

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 23rd September, 1936.

SECRETNO. 825WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

Carrying numerous slogans and banners, approximately 3,000 men and women representing over 50 local trade unions marched in a parade at Winnipeg, Man., on 19th September in response to a call issued by the Winnipeg and District Trades and Labour Council in support of the striking fur workers. Following the parade the demonstrators were addressed by Mayor John Queen, James Litterick, Communist M.L.A. elect, Alderman Jacob Penner, W. J. Nelson and J. B. Graham, president and secretary of the Trades and Labour Council, respectively, and L. Robins, organizer of the fur workers. The meeting resolved to request the Provincial Government to exert every possible means to compel the employers to meet the union and discuss settlement, and to continue giving support to the strikers.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

1. The Canadian Trades Congress and the Communist Party

The Trades and Labour Congress of Canada held its 52nd Annual Convention in the City of Montreal, Que., from 8th to 12th September. An analysis of the deliberations and resolutions of this meeting would indicate that the congress has swung considerably to the Left due to Communist influence. The Communists, although deploring the fact that the congress convention did not bring forward an apparatus for launching a concerted campaign to unionize the unemployed, particularly in the steel, textile and mining industries, express general satisfaction over the results achieved.

Communist representation although not very strong numerically and rather inconspicuous was very much in evidence, led by [§deletion:2 lines] Considerable support was also voiced for the Communist inspired Left Wing measures by [§deletion:1 line]

One of the most contentious issues ever raised in the history of the American Federation of Labor, the policy of the Committee for Industrial Organization, was declared ultra-vires by the Congress Resolutions Committee and ruled out of order by the chairman. About 15 Trades and Labour Councils and local organizations had voiced their support of the policy. In ruling the resolution calling for the support of the industrial policy of the Committee for Industrial Organization out of order P.M. Draper, president of the congress, stated that the constitution does not provide that affiliated unions must be craft unions nor does it specify that members shall belong to industrial unions; therefore, any change in this regard could only be effected legally by changing the constitution. Following this he ruled that no further discussion on the question would be allowed from the floor.

Another Communist inspired resolution relating to industrial espionage submitted by the Sudbury local of the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers International Union and demanding a public investigation into the activities of the *Auxiliary Company of Canada* was concurred in by the convention. A further resolution submitted by the Winnipeg District Trades and Labour Council asking the endorsement

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of the fight waged against the amalgamation of the Canadian National Railway and the Canadian Pacific Railway was also endorsed with the recommendation that the incoming executive be instructed to oppose by every legitimate means the amalgamation of the two major railway systems in this country.

On the Spanish situation the congress, on the motion of [§deletion:3-4 words] pledged full solidarity with the workers of Spain and wished them speedy victory.

The convention went on record as forming a unified world trade union movement to combat war and Fascism. A resolution originally sponsored by the Communist controlled Toronto local, No. 668, of the Teamsters and Chauffeurs International Union urged the International Federation of Trade Unions to open negotiations with all other unions outside the federation in order to consolidate the international labour front against war and Fascism. Specific mention was made in this resolution of the Soviet trade unions but the Resolutions Committee, in their report, recommended the deletion of this section. The resolution, as amended on the recommendation of the Resolutions Committee, read as follows:—

"Whereas, trade unionists and labor men the world over are facing the danger of a new world war instigated by the fascist reactionaries, the arch-enemies of labor unions and labor organizations; and whereas, a unified world trade union organization can become a great force acting against war and reactionary fascism. Therefore, be it resolved, that the Trades and Labor Congress of Canada, an affiliate of the International Federation of Trade Unions, go on record in favour of a unified organization of all trade unions the world over; and be it further resolved, that this convention appeal to the I.F.T.U. to open negotiations with all other trade union organizations outside of the I.F.T.U., with a view to bringing about an immediate organization of all the trade unions".

Several resolutions advocated affiliation with the Canadian League Against War and Fascism. The Resolutions Committee recommended that the congress do not affiliate. This was concurred in. In the discussion, however, it was pointed out that there was nothing to prevent local unions and District Councils from affiliating with the said league.

In the discussion which followed the executive report on youth, [~~deletion: 1/2 line~~] called upon the congress to endorse the Youth Act passed by the Canadian Youth Congress held in

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Ottawa during the latter part of May of this year. President P.M. Draper replied saying he did not have time to study the act but when it is presented in Parliament and "if it is not obnoxious" it should be supported by the congress. This was met with applause.

Establishment of an Organizational Department to organize the unorganized was urged in the following resolution submitted by the Stratford Trades and Labour Council:—

"Resolved that the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada shall have an Organization Department and organizers to build up unions in unorganized territory and to assist local unions coming under the jurisdiction of the congress in their drives for membership".

