

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 14th October, 1936.

SECRETNO. 828WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

Transients are congregating in the principal centres of the three Prairie Provinces and Vancouver, B.C., recent reports reveal. The Communists, in an endeavour to retain the men in the cities, have launched a concerted campaign against the Government Farm Placement Scheme and are urging the men to remain in the cities.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERALI. The International Conference Against Anti-Semitism

Joe Gershman, [~~deletion: 1/2 line~~] of the Communist Party of Canada, recently returned to Canada from Paris, France, where he attended the International Conference Against Anti-Semitism held under the auspices of the Lique Internationale Contre Antisemitisme.

The conference, he said, was attended by 200 delegates from various countries representing a variety of opinions and organizations. The majority of the delegates were non-Jews, he said, Christians of various denominations and Mohammedans; the Jewish representation was comparatively small. Included in the representation were delegates from the League Against War and Fascism, Anti-Imperialist League, French Republican Youth and smaller organizations from Europe, United States of America, Canada, South America, Egypt and Palestine, the latter country having been represented by a Jew and Arab. (The Zionist World Organization was not represented.)

At the opening session an honorary presidium was elected which included, among others, Romain Roland, Gide, Moro-de Giafferi Lord Marley and Vandervelde. The presidium elected by the conference consisted of Tedesco, vice-president of the LICA, Camil Pelleton, chairman of the Radical Socialist Party of France, Gabriel Kidney, Henri Levin, Dr. Barer and Joe Gershman.

A manifesto issued by the conference reads, in part, as follows:—

“Assembled on the day after the Nuremberg Congress, the International Conference Against Racial Discrimination and Anti-Semitism sends its expression of entire and constant solidarity to all people and Nations who defend all over the world the ideas of social progress and freedom.

“Strengthened by the support of millions of people of all political opinions and origin represented at this conference by organizations of all countries that remained free, this International Conference Against Racial Discrimination and anti-Semitism fervently appeals for the defence and salvage of the subjected races and of the general peace.....

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“In Europe and in other parts of the world proponents of the idea of political subjection and of social retrogression have established regimes and ideologies resulting in boundless acts of violence through debasement of ideas and by outlawing truth, justice and the simplest of human dignities.

“In this grave hour when war is at the gates of nations, at the time when the major part of unbiased people hesitate between tyranny and the spirit of liberty, we, speaking on behalf of all those who do not agree with the prevailing domination of fruitless violence and folly, address ourselves to

humanity in general, to the high representatives of spiritual values, to scientists and to all those who have contributed to the fame of this century, to all the wide working masses who in the remotest points of the world know the sufferings of mankind, to unite in a wide world body against racial discriminations and anti-semitism”.

The conference decided to hold a World Congress of the LICA similar to the World's Peace Congress held in Brussels, Belgium, recently and to continue the struggle against anti-semitism.

2. Fur Workers Strike at Winnipeg, Man.

The fur workers strike at Winnipeg continues. It is said that the union leaders now utilize the single unemployed and transients who arrived in the city from the harvest fields for picket duty. G. Baker, chairman of the Single Men's Unemployed Association, confided to an intimate of his that officials of the Fur Workers Union had offered the sum of \$300 to someone who would destroy the machines in use at the Neaman Fur Company to prevent further production. About 25 single unemployed men, who had been employed as pickets for the past two weeks, have been provided with transient relief each day through the Single Men's Unemployed Association Grievance Committee. The latter are making every effort to retain the men in the city.

3. International Labour Defense of Spain Cables Request for Medical Supplies

A cabled request for specific quantities of medical supplies from the International Labor Defense of Spain, which is acting as the Red Cross organization of the Spanish People's Front

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Government, was received by the Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy at Toronto, Ont., recently. The supplies most urgently needed, according to the cable, are:—

Two million units of insulin
 12 Blood transfusion units
 2,000 Ampules of diphtheria anti-toxin
 2,000 “ ” tetanus anti-toxin
 2,000 “ ” anti-gangrene serum
 20 Sterilizers
 20 Water purifiers
 Kits of surgical instruments

An urgent call has been sent out for funds by the Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy situated at Room 440, 73 Adelaide Street, West, Toronto, with a view to obtaining the required supplies. Manufacturers and wholesalers of medical supplies and equipment will be asked to donate quantities of the materials.

