

## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 3rd March, 1937.

SECRET

NO. 846

WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS  
AND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

Fifteen hundred furniture workers from some 25 plants in nine different Ontario centres came out on strike on 1st March; decision to strike was made at a meeting of the District Council of the Furniture Workers Union held in Stratford on 28th February. The basic union demands are: (1) a 44 hour week with an eight hour day and four hours on Saturday for all employees; (2) fifty cents an hour for skilled men, forty-three cents for semi-skilled, and thirty-five cents for unskilled labor (minimum rates); and (3) not more than 20 per cent of boys under 21 years to be employed in any factory.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERALI. Campaign in Aid of Spanish Loyalists

Dr. Norman Bethune recently cabled the "Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy" at Toronto saying that he is now compelled to buy food in France and take it to Madrid in order to nourish blood donors who are suffering from shortage of food. Dr. Bethune states that the blockade maintained by Germany and Italy is causing an acute shortage of gasoline and food in Madrid and suggests that the Canadian committee charter a Nova Scotian schooner to carry supplies and provisions to Spain.

[~~deletion:2 1/2 lines~~] He stated that a Canadian Battalion is being developed in Spain which will bear the name of "Lyon-Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion" and that the Communist Party of Canada is sending one of its leading members to act as Political Commissioner of the battalion. He further stated that owing to the pending legislation to prohibit the sending of volunteers to Spain it is proposed that recruiting should be carried on under the guise of enlisting technical aid for Spain. He intimated that the Communist Party of Canada intends to make a test case of the proposed legislation should it be enacted.

[~~deletion:3 1/4 lines~~]

Information has been received that on 24th February instructions have been issued by the Communist Party of Canada to continue recruiting but discontinue the sending of volunteers because of the blockade on the Franco-Spanish frontier. It has also been ascertained that [~~deletion:1 line~~] has left Canada for Spain on 22nd February accompanied by a party of three.

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The United Jewish Socialist Labour Party and Poale Zion-Zeire Zion of America with headquarters at 1225 Broadway, New York, N.Y., under date of 19th February issued a confidential circular

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entitled "The Debs Column of Military Aid to Spain" in which it is explained that the Central Committee of this Party has, after considerable deliberation, decided not to endorse the committee for the organization of a special American Brigade of volunteers for Spain known under the name of "The Debs Column". The circular charges that "The Debs Column" is only a screen used by the Communists; an instrument of Communist agitation. A translation of a passage reads: —

"We wish to call the attention of our members to the necessity to be very careful when you receive invitation to attend and take part in different

'Spanish' committees. In most cases it is Communist camouflaged machinery which has nothing to do with the real issues of Spanish democracy. More than Spain needs them, they need Spain as a pretext and a bait to catch people in their net. If you are unable to detect in a committee for Spain the Communist machinery, consult with us before you act. Remember most of the so-called Spanish committees are simply Communist fakes with no control and that we have received from real democratic sources in Spain a call not to trust the various committees for Spain which crop up here".

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[~~deletion: 1/2 page~~]

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#### 4. Friends of the Soviet Union in Canada to Send Delegation to U.S.S.R.

The National Office of the Friends of the Soviet Union at Toronto, Ont., announces the receipt of a cable from Moscow confirming the invitation extended by the trade unions of the Soviet Union to Canada to send a representative delegation to the U.S.S.R. to participate in the celebrations on 1st May. The cable requests the sending of a representative delegation consisting of a railway worker from Montreal, a railway worker from Toronto, a farmer from Alberta, a building trades worker from British Columbia and a woman delegate from British Columbia. The delegation will be the guests of the trade unions of the Soviet Union for a period of four or five weeks. The delegation is expected to sail from New York City on or about 15th April, returning to Canada about 15th June.

Mrs. Elizabeth Kerr of Vancouver, B.C., a prominent member of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, was elected as Canada's woman representative on the delegation.

