

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 7th April, 1937.

SECRETNO. 850WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS
AND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

On 26th and 27th March there was held in Toronto, Ont., the first Students' Parliament organized by the Young Communist League of Canada. It was composed of members of the Young Communist League attending high schools in Southern Ontario and its purpose is embodied in a statement issued by the Parliament which reads in part:—

“We students, who are members of the Young Communist League, set ourselves the task of service to our fellow students, assistance to the people, and self-development and education..... Above all we want to work with all school students to develop a mighty movement for peace”.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

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2. League Against War and Fascism of Canada Start
 “Food for Spain” Campaign

Andre Malraux, French author and leader of the (Loyalist) International Air Squadron in Spain, arrived in Toronto on 1st April, and on the following evening addressed a mass meeting in the Massey

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Hall under the auspices of the Canadian League Against War and Fascism. The meeting marked the opening of a nation wide "food for Spain" campaign. He spoke in French with Professor Felix Walter, of the University of Toronto, interpreting. The great need in Spain now is medical aid, Malraux contended. "We need anaesthetics, we need X-ray plates. Send specialist doctors and medical supplies", he declared. He told of the work performed by Dr. Norman Bethune of Montreal and his associates and claimed that they are "performing heroic deeds and saving countless Spanish lives". He related how he and other officers had found bombs which failed to explode. Inside these bombs were messages from Portuguese workers reading "These bombs will not explode". During the early stage of the meeting a bugler, supplied by the Progressive Veterans, sounded Taps while the audience rose to its feet in silence, with the Spanish and French flags and the Union Jack lowered, in memory of the fighters who died in Spain fighting for the Loyalists. Autographed photos of Andre Malraux were sold at \$10 each. The collection netted approximately \$600.

On the evening of 1st April Andre Malraux was feted at a dinner in the Round Room at Eaton's College Street store. Approximately 120 people attended including Dr. Salem Bland, Professor Felix Walter and Tim Buck.

At the Massey Hall meeting it was announced that 3,000 quarts of milk will be sent within a week to Dr. Bethune.

Delegates to the Toronto District Trades and Labour Council in meeting assembled on 1st April by an almost unanimous vote decided to affiliate to the trade union section of the League Against War and Fascism and send delegates to the next conference of the section. The decision followed a report of J. W. Buckley, George Watson and Percy Yaffe, a committee appointed by the council some time ago to look into the matter. An attempt to delay affiliation was made by delegate J. Conlin, of the International Association of Machinists, who wanted the League Against War and Fascism investigated as to aims before any steps were to be taken. Delegate Conlin's attempt failed, however, and the council overwhelmingly voted for the committee's recommendation.

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3. Dr. Anna Louise Strong Touring Canada

"The situation in Spain" was the subject of an address given by Dr. Anna Louise Strong before an audience of approximately 1,000 persons at the Auditorium at Vancouver, B.C., on 26th March. The meeting was held under

the auspices of the British Columbia Institute of Journalists. The speaker stressed the history of the present conflict in Spain and enthusiastically related how the Loyalists had organized to fight the Rebels. She stated that this struggle was definitely not a religious war nor was it reaction against the Communist Government, for, she pointed out, at the outbreak of civil strife the Spanish Government included only 16 Communist Members out of a total of 470. "Spain is a living proof of the necessity of solid organization", she said.

The speaker advanced two reasons why America should watch the Spanish situation closely: (a) a similarity to an existing situation in America today; (b) the possibility of world war arising out of the Spanish situation.

Dr. Strong concluded her address by remarking that there were 100,000 Fascist troops in Spain today, constituting a threat to all democratic countries in the world. "The Spanish struggle is a mass movement against Fascism and reaction", she declared, "and if the Loyalists win, it will assure the downfall of Hitler and Mussolini". Dr. Strong is scheduled to address similar meetings at Edmonton, Saskatoon, Regina, Brandon and other points in Western Canada.

4. Communists Celebrate Paris Commune Anniversary

Mass meetings held on 21st March marked this year's anniversary celebration of the Paris Commune.

At Toronto, Ont., approximately 1,200 people attended a mass meeting under the auspices of the Communist Party of Canada in the Massey Hall at which speeches were given by T. C. Sims and Alderman Stewart Smith. Smith depicted the Soviet Union as a fulfilment of the dreams of the Parisian Communards. He connected the lessons of the

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Commune with the recent trials of the Trotskyist leaders in Moscow. "If Trotskyism is allowed to gain influence within the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation", he declared, "that organization will itself degenerate into a counter-revolutionary group which will fight peace and democracy, and against Socialism". The Russian Revolution of 1917 would have been impossible without the lessons provided by the Paris Commune, he said. Norman Freed, who acted as chairman, appealed for a collection. He requested \$500 but only \$147 was realized.