A. A. McLeod, who arrived in Toronto from Spain on the morning of 9th October, is to address a meeting in the Massey Hall on the 11th, along with Alderman Margaret Crang of Edmonton, Alta., and one of the Spanish Popular Front leaders who, it is said, have accompanied A. A. McLeod on his journey from Europe to New York. Both A. A. McLeod and Alderman Margaret Crang attended the World Peace Congress at Brussels, Belgium, recently, and both are reported to have been in Spain within the last few weeks and in touch with the Government leaders there.

4. Soviet Art Exhibition in Toronto, Ont.

By special arrangement with the Art Gallery of Toronto the Theatre of Action is sponsoring an evening for the exhibition of Soviet art on 14th October. The work of 80 Soviet artists will be on display.

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5. D. Bindas, Ukrainian Communist Leader, Dead

950-2-104 Impressive revolutionary rites marked the burial of D. Bindas, national president of the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association and prominent member of the Communist Party at Winnipeg, Man., on 1st October. An impressive ceremony was held in the Ukrainian Labour Temple, corner of Pritchard and McGregor Streets, where James Litterick, Communist-M.L.A.-elect, John Boychuk, John Navizowski and other revolutionary leaders spoke and where the body has lain in state. Approximately 2,000 members of the revolutionary organizations joined in the cortege march to Market Square, headed by the Workers Benevolent Association Band playing the funeral march and 40 women bearing wreaths. Bindas died on 27th September at the General Hospital, following an operation.

6. Port Arthur Freight Handlers Strike

915-2-E9 Port Arthur freight handlers, members of local union 418 of the International Brotherhood of Railway and Steamship Clerks, Freight Handlers

and Station Employees, at a meeting held in the Croatian Hall on 6th October voted almost unanimously in favour of strike action in connection with the organization's wage and working conditions dispute with the Canadian National Railways and the Western Stevedore Company. It is said that ninety-seven per cent of the men favoured strike action.

Local number 408 of the International Brotherhood at Fort William took similar action voting 360 for and one against strike action.

It is estimated that approximately 600 workers are involved in the strike.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. ALBERTA

7. C.P. at Edmonton Sponsors United Front in Municipal Field

[~~deletion: 1/2 line~~] of the Communist Party at Edmonton met on 29th September to discuss the situation in Edmonton with respect to the forthcoming Civic election. Lakeman delivered a lengthy speech in which he stressed the need for a United Front with the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation and the Canadian Labour Party. It was agreed that the Communist Party should not nominate its own candidate but should run and support United Front candidates.

On 3rd October an agreement was reached between the Communist Party, the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation and unemployed organizations to throw their whole weight behind a single programme of demands and a united labour slate. H. D. Ainley, president of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation Council, will run as the candidate of the United Front for Mayor; Alderman James East, ex-Alderman J. W. Findlay and H. Pallot for the Aldermanic Board; and Clifford Lee, Archie Richardson, Mary McDonald for the School Board.

Feeling that the Single Men's Association in Calgary was not receiving sufficient support, the Communists in control of the movement decided to change the name of the organization to "Unemployed Youth Movement". For this purpose several conferences were held at which representatives of [~~deletion: 1/2 line~~] organizations including the Unemployed Ex-Service Men's Association, Russian Workers Farmers Club, Young Communist League, Relief Project Union, Canadian Labour Defence League, League Against War

and Fascism and various units of the Communist Party proper attended. A new Executive Committee has been appointed and a suitable programme has been adopted to make the organization more interesting and attractive to the single unemployed. Thus it is proposed to

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open a recreational centre, a library, a gymnasium and a large room for amateur concerts, lectures, games, etc.