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#### 5. Campaign in Opposition to Militia Act Started in Canadian Universities

The Student Peace Congress, composed of a number of student peace organizations [~~deletion: 1 line~~] has embarked on a "peace campaign" and to that end is circulating a petition, in French and English, among university students in Canada registering opposition to conscription for active service abroad and requesting the Canadian Parliament to enact legislation "necessary to establish and make clear that Canada is not automatically at war when Great Britain declares war". The petition reads as follows: —

"PETITION

"Whereas the present international situation confronts us with the imminent danger of war.

"Therefore, we the undersigned Canadian students resolutely affirm our stand for peace and hereby submit the following petition to the Canadian Parliament.

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"(1) — Whereas the Militia Act is part of the revised statutes of Canada, c.132, 1927; and

"Whereas certain sections of this Act make it possible for Canadians to be conscripted for active service abroad by order-in-council,

"Therefore we hereby register our opposition to conscription for active service abroad and petition Parliament to amend the aforesaid Act so as to remove this present power.

"(2) — Whereas many rumors are being circulated in Canada today concerning the possible commitments of Canada to Great Britain in the event of Great Britain being at war; and

"Whereas the relationship of Canada to Great Britain in this event is not clearly defined.

"Therefore we petition the Canadian Parliament to enact legislation necessary to establish and make clear that Canada is not automatically at war when Great Britain declares war, and that only the Canadian Government has authority to declare war and peace for Canada.

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Signature

Faculty and Year

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(lined space for signatures)

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University \_\_\_\_\_

Authorized

representative \_\_\_\_\_

"Instruction: At the close of the campaign the number of signatures is to be certified by notary and sent by wire to the National Committee".

[~~3~~deletion:5 lines]

6. James Litterick Makes Debut in Manitoba Legislature

James Litterick, first Communist to be elected to a Canadian Legislature, made his maiden speech in the Manitoba Legislature on 24th February in a

debate on the Speech from the Throne. Litterick's speech was marked by bitter attacks against the Conservative Party and by friendly overtures towards the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, Labour, Social Credit and Liberal Progressive groups. Stating that the

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people wanted a Government with courage, the Communist Member called upon the Honourable John Bracken to turn his back on reactionaries and line up with United Progressive groups if he wished to be in the next Government. Litterick advocated increased levy on large profit incomes and the profits of large corporations, contending that by this means the province ought to save two million dollars. Handling of the problem of single unemployed men was described by him as disgraceful. Expressing a desire to co-operate with other Members and emphasizing the need of progressive forces uniting, he declared: "It is my intention to vote for the Speech from the Throne". He wanted it understood, however, that he was not proposing to liquidate the Communist Party and join its forces to the ranks of the Government supporters. He wished to assure the house that if the Government would "play ball" with the people he would "play ball" with the Government. He addressed the House for two hours.

The public galleries were packed with members and sympathizers of the Communist Party and repeated outbursts of applause brought a warning from the Speaker of the House who remarked that if the demonstration were repeated he would have the galleries cleared.

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### 7. Communist Influence Felt Among Doukhobors in Saskatchewan

The circulation of Kanadsky Gudok is reported to be increasing rapidly in the Doukhobor settlements of Saskatchewan, particularly around Verigin and Kamsack. "Doukhobor Life", a special page appearing weekly and edited by a committee of the Progressive Doukhobor Association undoubtedly has helped to increase the circulation and sale in the Doukhobor communities. The increase in the circulation of this paper reflects also, to a large extent, the growth of the Progressive Doukhobor Movement [~~deletion: 1 line~~] There has been also a noticeable increase in the number of Russian language schools conducted by the Progressive Doukhobor Association and in their attendance, particularly since the Third Convention of the said association held in October of last year.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCESI. BRITISH COLUMBIA8. Communist Party Efforts to Establish United Front with  
C.C.F. Fail

Negotiations for a United Front through various Co-operative Commonwealth Federation club channels and directly with members of the C.C.F. Executive in British Columbia resulted in failure. The position of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation was explained by Herbert Gargrave, Provincial Secretary of the C.C.F., who said "We are against co-operation with the Communist Party in the political field. The Communist Party approached us some time ago and proposed that they nominate six candidates and that the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, instead of nominating its own, support theirs. Later the number of ridings they wanted was increased to eight. We turned them down".