The resolution evoked much discussion in which [~~deletion: 1 line~~] took the leading part emphasizing the need of establishing such an Organizational Department. The Resolutions Committee, in reporting on this resolution, explained that lack of funds prevented the establishment of such a department; the resolution was approved however and referred to the incoming Executive Committee for study.

Resolutions urging the establishment of a strike fund by the Trades and Labour Congress out of the per capita tax it now receives were not concurred in. Resolutions advocating this step were proposed by the Fort Frances

Sawmill Workers Union, the Cobourg Federal labour Union, the Port Arthur Trades and Labour Council and the Toronto Federal Labour Union. There was much discussion with the Communists stressing the need for such a strike fund. A standing vote was taken endorsing the Resolutions Committee report of non-concurrence.

The Communist inspired "unity" resolution recommending a conference between national, international and Catholic unions to "find ways and means for labour to act as one organized body" was not concurred in. [deletion:name] led the discussion for the adoption of the resolution.

The congress reiterated its stand taken at the last convention regarding resolutions relating to political organizations, taking no definite stand on the question of the Labour Party. This question brought forth considerable discussion with [deletion:1 line] advocating the need for active

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participation of the trade unions and urging the congress to follow the lead of the British trade unions. The Executive Committee recommended non-concurrence which was endorsed by a majority vote.

The congress adopted an emergency resolution to boycott all goods made in Germany; it unanimously endorsed a resolution presented by the Winnipeg District Trades and Labour Council demanding that the Dominion Government re-open diplomatic relations and negotiate a new trade agreement with the U.S.S.R. and endorsed a demand for the nationalization of armament manufacture, import or export and the support of the League of Nations. Resolutions submitted by Lodge Nos. 58 and 371 of the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen of Vancouver and Winnipeg, respectively, recommended substitution of the Government Employment and Social Insurance Act by that of a non-contributory unemployment insurance, a measure propagated by the Communist Party of Canada ever since 1929. The congress deferred action in this matter.

The election of officers for the ensuing year somewhat reflected the strength of the Communist representation at this convention. Out of a total of 304 ballots cast [deletion:1 line] Sam Lawrence, M.L.A. for Hamilton, was nominated but declined.

While the Canadian unions of the American Federation of Labor were meeting in Montreal, the British trade unions were gathered in a similar National Congress in Plymouth. According to news despatches, Communism received a serious check there due to the vigorous attack launched against it by the official leadership of the British Trade Union Congress.

2. Annual Convention of Yugo-Slavian Workers Clubs

The Yugo-Slavian Workers Educational Clubs met in annual convention at Hamilton, Ont., on 29th and 30th August with 28 accredited delegates in attendance representing all branches situated in Eastern Canada from Montreal to Port Arthur. There were also in attendance seven fraternal delegates and the five members of the Central Executive Committee. There were no delegates present from any branches situated west of Port Arthur.

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The convention decided to change the name of the organization to "Hrvatski Prosvjetni Savez" (Croatian Cultural Association) to be known henceforth by the initials H.P.S. This decision marks the culmination of a movement which has been evident for some time to segregate the various nationalities which compose the Yugo-Slav Workers Educational Clubs. The decision implies that henceforth only Croatians will be eligible to join this organization. In conformity with this decision the convention also resolved to change the name of the official organ from Borba (Fight) to Slobodna Misa (Free Thought); the change of name to take effect on 15th September. One of the arguments advanced in support of that change was that the title Borba was thought a little too revolutionary. Under the new name it was felt the paper might widen its circulation and reach a certain section of the Croatian people who, hitherto, objected to the paper on the grounds that it was too revolutionary.

The convention adopted a new programme which professes solidarity with the aims and national ideals of the Croatian National Movement in Yugo-Slavia aiming at the liberation of Croatia from Yugo-Slavia and the establishment of an independent Croatian State. In Canada the programme aims to organize the Croatian workers and farmers for the struggle for a better standard of living and the establishment of a Socialist system. The convention also resolved to fight war and Fascism for the release of Croatian political prisoners in Jugo-Slavia; and to conduct schools, organize libraries, lectures and propaganda generally.

S. K. Miosic was appointed editor of Slobodna Misa replacing Eda Jardas who has been forced to retire on account of ill-health. Pavao Pavlic was appointed assistant editor, and Mato Siaus of Vancouver second assistant editor, while Marijan Kruzic was selected as the new manager. Andrij Josipovic of Welland replaced Pavao Pavlic as general secretary, and Ivan Stimac, hitherto manager of Borba, was appointed national organizer of the association. The Central Executive Committee elected by the convention is composed as follows: Andrij Josipovic, Pavao Pavlic, Mato Siaus, Kresimir, Antonic, Andrij Bjelobrajdic and Ivan Drazic. The foregoing mentioned

Central Executive Committee and Valentine Legac, and Milana Ruzica — both of Montreal — Stanley Bolfa

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of Kirkland Lake, Ivan Dragicevic of Windsor, and Katice Jakominic of Toronto, will constitute the Enlarged National Committee.

