

NO. 1

## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 2nd December, 1936.

SECRETNO. 835WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

The Vancouver local of the International Longshoremen's Association, formerly the Coastwise Longshoremen and Freight Handlers Association, on 22nd November voted for a general walkout, appealing simultaneously for support from all longshoremen and seamen in the principal British Columbia ports. The strike commenced at 7.30 A.M., 23rd November and although pickets were posted at approaches to docks no one interfered with the 1,100 longshoremen, members of the Vancouver Longshoremen's Association and the Canadian Waterfront Workers Association — the two recognized organizations — despatched to the various deepsea and coastwise ships by the B. C. Shipping Federation.

The union involved in the strike has an alleged membership of 200. They are being assisted by 300 or 400 disgruntled (unemployed) former members of the Vancouver and District Waterfront Workers Association and such radicals as the Communist organizations can drum up to embarrass the employment of some 1,000 to 1,200 members of the Canadian organizations accepted by the Shipping Federation.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL1. The Communist Press Drive

The campaign conducted on behalf of the Daily Clarion, central organ of the Communist Party of Canada, which commenced on 1st October came officially to a close on 18th November. While the objective of a \$17,000 sustaining fund was not realized, the campaign, generally speaking, was a success. The final tabulation showing the results attained in each district as published in the 28th November edition of the Daily Clarion follows:—

	Amount <u>Collected</u>	P.C. of <u>Quota</u>
Alberta.....	\$ 1,630.77	108.6
Western Ontario.....	1,232.34	102.6
British Columbia.....	1,212.00	101.0
Manitoba.....	1,506.48	100.4
Saskatchewan.....	601.61	100.1
Southern Ontario.....	7,003.67	100.0
Northern Ontario.....	1,170.37	78.0
Maritimes.....	148.15	74.7
Central Ontario.....	522.24	65.2
Quebec.....	<u>800.00</u>	<u>53.3</u>
	<u>\$15,831.13</u>	<u>93.1</u>

From the above tabulation it will be seen that six districts attained the quotas allotted to them with Alberta in the leading position. The leading district will be awarded a trophy. During the campaign the Daily Clarion ran a column under the caption "Who Did What In The Clarion Drive?" showing the progress made and the money collected from day to day. An analysis of the various statements shown under that caption is interesting. While in previous press campaigns conducted by the Communist Party of Canada, the contributors were largely confined to the members of the Communist Party and its subsidiary organizations, principally the language mass organizations, in this drive contributions also came from a number of trade unions and other organizations which hitherto were not connected in any manner whatever with the Communist Movement such as the Toronto District Trades and Labour Council, the Windsor-Essex Trades and Labour Council, the Typographical Union at Windsor, the School Maintenance Association, No. 72, at Windsor, the Bakery and Confectionery Workers International

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Union at Hamilton, the Upholsterers Union at Toronto, and others too numerous to mention. This signifies that the Communists in Canada, of late, have

penetrated the bona fide Trade Union Movement to the extent that they are able to place some of the unions officially on record as being supporters of the Communist press. It is a remarkable thing that a delegate or member of the Toronto District Trades and Labour Council now can present a motion voting a certain amount of the organization's funds for the Communist press and have the motion upheld by a majority vote in the council. Not only have the Communists been successful in penetrating the organized Trade Union Movement, they have also penetrated new places and districts throughout Canada. This is illustrated by a donation of \$93.92 coming from Atlin, B.C., a rather out-of-the-way place.

In British Columbia the campaign was combined with a similar drive for the B. C. Workers' News, a weekly paper published by the Communist Party at Vancouver with a joint objective of \$2,660. The total amount collected was \$2,428.18 of which \$1,212.00 was allotted to the Daily Clarion and the balance to the B. C. Workers' News.

Considering the fact that the campaign in aid of the Spanish Popular Front Government, which caused a considerable drain on the financial resources of the movement, interfered with the press campaign, the results obtained are indeed remarkable.

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## 2. Tim Buck in Montreal, Que.

Tim Buck addressed a capacity audience in the American Presbyterian Church on Dorchester and Drummond Streets, Montreal, Que., on the night of 22nd November. The audience numbered over 2,000 persons; hundreds of people could not gain admission and had to be accommodated in two annexed halls in which loud speakers were installed. The meeting, held under the auspices of the Open Forum, was a decided success in every respect.