II. SASKATCHEWAN

8. Single Unemployed Men Congregate in Principal Cities

Towards the end of September the number of transients in Regina, Saskatoon and Moose Jaw showed an appreciable increase. While exact figures are not available, it is estimated that over 700 transients have congregated in the three cities mentioned. Communist agitators are active among them urging the transients to stay in the cities and not to register for farm work under the Government Farm Placement Scheme.

On 3rd October a group of 60 single unemployed men staged a parade at Regina in protest against the Government Farm Placement Scheme. The demonstrators carried placards bearing the inscription "We Protest Against Going To Farms For \$5.00. We Demand Work And Wages". Revolutionary songs such as "Hold The Fort" and "Soviets Forever" were sung by the demonstrators whose number had increased to approximately 80 by the time the parade returned to Unity Centre where short speeches were given by Louis Binder and others urging the men not to go on the farms at the rate of \$5 a month. It is felt that in view of the fact that there were from 200 to 250 transients in the city, the parade — which included local single unemployed — does not appear to have had the support of the transients.

Recent reports received from Saskatchewan would indicate that the Ukrainian Young People's Association — SUMK — in the Arran District is gradually becoming radicalized due to the efforts of the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association to establish a United Front among the Ukrainians in Canada. Hitherto units of

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SUMK had elected local members of the clergy as their moral and spiritual advisers. In many units, it is said, proposals have been made by the members to abolish this procedure and it is known that in some instances priests have actually been excluded from participation in the organization. This development is being viewed with some concern by some of the leading members of the Ukrainian nationalist organizations and steps are being taken to counteract the effect of the propaganda spread by the Communists.

Approximately 850 people attended a meeting held under the auspices of the Regina Section of the Communist Party of Canada in the City Hall, Regina, on 2nd October. The auditorium was filled to capacity and the meeting was to serve as a send-off for the Saskatchewan delegation to the Eighth National Convention of the Communist Party which was to have convened in Toronto, Ont., on 9th October. William Davies, Young Communist League [deletion:word], T. G. McManus and A. C. Campbell, the latter a Communist Party [deletion: 1/2 line] were the speakers. Davies informed the audience that the Communists were busy organizing the workers in the shops, hotels, restaurants, etc., and that they (the Communists) would insist that the Government keep its pre-election promise of providing work and wages. He also warned the youth against the danger of Fascism which, he alleged, was growing in Canada.

T. G. McManus' speech was a repetition of a radio talk which he gave over Station C.K.C.K. on a previous occasion. He assured the audience that the Communist Party is waging a struggle for higher wages, better conditions, more relief for the unemployed and farmers; further, that it is organizing the people for united action.

A. C. Campbell appealed for funds calling first for \$100 bills but, as bills of this and intermediate denominations were not forthcoming, he wound up by calling for \$1 bills. The total collection amounted to approximately \$100.

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III. MANITOBA

2. Winnipeg Single Unemployed Demonstrate

At a meeting of the Single Men's Unemployed Association held at the Manor Hall, Winnipeg, on 6th October it was suggested by one J.W. Baker that the men present march to Princess and Ross Street Dining Hall to demand a meal. Approximately 50 men responded and headed by D. Grainger, filed into the said dining hall through the exit door and, the waiters having refused

to serve them, were supplied with food by J. Ramsay, W. Allen and J. W. Baker. Afterwards a short meeting was held opposite the hall addressed by Grainger and Doyle who urged the men to stand firm. A further meeting took place in the Manor Hall in the course of the evening at which Orton Wade and W. Balck spoke. Following this meeting the men lined up in half sections and, headed by Grainger and H. Bailey, marched to Water Street Dining Hall where they were met by the police and were refused beds by the Relief Commission. The demonstrators then marched along Main Street and, when in the vicinity of the Royal Alexandra Hotel, Orton Wade and W. Black gave orders to enter the hotel. The men then entered the hotel but City Police drove them out without causing any damage. The demonstrators then proceeded to the Salvation Army and the Free Press Building shouting "We want beds". They ultimately returned to the Manor Hall at about 1.00 a.m. where they put up for the night.

