

## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 23rd December, 1936.

SECRETNO. 837WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

Some 140 employees of the Kelsey-Hayes Wheel Company at Windsor, Ontario, have joined the strike movement started in the automobile industry across the international boundary by the United Automobile Workers of America, an affiliate of the Committee for Industrial Organization. The strike tactics employed are of the "sit-down" type.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERALI. Progressive Doukhobors Hold Convention

The Progressive Doukhobor Association or “Progressivnoye Obschestvo Doukhobortsev” to give it its proper name, P.O.D. for short, an association of Doukhobors [~~deletion:2 lines~~] held its third convention at Kamsack, Sask., from 22nd to 24th October. It was attended by 17 delegates including the five members of the Central Executive Committee. Following the election of a Presidium, F. Rezanceff delivered a report on behalf of the Central Executive Committee on the situation among the Doukhobors. He recounted the history of the Doukhobors maintaining that the Progressive Doukhobor Association came into being as a result of the inactivity of the other Doukhobor groups. Speaking of the Independent Doukhobor Brotherhood, he emphasized the importance of co-operation between that body of Doukhobors and the P.O.D. He stated that whatever differences that exist between the two associations could easily be readjusted. Speaking of the tasks before the P.O.D. he stated that its most pressing and immediate task was the opening of Russian schools. In this connection he drew the attention of the gathering to the fact that the

Independent Doukhobors, at their convention on 6th October, had decided to open Russian schools. He suggested that the schools should be operated in conjunction and in co-operation with the Independent Doukhobors. He further suggested that "Petroff Day" (St. Peter's Day) should be celebrated on the day accepted by the Doukhobors, 29th June, every year and that it should be regarded by all Doukhobors as the "Doukhobors' National Anti-War Day". Touching upon the relations between the Canadian Doukhobors and the Doukhobors in the Soviet Union and in the U.S.A., he emphasized the necessity of sending an all-Doukhobor delegation to the Soviet Union which, he felt, would put an end to all the dissension existing among the Doukhobors. He also touched upon the question of the Canadian League Against War and Fascism and suggested that the P.O.B. should actively participate in the work of that organiz-

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ation. He further suggested that the convention take some stand on the Civil War in Spain.

V. Kassakoff reported on behalf of the Central Executive Committee on organization. He pointed out that during the period from the first to the second convention the P.O.D. branches remained inactive but since the second convention considerable activity has been recorded. Five Russian schools were opened, he said, by five branches having a total attendance of over 200 pupils. He also said that dramatic circles and choirs have been organized. The schools, he claimed, were opened and conducted by the P.O.D. alone and this prevented children of other Doukhobor denominations to attend. He suggested that in future such schools should be conducted jointly with other Doukhobor groups, particularly the Independent Doukhobors. He declared that the number of Doukhobors sympathizing with the P.O.D. is steadily growing. He suggested that the Central Executive Committee, together with the branches, exploit this favourable situation and attempt to recruit additional members into the P.O.D.

Following a lengthy discussion on the two reports submitted the convention resolved:—

(1) St. Peter's Day.

The convention establishes 29th June as a general Doukhobor Anti-War Day and calls upon all branches of the P.O.D. and all the Doukhobors to celebrate it in their communities.

(2) Aid to Spain.

The convention calls upon all branches of the P.O.D. and all the Doukhobors to extend help in accordance with their possibilities to the Spanish

orphans and widows — the victims of Fascism — and to protest against any assistance given by Canadian Capitalists to the Spanish insurgents.

(3) Contact with Doukhobors in the U.S.S.R. and U.S.A.

The Central Committee shall maintain close connections with the Doukhobors in the Soviet Union and in the United States.

(4) Delegation to the U.S.S.R.

The Central Committee shall start an all-Doukhobor campaign with a view to sending a delegation to the Soviet Union.

(5) Cultural and Educational Activities.

Realizing the importance of education, the convention decides that Russian language schools be opened in all Doukhobor districts wherever possible, and to maintain such schools, school committees be formed together with Doukhobors of other groups; the schools to be organized on strictly democratic principles.

