

NO. 1

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 12th November, 1936.

SECRETNO. 832WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

Tim Buck, general secretary of the Communist Party of Canada and member of the General Staff of the World Revolution (E.C.C.I), returned to Toronto, Ont., on 10th November from his extended visit to Europe and the Spanish war front. He is the Party's candidate for the Board of Control in this year's Municipal election at Toronto.

Thomas C. Sims, who for the past year acted as the representative of the Communist Party of Canada on the Executive Committee of the Comintern at Moscow, has also arrived in Canada recently. It is understood that he will not return to Moscow but will be replaced by another leading member of the Canadian Party.

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2. A. E. Smith Touring Canada in Attempt to
Revive C.L.D.L.

In conformity with the decision of a meeting of the National Executive Committee of the Canadian Labour Defence League held in the City of Toronto recently, A. E. Smith is now touring the country in an endeavour to revive and reorganize C.L.D.L. activity throughout the country.

A public meeting held in the Civic Auditorium at Winnipeg on 3rd November was intended to revive the C.L.D.L. organization in that city. A. E. Smith was the principal speaker with George Drayton acting as chairman. A. E. Smith dealt at some length with the "white terror" in Europe and referring particularly to conditions as he found them in Bulgaria during his stay there as a member of an International Committee which was appointed to investigate the persecutions of the Macedonian revolutionaries on the part of the Bulgarian Government. He informed the audience that on completing his stay in Bulgaria he proceeded to Moscow and reported his findings to the Comintern and the International Red Aid. Speaking of affairs in France, he ventured to say that two-thirds of the people of Paris are Communists, also a large percentage of the French Army. Speaking of Canada he stated that conditions made it imperative to maintain

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a strong defence movement and urged the people of Winnipeg to revive and maintain the C.L.D.L. which, he stated, was the ideal form of defence organization.

Speaking at a meeting of single unemployed men at Manor Hall on 4th November, Smith repeated his plea for a strong and virile defence organization as embodied in the C.L.D.L. "You young men must discipline and organize yourself to take over gigantic tasks in the future", he said. He promised the single men who are facing court proceedings arising out of the recent disturbances in Winnipeg to take care of their cases and provide counsel for them. "I want you men to understand that to be arrested means nothing, the ruling class try to intimidate you and if successful will cut your relief right down to nothing; keep on fighting; I suggest you liquidate this fear of the police, the judge, the courts, it means nothing. They are just like yourself only dressed up

and have fears because possibly they obtained their job by underhanded politics", Smith counselled.

3. Communist Attempt to Link Up Organized Unemployed Movement with Trade Unions Fails

For some time past the Communists in Canada have been grappling with the problem of linking up the organized unemployed workers with the Trade Union Movement but have, thus far, failed in making any headway in this direction. Attempts to procure federal charters from the Trades and Labour Congress for some of the unemployed organizations met with no success. While, in some localities, the delegates of unemployed organizations are permitted to sit in at meetings of the Trades and Labour Council, such cases are the exception rather than the rule. In most instances the councils refuse to sit representatives of unemployed organizations as fraternal delegates.

At the last Trades and Labour Congress Convention the Communists endeavoured to raise this question and to secure a decision in favour of linking up the unemployed organizations or at least those organizations which represented unemployed workers engaged on relief projects with the congress. This attempt failed. During the congress

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sessions, however, an unofficial understanding was arrived at with Carl Berg of Edmonton, a delegate of the Hod Carriers and General Labourers International Union, to experiment with the affiliations of such relief project workers' organizations with the International Union and thus bring them directly into the organized trade union movement of the country. On the basis of this understanding the Communists are now endeavouring to affiliate unemployed groups to the said union but the results so far have been negligible.

4. Campaign in Aid of Spanish Government (A) Tour of Spanish Delegation

Accompanied by Reverend Ben Spence of Toronto, Ont., the Spanish delegation arrived in Sudbury, Ont., on 30th October and in the course of the evening addressed a public meeting at the Ukrainian Labour Temple. Isabella de Palencia was the main speaker dwelling upon the "heroic battle of the Spanish people" and the "atrocities of the Spanish Fascists".

Reverend Ben Spence of Toronto, who accompanies the delegation on their Canadian tour, dealt with the rise of Fascism in Canada referring to the

reception accorded the Spanish envoys in Montreal as an example of the growth of Fascism in Canada.

The meeting is said to have been well attended and the collection netted \$318.98.

Approximately 400 people heard the Spanish delegation champion the cause of the Madrid Government in the Fort William Civic Auditorium on the evening of 31st October. A short speech was also given by Reverend Ben Spence of Toronto who urged the audience to come to the support of the Spanish people who, he said, were fighting for world democracy. Among those seated on the platform were Alderman Batters and A. E. Smith of Toronto. The collection taken at this meeting netted the sum of \$160. The text of the speeches was similar to those given on previous occasions.

