

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 17th February, 1937.

SECRETNO. 844WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS
AND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

Communist Party activity for the moment is concentrated on the campaign in aid of the Madrid-Valencia Government of Spain. Recruiting of volunteers throughout Canada continues. The announcement that legislation would be introduced calculated to stop the flow of volunteers to Spain met with a storm of protests on the part of the Communists. Numerous meetings have been held at which the proposed legislation was condemned.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

I. Campaign in Aid of Spanish Loyalists

Recruitment of volunteers by the Communist Party of Canada for service in Spain continues. Extreme secrecy is being maintained by the functionaries in charge of the work. It has been learned, however, that in addition to the ones

already reported as having landed in France en route to Spain, a number of volunteers have left Canada during last week [~~deletion:4 lines~~]

It has been ascertained that the men recruited for service in Spain are travelling on tickets procured through the World Tourist, Inc., Broadway, New York City. The volunteers, before leaving Canada, are instructed to report to 759 Broadway, Room 221, New York City, and see an individual by the name of "Frank" who apparently makes further arrangements for them to proceed to Spain.

The Government at Valencia announced recently that United States and Canadian organizations had contributed \$250,000 to assist the Loyalist forces. The exact amount contributed by Canada was not given.

A medical man to assist Dr. Norman Bethune in Spain will be sent shortly, it was announced by the "Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy" recently. The decision is said to have been reached after Dr. Bethune informed the Committee that all remaining Spanish blood transfusion stations had been placed under his direction. Dr. Bethune reports that his medical unit has now a staff of 25 composed of a haematologist, bacteriologist, five Spanish doctors, three assistants, six nurses, four technicians, chauffeurs and servants. "We are serving 100 hospitals and casualty clearings-stations in the front lines of Madrid and 100 kilometres from the front of the sector Del Centro", his report states. He further reports that he has contracted with an English professional photographer to make a movie film of the work of the Institute Hispano Canadiense de Transfusion de Sangre for the Canadian public.

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A meeting of representatives of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation regional council, C.C.F. Labour Club, Women's Section of the League Against War and Fascism, Communist Party, Pertz Jewish School and German and Italian language organizations of Windsor, Ont., held on 7th February pledged itself to raise \$35 weekly to support Dr. Bethune's medical unit in Spain.

A tag day at Kirkland Lake, Ont., on 12th February, in aid of the Bethune medical unit in Spain held by the Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy yielded the sum of \$110.

Nineteen Toronto University professors are said to have signed an appeal issued recently by the Committee for Aid to the Medical Mission in Spain operative in the Toronto University.

A vigorous campaign has been launched by the Communists against proposed legislation to prohibit enlistment of Canadians for service in Spain. Numerous meetings have been held throughout the country at which the

proposed legislation was condemned and the people urged to protest against it and demand its withdrawal.

2. Waterfront Situation in B.C. Ports Remains Unsettled

The strike on Vancouver's waterfront continues.

Agreements negotiated by the unions south of the International Boundary do not include British Columbia, but it is understood that the American unions will refuse to work or have anything to do with "unfair" vessels from British Columbia, i.e., ships, not loaded by International Longshoremen's Association men.

Leaders of the International Longshoremen's Association in British Columbia maintain that the refusal of American longshoremen to work "unfair" Canadian ships means a virtual blockade of B.C. ports, as the majority of the vessels using ports of B.C. call in United States Pacific ports and will be compelled, in order to secure longshoremen in U.S., to hire I.L.A. men when in B.C. ports.

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3. Jean Watts Dispatched to Madrid to Act as "Clarion" Reporter

Jean Watts, a graduate of Toronto University and prominently connected with the Students Left Wing Movement, is said to have left for Madrid recently to act as a special correspondent for the Daily Clarion. She has been one of the most active workers in the ranks of the Student League of Canada and recently played a prominent role in the Theatre of Action at Toronto, Ont. She is the author of a number of articles which appeared in the Young Worker and other radical publications.

4. "Stay-In" Strike Method Introduced in Canada

On 4th February 68 employees of the Union Packing Company, Limited, at Nose Creek, Calgary, Alta., commenced a "stay-in" or "sit-down" strike in protest against the dismissal of five employees who played a leading part in the wage negotiations which preceded the strike. On 8th February summonses were issued for each of the strikers to appear in Police Court on 9th February. The summonses executed by the City Police were ignored by the strikers and

Police Magistrate Sinclair, following their non-appearance in court, issued warrants to apprehend. After holding the plant for five days and after the police had notified them they were under arrest for failing to answer summonses, the men chose to march to the City Police Headquarters. The men were released on their own recognisance and dispersed quietly to their homes. They have been charged with forcible detention of property and intimidation by watching and besetting the plant.

