

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 3rd February, 1937.

SECRETNO. 842WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS
AND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

1. The Thirteenth Anniversary of Lenin's Death

The thirteenth anniversary of Lenin's death was observed by the Communists throughout Canada in a spirited manner, marked by an orgy of propaganda against Trotskyism. The Communist press and the numerous speeches depicted Stalin as Lenin's rightful successor and the father of the new constitution of the U.S.S.R. Trotsky, on the other hand, was denounced as the enemy of the Soviet Union and Communism.

A significant feature of this year's celebration was the appearance on the platform of a number of persons, leading members of Co-operative Commonwealth Federation clubs and trade unions, who, heretofore, had never identified themselves with this annual event.

Pravda, official organ of the Communist Party of the U.S.S.R., published at Moscow, for 21st January in a leading editorial captioned "Stalin Kept His Oath At The Grave Of Lenin" reaffirms the revolutionary position of Leninism and the principle of the dictatorship of the proletariat. The editorial, which was prominently reproduced in the Communist press of Canada, is interesting; it reads:-

“Thirteen years have passed since the mournful date which humanity will never forget. Thirteen years have passed since Lenin’s fiery heart ceased to beat.

“At the grave of our leader and teacher, Comrade Stalin, expressing the thoughts of the peoples of the Soviet Union, gave his historic oath:

“To hold high and preserve pure the great title of member of the Communist Party; to preserve the unity of our party like the apple of our eye; to strengthen and widen the Union of Soviet Republics; to strengthen our Red Army, our Red Navy; to strengthen and extend the alliance of the working people of all the world — the Communist International’.

“Lenin’s behests are our program. Every year since his death is a year of triumph of the ideas of Leninism. 1936 is a special year amid the galaxy of years that have passed. It is an outstanding landmark on the path to Communism.

“In this year the country of Socialism received a Stalinist constitution. That which Lenin bequeathed as a program to be carried out has become a reality.

“The thirteenth anniversary of Lenin’s death coincides with the time when the people’s Socialist country received the new constitution, a constitution of a Socialist society. The Stalinist constitution, a summary of many years of struggle could not have appeared unless the party

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had fulfilled Lenin’s behests, unless the party and its central committee led by Stalin had defended the purity of Lenin’s teachings in the struggle against its numerous enemies.

“Mankind will come to Socialism only through the dictatorship of the proletariat’, Lenin taught. The dictatorship of the proletariat is the highest type of democracy.

“This and this alone ensures that millions of working people will really be drawn into the administration of the state and the construction of Socialism.

“The strengthening of the dictatorship of the working class was what made it possible for the country to arrive at a developed Socialist democracy in the twentieth year of the existence of the Soviet power.

“In fierce fights against enemies, renegades and opportunists, the Bolsheviks led by the central committee of the party not only defended Lenin’s teachings on the possibility of the construction of Socialism in the Soviet Union, but enriched Leninism by developing it further, carrying out in practise the chief postulates of Leninism.

“It was impossible to conquer in the proletarian revolution, impossible to defend it, when opportunists were in the ranks of the party.

“The party is monolithic, united, solid... around its central committee. But the enemy, though defeated, doomed, can still do much harm. We must raise Bolshevik vigilance still higher’.

“Lenin’s cause is living and triumphing. Millions of Soviet people, produced and trained by the proletarian revolution know no other path except that shown by Lenin and carried out by this great Party.

“In the Stakhanov movement and collective farm system, in the mighty Red Army and the statesmanship of the working people who have taken power into their hands for the first time in history — Lenin’s behests are everywhere alive, being carried out day by day.

“Far beyond the boundaries of the Soviet Union the beacon of Lenin’s teachings shine into the darkest and most backward corners of the world and inspire millions of working people for the struggle for their social and national emancipation.

“Under Lenin’s banner march Shanghai rickshaw men, Madrid fighters, Ruhr miners and Venezuelan oil workers. Lenin’s child — the Communist International — is growing and becoming strong.

