

NO. 1

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 21st October, 1936.

SECRETNO. 829WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

The Communists in Western Canada are doing everything in their power to aggravate the unemployment situation in the main centres by urging the transients and unemployed single men not to accept positions under the Government Farm Placement Scheme but to remain in the cities. Organized demonstrations against the said scheme have been reported from Winnipeg, Regina, Edmonton and Vancouver, resulting in some instances in disturbances and clashes with the police.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

I. Movement in Aid of the Spanish Popular Front Government

The Communist organ Daily Clarion of 10th October features a letter from Mundo Obrero, organ of the Communist Party of Spain, a translation of which reads:—

“Madrid, Spain, September 18, 1936.

“To the Daily Clarion,
 Toronto.

"Mundo Obrero, through the medium of its fraternal colleague, the Daily Clarion, greets the brilliant manifestations of solidarity of the Canadian anti-fascist masses with our struggle. We are defending a common cause. The Spanish people are in the vanguard of the struggle, showing an heroic example. We have been victorious in the first attacks, and we pledge ourselves in fight until final victory is ours.

"We are battling for a democratic republic. Help us!

"Arms for the Spanish anti-fascist militia: This slogan, repeated by millions of anti-fascists in all countries of the world, will provide for our fighters what they need to obtain a speedy and final victory!

(signed) Lesor Falson."

A. A. McLeod, national secretary of the League Against War and Fascism, recently returned from Spain, was the main speaker at a mass meeting held under the auspices of the Toronto Branch of the league in the Massey Hall, Toronto, Ont., on 11th October. Approximately 1,800 people attended and a brief address was also given by Dr. Salem Bland. The meeting marked the opening of McLeod's Canadian campaign in aid of the Spanish People's Front. Speaking of the situation in Spain, McLeod assured the audience that the Spanish People's Front is invincible, that Madrid will only be taken over the "millions of people who are determined that Franco's murderers shall not pass". He severely criticized the neutral position taken by the Canadian Government as reflected by the Right Honourable McKenzie King's speech to the League of Nations at Geneva. "This stand must be reversed", McLeod stated, "and Canada must officially take its position among the nations opposed to the provocations of Fascism". McLeod also devoted part of his speech to the recent World Peace Congress at Brussels, Belgium, which he attended as a delegate from Canada.

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Dr. Salem Bland, in his brief speech, urged the audience to support the Spanish Loyalist cause.

The collection in aid of the Madrid Government taken at this meeting amounted to \$215.

The Spanish Popular Front representatives who are scheduled to tour Canada, are reported to have left Cherbourg, France, on the S.S. "Queen Mary", on 14th October, and are expected to arrive in Toronto, Ont., on the 20th of the month. The delegation is said to be composed of two men and one

woman: Isabel de Palencia, Marcelno Domingo and Father Luis Sarasola. A. A. McLeod, national chairman of the Canadian League Against War and Fascism, will meet the delegation in New York, N.Y., and accompany them to Toronto where they will start on their Canadian tour. They will speak in Toronto on 21st October and from there will proceed to Hamilton, Ottawa and Montreal.

2. Special Convention of Manitoba I.L.P. for United Front

The special convention of the Manitoba Independent Labour Party held in Winnipeg, Man., recently voted overwhelmingly in favour of unity with all labour groups. The resolution adopted without a division stipulates "that on all immediate issues that may face the working class the I.L.P. shall initiate action and in order that it may be effective, the I.L.P. shall initiate action and in order that it may be effective, the I.L.P. shall invite the co-operation of all other working class organizations". An amendment put forward by J.S. Farmer to exclude the Communist Party from the provisions of the resolution failed to pass. The decision is binding on all Manitoba Branches of the I.L.P. The convention, called to discuss the report of the special Policy Committee, elected at the last Provincial Convention, also gave unanimous endorsement to a resolution condemning the Government Farm Placement Scheme.

3. Convention of Russian Workers Farmers Association

The Russian Workers Farmers Association held its Annual Convention at Winnipeg, Man., from 30th September to 4th October with

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36 delegates in attendance representing 37 branches of the organization throughout Canada. In addition to the accredited delegates, 26 of whom were from outside points, there were present six members of the Central Executive Committee and two representatives from the Doukhobors Progressive Association.

T. Kurban, executive secretary, gave a very enthusiastic report of progress claiming that the organization has now a membership of 2,500 and again as many sympathizers among the Russians and Doukhobors. He stated that since the last convention, branches were organized at Fort Frances and South Porcupine. He further reported the existence of 18 schools for children with a total attendance of 500. He also claimed a great improvement in the distribu-

tion of literature and mentioned particularly the success attained by the "travelling library". The membership of the organization had increased by 700 since the last convention, he said. Speaking of the press campaign conducted by the organization on behalf of its official organ, Kanadsky Gudok, and the central Communist organ, Daily Clarion, he boasted of a twenty-six per cent increase in the subscriptions to the former and a successful campaign for the latter. Reporting on the Women's Section of the organization he asserted that 93 women have been recruited during last year.