On 12th February approximately 30 members of the Single Men's Unemployed Association at Winnipeg, Man., who had been cut off relief for refusing to accept positions, entered the dining hall and refused to leave until they had been granted relief. They were supported by the inmates who joined in the protest by staging a "sit-down" strike. It was the first time the "sit-down" strike method was employed in the City of Winnipeg.

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Twenty employees of the Motor and Coach Wrecking Company at Chatham, Ont., are reported to have commenced a "sit-down" strike on 11th February demanding an increase in wages "from 20¢ on the ground and 30¢ on top to 40¢ and 45¢, respectively". The Chatham Unemployed Association is said to be supporting the strike and has three members on the Strike Committee including [~~3~~deletion:3/4 line]

5. "Kanadai Magyar Munkas" Subscription Campaign Successful

The Kanadai Magyar Munkas for 23rd January announced that the subscription campaign conducted on behalf of this paper has been highly successful; that 630 new subscribers have been secured up to date. The objective was 600 new subscriptions. The best results, it is claimed, were obtained in Saskatchewan where the provincial organizer, J. Gaal, distinguished himself by sending in many subscriptions obtained principally in Hungarian farming communities.

6. Communists in Blairmore (Alta.) Retain Control of Town Administration

Blairmore, famous coal mining town in the Crow's Nest Pass, again returned a Communist municipal Government in the Civic election held on

8th February. Enoch Williams, member of the delegation visiting the Soviet Union in 1935 and one of the more prominent local leaders of the Communist Party of Canada, was elected mayor defeating C. J. Tompkins, Independent. The candidates of the Communist Party for the council were all elected; they are Albert J. Olson, (present sitting member), Evan Morgan and Romano Perissine. Martin Krykosky and A. Bossetti were the successful Communist Party candidates for the School Board.

This year's election again illustrates the tremendous influence the Communist Party of Canada wields in this town. Notwithstanding the determined and well organized effort on the part of the moderates, the Communists were able to retain control of the municipal administration.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

7. Meeting in Vancouver in Aid of Spain

Approximately 900 people attended a public meeting staged under the auspices of the B.C. League Against War and Fascism in the Moose Hall at Vancouver on 8th February. Jimmy Cox, of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, opened the meeting with a brief talk devoted principally to strictures on the Baldwin National Government for its failure to act to stop the Civil War in Spain.

Dr. Telford followed Cox with a 10-minute speech in which he endorsed the previous speaker's remarks, sneered at the Provincial Government in Victoria and waxed indignant at the Federal Government at Ottawa for questioning him on letters of recommendation which he had written for men who were applying for passports for Europe so that they might ultimately go to Spain to take part in the war on the side of the Loyalists.

Tom Bradley, of the District Council of the Timber and Sawmill Workers Union, claimed that the only safeguard of the working class of Canada against war and Fascism is trade unionism.

Maurice Rush spoke for the youth for five minutes while Charlie Stewart, of the Street Railwaymen's Union, in his brief talk read part of a resolution passed at the 1936 meeting of the Canadian Trades Congress in which the congress pledged "whole hearted support to our brothers in Spain".

A. M. Stephen, of the League Against War and Fascism, during his 30-minutes introduced three Indians from the interior who were on their way to present a petition to the Provincial Government for adequate relief. Follow-

ing a statement made by one of the Indians to the effect that they were getting only \$3.50 per month relief and that their old people and children were starving to death, as well as their cattle and horses, the usual resolution was passed supporting the Indians' claim for more adequate relief. Stephens made much of the wording of the "Foreign Enlistment Act" and, after proving to his own satisfaction that it did not apply to Canadians volunteering to fight in Spain, called for a standing vote on a resolution condemning the con-

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templated action of the Government to enforce the provisions of the Act. The resolution carried unanimously.

Becky Buhay Ewen took the floor to wind up the meeting. She was speaking a few minutes when some 14 of the crew of the Spanish vessel "Aritz Mendi", then in port, arrived in the hall. They were given an ovation. The audience sang the "International" and the Spanish seamen returned the compliment in their own language and sang two other revolutionary scngs.