“The Communist Parties in capitalist countries are widening their influence, marching in the vanguard of the people’s struggle against fascism. Revolutionary fires break out first in one part of the world, then another.

“The thunder of the approaching world revolution is becoming ever clearer. The victory of the Soviet Union arouses delight and enthusiasm in the working people all over the world.

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“The Soviet Union points out the path to a free and happy life for all mankind. This is the path of the Party of Lenin and Stalin.

“No power exists, which can quench the torch raised by Lenin which can hold back the triumph of Leninism throughout the world”.

(A) At Montreal, Que.

A concert meeting in the Prince Arthur Hall on the evening of 22nd January featured the celebration of the thirteenth anniversary of the death of Lenin in Montreal, Que. The attendance numbered approximately 1,000 people including some children. A large picture of Lenin together with a number of banners bearing such slogans as “Join the Party of Lenin — the Communist Party of Canada”; “Help Spanish Democracy”; “Wages Before Dividends”; “Lenin, an Inspiration to the Workers of the World”, decorated the stage. The playing of the “International” by a 20-piece string orchestra consisting of children of

eight to 12 years of age marked the opening of the affair. A number of recitations given by small children of different nationalities and vocal selections rendered by a choir made up the programme. Alex Gauld presided and the speakers included Despatie who spoke in French, Joe Gershman who was introduced as a leader of the Communist Party in Toronto, and Dave Kashton, representative of the Young Communist League in Montreal. The speeches generally eulogized Lenin and his contributions towards the Revolutionary Movement. Trotsky and Trotskyism were summarily condemned. Dave Kashton also severely criticized British diplomacy alleging that the British policy with regard to the Spanish situation was "corrupt and hypocritical". He charged that Great Britain was plotting with Germany and the insurgents against the Madrid Government.

(B) At Toronto, Ont.

At Toronto, Ont., the main Lenin memorial meeting was held on 24th January in the Massey Hall. It was attended by about 2,300 Communists and sympathizers with Stewart Smith acting as chairman. Tim Buck was the main speaker. Stewart Smith opened the meeting with the customary insult to the British Empire by requesting the audience to remain in their seats during the playing of the National Anthem.

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Buck dealt mostly with the life of Lenin. He stated that this year's meeting was one of the most important to the Communist Party. "This year we acclaim the greatest victory of them all, the adopting of the new constitution of the U.S.S.R.", he said. He paid tribute to the Spanish Loyalists and condemned the countries supporting the cause of the Rebels. He was very emphatic in his condemnation of Trotsky whom he described as a menace to the democratic world.

Trotskyites attending this meeting indulged in considerable heckling and, although no actual disturbance took place during the meeting, disorders occurred in front of the building following the meeting which necessitated police intervention. On leaving the hall members of the Communist Party encountered a group of young men and women ready to distribute Trotskyite literature. Police reserves dispersed the mob without making any arrests.

(C) At Winnipeg, Man.

At Winnipeg, Man., a number of concert meetings were held on 24th January in commemoration of Lenin. Sol Simkin addressed three of these affairs giving a brief outline of Lenin's work. He also briefly touched upon the Spanish situation and Fascism in general.

(D) At Edmonton, Alta.

On 24th January the Young Communist League at Edmonton, Alta., held a concert meeting in the Masonic Temple in commemoration of Lenin, Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg. J. Eisenbraune acted as chairman and the speakers were H. D. Ainley of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, James A. McPherson of the Communist Party, Alderman Miss Margaret Crang, Max Rosen, of the Unemployed Married Men's Association, and Ben R. Swankey, [deletion: 1 word] of the local Young Communist League. H. D. Ainley remarked that he was very pleased to be present and thought that Lenin was the greatest statesman of all times. He predicted that the social order "now in the hands of the Capitalist class, would soon be in the hands of the worker".

(E) At Vancouver, B.C.

The main Lenin memorial meeting held in the Empress Theatre at Vancouver on 21st January brought out a good attendance numbering approximately 1,300 people. Arthur Evans acted as master of ceremonies.