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(6) Teachers and Aid to the School.

The Central Committee shall provide the schools with teachers and with grants in all cases where branches require such assistance.

(7) Doukhobor Seminary.

The convention endorses the idea of organizing a Doukhobor Seminary and instructs the Central Committee to popularize this idea among the Doukhobors as well as to make all preparations for the opening of such a Seminary (high school for teachers) in common with Doukhobors of other denominations.

(8) Formation of New P.O.D. Branches

The convention decided to double the number of branches and membership.

(9) Women's Circles

The convention recommends the formation of Women's Circles to carry on activities in conjunction with the P.O.D. branches.

The convention gave much attention to what was referred to as "The Page", meaning a special page which has been allotted to the association in the Communist organ Kanadsky Gudok. "The Page" is being regarded as the mouth-piece or organ of the Progressive Doukhobors Association. It was disclosed that the Central Committee owed the Russian Workers Clubs over \$500 for "The Page" but that the latter organization, at its last Annual (Seventh) Convention after representation having been made by P.O.D., had annulled this indebtedness. It was further disclosed that the said convention agreed to provide "The Page" to the association regularly every week if the association would apply officially to the manager of Kanadsky Gudok. Following considerable discussion it was agreed that "The Page of the Progressive

Doukhobor Association" be renamed to read "Dukhoborskaja Zhyzn" (Doukhobor Life). This decision was prompted by a desire to have "The Page" open to all Doukhobors wishing to send in literary contributions. "The Page", it was decided, will be edited by the Editorial Collegium situated at Kamsack, Sask. The convention further decided to start a campaign among the Doukhobors for the purpose of raising money for Kanadsky Gudok and that a Doukhobor be sent to Winnipeg, Man., to assist in editing the Doukhobor "Page".

It is interesting to note that the convention of the P.O.D. was attended by G. Okulevitch, editor-in-chief of Kanadsky Gudok and a [deletion:1 1/2 lines] he acted as political adviser

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and guided the proceedings.

G. Okulevitch, in an article captioned "Let Us Talk with the Doukhobors" appearing in the 17th November issue of Kanadsky Gudok, reminds the Doukhobors they are a branch of a great tree — the great Russian nation — and that while in Canada the majority of the Doukhobors still intend to live as of yore, in an atmosphere of hopelessness, their brothers in the Soviet Union are doing their share in the construction of Socialism in that country. Subsequently, however, he tells the reader that the ancient spirit is declining amongst the Doukhobors of Canada and that the progressive movement, the writer states:—

"The Doukhobors will now have their own editor for their paper which is quite an achievement, a thing never known in the history of the Doukhobors. Many of the advanced Doukhobors have already responded to the appeal issued by the Central Committee of P.O.D. to all Doukhobors to take part in the campaign for funds for their own page in Kanadsky Gudok".

He predicts that in a few years there will grow up a widespread system of Russian schools among the Doukhobors, with libraries and reading rooms, and that the youth will listen to instructive lectures and to beautiful choirs, see charming stage performances and art exhibitions instead of finding amusement in the beverage rooms. He castigates those who say they would "wait and see" the turn the new movement of the Progressive Doukhobors will take. He tells them that it is dishonest and selfish to let the progressive element carry the whole burden and then profit by their labour without having contributed to the movement. He concludes:—

"The Canadian Doukhobors will send every year a few members to participate in the celebrations of the Soviet Union whilst delegations from the Soviet Union Doukhobors will come to Canada to take part in the celebrations of the Doukhobors here. The best youth of the Canadian

Doukhobors will be sent in the Soviet Union colleges and universities to be educated there and then return and spread light here".

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## APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

### I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

#### 4. C.P. in B.C. Intends Recruiting 1,000 New Members

The Communist Party [~~deletion:2 words~~] at Vancouver is now issuing a mimeographed sheet "The Party Builder" as part of the recruiting campaign which has for its objective 1,000 new members in British Columbia [~~deletion:1 line~~] The new organ is to give the Party "line" to the membership.

