowski made particular reference to a meeting in the Institute Prosvita held on 30th August sponsored by Ukrainian clergy and accused the Catholic priest for "propagating the idea of Fascism". He also termed as being false and totally ridiculous the charges against the Soviet Union, which were printed in a leaflet circulated by the Catholic Brotherhood. Concluding his attack, he prophesied that it will soon be a common thing to see speakers from the Labour Temple and the "Prosvita" address audiences jointly at both places.

The United Front Movement inaugurated by the Ukrainian Communist element has met with considerable opposition from the ranks of the leaders of the patriotic Ukrainians in Winnipeg and elsewhere and although the Communists claim to have made certain gains the movement has not progressed to any appreciable extent due largely to the action of the patriotic leaders, particularly the clergy.

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#### 4. Committee for Industrial Organization to Conduct Organizational Campaign Among Steel Workers in Canada

The Steel Workers Organization Committee has opened an office in Hamilton, Ont., recently to conduct an organisational campaign in the steel industries in Hamilton and Ontario generally, it was announced by Leo Krzycki, assistant regional director of the Committee for Industrial Organization at Detroit, Mich., U.S.A. It is reported that an Independent Steel Workers Union in Hamilton has decided to join the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers and that two more independent locals are preparing a vote on the question of affiliation with that organization. The organizational campaign is to be extended gradually throughout Canada.

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#### 5. Communist Agitation Among Farmers in Drought-Stricken Areas of Saskatchewan

Communist agitators have recently been active among the farmers in the dried-out areas of South-Western Saskatchewan with a view to rousing them to action on the question of relief grants.

On 25th August some 150 residents of Climax (Sask.) and district attended a meeting in the Climax Town Hall in response to a call issued by C. Tooth for the purpose of discussing the situation arising out of the drought conditions. Tooth explained that the object of the meeting was to find ways and means of raising the standard of living of the relief recipients. This, he said, was only possible by co-operation and by a united effort on the part of the recipients even if it entails a march on-to-Regina. He intimated that the recipients should demand an increase of one hundred per cent. Several members of the audience briefly addressed the gathering voicing a sentiment along the lines as expressed by C. Tooth. A number of resolutions were passed including one demanding that the standard of relief in the district be not less than the quota of relief given to the unemployed of Regina, with fifty per cent in cash grants; (b) that \$100 be issued to the average family for clothing, \$50 for household utilities and \$50 for bedding; (c) that the Government provide adequate medical aid to all relief recipients and pay increase grants to hospitals and doctors in the drought area; (d) that the Provincial Government take full responsibility for keeping the schools open; (e) that the Government launch an unemployment scheme and pay wages to those employed at trade union rates. The meeting went on record as extending sympathy and moral support to the People's Front Government of Spain, "realizing that they are fighting

our battles for freedom and justice", and demand that the Federal Government "immediately disband all Fascist organizations in Canada"; it was also agreed that "we go on record as being opposed to any form of Fascism".

The meeting elected a committee consisting of J. Francis, chairman, R. Waugh, secretary, and J. Tooth, to conduct the correspondence of the meeting and to assume responsibility for calling another meeting in the near future.

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An observer attending this meeting remarks that although 150 people attended, only approximately 40 of them were actually taking an active part therein.

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A.F. Theodore, [deletion: 1/2 line] in Saskatchewan, addressed a meeting under the auspices of the Communist Party of Canada in the Town Hall at Robsart, Sask., on 26th August. Approximately 150 people attended and the chair was occupied by Peter Sveund, Reeve of R.M. of Reno, who in opening the meeting remarked "I am proud to be able to open this meeting under the auspices of the Communist Party of Canada and to be a member of that Party".

Theodore outlined the campaign waged by the Communist Party for the abolition of Section 98, characterizing the repeal of that Section as an outstanding victory for the Communist Party of Canada. He also spoke on the Spanish Revolution, eulogizing the efforts of the Spanish Communists and their devotion to the "cause".

The meeting was one of the largest held in the district for some time.

Immediately after adjournment, another meeting was opened by T. H. Hewitt, farmer of the Robsart district, to discuss conditions among relief recipients of the district. Harry Olsen was appointed chairman and the general discussion centered around the proposed trek of relief recipients on-to-Regina. Theodore suggested that they elect delegates rather than to stage a mass trek at this particular time. The meeting then elected a committee of three to interview merchants in the district requesting financial assistance to enable them to send a delegate to Regina. Hewitt was elected as delegate from Robsart to serve on the delegation to Regina.

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On 4th September, A. F. Theodore addressed a meeting in the Climax Hall, Climax, Sask. There were approximately 60 people in attendance and C. Tooth and J. Tooth of Climax also addressed the meeting. J. Tooth, Reeve of Lone Tree municipality, was elected as a member of the delegation to Regina.

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Walter E. Wiggins of the Communist Party addressed a meeting at Wood Mountain, Sask., on 4th September attended by approximately 30 people, farmers of the district and on the 5th he addressed a meeting at Glentworth which was attended by approximately 70 people; the subject of his addresses being "Relief, Farmers and Workers' Problems". Both meetings are said to have been held under the auspices of the Communist Party of Canada. On both occasions he was assisted by local speakers who urged the farmers, particularly those in destitute circumstances, to organize and to send a delegation to Regina.

