

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 13th January, 1937.

SECRETNO. 839WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS
AND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

About 2,000 lumber workers employed in camps operated by the Shevlin-Clark Company, approximately 50 miles south of Flanders, Ont., are reported on strike demanding recognition of the Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union and in increase in wages to \$37.50 per month.

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[1]

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Paragraph N

[~~9~~deletion:7-8 lines]

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| “ | ” | 2. Communist Party Now Secretly Recruiting Fighters for Spain: [9 deletion:6-7 lines] |
| “ | ” | 3. Communists Act as Representatives of Canadian People; Dr. Bethune's Medical Unit in Madrid Cited as Having Vindicated Canada's Honour; Tim Buck Speaks in Name of Canadians; Campaign in Aid of Madrid Vigorously Pushed by Communists; Toronto District Trades & Labour Council Urges Canadian Government to Lift Arms Embargo |
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[1(a)]

APPENDICES

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

Paragraph No. 9. QUEBEC

Notes —

[~~deletion:2 lines~~]

Communist Party in Montreal Issues 10,000 Circulars
 Against Mayor Elect

Provincial Premier and for United Front
 Training Classes Opened in Montreal

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[4]

that the League should build a broader non-socialist group for the purpose of extending Young Communist League influence. Lastly, he said, the Young Communist International wanted to see a much more improved paper than The Advance has proved to be so far and that the Canadian League commence to train more leadership in schools.

Kling further remarked that the Young Communist International places the greatest importance on the struggle against Trotskyism. It was noticeable, he said, that Trotsky influence was growing among the "less informed" section of the working class in nearly all countries and measures must be taken to check this growth. The Trotskyites were particularly active among the Socialist youth. With Trotsky's admission into Mexico it was evident that the Trotsky element would concentrate on the North American Continent in order to extend their influence.

Gil Green informed the Canadian delegation that the American League was desirous of having at least 25 Canadian young Communists attend the National Convention of the American Young Communist League to be held in New York City commencing on 26th March. All their expenses will be paid by the American League and he thought it would be valuable experience for them. This proposal was accepted unanimously and it was agreed to initiate competition in the Canadian League permitting those who do the best work to go to the New York Convention.

2. Communist Party of Canada Now Secretly Recruiting Fighters for Spain

[~~7-8 lines~~] stated that small groups will be leaving regularly for New York from now on where they will leave on Spanish boats or, if this is not possible, "other arrangements will be made".

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[~~2 words~~] recently informed an intimate of his in strictest confidence that he would be leaving Montreal towards the middle of this month to fight for the Red forces of Spain. He intimated that he was going at the expense of the Communist Party and that only Returned Men were being recruited. [~~3/4 line~~]

This is the first indication of Communist Party activities in this regard in Montreal. [~~1 line~~]

3. Communists Act As Representatives of Canadian People

"The Canadian Medical Unit Vindicates Nation's Honor by Aid to Spanish People"; thus reads the headline of a front-page article appearing in the 7th January edition of the Daily Clarion featuring a cable sent to the Canadian Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy by Dr. Norman Bethune, in charge of the medical unit sent to Madrid by the Canadian League Against War and Fascism.

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"Added Equipment and Supplies Needed for Canadian Hospital" reads the headline of another article devoted to the Spanish affair in the 9th January number of the same paper. The first paragraph of this article says: "Canada has every reason to be deeply proud of the Canadian Medical Unit in Madrid". Other captions of front-page articles in this issue read: "Warm Backing to Spain from People of Canada"; "Toronto Lauds Bethune Work"; "Give Liberally, Spence Urges"; "Canadian Blood Transfusion Service in Spain"; etc.

It will be remembered that some time ago a cable was sent to the defenders of Madrid extending solidarity and greetings in the name of the Canadian people.

Tim Buck, in a recent interview, reported in the Communist press quoted these words of Joseph Stalin: "The liberation of Spain from the yoke of the Fascist reactionaries is not the private life of the Spaniards but the common cause of all advanced and progressive mankind".