At Winnipeg, Man., Annie Buller addressed a meeting under the auspices of the Canadian Labour Defence League describing the salient features of the Paris Commune. She maintained that the Communards of Paris failed in their

attempt because they trusted the bourgeoisie too much. She made the boast that Communist Party members are always in the forefront of all strikes and economic struggles and that the Party has helped to organize 40,000 workers into trade unions.

5. "Daily Clarion" Now Appearing in Six-Page Form

The Daily Clarion, central Communist Party organ, came out as a six-page daily paper on 1st April, a month earlier than originally planned. April 1st also constituted the opening day of the one month campaign to raise \$14,000 to sustain the paper.

6. A. M. Stephen Suspended from the C.C.F.

A. M. Stephen, poet [~~deletion:1/2 line~~] has been suspended from membership in the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation for one year for his persistent advocacy of a People's Front in British Columbia. An official statement regarding his suspension given out by the Provincial Executive of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation states that "this action was taken by the C.C.F. Executive after consideration of Mr. Stephen's speech at Nanaimo on 13th March in which he advocated from the public platform a political grouping of the Left Wing Liberals and the Communist Party with the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation". The executive decision was unanimous.

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The suspension of A. M. Stephen from the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation came as a bitter disappointment to the leaders of the Communist Party at Vancouver but it is suspected that the suspension is a relief to A. M. Stephen who knows quite well that he is being used by the Communist Party as a tool to draw information from the Provincial Executive Committee of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation. [~~deletion:4 lines~~]

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

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The Communist Party at Vancouver held a mass meeting at Victory Hall on 19th March at which Leslie Morris, editor-in-chief of the Daily Clarion, spoke on "Who Are the Enemies of the People?" Malcolm Bruce spoke briefly on the policy of the Communist Party and

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against the alleged splitting tactics of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation executive. Leslie Morris' talk was based on the "political line" as laid down by the XIth Plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Canada. Speaking of recent developments, particularly with regard to the anti-Communist stand taken by the Quebec Provincial Government, Morris intimated that although the Party desires to operate openly, the time will come when the Party will be driven underground. He advocated the formation of a United Front of all progressive forces such as trade unions, C.C.F. clubs, Social Credit and other progressive organizations in an endeavour to counteract Fascism and war and to "preserve what democracy we have". He also spoke of recent happenings in Eastern Canada in the industrial field claiming that the Committee for Industrial Organization is sweeping the east. He said that it would soon invade British Columbia.

The Relief Project Workers Union at Vancouver held its first open air meeting of the season on the Powell Street Grounds on 14th March with approximately 350 men in attendance. Harold Griffin spoke for five minutes on the value of the B.C. Workers News as a medium of agitation and propaganda.

He was followed by Ella Gillespie, of the Women's Council, who had urged at one of the women's meetings that the Council should be represented by a speaker.

Cumber, of the Project Workers Union, took the stand as principal speaker and his theme was that the Pattullo Government had secured \$3,000,000 from the East to "spill around this province to buy votes at the next election". Cumber reiterated over and over for nearly an hour the old demand "work and wages" for the unemployed.

II. ALBERTA

9. Edmonton Communists Utilize Radio for Propaganda.

Leaders of the Communist Party at Edmonton have been delivering a series of talks over Radio Station CJCA, Edmonton, recently. The following excerpts from Radio Talk No. 10 delivered by James A.

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McPherson on behalf of the Communist Party of Canada illustrate the nature of the propaganda disseminated —

“The Communist Party also believes that Mr. Aberhart should not visit the London ceremonies, not so much because it had no relation to the immediate needs of the Alberta people, but because this Coronation is being used by the reactionary British National Government as a means of misleading and doping the people of Great Britain, while a seven and one-half billion (\$7,500,000,000) arms program is being put through. In short — these extensive ceremonies are being used to bolster up the falling influence of the British Tory Imperialists, the allies of Hitler — Franco and Mussolini.

“The elected representatives of the Alberta people should not lend themselves to the support of a regime of war and reaction. Rather, they should stay in the Province of Alberta to meet the attacks of the Tories and People’s Leaguers to take a firm stand to implement the demand for increased purchasing power which was the basis for the election in August, 1935.....

“The Government should legislate to protect our people and not to subject them to further rabid exploitation. Legislation must be provided — granting the right to all workers to organize into trade unions — so that they may be in a position to increase their purchasing power and defend themselves against the profit barons.....

“The unemployed, through their different organizations, are working towards a Provincial Conference to be held soon. The conference will bring to the surface the urgent and distressing conditions of this large section of our population. Definite proposals will no doubt be placed before the Government to act upon. The budget must measure up to these requirements. It would be well if the farmers, middle class and professional people would likewise place their requirements before the present session. This would go to insure that the needs of our people would be dealt with more adequately.”

In his address McPherson called upon all “progressives” in Alberta to “prevent the Tories with their People’s League from coming forward as friends of the people”. This, he maintained, can be done by requesting the Alberta

Government to lend no support to the Baldwin Government but to turn its attention to the "plight of the people in our province".

