

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 27th January, 1937.

SECRETNO. 841WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS
AND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

The strike of approximately 2,400 lumber workers in the 16 camps operated by the Shevlin and Clarke and J. A. Mathieu Lumber Companies in the Flanders (Ont.) district which commenced on 6th January was settled on 22nd January when two-thirds of the men involved, members of the Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union, voted to accept an agreement which stipulates increases in wages of from \$5 to \$6 per month and a \$4 monthly bonus at the end of the season. The right to union activity in camps has been recognized by the operators, it is said.

The strike of 800 textile workers at the Empire Cotton Mills in Welland (Ont.) continues. On 22nd January the strikers voted 653 against and 130 for accepting the offer of the company.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL1. Volunteers Recruited by C.P. of C. Leave for Spain

Twenty volunteers, most of them recruited in Montreal for active service in Spain, are said to have left Montreal on the evening of 20th January for Spain via New York, N.Y. Small groups of volunteers from western points were expected to pass through Montreal on the same day. When passing through the United States the volunteers are instructed not to make use of their Canadian passports; they are instructed to call at the local U.S. Immigration Office at Montreal and obtain permits for a temporary visit to the United States. It is said that the Communist Party, in order to facilitate safe conduct to New York, is providing each volunteer with the sum of \$60 to meet the requirements of the U.S. Immigration laws. This money, however, is immediately refunded by the volunteers upon reaching New York.

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It is understood recruitment was stopped for a short period of time, from 11th to 15th January, because of instructions received from New York. It is thought that the interruption was occasioned by the statement made by the British Government on the question of British subjects going to Spain to take part in the Civil War. Anticipated complete stoppage of volunteers by the French Government may have also been responsible for the interruption as all the volunteers from Canada and the U.S.A. are to be sent to Spain via France. Complete secrecy continues to surround recruiting activity in Canada.

2. Spanish Conference in Montreal. Que.

The Spanish Conference at Montreal held a meeting on 16th January at 362 Dorchester Street, West, with approximately 50 delegates in attendance, the majority representing revolutionary organizations. Only two trade unions were officially represented, viz, the Millinery

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Union and the Steamfitters Union.

Max Armstrong gave the financial report which disclosed that, to date, Montreal has collected \$1,800; of this sum approximately \$1,000 has been sent to Spain, \$500 spent on local propaganda, leaving a balance in the bank of slightly over \$300. He further reported that 22,000 pieces of literature had been issued by the conference and that it was intended to issue another leaflet in French and English at an early date. He also reported that the conference has pledged \$75 weekly for the cause of the Madrid Government.

Reverend Ben Spence of Toronto informed the conference that the National Conference in aid of Spanish democracy is engaged in a fight for democracy in Spain as well as in Canada. "By helping the cause in Spain we are also helping ourselves here in Canada", he remarked. He asserted that the struggle in Spain is not a temporary affair regardless of who wins. The National Executive, therefore, has resolved to establish the Spanish Conference on a permanent basis, he said. He stated that the National Conference has already sent \$9,500 to Dr. Bethune and has pledged itself to send \$500 every week in future. He also stated that the National Executive has under consideration the question of supplying clothes to the Loyalists and may commence a campaign throughout the country for this purpose. Needle trades workers in Toronto have already resolved to make clothes in their spare time for this purpose, he declared. Reverend Spence complimented the Montreal Conference on the splendid showing it has made and urged the members present to continue with the good work.

Reverend Ben Spence also addressed a public meeting held under the auspices of the Montreal Spanish Conference at the Strathcona Hall on the evening of 18th January. He was assisted by Professor Forsey of McGill University who gave a brief outline of the events leading up to the present situation in Spain. Spence spoke for the most part of Dr. Bethune's Medical Unit in Madrid, stating that he was being assisted by Hazen Sise, son of the president of the Northern Electric Company, and one Sorensen, a former employee of the Sun Life Insurance Company.

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The Spanish Consul in Montreal — Senor Francisco Borelli — addressed the meeting briefly thanking the conference for the assistance it has rendered to the Loyalists. He said: —

"I welcome this opportunity offered me of acknowledging the moral and tangible support which the Canadian friends of the democratic government of Spain are rendering to our suffering people in this hour of distress.

"The Rev. Mr. Spence has made it clear what important and valuable work is being done in Spain by Doctor Bethune and those assisting him and I feel that while the skill and devotion shown on the actual scenes of bloodshed and destruction are of vital importance, the work of the whole Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy carried on here in Canada is of no less value.

"This is the time when every example of true and unselfish solidarity between people is of inestimable importance and Canada has been among the leaders in this thoroughly humane and constructive work.

“The democratic governments of the world are now fewer in number than they used to be. Every effort made tending to show that an unprovoked attack upon one will call forth instantaneous support from the people of them all, is a step gained towards the reassertion of their supremacy. In such matters it is not merely the dollars and the bandages that count; it is the spirit in which they are offered.

“Having seen the temper of your people I feel sure that this noble work, so well begun, will be worthily kept up. May the period when it is required not be a long one!

“The present struggle in Spain has been forced upon us. Even in its darkest hours the assurance that other peoples understand this and sympathize with us is of great help.