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The two speakers were Tom Ewen, who spoke on behalf of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Canada, and H. Gargreaves, member of the Provincial Executive of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation. The latter made it plain, however, that he was on the stage without the sanction of his Party although he obviously was trying to impress the audience that he was really speaking for the mass membership when he made overt reference to the desirability of united action of the two leading "working class political Parties" on certain issues. He thought that the Communists were arrogating to themselves the "possession" of Lenin when Lenin "belonged to the working class of the world". He was glad to note that Communism was spreading not only throughout Canada but all over the world.

Paid admissions brought in \$165 and a silver collection \$51.95.

2. Communist Party Strategy Explained in "Educational Letter"

In view of the opinion held in certain quarters that the Communist Party of Canada has abandoned its revolutionary character, that it has become reactionary and merely "another political party", the following extract from an educational letter issued to units of the Communist Party at Saskatoon, Sask., on or about 13th January is of interest. It shows that its present policy as

reflected in the various movements for unity is merely a tactical manoeuvre designed to defeat its immediate enemy — Fascism:

“Many comrades see in our defense of bourgeois-democracy a sort of a ‘going over to the right’. Many others think we are undergoing some drastic change of policy. Another frequently heard statement is “The Communists have changed their tactics”, which carries also the implication that the tactics of the past were not correct.

“Our lines and tactics in the past period were correct and formulated in order to deal with a political situation during a certain period, but we must say that owing to conditions of illegality our tactics were carried out oft-times in a most sectarian method. The differentiation which must be observed is that we must not confuse our tactics with the method in which the tactics were applied. While our line was correct our sectarian application was not correct. To be sure we have changed our tactics in order to deal with the changes situation.

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“Previous to the rise of Fascism in countries like Austria and Germany, which were the strongholds of social-democracy and when social-democratic governments were carrying out repressive measures against the workers such as the German Weimar Republic, we attacked Bourgeois-democracy as a democracy of repression and exploitation and exposed the role of the right wing of social-democracy as that of social-Fascists (socialists in words, fascists in deeds) because they were paving the way for fascism to come to power. We proposed united action to defeat fascism coming to power. This was refused by the leaders of social-democracy. Fascism came to power in several countries.

“It is a fundamental feature of our revolutionary strategy as Communists to know when, where and at what time to throw our main battel line against our main enemy.

“Our main enemy is Fascism. Fascism of the worst terroristic type such as Germany and Italy destroys all bourgeois democratic rights of the people. It is the most open terroristic rule of finance capital. We therefore defend bourgeois-democracy against Fascism, and attempt to rally thousands of people in every locality, to the menace of Fascism and to fight in defense of democratic rights and civil liberties.

“Does this mean that bourgeois-democracy was no good before and has become alright overnight? Of course not. We as Communists will never be satisfied until we have Soviet-democracy, the dictatorship of the proletariat. Bourgeois-democracy does allow a certain freedom of organization and right of assembly which is not granted under Fascism. The vast masses of

people revere the democratic traditions of their country, and can be organized to defend same. Our task therefore as Communists is to rally the masses in defense of bourgeois-democracy, to force Federal, Provincial and Municipal bodies to extend democratic liberties and stem back the advance to Fascism, which will thus give greater legal scope for the work of the revolutionary movement.

“Our tactics have changed because the situation has changed. What is the situation? While Fascism attacks bourgeois-democracy, the masses are moving towards the left. These masses of people may not be prepared to join the Communist Party but a large percentage are willing to see unity of all progressives against the old line Capitalist parties”.

3. Canadian Communists Urged to Speed Up Recruiting for Spain

[~~deletion:4 1/2 lines~~] recommended greater speed on the part of the Canadian Communists in recruiting fighters for Spain. The Canadian Communists were also criticized for having too many foreign-born recruits and not enough native-born youth. All urged speed, [~~deletion:1 word~~] said, as they had information to the effect that the American Government was

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going to “clamp down on any volunteers for Spain leaving American ports”. However, they felt that recruitment could be carried on for at least another six weeks before the American authorities would act. According to [~~deletion:1 word~~] all Canadian volunteers will sail for Spain in groups of tens or fifteens and will undergo at least six weeks’ training following the arrival in Spain. When a sufficient number of Canadians are available, a Canadian Section of the International Brigade is to be organized under the name of “The William Lyon McKenzie Section”.