The speeches given over this Radio Station are part of the United Front manoeuvre of the Communist Party in Alberta.

The Northern Alberta Unemployed Unity Committee held a conference on 15th March in the New Haddon Hall at Edmonton at which a delegation was elected consisting of M. Rosen, H. Johnson, F. Jamieson, all of Edmonton, and George Poole and Henry Hopper from Calgary to interview the Agricultural Committee of the Alberta Legislative Assembly.

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On 16th March the delegation appeared before the said committee and presented their grievances. Following the interview the delegation reported to the conference. The latter, before adjourning, decided to hold a conference of unemployed from all parts of Alberta within the next three months under the auspices of the Alberta Federation of Unemployed. The latter has been organized recently with a view to bringing the various unemployed organizations operative in the province under one central administration. [~~deletion:3 lines~~]

Following the example of the Unemployed Married Men's Association of Edmonton, a strike ballot was taken by the Calgary and District Unemployed Association recently; it is said that the overwhelming majority of the members of the Calgary organization has voted in favour of a strike. Although the vote at both places has been in favour of strike action no definite plans have been drawn up with regard to calling a strike. It would appear that the leaders have adopted a waiting policy and are first feeling out the attitude of the unemployed generally.

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Eight single unemployed charged with unlawful assembly as a result of the protest parade staged on 17th November last were found guilty in the Supreme Court at Calgary on 23rd March and were sentenced as follows: Jack Kyle, Leonard Wilson and Stanley Moore, one year; George Cakes, nine months; Sidney Thompson, six months; Thomas Roberts, three months; R. Jackson,

three months; and Leslie Wilson, 30 days. Mr. Justice Tweedie declined to grant a motion by Norman Dingle, K.C., counsel for the accused, that the accused should be dismissed as no evidence of an unlawful assembly had been presented by the Crown.

III. SASKATCHEWAN

10. Communist Party in Saskatchewan Advocate Debt Moratorium

A three-year moratorium on all debts in Saskatchewan has been the main theme of recent propagandist speeches delivered by Communist Party leaders throughout the province as part of the campaign for the formation of a United Front in that province.

A three-year moratorium on all debts "to save the people of Saskatchewan" was proposed by Walter Wiggins, [~~deletion:3-4 words~~] of the Communist Party of Canada, in an address to an audience in the Town Hall at Melville on 9th March. The meeting, held under the auspices of the Communist Party of Canada and presided over by J. C. Hillworth, [~~deletion:3-4 words~~], was also briefly addressed by I. Birchard who urged the people to forget "petty differences and unite to oust reactionary governments".

Walter Wiggins in his address declared that the plight of the Saskatchewan farmers has been thoroughly discussed at the recent Plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Canada and the proposal for a moratorium on debt payments had been found to be the only solution to the problems confronting them. Wiggins maintained that the Provincial Government had the authority under the B.N.A. Act to declare a moratorium on debt payments and if this was declared for three years there would be a saving to the people of \$450,000,000. Birchard contended that the real enemies of the Canadian people were within, not without; that the real enemies of the people were

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"reactionary governments" of the old line parties.

T. G. McManus, [~~deletion:1/2 line~~] of the Communist Party of Canada, delivered a similar address to an audience attending a Communist Party mass meeting in the Regent Hall, Saskatoon, on 19th February.

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IV. MANITOBA

11. Winnipeg Prepares for May Day

Representatives from 23 trade unions and unemployed associations of Winnipeg attended a conference on 25th March to discuss plans for this year's May Day parade in the City of Winnipeg. C. Foster acted as chairman and L. Vassal as secretary. The Credential Committee's report indicated that the various organizations represented comprise a total membership of 14,000. Alderman Jacob Penner moved that the May Day parade commence at 2.00 p.m. and that in the evening a mass meeting be held in either the Auditorium or the Amphitheatre. The motion carried. A committee of 15 was elected to put into practice the wishes of the conference. A perusal of the list of delegates in attendance at this conference reveals that the majority of them were members of the Communist Party or Communist sympathizers.

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The Winnipeg Trades and Labour Council, in regular meeting assembled on 31st March, by a three-to-one vote turned down the report of its executive concerning the expulsion edict of President William Green of the American Federation of Labor against locals of the Committee for Industrial Organization affiliates. Eighty-six delegates were in attendance. The council adopted an amendment to the executive's report proposing that no action be taken and urged postponement of the subject matter at least until the 1937 convention of the Trades and Labour Congress has been held. The executive, in its report, recommended adoption of William Green's policy and endorsement of the craft union policy of the American Federation of Labor. The report also called upon affiliated unions to discourage and combat the Committee for Industrial Organization. The action of the council in turning down the recommendation of its executive concerning this issue illustrates the control exercised by the Communists in that central body of organized labour in Winnipeg.

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