II. ALBERTA

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The Communist Party at Calgary met in conference on 7th February with 50 members in attendance. S. Chorbin gave the financial report which disclosed that the Party is in debt to the tune of \$195. Considerable discussion ensued with Andy Hogarth severely criticizing the report. It was decided to instruct the Ways and Means Committee to find a way to raise \$500 as soon as possible. Regarding the Party School which is to open in Edmonton on 22nd February, it was reported that the Calgary City Bureau had decided that the following be sent from Calgary to attend the school: Ivan Matthews, S. Chorbin, S. Thompson, A. Champion and J. Johnston. Ivan Matthews, leader of the Chinese unemployed at Calgary, informed the meeting that he would devote some of his time at Edmonton while attending school to organizing the Chinese of that city.

Dismissal of A. A. Mackenzie, Commissioner of the Provincial Bureau of Relief in Alberta, and re-organization of the Department were demanded in a

resolution from the Provincial Unemployed Married Men's Association which a delegation presented to the Honourable Lucien Maynard, Minister in Charge of Relief, on 2nd February. Various requests for increased relief allowances also were submitted to the Minister by the delegation.

J. Corrigan, vice-president of the Unemployed Married Men's Association, appeared before the Edmonton City Council recently and urged on behalf of his organization that the recently authorized affidavits to be signed by all Edmonton relief recipients be amended by inserting the words "to the best of my knowledge and belief" in the line where relief recipients sign the affidavit forms. J. Corrigan argued that the authorized affidavits were too strict in their requirements and liable to involve unemployed in perjury charges. He was supported by Alderman Patterson who moved acceptance of Corrigan's

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suggestion. The council approved the suggested change. Alderman Guy Patterson is one of the five Aldermen who agreed to co-operate with the Communist Party in the matter of unemployed grievances instigated by the Communist Party through the unemployed organizations over which it has control.

III. SASKATCHEWAN

9. Youth Section of U.L.F.T.A. at Regina Stage Play in English

A play entitled "The Rose of the Prairie" was staged in English by the youth section of the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association at the Ukrainian Labour Temple at Regina on 18th January, witnessed by approximately 300 persons, mainly Ukrainians, Germans and Hungarians. During the intermission one Chernez, a youth organizer from Saskatoon, spoke in Ukrainian on the necessity of organizing the youth. He was glad to see the youth section presenting a play in English but thought that the youth section should be more concerned with organizing the youth than in staging plays. He confessed that hitherto a sectarian attitude prevailed in the youth sections of the U.L.F.T.A. and urged that this attitude should be abandoned wherever it may exist and the main energy devoted to the problem of organizing the youth.

IV. MANITOBA

10. Winnipeg Communists Voice Protest Against Proposed Legislation to Stop Sending Volunteers to Spain

George Drayton and Jim Litterick were the speakers at a meeting of the Communist Party of Canada in Manor Hall recently held in protest against proposed legislation to prohibit the sending of volunteers to Spain. Drayton suggested that they (the workers) "make things so busy for the Provincial and Federal Governments that MacKenzie King won't have any time to bother with the Spanish affair". Jim Litterick contended that if the proposed legislation is passed it would not only prevent the workers from fighting in Spain but would also prevent them from assisting France against Germany. Great Britain, he declared, is

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definitely on the side of the Fascists and Canada is developing a type of Fascism sponsored "largely by R. B. Bennett and other conservative leaders". "We must flood the office of Mr. Lapointe with resolutions condemning this proposed legislation and to send delegations wherever possible", he said. A resolution condemning the proposed legislation was adopted by the meeting and is to be forwarded to the Minister of Justice at Ottawa. The meeting was attended by 200 people, mostly members of the Single Men's Unemployed Association.

Approximately 300 people attended a mass meeting held in the Hebrew Free School Hall at Winnipeg on 11th February in protest against the proposed Government legislation to prohibit the sending of recruits to Spain. The speakers were J. Litterick, M.L.A., in English, Jack Taylor in Jewish, and John Boychuk in Ukrainian; Alderman Forkin occupied the chair. J. Litterick introduced two resolutions, one addressed to the Minister of Justice protesting against the proposed legislation and another resolution urging the Prime Minister to intercede on behalf of Emilio Kleber, formerly Commander of the International Brigade at Madrid who is reported to have been captured by the Fascist forces following the fall of Malaga. The resolutions passed unanimously and a collection netted the sum of \$18.86.