Recruiting is to be extended and intensified [~~deletion:4 lines~~]

The Communist press reports the arrival in Cherbourg on 27th January of five Canadian volunteers en route to Barcelona to fight in the International Brigade. The men are Thomas Beckett, Frederick Lackey, Lawrence Ryan, Clifford Bukgen and Henry Beattie, all Canadian born.

4. Sixth National Convention of Polish People's Association

The Polish People's Association, formerly known as the Polish Labour Farmer Temple Association, (the name was changed at the Fifth Convention of the Polish Labour Farmer Temple Association held in Winnipeg during July, 1936, in order to attract a wider circle of the Polish people in Canada), held its Sixth National Convention from 15th to 17th January at 554 King St. W., Toronto, Ont., with accredited delegates in attendance from the various branches throughout Canada and many observers, guests and sympathizers from Toronto, Hamilton, St. Catharines and Montreal. Tim Buck, general secretary of the Communist Party of Canada, extended greetings to the convention and called upon the association to engage in the fight against Fascism. It is claimed that, for the first time in the history of the organization, students and school children's delegates attended and that the convention generally marked a milestone in the development of this

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particular phase of the Communist Movement in Canada. One of the most important questions on the agenda was the problem of achieving co-operation and unity of all Polish organizations in Canada.

The most important decisions of this convention are summarized in the 23rd January edition of Glos Pracy as follows:—

1. The convention decided to divide Western Canada into two territorial divisions:
 - a. Western district (B.C., Alta., Sask.) with district headquarters at Edmonton, Alta.
 - b. Manitoba district with district headquarters at Winnipeg, Man.
2. To launch a drive with a view to doubling the membership of the association and its Youth Sections to commence 1st February, 1937; the drive to be linked up with the cultural-educational fund drive.
3. Appointed a Cultural Educational Committee with J. Bobak as secretary-director.
4. Establishment of a Women's Department headed by M. Bobakova.
5. Launching of a press drive to commence on 15th April; the Central Executive Committee to collaborate with the directorate of Glos Pracy.
6. The Seventh National Convention of the Polish People's Association to take place in October, 1937.

7. The convention recommends that a school of three months' duration be held in the summer of 1937 at Toronto and that all expenses in connection therewith be borne by the branches and sections.

8. The convention strongly urges all branches to organize courses for the teaching of the English language, also schools in Polish for those branches which, up to now, neglected to introduce same.

9. The convention instructs all branches to elect industrial committees who, in collaboration with the local industrial bodies, shall constantly and accurately inform Glos Pracy on conditions in the factories in their respective localities.

10. To establish a women's magazine to appear monthly with a children's department; funds for this purpose to be raised in conjunction with the drive for the people's cultural and educational fund.

11. The convention greets the Polish youth in the Independent Youth Clubs and instructs all the sections of the association to support such clubs and assist in organizing them in localities where none exist. The convention suggests the calling of a general Canadian Polish Youth Congress and the building up of a Polish youth organ in Canada.

12. The convention instructs the management of Glos Pracy to publish the results of the press drive.

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The convention elected the following offices for the ensuing term:—

Central Executive	A Morski	G. Kozner
Committee	— W. Dutkiewicz	A. Zawisza
	S. Kochmanski	Krasocki
	M. Bobak	
Enlarged Central	Nicowski	Sobolewski
Executive Committee	— Pomichowski	T. Lewandowski
	Glaba	
Central Board of	Serafin	
Control	— W. Falkowski	
	Sorek	

In addition to the regular sessions two well attended concerts were held at which the Hamilton Choir and children from Toronto, Hamilton and St.