The official organ under its new name — Slobodna Misa — it was decided, is to continue to appear three times a week as heretofore.

3. Serbian Progressive Movement of Canada Launched

[~~deletion:2 1/4 lines~~] with 15 regular delegates and seven representatives of United Front Committees in attendance. The gathering was the first National Conference of Serbians and gave rise to the formation of a distinct organization to be known as the "Serbian Progressive Movement of Canada". The convention resolved to issue a paper in the Serbian language named Pravda (The Truth) as the official organ of the Serbian Progressive Movement. In connection with the publication of this organ it was decided to launch a campaign for funds between 15th November and 15th January next. In the meantime Slobodna Rjec (The Free Word), published in the U.S.A., is to serve as the official organ of the organization.

The Central Executive Committee as elected by the convention follows:—

Chairman	—	Mitar Nastic of Vancouver
Vice-Chairman	—	Jovan Raskovic of Hamilton
General Secretary	—	Milos Grubic
Members	—	St. Milic of Schumacher, Bogdanovic of Montreal, V. Matijevic of Toronto, V. Grbic of Windsor.

The convention marked the culmination of a movement started some time ago designed to separate the various nationalities embodied in the Yugo-Slav Workers Educational Clubs of Canada; [~~deletion:3 1/2 lines~~]

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4. Trek of Farmers Planned in Saskatchewan

The Communists in Saskatchewan continue in their efforts to organize a trek of 2,000 farmers from the drought-stricken districts of South and South-Western Saskatchewan on-to-Regina. T. G. McManus, A.F. Theodore and B.

Nuttall left Regina for Weyburn on 17th September where they are to participate in a meeting scheduled for 19th September. Other speakers to address this meeting will be Reeve J. Tooth of Climax, J. B. McLeod, Jack King and Reeve J. McManus of Colgate. No specific date has been set for the proposed trek but it is intimated that it will possibly take place during the latter part of October.

**5. Large Attendance at Ontario Unemployed Conference
Predicted**

Communists in charge of the preparations for the Provincial Unemployed Convention, which is to convene in the Labour Temple at Toronto, Ont., on 25th September, predict a record breaking attendance. The Toronto Trades and Labour Council is said to have appointed [~~name~~] Mrs. Jean Laing and Fred Collins, to represent the council at the conference. Representation is expected from practically all the main points in Southern Ontario. The Ontario Council of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, together with some of the C.C.F. clubs, will give its support to the convention.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

6. Convention of B. C. District of C.P. of C.

One hundred and thirty-five delegates attended the recent District Convention of [~~word~~] (British Columbia) C. P. of C. held at Vancouver from 5th to 8th September. Jack Taylor (Urlich) opened the proceedings and the main reporters included Bill Bennett, M. L. Bruce, Tommy Orr, Tom Ewen, Robertson and Cumberland, Sutherland, Mrs. Stewart and Bill Palmer of the Young Communist League. One hundred and twenty-five resolutions were before the convention; these were grouped and voted on en bloc. They covered a variety of subjects ranging from the Party press to support for the Loyalists in Spain. Ninety-seven names were placed in nomination for the 35 seats on the Provincial Council. A surprise was sprung when the voting showed that the Reverend Baker of Matsqui and W. Palmer of Vancouver topped the poll with 91 votes each. Among those elected to the Council are the same individuals who were in control of the movement in British Columbia heretofore including Bruce, Salonen, Emery, Brown, Taylor, McKean, Kerr, Palmer, Purvis and Lealess. In the election of delegates to represent British Columbia

at the forthcoming National Convention of the Party in Toronto, Ont., Bruce, Ewen, McKean, Lealess and Kerr were elected.

M. L. Bruce, one of the main reporters, speaking on the situation in British Columbia, stressed the necessity of organizing in the trade unions. Bill Bennett, speaking on the history of the Party in British Columbia, stated that the membership of the Party had grown from 200 in 1931-32 to approximately 1,700 members in 1936. Tom Ewen declared that the trade union question was the biggest issue confronting the Party not only in British Columbia but in the whole of Canada. He hoped to have accomplished within the next year the task of organizing the seamen and have them co-operate with the seamen of Australia.

Summarizing the convention, nothing new was introduced in either propaganda, strike strategy or organization.

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The British Columbia Shipping Federation, in order to counteract and defeat the effort of the International Longshoremen's Association to get a foothold in Vancouver, is preparing to provide coastwise longshore labour from the Canadian unions. At present the Coastwise Longshoremen and Freight Handlers' Association, holding an I.L.A. charter, provides the labour for coastwise vessels. It is understood that half of the present membership of the Coastwise Longshoremen and Freight Handlers' Association will resign from that body to join the Canadian union should the deal be consummated.