M. Yasny presented the political report. He claimed great progress in the international field since the Eighth Congress of the Communist International, citing the formation of the People's Fronts in France and Spain as the major achievements of the Communist International.

The convention recorded many difficulties and deplored particularly the lack of competent teachers and organizers to take care of the local organizational problems. Those few paid travelling organizers on the job were inadequate to cover the field sufficiently and effectively, it was said. The convention pledged itself to devote every energy to the building up of the United Front within and without the Russian people of Canada; to support the movement Against War and Fascism and to generally take part in the struggle of the Canadian working class for the abolition of Capitalism.

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The convention raised the number of executive members from nine to 11. The following were elected: M. Yasny, J. Okulewicz, Szumowicz, Szarynski, Wolczyk, T. Kurban, Derenczuk, Swysman, Pylutyk, Czerkas, Morosow. T. Kurban was re-elected secretary-treasurer, S. Kanzoff, secretary for the Eastern Division, and W. Szpyhim, secretary for the Western Division.

4. Winnipeg Fur Workers' Strike

The fur workers' strike at Winnipeg, Man., remains unsettled. Added importance was given to the strike, now in its tenth week, on 10th October when over 200 women, members of the "Women's Conference" formed to support the striking fur workers, demonstrated their sympathy in a parade on the streets of Winnipeg. The paraders marched with banners proclaiming their cause past most of the shops still involved in the strike. The parade, which was quiet and orderly, was followed by a mass meeting at the Labour Temple which was addressed by James Litterick, Communist M.L.A.-elect, Beatrice Brigden and Gloria Queen-Hughes of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, Grant McLeod of the Typographical Union and a representative of the strikers. The speakers, generally stressed the importance of winning the furrier's strike

and urged continued active assistance on the part of organized and unorganized labour.

The Hurtig Fur Company, one of the largest furriers involved in the dispute, is said to have placed a claim of \$50,000 damages against the union and has secured an interim injunction restraining 36 persons from picketing the Hurtig establishment.

5. Unemployed Demonstrations and Disturbances in
Western Canada
(A) Winnipeg, Man.

The number of transients in the City of Winnipeg, Man., who are unable to secure relief is being increased from day to day. On 7th October approximately 50 men paraded to the Market Square with S. Doyle and F. C. Mowbray in the lead and after having been augmented

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by a number of men assembled there, the parade proceeded to a vacant lot near Princess and Ross Dining Hall where a meeting was held. S. Doyle, M. Sago, D. Grainger, G. Nichols, W. McNeil, [~~3~~deletion:1/2 line] addressed the gathering. Doyle stated that the Acting Mayor, Mr. Blumberg, and the City Council were behind the unemployed and that the Mayor had given the assurance that the police would not interfere with them but would be used only to protect private property.

Mitchie Sago urged all those cut off relief to go on the streets to collect money for food and shelter and thus defeat the Government Farm Placement Scheme.

Addressing approximately 200 men on the same lot on 8th October, M. Sago is quoted as having stated: "The single men now must take steps to let the Government see that we are not going to be herded out to the farms like cows; if we have nothing to eat then we will take it and if the Government cannot find any work for us to do then we can show them a new plan and it will not cost them one cent; we single men who are unemployed can train an army of 1,000 in Winnipeg to go over to Spain and fight there; the single men will fight to the finish no matter what happens". Jim Litterick, Communist M.L.A.-elect, also spoke stating that there was plenty of work in town and that there was no need for the single men to go to the farms.

On 10th October about 20 men were observed on the streets with cans collecting money. It was said that \$25 had been collected on this day and an average of \$20 per day on the preceding days. The collection has become a

daily procedure and it is said that the funds thus obtained helped to provide the transients with food and shelter.

On 11th October, in the course of the evening, a concert was held in the Manor Hall which opened with the singing of "Hold the Fort". George Drayton, [~~deletion: 1/2 line~~] addressed the men urging them to stay in the city and to organize. Referring to certain utterances made by William Whitaker, leader of the Nationalist Party at Winnipeg, to the effect that the Communists were in a position to arm 5,000 Communists, Drayton remarked: "We are not going to arm the workers just yet but we have got to take this man seriously..... We have to be organized and prepare to fight..... Demonstrations and sending resolutions are alright in their way but fighting is the only method

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The Government takes any notice of".