F. A. McKean, Communist Party of Canada [~~deletion: 2-3 words~~] announced that Communist candidates will be nominated in Vancouver East, Vancouver Centre, New Westminster, Victoria, Alberni-Nanaimo, Comox, Dewdney and Cariboo ridings in the next Provincial election. McKean, in making this announcement, said that the policy of the Communist Party is to exert every effort to achieve a basis for unity "around a realistic programme based on the immediate needs of the people" and where this is achieved Communist candidates will be withdrawn.

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The Canadian League Against War and Fascism in Vancouver is at present conducting a campaign with a view to raising \$2,000 before 21st March. According to a mimeographed report issued by the Council for Greater Vancouver, the results thus far obtained are rather negligible. Only \$130.97 has been donated up to the present time. The report, however, points out that during the same period over \$2,000 was collected and sent to Spain by the league; further, that the drive for Spanish defence funds has interfered with the campaign. Altogether the league in British Columbia has raised \$4,801.65 for the defence of the Loyalist Government in Spain.

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## II. ALBERTA

### 9. C.P. of C. Position in Relation to Social Credit Government Explained

The Provincial Executive Committee of the Communist Party in Alberta recently issued a circular letter to all branches of the Party in Alberta explaining the Party's attitude or position with respect to the Social Credit Government. The letter reads in part: —

“Our Party must not lose one moment in rallying the support of the Government to bring progressive legislation to take care of the immediate needs and interests of the employed and unemployed workers, farmers and middle class people. We must clearly point out that reactionary finance and their agents in and outside the Social Credit Movement are trying to recapture the Provincial Government to be able to go unhindered in their desire for unlimited exploitation of our people. To accomplish this they are determined to split and destroy the Social Credit Movement and prevent unity of the people at any cost.....

“No delay must be allowed in rallying the people in each locality around their immediate burning needs, such as moratorium on debts, increase relief, abolition of slave camps, and institution of extensive works program at trade union rates of pay urging the government to introduce law imposing heavy penalties on employers, preventing or interfering with workers wishing to organize into a union of their choice, and bringing in a budget which will increase taxation on high incomes and relieve the burden of the common people. Around the immediate needs of the people, we must be able to rally all progressive and organizations, Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, Canadian Labour Party, Social Credit, United Farmers of Alberta and Communist Party for joint action and support to the Provincial Government to carry through measures in the interests of our people.

“While rallying wholehearted support for the Provincial Government around immediate needs of the people, pointing out the urgency for progressive legislation during the next session, sounding the alarm against the schemes of big finance and raising the slogan ‘SAVE ALBERTA PEOPLE FROM REACTIONARY BANKERS AND BONDHOLDERS’, we must at the same time criticise sharply and concretely Government's vacillating policy and those actions which play into the hands of reaction and against the interests of our people”.

The Communist Party in Alberta at present appears to be very much in fear of the Alberta People's League increasing its influence in the province to the disadvantage of the United People's League [✂deletion:3/4 line]

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Leslie Morris, editor-in-chief of the Daily Clarion, was the main speaker at a mass meeting held under the auspices of the Communist Party of Canada in the Rialto Theatre, Edmonton, on the evening of 21st February. Approximately 850 persons attended and the subject under discussion was "How the Communist Party Looks at the Province of Alberta". The first half hour of the meeting was devoted to musical selections rendered by the Ukrainian Orchestra and the meeting was properly opened at 8.45 p.m. with the singing of the "International". A. Hogarth acted as chairman and introduced the Provincial Executive Committee of the Communist Party for Alberta who occupied seats on the platform.

Leslie Morris reminded the audience that 18 months ago Premier Aberhart promised to pay basic dividends within 18 months. "These 18 months are up at midnight tonight", Morris said, "and the Social Credit Government is as close to paying dividends as it was when put into power". Morris discerned indications of a break-up within the ranks of the Social Credit Party. To frustrate the plans of the People's League he urged the Government at the next session to institute legislation covering unemployment relief, unemployment insurance, a work and wages programme and an Act dealing with Alberta debt legislation. "The people of Alberta will not be ruled by a court judgment given by one person — a tool in the hands of the reactionary forces", he declared. He said that the Communist Party in Alberta was ready to support and lead the Social Credit people and unite them in a mass struggle for a better standard of living. He thought that the people of Alberta were not quite ready for a Socialist Government, a Government like that of the U.S.S.R. "But we can have a Farmers and Workers United Government", he said.

