

NO. 1

## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 18th November, 1936.

SECRETNO. 833WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

The nineteenth anniversary of the Russian October Revolution was celebrated throughout Canada by the Communist Party and its subsidiaries in the customary manner. The speeches given at the numerous gatherings resounded the appeal issued by George Dimitroff on behalf of the Executive Committee of the Communist International to "all toiling humanity and friends of the future" to use the lessons of the October Revolution as a "beacon light to guide humanity past the horrors of Fascism and hunger"; to rally round the Soviet Union — "the bulwark of peace and liberty"; — and to rush to the aid of the Spanish proletariat in its fight against the rebels.

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Audience Urged to Help Spanish Leftists  
Stewart Smith and T. C. Sims Also Speak
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- " " 3. Communists Held in Check at Convention of District 26,  
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All Communist Inspired Resolutions Hotly Contested
- " " 4. Spanish Delegation on Tour —

(A) At Regina, Sask.

Speak to 1,500 People in Stadium

(B) At Edmonton, Alta.

Address Meeting Attended by 1,600; \$600

Collected

(C) At Vancouver, B.C.

Speak to Capacity Audience in Auditorium and

Overflow Meeting; \$1,500 Collected

Meeting in U.B.C. Cancelled

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**APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL****I. Tim Buck Speaks at Communist Party Rally at Toronto, Ont.**

Tim Buck, recently returned from Europe, was the feature speaker at a Communist Party mass rally in the Mutual Street Arena at Toronto, Ont., on 11th November. The meeting attended by approximately 7,500 people served a three-fold purpose: (a) to advance the cause of the Spanish Popular Front Government, (b) to commemorate the "October" Revolution, and (c) to welcome Tim Buck back home from his trip to Spain. Incidentally it also marked the opening of the Communist Party Municipal election campaign and served to introduce Tim Buck as the choice of the Communist Party of Canada for Toronto's Board of Control.

The speakers' rostrum was decorated to suit the occasion. At one corner was the flag of the Soviet Union and on the other end the insignia of the Spanish People's Republic. Hanging between the two flags was a huge wide banner with the words: "Long Live The Communist Party".

Sam Carr, organizational secretary of the Communist Party of Canada, acted as chairman of the meeting and the other speakers were Stewart Smith, Aldermanic candidate in Ward 5 in the coming Toronto election, and T. C. Sims, recently returned from Moscow where he acted as Canada's representative on the Executive Committee of the Comintern. Every speaker that stepped forward was greeted with a round of applause.

The crowd cheered Tim Buck when he announced himself as a candidate for the Board of Control. "Give the Spanish workers arms and tanks, or else take them away from the Fascists, and the Spanish workers will drive the Moors and foreign legionnaires into the Mediterranean with their bare hands", Tim Buck declared. Spain, he said, today represents the battlefront of the world. The conflict there is not a Civil War, a revolt of the Spaniards, but a war in defence of a country against the invasion of troops fitted with arms that come from Germany and Italy, Buck maintained; he added that without the help of foreign Governments the rebellion would not have

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lasted a month. He urged the audience to help the Spanish Government by prevailing upon the Prime Minister of Canada and his Government to trade with Spain and sell them what they need, to establish friendly relations with that country and to separate Canada from the policy followed by Great Britain today.

T. C. Sims spoke on conditions in the U.S.S.R., on the great change that has taken place in that country since the October Revolution.

Stewart Smith, in a short speech, eulogized Tim Buck and called upon the Toronto people to cast their votes for him and help him to secure a seat on the Board of Control.

The collection netted the sum of \$1,000, half of which will be sent to Spain while the other half will be used as election funds for the Communist Party at Toronto.

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[~~3~~deletion:5 lines]

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3. Communists Held in Check at Convention of  
District 26, U.M.W. of A.