The Single Men's Unemployed Association at Winnipeg met in the Manor Hall on 13th October and discussed plans for immediate action. L. Ford suggested that some drastic form of action be taken in order to have the single men put back on relief. Mitchie Sago remarked: "We have plans to put into immediate effect if we can rally the men; we have finished with sending delegations and resolutions now; I have figures to show that 1,300 have been cut off relief and only 113 have been sent to farms; we have got to get those men back on relief". Sago informed the meeting that 15,000 copies of a leaflet would be in circulation by the 15th of the month advertising a demonstration by the unemployed. "We must force the hand of the Government", he said, "it is the only way but first of all we must get the support of the people".

Following the meeting W. McNeil, J. W. Baker and D. Grainger left the hall to interview the Committee on Unemployment of the City Council.

At a subsequent meeting held in the course of the evening D. Grainger reported on the interview with the City Council Committee stating that they had been promised that farm work will not be compulsory to resident single men on relief but will apply only to transients. This ruling was given on condition that the association would drop its campaign. M. Sago, speaking on the result of this interview, interpreted it as a victory for the association. He, however, suggested it would be foolish if the association were to drop the campaign and recommended that when the delegation again interviews the Commission they must insist that transients must not be sent to farms under compulsion.

Approximately 200 men attended this meeting.

Jim Litterick, Communist M.L.A.-elect, is said to have instructed Mitchie Sago, who is in charge of the Unemployed Movement, to endeavour to keep the single men from causing any damage to the Relief Dining Hall at the present time as it would only mean to have a number of men arrested at a most inopportune time.

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The Communists seem determined to restrain the transients from leaving the city. They have succeeded in persuading the men to go on the streets and collect funds. Thus sufficient money has been obtained from day to day to take care of some of those who have been cut off relief.

(B) Regina, Sask.

Demanding work and wages, approximately 300 single unemployed men including a number of transients marched on to the Legislative Building at Regina on 13th October. Led by Louis Binder, a delegation of five met the Honourable T. C. Davis, K. C., Attorney General, and heard a Government ultimatum to accept farm jobs or be cut off relief. They were informed that the Government had absolutely no intention of abolishing the Farm Placement Scheme; it was indicated to them that the Government would expect the transients to accept the positions on the farms and that the Government did not intend to give relief to men who refused to work on the farms. The delegation was given to understand that those who had been cut off would be supplied with relief until the end of the week but they would have to fill the available positions on the farms, approximately 100 in number during the balance of the week.

The leaders replied to this ultimatum with a declaration to the effect that they would picket the Employment Offices and prevent any transient desirous of doing so from signing up for farm work. It is further the intention to stage daily demonstrations in protest against the Farm Placement Scheme.

A new organization named "Work and Wages League" has been formed in Regina, Sask., which seeks to enlist the support of church organizations, service clubs, trade unions, unemployed associations and other groups for the purpose of creating "work and wages". A leaflet issued recently states that 18 organizations have already sent delegates to the league.

The league held its first mass meeting in the City Hall on 7th October with a record attendance. The speakers were E. V. Mills

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[~~deletion:word~~], representing the now defunct Canadian Labour Defence League, William Cox of the Trades and Labour Council, Peter Mikkleson [~~deletion:word~~], representing the Saskatchewan Union of Unemployed, Louis Binder [~~deletion:word~~] representing the Single Workers Union, one named Brown of the Disabled War Veterans Association, and T. G. McManus [~~deletion:word~~] who spoke generally in the name of organized labour in Regina. The tenor of the speeches was generally directed against the Government Farm Placement Scheme. The speakers demanded a general increase in relief rates not only in Regina but all over the province and emphasized the need for a uniform relief system throughout the province.

A resolution demanding (a) work and wages, (b) that the Minimum Wage Act be revised and that all wages paid be at union rates, and (c) that a forty per cent increase in relief be granted was passed unanimously.

Another resolution, moved by Louis Binder, declaring that the Provincial Government be interviewed and a demand be placed before it calling for the cancellation of the Farm Placement Scheme was also passed.

(C) Calgary, Alta.

Transients and unemployed single men are reported to be drifting into Calgary, Alta., in large numbers. During the week ending 3rd October the unemployed registered at Calgary totalled 4,674 showing an increase of 469 over the previous week. The single men are being encouraged to go to Calgary by the Communists who assured them that they will look after their wants until such time as they are in a position to demand and compel the Government to pay all single unemployed \$5.25 a week. Meetings are being held almost daily at which the Communist agitators urge the single men to refuse to go to the farms under the Government Farm Placement Scheme. As a result of this agitation many of the single unemployed are refusing to register for farm work.

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(D) Edmonton, Alta.

Approximately 350 men attended a mass meeting on the Market Square at Edmonton, Alta., on 14th October. The meeting, held under the auspices of the Unemployed Single Men's Protective Association, was in protest against the Government Farm Placement Scheme. Frank Clarke, the chairman, stated that similar meetings were being held all over Western Canada; further, that

additional meetings would take place in Edmonton to protest against the said Government Scheme.