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An enthusiastic crowd numbering approximately 4,000 met the Spanish delegation on their arrival at the Canadian Pacific Railway Station at Winnipeg, Man., on the morning of 1st November. They were greeted by a welcoming committee headed by Mayor John Queen. The crowd, in response to a request made by George Drayton, Communist Party [~~deletion:word~~] sang the "International", following which the visitors entered the Royal Alexandra Hotel.

In the course of the afternoon a meeting was held in the Walker Theatre attended by a capacity audience at which the delegates presented their case. Mayor John Queen acted as chairman and among those seated on the stage were Alderman Jacob Penner, Alderman J. Forkin, J. Litterick, Communist M.L.A., Marshall Gauvin, L. St. G. Stubbs and Alderman J. Blumberg. In addition to the addresses presented by Isabella de Palencia, Marcelino Domingo and Father Luis Sarasola, a brief talk was also given by Reverend Ben Spence of Toronto.

Senora Isabella de Palencia, the principal speaker, asserted that they had come to Canada at the request of the "Canadian Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy". She predicted that Madrid would not fall and concluded her speech by saying, "Spain will either be the graveyard of world democracy or the cradle of it; help us to rock the cradle."

The speeches presented by Marcelino Domingo and Father Sarasola were interpreted by Senora Isabella de Palencia; the appeal for funds was made by Reverend Ben Spence. Before closing the meeting the chairman announced that an overflow meeting would be held at 8.00 P.M. as over 1,000 people had

been turned away, having been unable to gain admittance. It is estimated that approximately 2,000 people attended this meeting.

The overflow meeting held in the course of the evening and presided over by E. J. McMurray again filled the theatre. Senora Isabella de Palencia again featured as the main speaker upholding the Spanish Revolution and the cause of the Madrid Government. "The Spanish people have found their personality through the Revolution", she stated.

The total amount collected from both meetings was approximately \$2,000.

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(B) A. A. McLeod's Tour

A. A. McLeod, National Chairman of the Canadian League Against War and Fascism, was the main speaker at a meeting held by the Regina Branch of the League Against War and Fascism in the City Hall Auditorium on the evening of 27th October. Approximately 600 persons attended with T. McInnis occupying the chair.

A. A. McLeod gave his impression of the Spanish conflict, maintaining that the struggle that is taking place in Spain today was not a struggle between two social orders but that it was a struggle of democracy against Fascism. He warned the audience that similar conditions may arise in Canada.

Approximately 1,300 people attended a meeting held under the auspices of the Edmonton Council of the League Against War and Fascism in the Empire Theatre at Edmonton, Alta., on the evening of 29th October and listened to A. A. McLeod, national chairman of the league, and Alderman Miss Margaret Crang of Edmonton advance the cause of the Spanish Popular Front Government. Among the elite seated on the stage, in addition to the speakers were A. M. Herd, chairman, J. Lakeman, local Communist chieftain, S.A.G. Barnes, M.L.A., H. Gerry and William Irvine, ex-Member of Parliament.

Margaret Crang narrated her impressions of Spain. She said she went to Spain after attending the Brussels World Peace Conference and while in Spain she was impressed by the astonishing confidence in and understanding of the basic principles of the struggle displayed by the workers. She maintained that a "triumph for democracy in Spain would mean a win for world peace".

A. A. McLeod, when called upon to speak, commenced by holding his right fist clenched aloft in salute to the workers of Edmonton and remarked, "I am a peace advocate but just the same I believe there are some things worth defending and fighting for". Speaking on the Spanish situation he contended

that the strife there was not a Civil War but an invasion of Spain by foreign powers. It is interesting to note that the Communist salute on the part of McLeod at the opening

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of his speech was responded to by the people occupying the platform, including William Irvine.

A. A. McLeod addressed two meetings of the British Columbia Section of the League Against War and Fascism in the Moose Temple, Burrard St., Vancouver, on 1st November. The main meeting was held on the second floor and the overflow met on the ground floor. The proceeds of the meetings amounted to \$368.

5. Communist Schools for Children at Winnipeg
Attended by 588 Pupils

A recent survey of children's schools conducted by the Communist-controlled language mass organizations in the City of Winnipeg, Man., disclosed that a total of 588 pupils are enrolled in these revolutionary schools for children.

At the Ukrainian Labour Temple there are 254 children enrolled. Of these 230 are in regular attendance. Another school conducted by this same society at 85 Euclid Avenue has an attendance of 86 divided into two classes; class one for beginners is held daily in the afternoon concluding at 4.00 o'clock, and class two from 5.00 to 7.00 P.M.

