

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 14th April, 1937

SECRETNO. 851WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS
AND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

The campaign in aid of the Loyalists in Spain continues to occupy the attention of the Communist element throughout Canada. The weekly income of the Canadian Committee in Aid of Spanish Democracy is now well over \$1000. Thirty tons of food stuffs will leave St. John, N.B., for Spain shortly, including 48,000 tins of evaporated milk, it is reported by the said Committee.

Dr. Anna Louise Strong, prominent Communist propagandist, is at present touring Canada on behalf of the Committee dramatising the Spanish situation.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERALI. National Office of C.P. of C. Issues "Directives"
on Work Among Farmers

The National Office of the Communist Party of Canada at Toronto, Ont., under date of 9th March, 1937, issued a document addressed to all districts of the Party in Canada containing directives on agrarian work. In it the National administration points out that the work of the Party among the masses of Canadian farmers continues to remain the weakest link in the entire chain of the Party's activities; that in some provinces not even a slight beginning has as yet been made in approaching the farm population. The document further declares that the number of farmers in the Party is small. To remedy the situation, the National Office puts forth a number of instructions, some of which are quoted hereunder:—

(1) The Political Buro instructs all Provincial Committees to submit without delay reports indicating the extent of the Party personnel exclusively devoting all energies to the rural work.

- (a) Numerical strength of the Party in the rural points of each province.
- (b) Provincial plan for work in the rural districts, based on decisions of the 11th Session of the Central Committee.

(2) In the near future special Agrarian Party Conferences are to be organized by the Provincial Committees. These conferences shall be attended by as many delegates from rural units as possible, the leading personnel in the agrarian work and the main leaders of the Party in the province. These conferences are to discuss and elaborate the programme of the Party for the countryside (elaborated on a concrete provincial scale), and the ways and means of building the Party in the rural areas.

(3) In view of the fact that farm branches, in some cases, meet only once a month, the Centre proposes that every Provincial Committee issue a special weekly mimeographed letter to be mailed to each and every farm member. This letter is to be one of political information as well as a letter of guidance in the development of mass work. The issuance of such a weekly letter will require proper work in the provincial centers to ensure a high standard of content for the weekly bulletin.

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(4) To further improve the contact between the main leadership of the Party in the provinces and the agrarian units of the Party, wherever possible, monthly or at least periodic "meetings on the air" shall be organized.

Though there are not very many radios in all farm areas, agrarian units can meet in the house of a farmer with a radio, listening to a talk by the provincial secretary of the Party, and following it with lively, interesting discussion; questions arising in the discussion being taken up by mail with the Provincial leadership.

(5) To facilitate dues payments for farm membership and to bring these payments more in line with the customary practice in organizations to which Canadian farmers belong, a monthly dues stamp for farm members is to be issued. The stamp is to be issued in three denominations: 10¢, 25¢ and 50¢ per month. The 10¢ stamp is the equivalent of the unemployed stamp and is specifically provided for destitute farmers (drought areas, etc.) The 25¢ and 50¢ stamps are to be issued to the farmers at the discretion of the section and unit leadership, which is, in consultation with the member involved, best fitted to decide the amount the individual member can afford to pay. All housewives in agrarian units shall pay the 10¢ stamp, unless desiring otherwise.

(6) The Centre directs the Provincial Committees to achieve better co-ordination of their work in the agrarian field, with the work of the Party National Agrarian Organizer, Comrade Walter Wiggins.

The Centre decided that, insofar as the Prairie Provinces are concerned, Comrade Wiggins will spend the month of March in Saskatchewan, the month of April in Alberta, and the month of May in Manitoba, returning in June to Saskatchewan for work in preparation for the U.F.C. Convention.

(7) The Centre proposes, in line with this plan of work, that the Party Agrarian Conferences should be organized in the Prairie Provinces in the following order, making possible the attendance of Comrade Wiggins at these conferences:

Alberta.....	April
Saskatchewan ..	June
Manitoba	May

(8) Insofar as the Eastern Districts are concerned all efforts must be made to prepare for such conferences. The present appalling weakness of the Party in the East among the farmers makes premature the setting of dates for the conferences. However, most of the proposals in these directives are equally applicable to all districts.

Insofar as British Columbia is concerned, the Provincial Committee is directed to prepare for an Agrarian Conference, which also will be attended by the National Agrarian Organizer of the Party.