Harry Johnston, one of the speakers, said that the introduction of the Government Farm Placement Scheme meant the introduction of slavery. "We may have to use mass pressure as we did last summer and march on to the Parliament Buildings to obtain our demands in this regard", he said.

J. A. McPherson, of the Northern Alberta Unemployed Unity Committee, predicted that all organizations would come together and, united, would voice their protest against the Farm Placement Scheme.

J. Nicholson, of the Unemployed Single Men's Protective Association, dealt with the contract under which single men are being placed on farms. He remarked that he was English and that when he went to school he was taught a song "Britons never, never shall be slaves". When he asked the crowd if they were willing to sign the stipulated contract several in the audience shouted "We will die before going for \$5 per month".

A resolution protesting against the Farm Placement Scheme was adopted. In this connection the chairman announced that the resolution would be sent to 150 different clubs and organizations in Edmonton for their endorsement.

(E) Vancouver, B.C.

Approximately 300 single unemployed men invaded the relief offices at Hamilton Hall, Vancouver, B.C., at 10.00 a.m. on 13th October demanding relief. They forced through the doors striking a policeman on guard there, proceeded to break up furniture and barricaded them-

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selves for 35 minutes until police reserves, using tear-gas bombs, forced them from the building. Sixty-three arrests were made after the clash with the police, bringing the total number of arrests made recently up to 110. Forth-seven other men were previously arrested on charges of obstructing the police. A number of those arrested as a result of the clash at Hamilton Hall Relief Office have been charged with rioting. It is estimated that close to 1,000 single men, transients, have converged on Vancouver during the past few weeks.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCESI. MANITOBA6. C.P. in Winnipeg Nominate Candidates for Civic Offices

At a Nomination Convention of the Communist Party at Winnipeg held on 11th October Alderman M. J. Forkin was again appointed to act as Communist standard bearer in Ward 3 in the Civic election which is to take place during the latter part of November. "Jock" McNeil was nominated as Aldermanic candidate for Ward 2 while Bill Ross, Young Communist League secretary, together with Aubrey Brock were nominated as candidates for the School Board in Wards 3 and 2, respectively.

J. Litterick, Communist M.L.A.-elect, in conversation with a group of Communists assembled at Room 209, Chambers of Commerce, remarked that the Communists in Winnipeg will be forced to adopt sharper methods against the Fascists in Winnipeg as the latter were preparing to attack the Communist Party headquarters in the Chambers of Commerce. "We are prepared for them", Litterick said, "and it is either they or we". He further stated that a call has been sent out to all members of the Communist Party to be ready should anything happen.

II. QUEBEC7. Popular Front at Montreal Shows Little Strength

Approximately 400 men, mostly French Canadians, attended the regular weekly meeting of the Popular Front in the Labour Temple at Montreal on the evening of 14th October. Napoleon Nadeau, president of La Protection des Citoyens de Montreal — a new name for the Association Humanitaire — Mrs. Annie Pressner and Mrs. Gougeon submitted brief reports.

Nadeau reported that Emile Godin, former leader of Association Humanitaire, had deserted the movement and that he now is preaching against Communism. He urged the members to fight against the Fascist Youth Movement.

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After the reports were given speeches were presented by Jean Perron, Omer Perreault, St. Arneault of L' Association Ouvriere de Ste. Cunegende, J. A. St. Andre, Bougie, Despatie and Jack Munro, the latter speaking in English. The

speeches were directed against Fascism and everyone in the audience was urged to publicize the mass meeting arranged for 23rd October at the Mount Royal Arena at which the three envoys of the Spanish Popular Front Government will speak. The speeches revealed that the forces of the Popular Front at Montreal were relatively weak but visualized a force of 50,000 members "if every member would do his part in the organization." While the meeting was in progress notice was received from the proprietors of the Labour Temple that the Popular Front would henceforth be refused the privilege of meeting in the hall.

The Provincial Committee of the Communist Party at Montreal has issued 50,000 leaflets recently in answer to the attack made by Mr. Duplessis, Premier of the Quebec Provincial Government, on the Communist Movement recently.

Le Fasciste Canadien, organ of the National Social Christian Party of Canada, French Section, edited by Adrien Arcand, has published an appeal to the workers of the international unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor to disaffiliate themselves from the international movement because it is run by a "pack of Jews and Communists." The paper is attacking the Montreal Trades and Labour Council and the Canadian Trades Congress for the latter's attitude on the Spanish situation.

The Communist Party at Montreal, through Clarte, is planning to bring suit against the City of Montreal and its Police Department for damages occasioned at the Clarte office by a group of young men on 4th October. The Communists claim that the local Police Department knew in advance that the attack was to take place but had failed to provide the necessary protection. It is further claimed that the damage sustained amounted to \$2,000. Mr. Garber, of Garber and Blumenstein, local Canadian Labour Defence League counsel, is representing Clarte in this action.

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