The school conducted at the Jewish Liberty Temple is attended by 180 children, 48 of whom are in the kindergarten class.

The school operated by the Polish Labour Farmer Temple Association is divided into two sections situated at 1039 Pritchard and 215 Selkirk Avenue, respectively. At the former there are 46 children enrolled while the latter is attended by 22 children. At both places classes are held every day from 5.00 to 7.00 p.m.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCESI. ALBERTA6. Single Unemployed Protective Association at Calgary
Hold Tag Day

A Tag Day held by the Single Unemployed Protective Association at Calgary netted this organization over \$1,200. The money will be used to feed the single unemployed who have been cut off relief, it is said. According to a statement of the executive committee of the association, the sum of \$40 is being expended a day for this purpose.

Speaking at a general membership meeting of the Communist Party at Edmonton on 1st November, Jan Lakeman stressed the importance of the collection of membership dues and other Party fees. He stated that in Calgary a comrade who receives a monthly salary of \$150 pays \$40 per month voluntarily into the Party treasury at that point. Regarding Party finances, it was complained that the revenue derived from the sale of dues and initiation stamps has been declining. The membership in Edmonton, however, is steadily growing, it was said.

II. MANITOBA7. Manitoba Conference of Unemployed To Be Reorganized

Acting on instructions from the National Office at Toronto local Communist Party leaders met at Winnipeg on 6th November and discussed the question of reorganization of the Manitoba Conference of Unemployed. The recommendations from Toronto were to the effect that the Manitoba Conference of Unemployed be dissolved as a federated body and that it be reorganized on the basis of individual membership divided into branches in place of loosely federated ward organizations. This form of organization could be extended beyond the confines of Winnipeg to include towns and villages in Manitoba, it was said. The new plans call for the formation of a Central Executive Committee made up of two members from each branch. The object of this reorganiz-

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ation plan lies in a greater centralization and co-ordination of the activities of the unemployed. Although the meeting spent considerable time discussing the Toronto recommendations, no definite action was taken.

[~~3-4 words~~] of Meat Packers Union at Winnipeg, Man., known formerly as the Food Workers Industrial Union, an affiliate of the Workers Unity League, recently stated to a meeting of Communist Party functionaries that his union had now a membership of 350. He also claimed that "cells" exist within every packing plant in the city and that the prospects for additional organizational gains were good. According to [~~name~~] there are employed in the City of Winnipeg approximately 2,000 people in this industry distributed as follows: packing plants 1,300, cold storage plants 300, stock yards 400. The Meat Packers Union is looked upon as a radical organization under Communist Party leadership.

Led by William Inge, a party of approximately 30 single unemployed men entered the Princess and Ross Dining Hall at about 3.00 P.M. on 5th November through a side door and proceeded to help themselves to food without first obtaining permission from the relief authorities. The incident caused a disruption of the routine of the dining hall but no actual damage was caused.

III. ONTARIO

8. Sam Carr Speaks at Toronto Labour Forum

Sam Carr, acting general secretary of the Communist Party of Canada, addressed a meeting under the auspices of the Central Labour Forum at the Labour Temple, Toronto, on 1st November on "What About the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation Convention decisions". Sam Carr, in his one hour and 20 minutes talk, contended that the C.C. F. at its last convention made a decided turn to the left notwithstanding all arguments to the contrary. He insisted that it must join the United Front and pointed out that the present "militarization movement in Canada" is not for the purpose of defending Canada against any possible

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aggressors but in preparation against a possible uprising at home. Speaking of Tim Buck's absence from Canada, he said that Buck is in Spain for the purpose of organizing and directing the forces in Canada in support of the Spanish Loyalists.

IV. QUEBEC[~~deletion:3/4 page~~]

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As a direct result of the action taken by the city authorities in Montreal, Que., in banning all public meetings arranged for the visiting Spanish delegates, a new organization has come into being called "Civil Liberties Committee"; it is composed of mostly members of the now defunct Committee for Medical Aid to Spain. The newly formed "Civil Liberties Committee" has held one meeting at which a small committee was selected to investigate the "Fascist" situation in the Province of Quebec. The committee is not intended to be a United Front organization, being composed mostly of McGill professors and middle class elements sympathetic towards the "cause". Moreover, the committee is not to have any dealings with labour.

The Conference in Aid of the People's Government in Spain, a United Front organization, at Montreal is in a process of disintegration. Representation to the conference is composed largely of Communists; some of its affiliates such as the Labour Party and the Trades and Labour Council, have displayed a very indifferent attitude so far. Unless a broader representation can be secured from both the trade unions and Labour Party, the conference will either become a straight Communist organization or fall to pieces altogether.