Although scheduled to speak on the subject "A Convict Speaks" Tim Buck, after touching upon the present penitentiary system in Canada, dealt at some length with the Spanish question and other current topics of interest to the Revolutionary Movement. He contended that our present

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system of reform schools, prisons and penitentiaries was wrong; that under Capitalism no other solution can be expected. He emphasized that the only way the prisoners had ever gained any concessions was by rioting. He described a number of things he had observed whilst an inmate in Kingston Penitentiary stressing, of course, the disciplinary system practised in that institution. He also dealt with what he described as the attempt on his life at Kingston during the riots of 1932. Speaking of the penal systems he stated that

the Soviet Union was the only country in the world which had a real penal system. Responding to some of the questions asked, one of which was "What was the present situation in Spain?", he spoke at great length on the present strife in Spain characterizing it as an invasion on Spanish soil by Moorish troops and foreign legionnaires instigated by Italy and Germany. "A Fascist victory in Spain", he said, "will mean that there will be a Civil War in France within a year with the likelihood of spreading to other nations". He informed his audience that the Communists were not trying to establish a Soviet Government in Spain but are fighting to preserve democracy. While in England recently, he said he had been surprised to note the growing prestige of Sir Oswald Mosley and his followers. The speaker was very enthusiastically received by his audience which was mixed and composed of the better class of people with the Jews forming a conspicuous part.

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### 3. A. F. of L. Convention Confirms Suspension of Unions Connected with C. I. O

The fifty-sixth convention of the American Federation of Labor, meeting at Tampa, Fla., U.S.A., on 23rd November, voted overwhelmingly in favour of the action of the Executive Council of the A.F. of L. in suspending the unions affiliated with the Committee for Industrial Organization on charges of "rebellion" and forming a "dual" or rival organization. The delegates, in approving the report of the Resolutions Committee on the Committee for Industrial Organization — American Federation of Labor dispute after one of the bitterest debates in the federation's history, also continued the life of a special committee so that it might explore the basis of a possible settlement

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and, if "more drastic procedure" were necessary, to authorize the Executive Council to call a special convention of the A.F. of L. The vote on the action of the Executive Council was taken in the absence of delegates from 10 suspended unions which have a membership of approximately one million.

Commenting on the Tampa Convention of the A.F. of L. the Daily Clarion, central organ of the Communist Party of Canada, editorially states in part:—

"Tampa has added nothing to the efficacy of the Trade Union Movement simply because the most virile, energetic, talented and progressive forces are outside the convention hall. William Green and his aides — Frey and Hutcheson — will not win. They are putting up a ridiculous battle against historic forces much more powerful than their well-padded jobs. John Lewis and the Committee for Industrial Organization is with history, which means with progress, and that is the key to any successful social movement.

The old A.F. of L., millions strong and possessed of a mighty leadership, is in the making". [3&deletion:1 line]

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#### 4. The Young Communist League and the C.C.Y.M. in Ontario

The leaders of the Young Communist League of Canada, after analyzing the recent Ontario Provincial Convention of the Co-operative Commonwealth Youth Movement held in St. Paul's Hall at Toronto, Ont., on 14th November, have come to the conclusion that the Co-operative Commonwealth Youth Movement is doomed to break up due to the narrow socialist policies of its leadership. The said convention was attended by approximately 25 delegates and the report, submitted by the president of the Ontario Provincial organization — [3&deletion:word] — revealed that the membership had not grown during the past year and that several branches in and around Toronto had gone out of existence. The report further revealed that the numerous expulsions of Communist Party of Canada agents and of all disciples of Trotskyism did not improve the situation within the Co-operative Commonwealth Youth Movement.

The Young Communist League leadership has agreed to meet the situation with a barrage of articles in the Daily Clarion and with propoganda in C.C.Y.M. branches exposing the Right Wing tendencies of the C.C.Y.M. leadership. The purpose of this move is to create a sentiment for collaboration between the Y.C.L. and the C.C.Y.M.

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#### 5. Attempt to Increase Circulation of Youth Paper "Advance"

A lengthy directive issued by the National Bureau of the Young Communist League of Canada, under date of 20th November addressed to all districts and branches of the league, calls attention to the need for building up the circulation of the youth paper Advance which replaced the Young Worker, the official organ of the Young Communist League of Canada some time ago. The directives set forth the quotas for the various districts and urge the members to strive to bring the circulation of the Advance to a minimum of 1,500. The National Bureau of the Young Communist League directs:—

(a) Each District, Section and Branch shall set up an apparatus for the sale of the Advance and keep a strict accounting of all moneys collected. The slogan "Every Copy Of The Advance Accounted For" should permeate every Branch and Y.C.L.'er.

(b) These Committees should include, wherever possible, people of organizations sympathetic to the aims of the Advance.

(c) Special effort shall be made to sell the Advance in the mass youth organizations including the C.C.Y.M., trade unions and other labor or progressive organizations in addition to house and street sales.

