

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 10th February, 1937.

SECRETNO. 843WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS
AND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

The strike of 800 textile workers at the Empire Cotton Mills in Welland, Ont., which had been in progress for seven weeks, came to a close on 9th February with the strikers voting to accept the proposals of the company. Acceptance of the company's terms which included recognition of the right to belong to a union of their own choice was recommended by the Strike Committee and Alex Welch, organizer of the United Textile Workers of America.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

1. Pacific Coast Shipping Strike Ends

According to despatches from San Francisco, the shipping strike on the United States Pacific Coast, said to have been the most costly maritime strike in United States history, ended at 5.45 p.m. on 4th February. Returns from union referendum showed huge majorities for ratification of tentative agreements assuring the workers involved in the strike of higher wages, union control of hiring agencies, the eight-hour day or less and adjusted working conditions.

There appears to be considerable speculation as to what effect the settlement will have on conditions in the ports of Vancouver, Victoria and New Westminster, B.C. Leaders of the International Longshoremen's Association in Vancouver state that Vancouver, New Westminster and Victoria where, some time ago, the International Longshoremen's Association went on strike more or less at the request from the San Francisco and Seattle strike leaders, will have to be considered in the settlement. They declare that within the past few days the "Action Committee" at San Francisco reiterated its determination to have British Columbia amply protected in any settlement of the strike. This can mean but one thing, namely, that the American sailors will be instructed to refuse to work their ships if any but International Longshoremen's Association labour is offered when in British Columbia ports where I.L.A. branches are established. The Canadian unions now providing the labour for ships in British Columbia ports will not be recognized, it is said. The Shipping Federation of British Columbia, however, declare that existing contracts must be recognized and all steamer lines plying to British Columbia are under contract to take the longshore labour through the Shipping Federation. Consequently, it would appear that the American unions, as responsible organizations, must admit the sanctity of a contract and will not be in a position to carry out their threat of boycotting the Canadian organizations.

Vancouver I.L.A. leaders further claim that foreign shipping, insofar as individual vessels are concerned, will be refused labour when in American West Coast ports if guilty of having discharged or

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loaded "hot" cargo at Vancouver, Victoria or New Westminster during the course of the strike. "Hot" cargo in this instance consists of freight originating in the U.S.A. and normally shipping from the Pacific Coast American ports, or cargo booked direct from some foreign port to an American West Coast port but re-routed through Vancouver and thence to destination by rail.

It is generally felt that if trouble-making longshoremen and sailors of Vancouver and other British Columbia ports are "let down" by the Pacific Coast strike leaders in the general settlement it will be a fatal blow to the International Longshoremen's Association organizations in the Canadian ports. Harry Bridges, strike leader and [deletion:2-3 words], in his own interest cannot afford to let the British Columbia organizations down unless he was deliberately using them for his own purpose with the ultimate view of letting them drop when their usefulness was over. In the circumstances, one can scarcely hope that there will be permanent peace on the waterfront in the Canadian ports.

2. Alberta Federation of Labour Condemns Government Farm Placement Scheme

The Alberta Federation of Labour, in convention assembled at Edmonton on 26th January, passed a resolution condemning the Government Farm Placement Scheme for single unemployed. The resolution read, in part:—

“Resolved, that this federation opposes the farm scheme for single unemployed, and the proposal of \$5 per month to these young men. It is too apparent that it simply was a make-shift due to lack of any well-considered policy to meet this problem.

“It is regrettable that governments saw fit to intimidate those who were courageous enough to refuse to participate, due to lack of clothing, experience, etc., by cutting them off from any form of assistance”.

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3. Additional Canadian Volunteers for Spain Land in France

The Daily Clarion for 6th February reports the arrival at Cherbourg, France, on the liner “Aquitania” on 5th February of a group of 84 volunteers including ten Canadians. The names of the Canadians are Joseph Leclercq, Izzie Kupchick, Joseph Campbell, Mortimer Kosowatzky of Montreal; Michael Russel, originally of Ennis, Irish Free State, Thomas Rosol, George Cook, A. Clare and Joseph G. Glenn of Toronto; and Thomas M. Michie of Sherbrooke, Que.