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Millie Stern, [~~deletion:1 line~~] and Becky Buhay Ewen addressed a meeting in Victoria Hall on 6th December under the auspices of the Communist Party of Canada on the subject of "Women of the Soviet Union". The chairman was Miss E. Freeman. Both speakers described at length the part played by women in industry and political life in the U.S.S.R. comparing it with the role played by women in this country. The U.S.S.R. and its women were greatly eulogized and held up as being superior to the women of Canada.

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## II. ALBERTA

### 5. Single Unemployed in Calgary Hold Tag Day

The Unemployed Single Men's Association of Calgary, having obtained permission from the city authorities to do so, held a tag day on 5th December, which netted the treasury of the organization \$1,170. A previous tag day held on 31st October netted the association over \$1,200.

On 16th December approximately 200 single unemployed staged a demonstration on Calgary's main thoroughfare halting all traffic and resulting in a clash with the police in the course of which a number were injured. Nineteen men were arrested and charged with unlawful assembly.

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## III. SASKATCHEWAN

### 6. James Litterick, M.L.A., Speaks at Regina

James Litterick, Communist M.L.A. of Winnipeg, was the feature speaker at a meeting held under the auspices of the Regina Section of the Communist Party of Canada in the City Hall at Regina on 4th December. Approximately 400 persons were in attendance with T. G. McManus in the chair. The latter, in introducing the main speaker, referred briefly to the failure of "labour" to achieve their objectives in the recent Regina Municipal election. He, however, assured the audience that they would see a great change next year.

James Litterick referred to himself as the secretary of the Communist Party in Manitoba and the first Communist to be elected to a Legislative Assembly on the North American Continent. The Communist Party in Manitoba, he said, is "gaining and gaining". He gave great credit to M. J. Forkin and Jacob Penner, the two Communist Party veterans sitting on the City Council of Winnipeg. Referring to the Winnipeg Civic elections he contended that the Independent Labour Party, which had controlled civic affairs in Winnipeg during the past few years, was defeated this year at the polls in the Municipal election. He attributed this to the "undefined and hesitant" policy pursued by the leaders of the I.L.P. including John Queen, ex-Mayor of Winnipeg, Simkin, Farmer and others. The Communist Party, he said, had proposed a United Front to the Independent Labour Party but it had been rejected by them and "labour" in consequence has been defeated. But, he continued, while the Independent Labour Party had been defeated the Communist Party made considerable advances. Speaking of Fascism in Canada, Litterick maintained that there is considerable evidence of its growth throughout Canada. He condemned the Government Farm Placement Scheme and severely criticized the Right Hon-

ourable McKenzie King's speech at Geneva. In concluding, he urged the audience to increase the representation of "labour" in Parliament, Legislatures and City Councils.

T. G. McManus, in his concluding remarks, made the assertion that the Communist Party had tripled its membership in Saskatchewan during the past two years; that letters from all over the province were being received daily at the Regina headquarters of the Communist Party

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asking for literature, advice and organizers.

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A recent report from Regina states that a branch of the Polish Labour Farmer Association has been organized in that city, with [~~deletion: 1/2 line~~] at the head of the movement.

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#### IV. ONTARIO

##### 7. Charges Against Etobicoke Unemployed Leaders

##### Withdrawn

The charges against the 29 York and Etobicoke Township unemployed leaders who were arrested last July in connection with the disturbances arising out of the relief strike and charged with forcibly seizing and confining persons and with unlawful assembly, have been withdrawn on instructions from the Attorney General of Ontario.

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#### V. QUEBEC

##### 8. Communist Party Unable to Enter Candidates in Montreal Municipal Election

The Communist Party at Montreal did not enter any candidates in the Municipal elections this year. The Provincial Committee of the Communist Party issued a statement to the effect that the Communist Party in Montreal was not in a position to place candidates due to the lack of unity and because of the \$500 deposit system which is in force in that city. The Communists, however, backed Wilbrod Coutrier, [~~deletion: 1/2 line~~] running in St. Gabriel Ward as a Labour Party candidate.

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