In conclusion the national leadership instructs that the above directives must be discussed by all Provincial Committees with

out delay and corresponding directives forwarded to all Agrarian Section Committees.

2. Oshawa G.M.C. Employees on Strike

Demanding recognition of the United Automobile Workers Association, a 40-hour week, time and one-half for over time and the steward system of workers' representatives, some 3,700 employees of the General Motors plant at Oshawa, Ont., came out on strike on 8th April. The strike was the result of protracted negotiations between officials of Oshawa Local No. 222 of the United Automobile Workers of America and corporation officials. Definite refusal of General Motors to recognise the United Automobile Workers Union appears to be the main cause of the strike. Hugh Thompson, Committee for Industrial Organization organizer who was sent to Oshawa to supervise negotiations, is reported to have declared: "General Motors will not build another car in Canada until they sign an agreement with the international union and if they attempt to bring in any cars from the United States the international union will call out the United States organization. Thompson also promised the Oshawa local full support and co-operation of the officers of the international union.

Homer Martin, president of the United Automobile Workers of America, speaking for the entire membership of his union from Lansing, Mich., said: "We made an agreement with the G.M. Corporation which was to apply to all plants of that corporation. The refusal of the Canadian branch to recognise the validity of that agreement is to all intents and purposes a violation of that agreement. We intend that this agreement shall apply to all of the G.M. plants. The international union is backing the workers in Oshawa in their demands for the application of the agreement with the G.M. in the United States".

Full co-operation and international solidarity was assured the Oshawa General Motors strikers by Ed. Hall, vice-president of the United Automobile Workers of America, in a special message appearing

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in the 10th April issue of the Daily Clarion. It reads:—

"The International Union of United Automobile Workers of America stands foursquare behind the strikers in the Canadian plants of General Motors corporation. We intend to see that these workers win the same rights as their brothers and sisters in that corporation's plants in the United States. The solidarity of organized automobile workers and all workers extends beyond the artificial boundaries of nations.

"The Canadian strikers have behind them every resource of the international union and the moral encouragement of each of our 300,000 members.

"You can rest assured that no General Motors car manufactured by our members will cross the border for sale in Canada."

The strike commenced in an orderly fashion with pickets taking up their positions around the plant under the supervision of some 300 stewards. On the following day 50 strikers are said to have been deputised by the union as special constables to maintain discipline and order. Mayor A. C. Hall of Oshawa informed a packed meeting of strikers in the Collegiate Auditorium on the night of 8th April that he had made no request for Federal or Provincial Police to be sent to Oshawa; further, "the police or militia won't come in unless there is a desperate need of them". He informed the strikers they had a right to picket, stop people and persuade them to join the strike. He assured the strikers that if peaceful picketing is maintained, no outside police force would be called in.

That the Oshawa strike is no longer a local affair, but is "a fight for the rights of the workers of Ontario and all Canada" was the keynote of a mass meeting in the Memorial Park at Oshawa on the afternoon of 11th April. The meeting is said to have been attended by over 4,000 people with C. H. Millard, president of the local union of the United Automobile Workers of America, in the chair. John Noble, president of the Toronto Trades and Labour Council, Fred Collins, notorious Communist, but in this instance speaking as a representative of the Toronto Trades and Labour Council, and Hugh Thompson, Committee for Industrial Organization representative, were the speakers. Citing the rights of labour to name its representatives John Noble derided Premier Hepburn for his stand in connection with the strike. He remarked that the workers would not let any Premier tell them what to do and what not to do, whom he would meet and whom he would not meet.

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Mr. Noble promised for the Toronto District Trades and Labour Council "all the resources at our command are now at your command". Hugh Thompson suggested that the churches should back the strikers in this issue and maintained that while General Motors was seemingly divided into two corporations, one in Canada, one in the United States, it was really one and the same company. Thompson declared that the United States workers weren't going to stand for this situation in Canada much longer.

Fred Collins launched a bitter attack on Premier Hepburn, particularly for bringing the Royal Canadian Mounted Police from Ottawa. He pictured the "slaughter of workers" in past labour disputes and said of the Premier, "We labour men accept your challenge; we are standing one hundred per cent

behind the Oshawa workers and would dare you to drench the Oshawa workers in blood". He asserted that the Committee for Industrial Organization and the draft unions are united and are going to remain so.