Buck continued: "We Canadians have done something to aid our Spanish brothers and sisters; but not enough by far..... But, let us be clear that we Canadians have only made the first few small steps towards the fulfillment of our sacred obligations to the Spanish people... I am convinced that our Canadian people are ready and willing to exert the supreme efforts so vitally necessary..... Canadian must do her share".

The campaign for aid to the Madrid Government is being vigorously advanced by the Communist Party and its press, especially in the City of Toronto, with notable results. At Toronto the District Trades and Labour Council recently passed a resolution urging the Canadian Government to lift the arms embargo on Spain. There is considerable rejoicing in the camp of the Communists over this action on the part of the said Trades Council. Fred Collins, [deletion:2-3 words] and leading figure in the Toronto Trades Council, is reported to have told the press: "Our Council's resolution shows the way to all Trades Councils, unions and labor-progressive people to lift their

voices in condemnation of the blockade being carried out against the Spanish Government.

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5. Waterfront Strike in Vancouver Remains Unsettled

The waterfront situation in Vancouver, B.C., remains unchanged as far as the work on vessels in port is concerned. In Communist Party circles it is said many longshoremen have been signed up secretly in the International Longshoremen's Association who are ready to walk out when called. This apparently applies mostly to basement men and spares who are part-time employees.

[8]

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. ALBERTA

6. Alderman Margaret Crang of Edmonton Tours Southern Part of Province in Interest of L.A.W. & F.

Alderman Margaret Crang of Edmonton recently toured the southern part of Alberta addressing meetings under the auspices of the Alberta Section of the Canadian League Against War and Fascism.

On 19th December she spoke at the Calgary Library expounding the cause of the Madrid Government. She asserted that the majority of the Spanish people were fighting on the side of the Government because "the Government is fighting for the people and were doing all possible to help the people and modernize the country". She spoke against the non-intervention policy of the various countries, claiming that if the Madrid Government had been able to procure arms and supplies they would have defeated the Fascists months ago. The speaker also urged the audience to join the League Against War and Fascism, the aims and objects of which were outlined by George Palmer who acted as Chairman of the meeting.

On 22nd December Alderman Margaret Crang addressed a meeting in the Union Hall at Bellevue, Alta., along similar lines. She recounted impressions gained during her recent visit to Spain and exhorted the people to form a United

Front Against War and Fascism and support the Loyalists' cause in Spain. She spoke of the splendid defence the Government forces were making of Madrid and asserted that the Rebels would never take that city. She stated that Mexico had already supplied a considerable quantity of war material to the Loyalists and urged that the Canadian people should do likewise. In this connection she made the statement that she had received information that some firm in Canada was now producing five 'planes to be sent to Mexico for transmission to the Government forces in Spain.

On 20th December Margaret Crang addressed a similar meeting at Canmore and on the 23rd she addressed about 200 persons in the basement hall of the White Lunch Cafe at Lethbridge, Alta. At both meetings she urged the audience to come to the support of the League Against War and Fascism in its campaign for aid to the Madrid Government.

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Protesting against the City Council's decision to require all city relief recipients to sign affidavits setting out their need for relief, a mass meeting of unemployed held under the auspices of the Unemployed Married Men's Association of Edmonton in the New Haddon Hall on 2nd January at 3 p.m. voted unanimously to refuse to sign the affidavits. The meeting elected a committee of 17 to request the City Council at its next meeting to rescind the affidavit order passed a short while ago. The meeting was presided over by J. A. McPherson and the speakers included H. D. Ainlay, D. Powers, Alderman Guy Patterson and J. Lakeman. D. Powers, in his speech, condemned the Federal Government House Improvement Loan Scheme and appealed for unity to defeat the "common enemy".