The Advance is the medium of expression of the Young Communist League among the youth presenting the position of the league on all major questions. While disclaiming officially any connections with the Young Communist League, the paper is financed and published by the Young Communist League, and is in fact an organ of the league. By having it divorced from the Communist Movement it is anticipated that the paper will attract non-Communist readers.

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#### 6. Young Communist League Bureau Records Little Progress in Membership Drive

[~~deletion:1 1/2 lines~~] and discussed at great length the membership campaign which has been instituted with a view to securing 1,500 new members by 1st January, 1937. It was reported that thus far the results have been rather negligible. In order to stimulate recruiting on the part of the district and local organizations the bureau decided to send out suggestions as to how the drive could be

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strengthened and as a special inducement an individual letter to every member of the league urging him to do his utmost in the campaign.

[~~deletion:name~~] reported that information has been received to the effect that a youth delegation from Spain was expected to arrive in New York, N.Y., shortly. He suggested that steps be taken to have at least one of the delegates tour Canada and if possible to bring the whole delegation to Toronto. The meeting decided to make the necessary arrangements should the delegation, or one of its members, be made available to tour Canada.

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#### 7. Finnish Communist Disappointed in Conditions in Soviet Union: Returns to Canada to Live

A Finnish member of the Communist Party who was in charge of the local Vapaus library at Montreal, Que., and who, after having obtained permission to do so, migrated to the U.S.S.R. last June desirous of taking up residence there, recently returned to Montreal and when questioned by members of the Communist Party why he did not remain in the Soviet Union, frankly informed

the interrogators that he and his wife did not like the conditions there and much more preferred to live in Canada. This has placed the Finnish Communists in a rather awkward position; they find it difficult to explain just why a well known Communist Party member who has been constantly talking of the wonderful conditions in the Soviet Union refuses to live there and prefers "Capitalist" Canada instead. The Finnish Bureau of the Communist Party has decided to expel this member on the grounds that, having been a disciplined member of the Party, he should have remained in the Soviet Union regardless of the conditions there.

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## APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

### I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

#### 8. Fred Grange and Harry Molland Convicted: Protest Against Sentence

Approximately 400 people attended a mass meeting held under the auspices of the Canadian Labour Defence League in the Orange Hall, Vancouver, B.C., on the evening of 20th November to protest against the sentences meted out to Fred Grange and Harry Molland for their participation in the riot at Hamilton Hall, local Relief Office, some time ago. (Both were convicted recently and sentenced to two years in B.C. penitentiary.) The first speaker, Robert Brodie, secretary of the Single Unemployed Protective Association, outlined the reason for going to Hamilton Hall. He said that it was the only place the men could go to get relief and blamed the riot on the Vancouver City Police. The Single Unemployed Protective Association, he said, does not intend to let Molland and Grange stay in goal.

Malcolm Bruce, the next speaker, dealt with the treatment which he assumed Grange and Molland will receive in the penitentiary. He explained how he was treated in Kingston Penitentiary, contending that the authorities endeavoured to break his spirit. "They treat political prisoners worse than burglars and murderers", he remarked. Speaking as [deletion: 1/2 line] of the Communist Party for British Columbia, he suggested that the unemployed single men refuse to leave Vancouver.

C. J. McKendrick outlined the work of the Canadian Labour Defence League in defending the single unemployed and made a strong appeal for more support for the C.L.D.L. He also read a resolution demanding the release of Grange and Molland and the 140 unemployed, convicted as a result of the flower selling campaign, who are now serving time in Oakalla.



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Approximately 900 people attended a mass protest meeting of the Single Unemployed Men's Protective Association in the Moose Hall, Vancouver, on 22nd November. The chairman was C. J. McKendrick and the speakers included A. Johnson, of the Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union,

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Robert Brodie, McCulloch, of the Canadian Labour Defence League, A. M. Stephen, of the League Against War and Fascism, Miss Helen Guthridge, Grant McNeill, of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, and Jack Phillips, of the Single Unemployed Protective Association. The meeting was held in protest against the sentences imposed on Grange and Molland, also against those 140 single unemployed who were tried and convicted on charges arising out of the flower selling campaign initiated by the Single Unemployed Protective Association.

A. M. Stephen stated that 90 mass organizations have given the Single Unemployed Protective Association credit for organizing the youth and referred to the sentences meted out to Grange and Molland as "vicious". "There is no democracy or justice in these sentences", Stephen said, "our courts are a political set-up". Stephen also compared the new constitution of the U.S.S.R. with the laws of Canada speaking of the former in glowing terms.