The Bi-Annual Convention of the United Mine Workers of America, District 26, took place at Truro, N.S., from 26th October to 7th November with 65 accredited delegates in attendance. The convention was also attended by a delegation representing the Sydney steel workers composed of George McEachern and Carl Neville. The proceeding showed that the convention was dominated by the moderate element headed by D. W. Morrison of Glace Bay, president of District 26, U.M.W. of A. Most of the Communist inspired resolutions were defeated.

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A resolution to send "warmest fraternal greetings to Loyalist forces in Spain" after having been debated for a day and a half was voted down, 24 to 20. This resolution emanated from the Caledonia Local at Glace Bay. The Communists, however, are pleased with the action taken by the convention in regard to organizing the steel workers of Sydney and Trenton under the banner of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers of America, which is prominently connected with the Committee for Industrial Organization. The convention decided that a start should be made at once to organize the Sydney and Trenton steel workers within the jurisdiction of the Committee for Industrial Organization. The International Board member, Silby Barrett, was instructed to telegraph John L. Lewis for permission to put the resolution into effect and for use of funds set aside by the union for the purpose of organizing the steel workers.

The convention further passed a resolution calling for the formation of a Canadian Labour Party in Nova Scotia, a measure which has been propagated by the Communist party for some considerable time.

The convention further resolved "to lend every assistance to the organization of the unemployed in Nova Scotia"; it passed a resolution instructing the District Offices to have a clause inserted in the next wage contract to the effect that if war is declared the contract shall be void, and voted in favour of a Province-wide strike should operations be stopped at Reserve Mine. A Communist inspired resolution favouring 1st May as a miners' holiday was voted down, 29 to 8.

All through the convention the various issues were hotly debated with the anti-Communist element contesting all Communist inspired proposals.

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#### 4. Spanish Delegation on Tour

##### (A) At Regina, Sask.

Accompanied by Reverend Ben Spence of Toronto, the Spanish envoys — Madame Isabella de Palencia, Marcelino Domingo and Father Luis Sarasola — arrived at Regina, Sask., on 30th October and were met

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at the station by a small committee headed by Mayor A. C. Ellison. A delegation of about 25 from the Single Workers Union was also at hand.

In the course of the evening the delegation addressed a meeting in the Stadium attended by approximately 1,500 persons. The meeting was held under the auspices of the Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy. Reverend Ben Spence of Toronto charged that Canadian money and Canadian nickel are now in Spain fighting for the Rebels; that from St. James Street capital is being sent to aid the Rebels.

Madame de Palencia was the principal speaker. She explained the origin of the present Civil War and the events leading up to it. She denied emphatically that there had been any atrocities committed by the Loyalist defenders and attributed all the atrocities to the Moorish Legions fighting in the ranks of Fascists. Marcelino Domingo and Father Luis Sarasola spoke in Spanish.

The Single Workers Union, who staged a parade from Unity Centre to the Stadium, carrying a banner welcoming the Spanish delegates in the name of the organization, presented a resolution expressing the moral and spiritual support of the meeting to the Spanish Government. The resolution, presented to the audience by Reverend Spence, was passed by the meeting.

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(B) At Edmonton, Alta.

Approximately 200 people greeted the delegation on their arrival at Edmonton, Alta., at 6.50 A.M. on 5th November. They were welcomed by the Edmonton Council of the Canadian League Against War and Fascism.

In the course of the evening the visitors addressed a mass meeting in the Empire Theatre under the auspices of the C.L.A.W. & F. Approximately 1,600 people attended with William Irvine, ex-M.P., acting as chairman. In addition to the Spanish delegates there were seated on the stage A. A. McLeod, national chairman of the league, Reverend Ben Spence of Toronto, Alderman Miss Margaret Crang, H. Gerry, S.A.G. Barnes, A. M. Herd, Alderman Guy Patterson, Mrs. Patterson, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Berg and Jan Lakeman. As usual, Madame Isabella de

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Palencia was spokesman for the delegation. She predicted an eventual Government victory in Spain. She said they had come to Canada at the invitation of the Canadian Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy. A. A. McLeod made an appeal for moral and financial support. A. M. Herd presented a cheque for \$275, the proceeds of the mass meeting held on 29th October, and the collection netted approximately \$325, bringing the total of the money handed to the delegation as Edmonton's contribution to \$600.