Catharines furnished general entertainment. At one of the concerts J. Glaba of Hamilton spoke on the Spanish situation, calling for solidarity with the Dombrowski Regiment, a regiment of Polish volunteers fighting on the side of the Loyalists in Spain. He also appealed for moral and financial support.

The convention, generally speaking, registered considerable progress. It showed that since its formation about six years ago, the organization has grown into a formidable factor of the Revolutionary Movement in Canada.

5. Executive Committee of Croatian Cultural Association Meet in Toronto, Ont.

The Central Executive Committee of the Croatian Cultural Association, formerly the Yugoslavian Workers Clubs, held a plenary session at Toronto, Ont., on 3rd January. The general secretary — Josipovic — presented a report on the activities of the association which complained of considerable weaknesses and inefficiency in the organization. Comrade Miosic, editor of Slobodna Misao, outlined the political line of the paper which, he said, was based on "the fight against reaction, Fascism and war and the struggle for unity amongst the progressive Croats in this country". The meeting agreed that a Croatian North American Congress should be convened as soon as possible to decide on a programme for the liberation of the Croatian people in Yugoslavia and a united platform for North America against Fascism. The meeting further decided that Stimac,

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permanent organizer for Northern Ontario, should make an extended tour through Western Ontario embracing Sault Ste. Marie, Fort Frances, Port Arthur, etc., and to appoint a permanent organizer for the Sudbury district in the person of Comrade Kralj of Schumacher, Ont.

6. Stanley Ryerson Represents C.P. of C. at Congress of Mexican Party

Stanley Ryerson, district secretary of the Communist Party for Quebec Province, represented the Canadian Communist Party at the Congress of the Communist Party of Mexico held in Mexico City recently. Speaking in Spanish, Ryerson, on behalf of the Central Committee and 12,000 members of the Canadian Section of the Communist International, extended revolutionary greetings to the Party of Mexico. He greeted the "splendid" struggle of the Mexican toilers against Callismo and "feudal-Imperialist reaction". He de-

scribed the struggles of the Canadian Communist Party in its fight against reaction and for the leadership of the Canadian workers. Commenting on the present tasks of the Canadian Party he is reported to have said:—

“While Canada is a part of the British Commonwealth it is at the same time, of course, an American nation and an Imperialist one. The Canadian bourgeoisie, while closely connected with the British, is at the same time influenced by United States Imperialism; it manoeuvres between the two seeking for itself a maximum of advantage and profit. The tie-up with British Imperialist interests, however, is sufficiently strong for the Canadian Government to remain away from Roosevelt’s Pan-American Conference, and to embark, as it is doing at present, on an intensive programme and militarization and war preparations. The great obstacle in the way of this policy is the very real desire for peace of the Canadian people whom it is not easy for the Imperialists to persuade in favour of an open armament and war policy. The bourgeoisie, therefore, talks loudly and Canada’s neutrality and independence from British policy while at the same time, in actual fact, capitulating to the dictates of the British War Office. The Right Wing leaders of labour allow themselves to be taken in by this swindle and preach the myth of Canadian isolation from the war that is threatening while opposing a real peace policy of collective security”.

Ryerson also referred to the growth of the Fascist forces in Quebec Province and the Party’s struggle against these manifestations and for a united “peace front”.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

7. B.C. District of Friends of the Soviet Union to Send Delegation to the U.S.S.R.

[~~deletion:2 words~~] has been withdrawn from the Anti-War League and placed in charge of a Special Committee of the Friends of the Soviet Union to direct the organization of a delegation from British Columbia to the Soviet Union to attend the celebration of the twentieth anniversary of the founding of the Soviet Republics. A circular letter sent out by [~~deletion:1 word~~] to women’s organizations and social clubs, under date of 18th January, reads in part:

“The B.C. District Committee of the Friends of the Soviet Union has received a communication from the Soviet Union inviting a delegation

from British Columbia to attend the Moscow celebrations of the twentieth year of the Workers' and Farmers' State, to be held in May, 1937, the tour to cover a period of six weeks. Permission has been granted to include a woman on the delegation.....