V. ONTARIO11. More Lumber Workers Join Union in Thunder Bay District
Is Claim

Jack Quinn, [§deletion: 1/2 line] secretary of the Thunder Bay district of the Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union, announced recently that since the commencement of the drive for new members on 15th December over 300 new members have been taken into the union. Further, that the union is now incorporated in almost every camp in the Thunder Bay district. The Lumber and Sawmill Workers Union (A.F. of L.), formerly the Lumber Workers Industrial Union, [§deletion: 1 line]

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VI. QUEBEC12. Montreal Communists Discuss Situation in Local Trade
Unions

The Communist Party at Montreal held a meeting of members attached to trade unions on the afternoon of 7th February; 45 members were in attendance. Phillip Richer delivered a lengthy report on conditions in Montreal, claiming that a very favorable situation exists in Quebec at present for organizing the workers. He stated that the Party has contacts in nearly every major plant and that the possibilities for strikes were real due to a general desire on the part of the workers to become organized. The Communist Party, he declared, has now 11 delegates in the Montreal Trades and Labour Council who control approximately 36 votes. He informed the meeting that the Catholic Syndicate has taken the initiative in organizing some of the trades, especially in the textile industry. "We cannot allow this to happen", he remarked, and suggested that he Trade Union Commission of the Party should be strengthened; that every section of the Party should elect a trade union organizer who would be responsible for all trade union work in his particular section.

Lucien Dufour contended that some progress had been made by the Trade Union Commission of the Communist Party and that prospects looked fairly bright. He said that a Communist Party organizer received a good reception by the textile workers during their strike in St. Gregoire recently. He contended that the majority of people in the small towns of Quebec were radical and sympathetic to the Communist Party, that many classed themselves as Communists without actually belonging to the Party. He urged that the Party develop a real campaign against the Catholic Syndicates with a view to

undermining the leadership and to make the rank and file of the unions class-conscious.

Evariste Dube reported that the Communist Party was very weak in the longshoremen's unions, that nearly all of the Communist Party members have been exposed and consequently are finding it impossible to be elected to any office.

Sullivan reported on the situation in the Seamen's Union operative on the Great Lakes. He said that 1,300 applications have been

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received and that to date 500 members have actually been accepted into the union. (Sullivan and Jack Munro are delegates to the Montreal Trades and Labour Council from the seamen.) Sullivan stated that it is planned to eventually form a Waterfront Transport Federation that will embrace all harbour employees and seamen.

Dufour reported that a Steel Workers Union has now been formed affiliated to the American Federation of Labor [~~deletion:1 1/4 lines~~]. Dufour is its president and the secretary is also a Communist Party member. He regarded the forming of this union as a great achievement of the Communist Party. Attempts to organize in the MacDonald's tobacco plant have been productive of little or no results, Dufour stated. The Communist Party has only four members operative in that plant.

The needle trades section has made rapid advances in the past six months, it was claimed. There are strong Communist Party fractions operative in the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union in the cloak makers' section and in the dress makers' section. Sidney Sarkin, director of Communist Party trade union activity in Montreal, has been elected as business manager of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union recently which is considered a great victory for the Communist Party. It was further reported that the Communist Party has a fraction of 15 members operative in the Office Workers Union. Though originally organized by Right Wing elements, [~~deletion:3/4 line~~] Ken Rowley, active Young Communist League leader, is its representative to the Trades and Labour Council. No report was given on the situation in the railroad industry. Alex Gauld, who is in charge of the work in this sphere, was absent from the meeting.

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VII. THE MARITIME PROVINCES

13. Wage Negotiations Between Miners and Corporation in Cape Breton Suspended

Following a meeting of the District Executive Committee of District 26, United Mine Workers of America, held at Glace Bay, N.S., on 9th February, it was announced that wage negotiations between the Dominion Steel and Coal Corporation and the said District Executive were indefinitely suspended. The deadlock in negotiations had been expected since the corporation's counter-proposal offering increases of five per cent to contract men and four per cent to datal workers had been rejected by union leaders. Union representatives demanded increases of twelve and one-half per cent for contract workers and a raise of \$1.00 a day for datal employees. It was understood negotiations would be resumed on request of either party. The demands of the miners were endorsed at the District Convention of the union last November. The existing agreement, which expired on 31st January, will be recognized by both parties pending a settlement. It is said approximately 10,000 miners in Nova Scotia are affected.

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