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(C) At Vancouver, B.C.

The Vancouver Auditorium was not large enough to accommodate the crowd desirous of hearing the Spanish delegates to state their case on the evening of 9th November. With the Auditorium filled to capacity, an overflow meeting was arranged in the Moose Hall under the public address system. The Auditorium meeting was attended by approximately 2,500 and over 400 were in attendance at the Moose Hall. A. M. Stephen was chairman at the Auditorium and Jack Hawthorne at the Moose Hall.

The non-intervention pact was bitterly assailed by Senora Isabella de Palencia. "We in Spain are dying to save the democracy of the world", she said. In describing the non-intervention pact as a "monstrous instrument against a legitimately constituted Government" she argued that the Civil War is being prolonged because of the treaty.

A collection made in the two halls from organizations and individuals amounted to over 1,500. The donors included the local League Against War and Fascism, \$200; British Columbia district of the Communist Party of Canada, \$106; Hungarian Workers Club, \$25; German Workers and Farmers

Association, \$35; Russian Workers Club, \$44; Young Communist League, \$15; Canadian Labour Defence League and a number of labour organizations. The Street Railwaymen's Union topped the list for labour unions with \$94, while for individuals contributing, Jan Cherniavski, noted Vancouver pianist, opened the Moose Hall collection by donating a \$10 bill.

The audience contained many professional and business men, and there was no doubt that they sympathized with the Spaniards; plea for the abolition of the non-intervention pact. Both meetings were held

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under the auspices of the League Against War and Fascism.

A large audience gathered in the U.B.C. Auditorium at noon on 10th November to hear the Spanish delegation speak. It had been announced on the campus that the Loyalists would speak under the auspices of the Student League. The audience waited for three quarters of an hour and then one of the officials of the league appeared and stated that the meeting was off as the Students Council, governing body of the students, had failed to grant permission.

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## APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

### I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

#### 5. Vancouver Communists Celebrate Nineteenth Anniversary of the October Revolution

"Nineteen Years of Soviet Progress" was the theme of the speeches given at a nineteenth anniversary celebration of the October Revolution held by the Communist Party of Canada in the Orange Hall at Vancouver, B.C., on 8th November. C. J. McKendrick was chairman and Malcolm Bruce was the main speaker of the evening. Bruce's speech covered events leading up to the Russian Revolution, the life in the U.S.S.R. and the progress made under the Bolshevik regime.

Fred Grange spoke briefly on the trial of the nine men charged with rioting, now before the Assize Court at Vancouver, asking that more support be given to the Single Unemployed Men's Protective Association in its struggle.

The singing of the "International" marked the closing of the meeting.

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A concert-meeting marked this year's anniversary celebration of the October Revolution held by the Ukrainians of Vancouver, B.C., at their Labour Temple on Sunday, 8th November. C. J. McKendrick opened the meeting with a few remarks relative to the event. Tom Barnard of Nanaimo, B.C., recently returned from the Soviet Union, gave an outline of his trip to that country. He stated that compared to Canada the workers of Russia were a "thousand times better off and until a similar form of Government is set up in Canada no improvement can be hoped for".

P. Zdanuk eulogized the progress generally made under the Communist regime in the U.S.S.R. He also made an appeal on behalf of the Spanish Government.

The collection netted approximately \$38.

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Tom Barnard of Nanaimo, B.C., recently returned from the Soviet Union held the attention of a well filled house at the Colonial Theatre, at Vancouver, on 8th November as he spoke on his six weeks in the Soviet Union. The audience was composed mostly of members of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation with a fair sprinkling of Communist Party members. The meeting was held under the auspices of the Friends of the Soviet Union with Jack Henderson, member of the Canadian Legion, acting as chairman. Tom Barnard was very enthusiastic on what he saw in the Soviet Union. He stated he had a long talk with Stalin during which the latter told him "to have a good look around and take the truth back to Canada" Approximately 900 people attended this meeting.