"Kindred organizations in the Soviet Union have undertaken to bear the expenses of the delegation within its borders; therefore it remains to raise the fare to and from the borders of the U.S.S.R., an easy task in view of the wide interest regarding that country among Canadian women generally.

"Besides seeing the spectacular side of the Moscow celebrations, the elected delegate will have ample opportunity to observe the high status enjoyed by women in the Soviet Union, also to study the methods used for the care of children and the cultural life and development of the young people. She will thus be in a position to state facts to B.C. audiences upon her return".

Nothing is known regarding the number of delegates to be included in the delegation.

On 19th January 40 out of the 70 men employed at Green Timbers Camp operated by the British Columbia Provincial Government, some few miles out of New Westminster, came out on strike in protest over the dismissal of a man whom the superintendent accused of malingering. The strikers were ejected from the camp under police guard and cut off from all sources of Provincial relief. The strikers are said to have marched on to Vancouver. Ernest Cumber, secretary of the Relief Project Workers Union, declared that the strike was put into effect without the authority or knowledge of the Relief Project Workers Union.

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He, however, claimed that the men did not leave the camp of their own will but were evicted by the police and that his union considers they have a just grievance.

The forces and resources of the women's organizations at Vancouver, [~~deletion:1/2 line~~] are to be directed against the proposed immigration plan of General Hornby. Correspondence has been opened with the Immigration Association of Saskatchewan for information on the Hornby proposals.

Opposition to the Hornby Plan for the immigration of British families to Canada was voiced strongly at a meeting of the Vancouver Mothers' Council

on 26th January. Copies of the resolution passed by the meeting are being sent to Premier T. D. Pattullo and the Prime Minister of Canada.

A campaign of letter writing will be initiated by the women's organizations to newspapers in those areas in the Old Country in which the Hornby propaganda is to be released and offices of the Daily Worker, Labour Monthly and the Manchester Guardian.

II. MANITOBA

8. Single Men's Unemployed Association Plan to Revive Relief Camp Workers' Union

The Executive Committee of the Single Men's Unemployed Association at Winnipeg held a meeting in the Manor Hall on 25th January to discuss the possibility of reviving the Relief Camp Workers Union in the district. The discussion was encouraged by recent strikes in Manitoba Relief Project Work Camps. H. Roberts was nominated secretary of the Relief Camp Workers Union in Winnipeg with J. Trembley as his assistant.

Speaking at a meeting of the Single Men's Unemployed Ass'n. at Winnipeg recently, J. Litterick promised to make a full exposure of the unemployed situation on the floor of the Provincial Legislature with the support of Mr. Stubbs. "From now on and up till March the men will begin trooping back to the city; all this summer there must be mass action and mass demonstration based on the slogan of 'Work With Wages'."

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he said. He predicted that next summer would witness a trek similar to the one staged in 1935.

The Executive Committee of the association met on 27th January and decided, amongst other things, to stage a parade and demonstration on 18th February, on the occasion of the opening of the Manitoba Provincial Legislature in support of Jim Litterick, first Communist representative ever elected to any Legislature in Canada.

On 21st January a meeting of the New Theatre Group held in Wesley College at Winnipeg voted 24-4 to oust Charles C. Dunbar from the directorship of the organization. Following his expulsion, Dunbar is reported to have remarked that he planned a new movement which "will not be a soap box for political propaganda". Mr. Dunbar was expelled because of his criticism of

Communist features of a play recently staged under his direction called "Bury The Dead".

The executive of the New Theatre Group as constituted at present comprises:

Gwen Henderson,

secretary

Peggy Cassidy

Joe Zuken

Grace Gray

Norval Gray

Peter York

George Patterson

Jack Kurk

The group is at present rehearsing "It Can't Happen Here", an adaptation of Sinclair Lewis' book "It Can't Happen Here". It is the intention to stage the play at the Orpheum Theatre during March.

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