II. MANITOBA

7. C.P. Activity in Winnipeg at Standstill

[~~deletion:1 3/4 lines~~] would indicate that the Party in the city generally is lagging behind in its work. [~~deletion:name~~] one of the leading Communist Party organizers in the industrial field reported, however, that big advancements have been made by the Party in the trade union field. He said that since July of this year over fifty percent of the workers in the baking trade and in the meat packing plants have been organized into the unions and that there are good prospects of having them fully organized before very long. He further intimated that these workers are easily controlled and that the majority of them are in favour of the Communist Party programme.

The Winnipeg branch of *Todowymazu* (Society for Assisting the Liberation Movement in the Western Ukraine) held a mass meeting on 15th September with approximately 200 members in attendance. M. Lischynski, secretary of the branch, reported that during the last recruiting campaign over 300 new members were taken into the association and that the sum of \$1,063.27 had been collected. Of this sum, he said, \$400 is to be sent to Poland and \$500 to help the Spanish Government. I. Hucaluk, organizer, reported on the situation in Poland and the "persecutions" which, he alleged, the workers — particularly those of Ukrainian nationality — suffer at the hands of "Polish Fascism." He predicted serious upheavals in Poland in the near future.

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Approximately 75 delegates attended a conference sponsored by the Canadian Labour Party at Montreal on 13th September to discuss the Spanish situation. Jean Perron and Max Armstrong presided over the meeting. Mr. Schevenal, general secretary of the International Federation of Trade Unions, was present and addressed the conference in French. Commenting on the Spanish situation he condemned the action of the rebels and asserted that the Labour movement generally is against intervention in Spain. "All that the Spanish loyalists ask of the International Labour Movement is moral support and support of the French movement for neutrality", he said. He declared that the Fascist

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countries must be stopped from sending arms to the Spanish rebels and that if this flow of arms can be stopped the loyalists feel that they can easily defeat the rebels. Max Armstrong, in outlining the purpose of the conference, explained that it was called partly for the purpose of refuting the lies published in the press on the Spanish situation, also to organize moral and financial support for the Spanish loyalists. The following donations were made at this meeting: Communist Party, \$100; Lithuanian mass organization, \$58; silver

collection, \$13.32. In addition to the money thus collected the following pledges were made: League Against War and Fascism, \$25; Young Communist League, \$50; Finnish Organization of Canada, \$75. From the foregoing it will be noted that the Communist Party [~~1/2 line~~] are, so far, the sole supporter of this cause.

The conference elected a committee of 15 to carry on the work. It was decided that the conference will again meet on 20th September, when plans for a campaign will be discussed. In addition to Mr. Schevenal, Mr. Clay, fraternal delegate from British trade unions to the recent Canadian Trades Congress, also attended, addressing the conference briefly, outlining the history of the British Trade Union Movement.

V. THE MARITIME PROVINCES

10. William Gallacher in Cape Breton

Approximately 500 people attended a mass meeting staged by the Communist Party of Canada in McRae's Arena at Glace Bay, N.S., on 10th September and listened to William Gallacher denounce British capitalism. Contrasting the existing economy system of Great Britain with that of the Soviet Union he said that the latter makes it possible for the masses to live and work happily without fear of being exploited. He urged the audience to support the Spanish Government which, he declared, is battling the evils of Fascism. He attacked Hitler and Mussolini and urged the building of a mighty United Front to combat capitalism in Canada and the building of a strong Communist Party which, he said, will lead the Canadian workers on the road to emancipation along revolutionary lines.

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Following Gallacher's address questions were invited by the chairman. This resulted in a number of questions being asked pertaining to the recent withdrawal of James B. McLachlan from the Communist Party of Canada. Bob Stewart, one of McLachlan's chief lieutenants, pushed his way to the front and vehemently shouted that he had withdrawn from the Communist Party but that McLachlan was virtually thrown out by underhanded methods resorted to by the local Party leaders. His remarks precipitated quite an uproar, following which J. B. McLachlan asked permission to speak. His remarks centered around the policy adopted by the Communist Party of Canada at its last plenum with regard to the United Front among the miners of Cape Breton. McLachlan declared that he loved the Communist Party and would be willing to die for it but could not accept a policy or orders contrary to his belief and feelings. He

intimated that he could not see his way clear to support such men as John L. Lewis whom the Communist Party now supports and whom he characterized as a man who had betrayed, on more than one occasion, the interests of the miners of Cape Breton Island. He said it was because he could not support Lewis that he left the Communist Party.

Gallacher, in answer to McLachlan's remarks, said that a Communist, although he may disagree with a Party decision, is bound to accept it if such decision meets with the majority consent of the members. It is said that McLachlan was heartily applauded by a large number of the people present.

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