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Approximately 1,200 people attended a mass meeting at Vancouver, B.C., under the auspices of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation on 6th November in protest against the Government's policy — Dominion and Provincial — regarding single men. Arnold Webster acted as chairman and the speakers were Roger Bray, chairman of the Action Committee, Philip Rose, Helen Guthridge, Grant McNeill, Fred Grange, Reverend Matheson, Dean Armitage and Dr. Telford. Roger Bray read a resolution demanding that the Honourable Norman Rogers, Minister of Labour, see a delegation of the single unemployed men regarding immediate relief. The sponsor of the resolution also appealed to everyone in the audience to send personal letters of protest to the Government.

In discussing the affairs of the Single Unemployed Men's Protective Association with an intimate, Jack Phillips, leader of the S.U.M.P.A., claimed



that only about six men had left his organization since the transients came to town. The men taking advantage of the transportation facilities offered them by the city, Phillips declared, were not connected with the S.U.M.P.A., and were simply taking a "cushion" ride back to where they belong to attend business of their own, after which they will be back in British Columbia before the winter is over.

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## II. ALBERTA

### 6. Edmonton Communists Hold October Revolution Anniversary Celebration

The nineteenth anniversary of the Russian Revolution was commemorated by the local Communist Party at Edmonton, Alta., at the Rialto Theatre on the evening of 8th November. Approximately 700 people attended. F. C. Wingfield acted as chairman and the speakers were William Irvine, ex-M.P., Mrs. Jean Mason and Jan Lakeman. William Irvine spoke on the history of the Russian Revolution and its significance to the working class of the world. He maintained that the country was transformed from misery into happiness and a powerful industrial socialist nation "which goes forward while the capitalist system is decaying with the common people of the capitalist world living in suppression". He concluded by saying that the Russian Revolution must serve as an example to the toiling masses of the world.

Mrs. Jean Mason devoted part of her speech to the social status of the women in the U.S.S.R. She maintained that the women there were freed as a result of the revolution and that they are now on the same footing as the men.

Jan Lakeman dealt with the "tremendous political and economic success of the Russian Revolution". He pledged that the Communist Party in Alberta and Canada will not leave a stone unturned to achieve complete unity with the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation and other progressive organizations and that it will continue to struggle against the present system.

At about 9.30 P.M. a group of University students attempted to enter the Rialto Theatre but they were met by a few members of the Communist Party and the Young Communist League who prevented their entering the premises. A fist fight ensued but the arrival of members of the City Police brought an end to the disturbance and the meeting continued until its adjournment at 10.45 P.M.

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On 7th November, in the course of the forenoon, approximately 250 single unemployed paraded on the sidewalks to the offices of the Provincial Relief Commission at Calgary, Alta., in support of a delegation

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of five that interviewed the Relief Supervisor with a view to having all those who were cut off relief for refusing to accept positions under the Government Farm Placement Scheme put back on relief. From the Relief Offices the demonstrators paraded to a vacant lot known as the "Red Square" where they awaited the report of the delegation. J. O'Sullivan, head of the delegation, reported that the Relief Supervisor, Mr. C. W. Eady, stated that he would not discuss any relief matters with them. At a subsequent meeting held at 1.00 P.M. on 8th November the chairman, J. Kyle, requested each group captain to rally the men and proceed to the Bible Institute at 2.00 P.M. One hundred and fifty-nine men answered the call and sat for two hours at the Bible Institute listening to a speech given by Premier Aberhart, following which a delegation interviewed the Premier who promised that he would do his best to help the single unemployed. Rumors have been circulated that the single unemployed are planning to destroy the soup kitchen, so-called. One of the leaders of the unemployed, S. Thompson, is said to have remarked that "the soup kitchen must be closed one way or another".