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The Communist Party at Vancouver held a mass meeting in the Royal Theatre, Main and Hastings Streets, on 22nd November, with approximately 400 persons in attendance. The chairman, after announcing the Communist Party was engaged in a recruiting campaign in an attempt to bring its membership up to 15,000, called upon a member of the Single Unemployed Protective Association to speak. The speaker, whose name was not announced, dealt with a new movement known as the Youth Defence League. He urged the audience that they bring pressure to bear with a view to having a new trial granted to Fred Grange and Harry Molland.

Tom Ewen, the next speaker, spoke for an hour on the necessity of trade unionists joining the Communist Party. He characterized the Communist Party as the Party of the people. He was loudly applauded when he made the remark that the International Longshoremen's Association had gone on record in favour of a strike commencing on 23rd November. He confidently stated that the strike would be successful because Communists with the necessary "Marxist-Leninist" training were the leaders. He referred to Harry Bridges, the leader of the Maritime Federation on the Pacific coast (U.S.A.), as an "Australian Communist"

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and spoke of him in glowing terms. Though his talk was primarily addressed to trade unionists, Ewen invited every man and woman to become a member of the Communist Party.

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## II. MANITOBA

### 9. Single Unemployed Less Active In Winnipeg

The leaders of the Single Men's Unemployed Association at Winnipeg are finding it increasingly difficult to maintain the activities of the association and to stimulate militant action on the part of its members. According to reliable reports the membership has not been increased numerically and the attendance at the meetings has fallen off considerably.

[~~deletion:3-4 words~~] of the Single Men's Unemployed Association at Winnipeg have adopted a new line of strategy in their agitation among the unemployed. They now are picketing Knox Church with a view to forcing the Reverend Clarke to act in behalf of the single unemployed. On several occasions pickets have surrounded Knox Church carrying slogans such as "Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread", "Do Unto Others As They Would Do Unto You", "Is Slavery The Heritage Of Youth", "Abolish The Farm Scheme And Give Us Work And Wages", "Give Us Food, Clothing And Shelter", "Are We Condemned To Starve Because We Refuse Farm Work?"

At a meeting of the Single Men's Unemployed Association held on 20th November it was agreed to continue sending members out on the streets to collect money. In conjunction with this scheme, it was decided to have numerous persons telephone the Reverend Clarke and members of the Relief Commission complaining (pretending) about having been bothered by men out on the streets collecting money. Thereby, it is hoped that the Relief Commission, in order to do away with this annoyance, would reinstate the men that were cut off relief.

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## III. ONTARIO

### 10. Four Communist Party Members Entered in Municipal Election at Windsor

Four candidates have been nominated by the Communist Party at Windsor in the Municipal election this year. Alderman Raycraft has been chosen to run

for the Board of Control, while Georgina Ketcheson, Reginald Morris and Joseph Spence have been nominated as candidates for the City Council. In announcing the candidates and their programme Joe Spence, [deletion:1/2 line] of the Communist Party, stated that the programme has been accepted jointly by the Communist Party, the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation and the Trades and Labour Council. He also stated that the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation had agreed that only two Labour candidates shall run in each Ward, thus assuring the possibility of electing a number of "Progressive" candidates to office. Spence further emphasized that the Communist Party was supporting Mayor Bennett.

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#### IV. QUEBEC

##### 11. "New Theatre" Group at Montreal Shows Progress

The New Theatre Group at Montreal, under the leadership of [deletion:2-3 words] has made remarkable progress during the past six months. Two plays "Waiting for Lefty" and "Bury the Dead" have been produced by this group; both were very successful and played to large audiences.

The New Theatre Group has at present a membership of approximately 140, including 35 members of the Communist Party and Young Communist League who play a very prominent part in the organization. The group also conducts a small dance group of about 20 members and a writers' group of approximately 10 members. Two dramatic classes are held regularly, the advanced class under the direction of [deletion:2-3 words] with an attendance of about 50 members and the beginners' class conducted by [deletion:name] with an attendance of 90. If and when members of the group are sufficiently advanced they are being urged to join the Communist Party or the Young Communist League.

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Under the cloak of respectability the group manages to attract persons who ordinarily would never think of associating themselves with the open Communist Movement. The membership is constantly growing and prospects of further extension during the coming winter months are said to be good.

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The Trades and Labour Council of Montreal, at its meeting held on 19th November, decided to sever its connection with the Canadian Labour Party. The move was vigorously opposed by the Leftist element in the council but the motion to rescind a former decision whereby the council became affiliated

with the Labour Party passed after a lengthy debate. The decision is interpreted as another blow at the United Front tactics of the Communist Party.

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