“Speedy ocean liners and modern airships have done much to nullify that vast distance across the Atlantic ocean, but more than this the helping hand of friendship offered by one free people to another.

“On behalf of my fellow countrymen, I give you all thanks from the bottom of our hearts”.

A spectator named Rubenstein informed the meeting that the owner of a small plant for the making of leather goods, which was closed recently, had offered the plant to the Spanish Conference in Montreal. He suggested that windbreakers and other such articles could be made there in small numbers.

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4. Student Congress in Toronto, Ont.

On 30th and 31st January a Student Congress for university and high school students and teachers will be held at Toronto under the auspices of the Toronto Youth Council. [~~deletion~~: 1 1/4 lines] and it is expected that it will be attended by students from Toronto schools and universities and surrounding cities such as Welland, St. Catharines, Hamilton, etc. The objects of the congress are set forth in a call issued by the Toronto Youth Council, thus: “To bring together university students, high school students and teachers to discuss the question of peace, and the Canadian Youth Act, and to arrive at a common programme; to stimulate student peace thinking; to organize student peace convictions; to initiate student peace action; to organize student action in favour of the Canadian Youth Act to obtain bursaries and employment: thus allowing further extension of educational facilities.

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5. Waterfront Situation in Vancouver Unsettled

The strike situation on Vancouver's waterfront remains unsettled. A new local of the International Longshoremen's Association has been formed at New Westminster and the local organization at Vancouver is claiming to be making progress. The following extract, from the Seattle North West Strike Committee Bulletin of 15th January, shows that the Strike Committee of the Maritime Federation attach some importance to the Vancouver organization:—

"The I.L.A. in Vancouver and Victoria has the nucleus of a great organization with good leadership and a fine spirit among the rank and file. They are doing fine work in regards to this hot cargo question: not only do they keep us well informed as to the shipments from up there, but they also take care of anything leaving here. It is reported that their organization drive is meeting with wonderful results and in spite of the vigilantes, who are undoubtedly paid by the Shipping Federation in Canada, they are gaining ground every day. It seems that the ordinary working man can only stand being dictated to by the rat element for a certain length of time. We are glad to welcome you into the field fellows and are behind you 100%. We hope that the fine fight for labor that these boys are making is being properly appreciated up there in B.C. Give them a boost Canada because it is your struggle too".

At Vancouver the International Longshoremen's Association claim to have 600 experienced longshoremen within its ranks and boast that they "could hold the picket line till the crack of doom".

6. Lithuanian Communists Claim Progress in Campaign for Their Paper

Liaudies Balsas (People's Voice), Lithuanian Communist paper for 14th January, announces that the drive conducted on behalf of this paper has been extended to 1st February. It gives a summary of the results of the subscription campaign for the past four weeks, claiming that the total money received thus far is \$984; \$500 short of the objective. It further claimed that 171 new subscribers have been secured thus far.

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[~~deletion: 1/4 page~~]8. The Todowyrnazu Campaign

The present campaign of Todowyrnazu (society for assisting the Liberation Movement in Western Ukraine) is said to be the most energetic one ever conducted by this society. For the first time the radio has been used in an endeavour to have the society's appeal reach as wide a circle of Ukrainians as possible. A 15-minute talk in the Ukrainian language was recently given over Station C.J.R.C. at Winnipeg by John Boychuk, one of the directors of the campaign. His address was confined to conditions of that part of Poland, Rumania and Czecho-Slovakia usually referred to by the Communists as Western Ukraine. Boychuk asserted that since it came into being the society has sent \$16,000 to help the oppressed Ukrainians, particularly those living under Polish rule.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCESI. ALBERTA9. Unemployed Organizations of Calgary in Conference

A conference of unemployed organizations of Calgary took place on 12th January with 28 delegates representing six organizations in attendance. It was decided that a letter be sent to the Provincial Government demanding \$5 per week for all single unemployed men and women, and to send a letter to the City Council protesting Clause 2, Section 17 of the Relief Act. The conference agreed that the City of Calgary should be made responsible for the maintenance of the unemployed Chinese as the Provincial Government had allegedly failed to provide the necessary relief. It was resolved that another conference be held on 22nd January.

The Unemployed Married Men's Association at Edmonton held its regular meeting on 16th January at which it was decided to rally all forces in preparation for a struggle for better conditions; to send a delegation to the next City Council meeting to protest against the proposals of the City Special Relief Committee in regard to deducting relief allowances when relief recipients receive vegetables from the City Relief Department or if the recipient raises his own vegetables; to demand a 15% increase in relief; support the demands

of the unemployed ex-service men and finally to ask the City Council for permission to have a delegation of the Unemployed Married Men's Association sit in with the City Special Relief Committee in an advisory capacity.

The Executive Committee of the Citizens Defence Committee at Edmonton met on 12th January to consider a request for financial aid received from Calgary. A Calgary representative named Fisher was in attendance but after considerable discussion the executive decided that, whereas the Edmonton organization has to take care of some local cases, Calgary should endeavour to collect sufficient funds locally for the defence of those arrested in Calgary.