IV. ONTARIO

10. C.P. in Toronto Prepares for Municipal Election

At a meeting of the Communist Party of Canada [§deletion: 1 line] Stewart Smith reported on the forthcoming Toronto Municipal election. After considerable discussion the following slate of Communist Party candidates was ratified:

Ward 4	—	Salsberg.....	Alderman
		J. Weir.....	Board of Education
“ 5	—	S. Smith.....	Alderman
“ 6	—	Stephenson.....	Alderman
		Olive Buck.....	Board of Education

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Ward 7	—	L. MacMurray.....	Alderman
“ 8	—	F. Collins.....	Alderman
Tim Buck.....			Board of Control

It was also agreed to run Mrs. Cook in Ward 1 as an Independent candidate and G. Harris as Unemployed candidate in the same Ward. In order to achieve as wide a unity as possible it was decided to hold a Communist Party Nomination Conference open to the public at which the aforementioned slate will be nominated publicly. Following this conference, the [§deletion: 1/2 line] Dressmakers Union (A.F. of L.) is to issue a call for a "Labour Confer-

ence" on the Civic Elections to cover Wards 4 and 5 and if successful to enlarge it on a city-wide scale to include all trade unions.

In the discussion on programme Harvey Murphy proposed a demand for the removal of Chief of Police Draper, stating that such a demand would be supported to some extent by the Toronto Evening Telegram and the Toronto Daily Star particularly. It was agreed to popularize this demand without including it in the election programme. Other demands agreed upon included (a) a labour representation on all municipal commissions; the Trades and Labour Council to nominate their choice in place of City Council appointments; (b) all City Departments to buy and use trade union labelled products; (c) lowering of mortgage rates; (d) 5¢ street car fare; (e) building of 5,000 new homes at a cost of \$3,000 a piece as part of slum clearance.

Preparations are under way for a gigantic peace demonstration at Toronto at the City Hall, on 11th November. The Toronto Branch of the League Against War and Fascism, which is sponsoring the event, has sent letters to the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the League of Nations Society, the Women's Peace Conference, the Toronto Trades and Labour Council and other progressive and Communist-controlled groups asking them to participate in the parade and demonstration.

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Bill Kashtan and Roy Davis, who were members of a party of 10 delegates from North America to the Geneva World Youth Congress which visited Spain following the congress, addressed a meeting under the auspices of the [deletion:3-4 words] Central Labour Forum at Toronto on 4th October. Approximately 500 people were in attendance. Describing the Spanish situation as they viewed it, the speakers stressed the importance of financial aid to the United Front Government of Spain and intimated that Great Britain must be held responsible for the present strife in Spain because of her non-interference with Italy's invasion of Ethiopia. They assured the audience that with the aid of international labour the Spanish United Front Government will be victorious.

V. QUEBEC

11. "Conference in Aid of the Spanish People" at Montreal Lacks Support

A meeting of the "Conference in Aid of the Spanish People" at Montreal, held on 4th October under the chairmanship of Max Armstrong of the local Labour Party, was attended by only 10 delegates. Commenting on this poor attendance Max Armstrong suggested that the secretary send letters to all the affiliated bodies urging them to send delegates. It was further suggested to send letters to all the trade unions urging them to send representatives. Armstrong reported that the local Trades and Labour Council is beginning to show an indifferent attitude towards the conference and that at its last meeting of the Trades and Labour Council refused to deal with the Spanish situation. He further reported that a leaflet drafted by himself and Professor Forsey is now ready for publication; it was suggested that 25,000 copies be printed. It was further suggested that contacts be made with the progressive element of the medical profession with a view of getting some of the doctors to start a campaign for medical supplies for the Spanish Government. The report on finances showed that slightly over \$500 has been donated to date in Montreal; practically all this money has come from the Left Wing organizations.

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On 4th October a group of approximately 100 young men, said to have been members of La Jeunesse Catholique, raided the offices of Clarte and Popular Front and completely wrecked the interior of both offices throwing all the newspapers, correspondence and typewriting machines out on the street. The group also wrecked the interior of the building where, until recently, the Association Humanitaire held its meetings.