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The Calgary and District Unemployed Association of Calgary, Alta., held a meeting at the Labour Temple on 9th November at 7.00 P.M. with approximately 120 people in attendance. Those present were asked to proceed to the City Hall to attend a meeting of the City Council. About 120 people sat in the Council Chamber causing considerable disturbance and disrupted the proceedings. The Mayor threatened to clear the Council Chamber on several occasions but after considerable discussion the Council granted a clothing issue and the unemployed left the Council Chamber feeling that they had won another victory.

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### III. SASKATCHEWAN

#### 7. Saskatoon Single Workers Union Abandons Fight Against Government Farm Placement Plan

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Single Workers Union at Saskatoon on 26th October it was decided that due to the apathy displayed by the transients and "apparent dislike to fight for themselves"

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the fight against the Government Farm Placement Scheme would be dropped. It was felt that there were not enough forces in the city to successfully fight the scheme. It was, therefore, resolved to make no further effort to prevent the men from going to farms.

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#### IV. ONTARIO

##### 8. Sam Carr Speaks at Russian Revolution Anniversary Celebrations at Timmins and Kirkland Lake

The Communists at Timmins, Ont., celebrated the nineteenth anniversary of the October Revolution in Russia on 8th November with a concert-meeting held under the auspices of the Communist Party of Canada at the Goldfields Theatre. About 300 persons attended with William Gillbanks, [deletion:2-3 words] acting as chairman. Sam Carr, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, was the feature speaker. A short speech was also given by B. Rogers, [deletion:1 line] All the speeches were broadcast over the local Radio Station C.K.G.B.

Directly after the concert Sam Carr left for Kirkland Lake, Ont., by automobile where he addressed a similar celebration on the same evening.

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J. B. Salsberg, Communist Party functionary of Toronto, Ont., and prominent in the trade union field, was the feature speaker at a concert held by the Communist Party at Fort William, Ont., in commemoration of the October Revolution. J. Quinn acted as chairman. Salsberg, in his lengthy address, dealt with the success of the Bolshevik Revolution, the rise of Fascism in Europe and the need for unity in Canada.

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The nineteenth anniversary of the Russian Revolution was celebrated by the Communists in Ottawa, Ont., on 8th November at the Hollywood Dance Gardens, Bank Street, with approximately 120 people present. The crowd was predominantly Ukrainian. Jeanie Parker, of the Communist Party, gave a short speech, and musical selections

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were rendered by the Ukrainian Children's Mandolin Orchestra.

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V. QUEBEC9. Russian Revolution Anniversary Celebration in  
Montreal

The Montreal Communists celebrated the nineteenth anniversary of the Russian October Revolution by holding a concert-meeting in the Prince Arthur Hall on the evening of 7th November. Jack Munro presided and the attendance, composed mostly of Jews and foreigners, was estimated at approximately 700. There were practically no French Canadians present. Musical selections rendered by the Ukrainian Mandolin Orchestra and singing of the "International" and other revolutionary songs by the Ukrainian Choir made up part of the programme. The speakers included Abe Rosenberg and his brother — Fred Rose — who spoke in Jewish and English, respectively. The progress made in the Soviet Union during the nineteen years of its existence was the principal theme of their speeches. Anti-Semitism was also dwelt upon and the "struggle of the Spanish people" received special mention. Fred Rose, on concluding his speech, made an appeal for everyone to join the Communist Party and unite in the fight against Fascism. An appeal for funds netted the sum of \$53. The meeting adjourned with the singing of the "International". The meeting, considered from an organizational point of view, was a failure. It lacked enthusiasm and most of the people present were either members of the Communist Party or its subsidiary organizations.

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The Popular Front at Montreal lately is said to have suffered considerable losses organizationally as the various clubs affiliated to the Popular Front find it increasingly difficult, and, in some instances are unable to hold large propaganda meetings for lack of suitable halls. The element of fear has also entered the ranks of the Popular Front. Many of the members are said to be afraid to attend meetings for fear of receiving physical injuries at the hands of the anti-Communist element. This presents a serious problem to the leadership and the question of establishing a "fighting squad" is being given consideration. It is hoped that the establishment of such a defence squad will bolster up the courage of their membership.

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