At 7.00 p.m., following the meeting, J. A. McPherson gave a 10-minute radio talk in which he dealt with the Civic policy in respect to the affidavits which the City Council desired the relief recipients to sign.

The meeting of the Unemployed Married Men's Association decided to picket the Edmonton Civic Offices to prevent unemployed married men from signing the affidavits unless the Civic authorities rescind their former decision in regard to the affidavits.

The City Council, in response to the demand of the unemployed, on 5th January rescinded its decision to compel relief recipients to sign an affidavit,

A demonstration of unemployed in the City of Calgary scheduled for 6th January failed to materialize. It was called off by the Communist leaders mainly for tactical reasons.

On 4th January 19 single unemployed, recently arrested by the Calgary City Police in connection with a demonstration, appeared in the City Court on charges laid under Section 238, Sub-Section "F" of the Criminal Code. All pleaded not guilty. After hearing the evidence the men were found guilty and sentenced to 30 days' hard labour in Lethbridge gaol.

[10]

The Central Council of the Canadian Labour Party at Edmonton on 22nd December unanimously approved three resolutions suggested by the Executive Committee of the United People's League:—

- (1) The United People's League shall continue to function on a local basis and to act in matters of Civic interest.
- (2) The United People's League shall make arrangements for holding of a conference on matters of Civic interest with the Central Executive of the Edmonton Social Credit organization.
- (3) The United People's League shall appoint a co-ordinating committee on organization and education.

The Central Council of the Canadian Labour Party also renewed the organizations allegiance to the United People's League born in the last Civic election campaign.

Calling of nominations for party elections to be held in the latter part of January resulted in the renaming of the present Executive with one exception. [§deletion:2 lines] All, with the exception of the latter, hold office at present. [§deletion:1 word] was elected representative on a special committee of the United People's League. [§deletion:2 lines]

II. MANITOBA

7. Single Unemployed of Winnipeg Stage Play "Cockeyed Justice"

A play entitled "Cockeyed Justice" was staged at Manor Hall, Winnipeg, by the Single Unemployed Association on 3rd January. The play, the object of which is to belittle the courts, holding them up to ridicule when members of labour organizations are tried for offences arising out of demonstrations, etc., and to impress upon the audience that the Judge has reached the decision before hand, was attended by mostly Communist sympathizers and was well

received. It has been suggested to put the play on at the Ukrainian Labour Temple and other labour halls as a means towards raising finances.

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The Manitoba Conference of Unemployed, together with Ward 3 Unemployed Association, held a mass meeting in the Talmud Torah Hebrew School, corner of Magnus Avenue and Andrews Street, Winnipeg, Man., on 4th January. Honourable E. J. McMurray, the guest speaker, depicted the change that is taking place in the world today. He made particular reference to the strife in Spain contending that the entire world is undergoing a very rapid change, "more rapid than we can really imagine". His contention was that the struggle is and will be between Communism and Fascism.

The audience is said to have been largely composed of Jews.

III. ONTARIO

8. Boulter Receives 1,281 Votes in Port Arthur Municipal Election

Garfield Boulter, Communist Party candidate for Alderman in Port Arthur, received 1,281 votes in the Municipal election held on 4th January. He was 421 votes short of election.

James A. Quinn, [☞deletion:3/4 line] nominated by the Trades and Labour Council at Fort William as Aldermanic candidate in the Fort William Municipal election, received only 381 votes compared with 929 votes cast for the men heading the poll. He was not elected.

IV. QUEBEC

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On 29th December the Quebec Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of Canada distributed approximately 10,000 circulars printed in English and French as part of the agitation for the abolition of the sales tax and for clearance of the slums. The circular concludes with the following slogan "Against Raynault (Mayor elect) and against Duplessis, the Man of St. James Street, for a People's Front of All Men and Women of Good Will in the Province of Quebec".

The Communist Party at Montreal is to open training classes at 62 Rachel Street, East, beginning on 18th January. The classes are to be held in French and English and each course is to last three weeks.