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The Hungarian Workers Farmers Clubs held a Provincial Conference in the Ukrainian Labour Temple at Calgary on 10th January attended by various delegates representing branches of the organization situated in the southern part of Alberta. The conference was called principally to make preparations for a Communist training school. It was agreed to open such a school in Calgary and to secure a suitable teacher from Winnipeg to conduct it.

IL SASKATCHEWAN

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[~~deletion: 3 1/4 lines~~] The subject of his address was "The Communist Party and Unionism; Its Attitude Towards War". He maintained that the Communist Party had a programme of action consisting of a campaign to organize the workers, both employed and unemployed, to teach them the truth about the system under which they slave, in an endeavour to down Capitalism by force. "To think that the change can be made peacefully is a bad error", he/said, and maintained that there must be fighting and bloodshed. "Any gain that the workers will make will come about

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through their own struggles; the road ahead is a road of revolution with the overthrow of the Capitalist system and the abolition of the classes as their final aim", he remarked. "The working class today", he said, "is in a position where it must fight to maintain its miserable standard of living". "The State", as it is

constituted today", he declared, "is a tool of the Capitalist class, the chief executive of big business". He emphasized that only through action can the working class expect to achieve anything. He urged organization and unity saying that "we Communists are in favour of unions and propose to lead them in the struggle for better conditions and ultimately to the final victory". Asked as to what part of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation he belonged, whether to the Right, Left or Centre, he said that his remarks made an answer quite unnecessary that it was self-evident to which group he belonged.

III. MANITOBA

U.L.F.T.A. in Winnipeg Instruct Members in Political Economy

The Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association at Winnipeg is conducting a three months' course in political economy; the course commenced on 15th December. Two of the graduates of the Higher Educational Course held in the Parkdale Institute last year — [~~2-3 words~~] — are the instructors and 35 pupils are in attendance, most of whom are from the City of Winnipeg.

The School for Children conducted by the Euclid Avenue Branch of the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association at Winnipeg is said to be attended now by 71 children regularly. The teacher employed is [~~1 word~~] he succeeded [~~1 word~~] who taught at this school for many years. Previously the regular attendance was only 45; the increase being due to the change in the teaching staff.

The Executive Committee of the Single Men's Unemployed Association at Winnipeg met at 2.00 p.m. on 21st January and decided, amongst other things, to draw up a programme of work and wages for presentation at the first sitting of the Provincial Legislature; further, to demand that compulsory labour be abolished and that a campaign be

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started for the abolition of dining halls and institution of restaurant vouchers.

The decisions of this meeting were submitted to a general meeting of the association held shortly following the executive meeting and were endorsed by it.

IV. ONTARIO

12. Western Ontario District Committee of C.P. of C. Heavily in Debt

According to recent circular issued by the Fort William Section Committee of the Communist Party of Canada, the District (No. 6) Committee for Western Ontario is in debt to the extent of \$1,600. To liquidate this liability, the District Committee has commenced a drive which has for its objective the raising of \$1,500. The regular income of the District Committee is approximately \$50 a month which is barely sufficient to support the four paid functionaries maintained in the district, it is alleged.

V. QUEBEC

13. Programme of District Council of L.A.W. & F. at Montreal Outlined

The Montreal and District Council of the Canadian League Against War and Fascism, in a circular letter dated 8th January, 1937, addressed to supporters and friends of the league reviews past activities of the league in Montreal and outlines its programme for the next six months as follows:—

1. Distribution of at least three leaflets in French.
 - (a) On anti-semitism.
 - (b) On the demagogy of the Corporate State propaganda.
 - (c) On the war danger and the Conscription Law.
2. The printing of three French pamphlets containing the above material in greater detail.
3. Public meetings at least once a month with well known speakers prominent in the fight against war and fascism.
4. The formation of membership branches in city districts.
5. A city-wide conference against war and fascism.

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The letter concludes by stating that at least \$1,000 will be required to carry out this programme and that a financial campaign has been organized to raise this money. The sympathizers are urged to make liberal contributions.

The discussion at this meeting further revealed that the Provincial Press Committee reported that the sale of the Daily Clarion on week days averages 400 and 500 as far as the Saturday edition is concerned. The said Press Committee considers the sale very weak and urges every Party member to exert a little more effort in order that the sale of the Clarion may be increased. It was further revealed at this meeting that through the efforts of the Communist Party a local of the International Seamen's Union has been organized in Montreal recently. The Section Bureau decided to donate the sum of \$3 per week towards the up-keep of this Seamen's Union, the money to be taken out of the organizational fund.

[~~deletion:2 1/2 lines~~] urged the membership to display more active work, particularly in recruiting members for the Party and selling Clarte, French organ of the Communist Party published at Montreal. He remarked that [~~deletion:1 word~~] was still in Quebec City organizing and that the Communist Party there has now a membership of over [~~deletion:2 words~~] and approximately 2,000 sympathizers. [~~deletion:1 line~~]

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[~~deletion:4 1/4 lines~~] reported that 255 copies of Clarte are sold each week by this section and an attempt will be made to raise the sale to 350. Restaurants in the north end of the city are to be approached and asked to have the paper on sale.

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