Similar meetings also took place at Claydon, Loomis, Frontier and other points at which delegates were selected to serve on the delegation which arrived in Regina on 9th September. The delegation consisted of:—

T. Hewitt	—	Robsart
John A. Holdt	—	Divide
Burt Simons	—	Instow
Charles Wickland	—	Claydon
W. L. Buckley	—	Shaunavon
Mrs. Hazel Grigg	—	Loomis
Mrs. Otto Rueger	—	Frontier
D. Mitchell	—	Lidgett
Joe Tooth	—	Climax
O. G. Lindholm	—	Fir Mountain

On the evening of 9th September the delegation attended a mass meeting in the Regina City Hall at which prominent Communist Party officials spoke accusing the Provincial Government for not being "competent to handle the situation in the dried-out areas". The delegates were urged to return to their farms and work for unity with a view to returning to Regina in stronger numbers at a later date and then force the Government to accede to their demands. The speakers included Ivan Birchard and T. G. McManus of the Communist Party, J.B. McLeod and Ed Seddle, Social Credit, and the Reverend T. Hewitt from Robsart, and a member of the delegation. From what was said at this meeting it would appear that an attempt will be made to stage a mass trek from the dried-out areas to Regina later in the fall.

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The Vancouver and District Waterfront Workers Association wrote to the Vancouver City Council recently asking that the British Columbia Shipping Federation be required to implement its promise of last February to re-employ the majority of the longshoremen who went on strike in 1935. The association also lodged a vigorous protest against officials of the Harbour Commission holding membership in the Vancouver Shipping Federation. The letter declared that, although it is 15 months since the strike took place, the fight for reinstatement still goes on. It further emphasized the support it has from the

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40,000 Maritime workers in the Maritime Federation of the Pacific and from unions of other countries.

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## II. ALBERTA

### 7. Anti-War Activities at Edmonton

Approximately 300 people attended a meeting in the Market Square at Edmonton on 28th August, under the auspices of the League Against War and Fascism, and listened to a number of speakers expounding the cause of the Popular Front Government of Spain. The speakers were A. M. Herd, J. Corrigan, who spoke on behalf of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, W. H. Miller, of the Canadian Labour Party, J. Lakeman, [deletion:3-4 words] and W. Mentz who also addressed the gathering on behalf of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation. The theme of the speeches was "Hands Off Spain" and the speakers urged that assistance be given in every way possible to the Spanish Popular Front Government in its fight against Fascism. A suggestion submitted to the meeting by J. Corrigan to the effect that a fund be started for the People's Government of Spain also that radio talks be given by representatives of the League Against War and Fascism on the situation in Spain was unanimously adopted. The meeting also agreed to send a cable message to the Spanish Government expressing solidarity and urging the Loyalist forces to be merciless against the rebels.

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The Edmonton Council of the Canadian League Against War and Fascism held a mass meeting in All Saints Parish Hall on 4th September. The subject of the various speeches submitted centered around the slogan "Support the

World Peace Congress". A. M. Herd briefly outlined the aims and objects of the league and appealed for unity of all progressive people to maintain peace and fight against Fascism. H. D. Ainley, who spoke on behalf of the Edmonton Council of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, Mrs. Grace Murdoch on behalf of the Mothers' Council for the Protection of Youth, Max Wershof, and the Reverend J. T. Stephens, all supported the remarks made by the first speaker, declaring themselves emphatically against war and Fascism.

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[10]

### III. MANITOBA

#### 8. Winnipeg Anti-Fascists Collect Funds for Spanish Government

The Canadian League Against War and Fascism at Winnipeg held a public meeting at the Hebrew Sick Benefit Hall on 4th September. Approximately 400 people attended and the speakers included M. Meyers, Dr. I. Pearlman, A. A. Heaps, M. P., James Litterick and Mr. Stubbs; the latter three speaking in English while M. Meyers and Dr. Pearlman spoke in Jewish; their theme being the Spanish Revolution.

Ex-Judge Stubbs charged Great Britain with having played a cowardly role in the League of Nations since the last war. "It is now plain", he said, "that class interests override any other consideration but particularly is this the case with Great Britain". He predicted that should Fascism gain the upper hand of Europe, Britain would inevitably be eliminated from the Mediterranean. "I am one hundred per cent Internationalist, the world is my country, the whole mankind my brotherhood and my religion is to do good", he said.

A collection was taken up in aid of the Spanish Government. Donations ran as high as \$25 with the Jewish Branch of the Communist Party making the first contribution of that size. The meeting, which was almost exclusively Jewish, endorsed a very encouraging message to be sent to the Spanish Government, pledging moral and material support.

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An intensive campaign has been initiated by the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association at Winnipeg for school funds and the enrollment of children for the ensuing year. The campaign commenced on 1st September and enrollment will continue until the 15th, while the campaign for funds will not terminate until the last of the month. On 10th September 238 pupils are said to have been enrolled, an increase of 20 over last year, and more are expected to enroll before the campaign is concluded.



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#### IV. QUEBEC

##### 9. Montreal Communists Discuss Spanish Situation

The local Bureau of the League Against War and Fascism at Montreal met on 4th September to discuss the Spanish situation. After considerable discussion it was decided to let the Labour Party officially initiate a campaign and that in the meantime delegates from the league approach members of the Trades and Labour Council in an endeavour to ascertain as to what efforts are being made by the two bodies with regard to a campaign in support of the Popular Front Government of Spain.

At a meeting of the Trades and Labour Council held on the evening of the 3rd, the Spanish situation was discussed and it was decided to refer the matter to the Labour Party with a recommendation that something be done as soon as possible. The Labour Party, it has been ascertained, intends to call a United Front Conference shortly for that purpose.

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