4. Campaign for “Liaudies Balsas” Reported Successful

Liaudies Balsas (People’s Front), Lithuanian Communist paper published in Toronto, Ont., for 4th January gives the final results of the press drive conducted in its behalf which terminated on 31st January as follows:—

	Fund	Sub’s.
District No. 1, Montreal, Que. —	\$492.60	120
“ ” 2, Toronto, Ont. —	556.01	107
“ ” 3, Winnipeg, Man. —	409.78	19
“ ” 4, Edmonton, Alta. —	95.37	12
U.S.A. —————	104.41	53
Total	<u>\$1,658.17</u>	<u>311</u>

The objective of the drive was \$1,500.00 for the sustaining fund and 300 subscribers.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

6. Relief Project Workers Union Growing Stronger. E. Cumber Claims

The Relief Project Workers Union at Vancouver held a meeting on 29th January in the Orange Hall with Jack Phillips in the chair. The speakers of the evening were Harry Griffin and Ernest Cumber who spoke on the organizational features of the Relief Project Workers Union, saying that it exists in a number of Relief Project Camps. Speaking of recent reports appearing in the daily press to the effect that a strike has been called in all the camps commencing on 1st February, Cumber said that the union had given no orders for such strike and had not even considered the matter. He said that what actually happened was that on 1st February a vote was taken in all the camps for the purpose of ascertaining the feeling of the members on the question of protest against the "hold back" system of pay. He stated that the union was getting stronger every day and that only three project camps were unorganized. They had been in contact with these camps, however, and he expressed the hope to have them organized in the near future.

II. ALBERTA

7. C.P. of C. Incorporated in 35 Localities with Total Paid-Up Membership of 1,454 in Province at End of December

The Alberta Provincial District Committee of the Communist Party of Canada recently issued a circular on the recruiting drive now in progress in that province. The circular contains a chart which shows the standing and numerical strength of the Party in that province; it shows the Party is firmly established in 35 cities, towns and farming communities with a total dues-paying membership at the end of December of 1,454. According to the chart the Party is incorporated in the following localities:—

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Calgary	Smoky Lake	Nestow
Edmonton	Lavoy	Nobleford
Crow's Nest	Blackfoot	Iron Springs
Drumheller	Royal Park	Taber
Hoadley	Spedden	Turin
Sylvan Lake	Prestville	Turner Valley
Lethbridge	Cadomin	Thorhild
Medicine Hat	Canmore	Vilna
Willingdon	Nordegg	Delburne
St. Paul	Enchant	Red Willow
Myrnam	Magrath	Coalhurst
Wainwright	Milk River	

The objective of the present membership drive is to bring the membership up to 2,500 members by 15th February.

[~~deletion:2 1/2 lines~~] stated that the Party must uphold the Social Credit Government and consolidate its position within the Social Credit Party with a view to achieving unity with Social Credit organizations, trade unions, etc. A split among the rank and file of the Social Credit Party must be avoided, he said, and the Government must be urged to expedite the implementing of its proposed programme.

The Communist Party fraction operative in the unemployed organizations at Calgary held a meeting at the Party headquarters on 25th January to discuss plans for the Unemployed Conference which is to be held in that city on 24th February. The meeting was attended by 43 members who are active in the unemployed organizations. It was decided that the following proposals be submitted to the conference for its endorsement:—

1. A programme of work based on trade union rates of wages.
2. A fifty per cent increase in relief.
3. Abolition of the soup kitchen and the Odgen Hostel; all single unemployed to be given \$5.25 per week in relief grants or work at trade union wages.
4. Cancellation of all interest paid to bondholders and that the money be used to build hospitals and recreation centres for the unemployed.
5. Abolition of the budget system now in use in connection with relief.

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At this meeting a letter was read from a [deletion:2 words] of Black Diamond asking that an organizer be sent to Turner Valley and Black Diamond to speak to the relief recipients and to form branches of the unemployed association.

A disturbance of a minor nature occurred at the soup kitchen for single men in Calgary on 27th January when a number of men became noisy and threatening in their attitude because some members of the association were cut off relief for refusing to accept positions under the Government Farm Placement Scheme. They demanded that the men be permitted to eat. A police reserve, arriving at the scene, restored order without encountering any difficulty.

On the afternoon of 30th January 30 unemployed Chinese, under the leadership of I. Matthews, staged a "sit down" protest on the street car tracks at the intersection of First Street, West, and Eighth Avenue, Calgary. They were removed by a police detail and dispersed without any arrests having been made.

III. SASKATCHEWAN

8. Communist Party Conducts Training School at Regina

The Communist Party at Regina is conducting a training school at Room 508, Northern Crown Building, which is attended by 18 pupils. The course is of six weeks' duration and the hours of study are from 9.00 a.m. to 12.00 noon and from 3.00 to 4.00 p.m. Among the pupils in attendance are [deletion:2 lines] The instructor is [deletion:1 line] who now holds the title of [deletion:1/2 line] of the Communist Party of Canada.