Jan Lakeman also addressed the meeting describing himself as one who came to Alberta 25 years ago and who had helped to build the province "sweating on construction of railroads, clearing land, etc." He alleged that the "50 big shots", a few reactionary individuals, have "stepped in and stopped us from carrying on our work at building up the province".

Two resolutions were submitted to the meeting and passed unanimously. The first one demanded that the Town of Beverly be given

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back its charter (the Provincial Government dismissed the recently elected Council of the Town of Beverly owing to the extensive debt of the town amounting to \$40,000 — the consequence of which Beverly was unable to meet its relief cost and it became necessary to appoint an administrator). The second, presented by the Provincial Married Men's Organization, demanded that A. A. MacKenzie, Provincial Relief Administrator, be discharged at once.

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#### IV. ONTARIO

##### 11. Toronto L.A.W. & F. Meet Against National Defence Program

The League Against War and Fascism in Toronto held a mass meeting in the Central Technical School on 19th February in protest against the Canadian National Defence estimates. The speakers were A. A. McLeod, national chairman of the league, Major E. E. Pugsley, Miss Greta Riddell and George Watson. Major E. E. Pugsley, who followed Greta Riddell, in his 45 minutes' address, pointed out that on the night of 18th February he had attended a very important private meeting dealing with the question of war and peace. The nature of the meeting and particulars pertaining/thereto he did not disclose, however. He asserted that a speaker at the said meeting revealed "amazing data concerning armaments, causes of war, etc."; that his address contained "real stuff, a spark that ignites a peace-loving people to revolt against war". Major Pugsley further stated that the speaker whose name he did not reveal had quoted scripture proving that war is unchristian and that people must be permitted to arm against it".

Greta Riddell, apparently inexperienced in the art of public speaking and showing considerable nervousness, intended to convey the impression that rearmament will lead the world to chaos and ruin.

A. A. McLeod charged that the invasion of Spain was the first step of the Fascism International to destroy democracy. He pointed out that the pacifism of the pre-World War days is a thing of the past and that peace cannot be had unless talking is combined with fighting. He further charged that the Right Honourable W. L. Mackenzie King has repudiated every principle he stood for in 1935 regarding Canada's national security; that the Canadian Government's Foreign Policy had contributed to serious international complications and had abbetted the programme of the Fascist International by increasing exports to Morocco and tying the hands of the democratic government in Spain. Citing the Manchoukuo and Ethiopian conquests, McLeod declared that Canada's foreign policy had contributed in some measure to the situation existing today.

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The attendance at this meeting was mostly Jewish. Post cards protesting expenditure for armaments were distributed to the audience with the request that they be sent to various Toronto Members in the House of Commons.

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#### V. QUEBEC

#### 12. C.P. of C. in Quebec Province Starts New Membership Campaign

The Quebec Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of Canada recently decided to terminate the membership recruiting campaign, which had been in progress for the past three months, on 24th February as scheduled and to commence a new recruiting campaign to last until September, 1937, to conform with the decision of the Eleventh Plenum of the Central Committee of the Party extending the present recruiting campaign in force throughout Canada to September. The Provincial Committee decided to issue prizes to those showing the best results in the campaign. In this connection it is interesting to note that one employed new member is rated as two unemployed recruits. The committee further decided that all Party members who are delegates from their respective local trade unions to the Trades and Labour Council automatically become also members of the Trade Union Commission of the Party and must attend all of its meetings.

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[~~2 1/4 lines~~] on the subject of the Eleventh Plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Canada held in Toronto recently, stated that one of the most urgent issues before the Party was the struggle against war and Fascism. Mass meetings against war are to be organized throughout Canada and protests sent to the Prime Minister at Ottawa against the National Defence programme. In this connection [~~1 word~~] stated 20,000 protest postal cards have been printed by the Communist Party to be sent to Members of Parliament.

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