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IV. MANITOBA

9. Winnipeg Unemployed Plan Demonstration for Opening of Provincial Legislature

The Executive Committee of the Manitoba Conference of Unemployed met on 2nd February to discuss plans for the demonstration which is to take place on 18th February on the occasion of the opening of the Manitoba Provincial Legislature. It was decided that all affiliated associations and branches provide banners and posters with slogans suited for the occasion; further, that all affiliated bodies meet at their own halls and march to the Market Square at a given time. It was also decided that two representatives visit the Trades and Labour Council to speak on the demonstration and to ask for financial aid. The various branches are to be asked to submit any suggestions they may have with regard to the proposed demonstration.

The Single Men's Unemployed Association of Winnipeg have formulated the following demands which are to be placed before the Provincial Legislature through the Labour M.L.A.'s:—

1. Institution of a public works programme for single unemployed at trade union rates of wages.
2. Abolition of dining halls.
3. That single unemployed be allowed doctors of their own choice.
4. That such necessities as razors, toilet soap, hair cuts and tobacco be supplied.

On the occasion of the fourth anniversary of Hitler's advent to power in Germany the Jewish Anti-Fascist League in Winnipeg held a large mass protest meeting in the Hebrew Sick Benefit Hall, 239 Selkirk Avenue, with J. A. Cherniak, LL.B., acting as chairman. The hall was crowded to capacity and the meeting was addressed by eight speakers, Jews and Gentiles, representing a variety of organizations. They included Marcus Hyman, representing the Independent Labour Party, Grant McLeod from the Winnipeg and District Trades and Labour Council, Dr. B. A. Victor, Sam Herbst, from the Ladies' Garment Workers Union,

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Alderman M. J. Forkin, of the Communist Party of Canada, and ex-Judge Stubbs. The chairman, in outlining the purpose of the meeting, dealt with the

“atrocious treatment” the Jewish people are receiving at the hands of “the mad dog, Hitler” and the Government of Poland.

Marcus Hyman caused quite a commotion when he remarked that the Communist Party should not be taking part in such gatherings because Communist participation considerably weakens the effect of the protest. He contended that there is no difference between Hitlerism and the Communist regime in the U.S.S.R.; that both systems represent ruthless dictatorships. His remarks brought forth a storm of protests from the Communists in the audience. The entire meeting was in a turmoil for a while and the chairman had difficulty in restoring order. Hyman is said to have left the platform amidst boos and applause. The speakers following Hyman all were bitter in their denunciation of Hyman, branding him as a dissensionist and a splitter.

Alderman Forkin and ex-Judge Stubbs particularly were very outspoken in their condemnation of Hyman. Mr. Stubbs, in deploring Hyman’s remarks, said “No wonder the Independent Labour Party is losing out and the sooner the I.L.P. get rid of such men and hierarchy the better it will be for the workers”. “I am not a Communist but neither am I an anti-Communist. I am a Socialist”, he said, “and Socialism and Communism travel quite parallel, aiming at the same goal with the difference that Communism is a little farther ahead”. Mr. Stubbs thought that it was because of the social democrats that Hitler rose to power in Germany because they (social democrats) elected to choose the “lesser evil”.

V. ONTARIO

10. Trotskyites of Toronto Hold Meeting

Jack McDonald, [~~deletion:1 1/2 lines~~] of the Trotskyites in Canada, addressed a meeting of the Trotsky-inspired Workers Party of Canada in the Labour Temple at Toronto on 31st January. The meeting was called for the purpose of debating: “Who Betrays Lenin”,

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and a direct challenge to debate the issue had been issued to the Communist Party of Canada. The challenge remained ignored and Jack McDonald, only speaker of the evening in a one hour address, endeavoured to show that the recent Moscow trial involving a number of Trotsky followers, was framed by Joseph Stalin in order to “divert opinion of Russian workers from the ever increasing discontent of the masses in the U.S.S.R.” McDonald, in conclusion, appealed to the audience to support the movement demanding an investigation of the Trotskyist trial in Moscow. He urged the formation in Canada of a

committee to work in co-operation with an international movement for an investigation into Trotsky's connection with the trial in Moscow. The meeting was attended by about 350 people, one of the best attendances ever witnessed in connection with meetings sponsored by the Trotskyites in the City of Toronto. A resolution expressing gratitude to the President of Mexico for extending refuge to Trotsky was adopted. About 20 members of the Communist Party who were present voted against the resolution but otherwise did not interfere with the meeting.

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