Increased wages and improved working conditions including adoption of the "shop steward system" have been offered by the General Motors of Canada in an attempt to have the strikers return to work. The company has also agreed to accept the plan outlined by its employees in regard to seniority rights. The company is also prepared to have the new agreement continue in force for a period of one year and to have the employees paid every other Friday. Further, notwithstanding the fact that a recent pay increase was granted to all employees, the company is prepared to grant a straight wage increase of seven cents per hour to all those receiving fifty-two cents per hour and less, and five cents per hour to all those receiving over fifty-five cents per hour. The corporation, however, is not prepared to recognise the United Automobile Workers of America which appears to be the main issue at stake.

The strike continues; so far no disturbances have occurred.

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3. Campaign in Aid of Spanish Loyalists

Recruiting for the Loyalist forces in Spain by the Communist Party of Canada continues. Strict secrecy is being maintained and in order to safeguard passage of volunteers to Spain, instructions have been issued by the Communist Party of Canada to these volunteers to omit any reference to France or Spain in their application for passports. In the case of British Subjects they are instructed to apply for passports to the United Kingdom or some central European country except France or Spain.

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A feature of the campaign in aid of the Loyalist Government of Spain is the Daily Clarion broadcast from Madrid over Station EAQ-2. Jean Watts, the Daily Clarion correspondent in Spain, has made numerous broadcasts already and will continue to do so regularly. Station EAQ-Z, Madrid, is heard daily in Canada with news service in English at 7.30 p.m., Eastern Standard Time.

Andre Malraux, who has been fighting in Spain as head of the International Air Squadron, addressed a capacity audience at the American Presbyterian Church, Dorchester Street, Montreal, Que., on the afternoon of 4th April. Malraux spoke in French and an English translation of his speech was afterwards read by S. S. Cole. The speaker pleaded the cause of the Spanish Loyalists and paid warm tribute to the service given by Dr. Bethune's Medical Unit in Madrid. "We must not wait until the International Red Cross, which

has done nothing in seven long months, begins to function", declared the speaker. "In every field there is work to be done. Every organizer, every technician, can be made use of. While Fascism sends cannons, let us send specialists, or let us help them to get over there. A whole people needs them and is waiting for them", he remarked. Malraux contended that it is not Fascism that aided Franco and the Insurgents, but that it is Franco who is aiding Fascism. "The people's Spain is

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becoming organized like a fish that is being clenched. A deep and powerful rumble is now shaking the whole country, as though it were uniting the hoof-beats of the asturian herds and the tramp of the brigades that were coming up to the front line. A people crushed at one point always rises again somewhere else. Those of you who have gone to Moscow know that the flags under which the body of Lenin rests at the foot of the Kremlin are not the triumphant flags of the October Revolution but the bloody flags of the French Commune", Malraux declared.

By a standing vote the audience gave unanimous support to a resolution of sympathy with the Spanish Government. Nearly \$250 was collected in aid of Dr. Norman Bethune's unit operating in Spain. One man is said to have contributed a gold watch. The meeting was orderly but it had been feared that Rightist factions would attempt to interfere with the assembly and a strong cordon of police was on guard against rioting.

On 3rd April Mr. Malraux gave a brief address covering substantially the same ground before a group of students in the Arts Building, McGill University.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

4. "B.C. Workers' News" Appears Under New Name

The name of the B.C. Workers' News has been changed to People's Advocate. The first issue under the new name appeared on 2nd April.

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Approximately 450 people attended a mass meeting under the auspices of the Young Communist League in the Powell Street Grounds at Vancouver, on Sunday, 4th April. The speakers included Malcolm Bruce, [deletion:1/2 line] of the Communist Party of Canada, A. M. Stephen of the League Against War and Fascism, and Maurice Rush, [deletion:3-4 words] of the Young Communist League. "Help the Spanish People" was the main theme of their speeches. An appeal for funds in aid of Dr. Bethune's Medical Unit in Spain is said to have resulted in the collection of \$25.

II. ALBERTA

5. Edmonton Unemployed Vote for Strike Action

[deletion: 1 line] the Unemployed Married Men's Association at Edmonton held a meeting on 2nd April at which it was disclosed that the strike vote taken by the association in Edmonton resulted in 1,200 votes polled with 1,197 in favour of the Unemployed Married Men's Association demands and strike

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action. [deletion:1 word] decided that the proposed ultimatum to the City Council be submitted to a mass meeting in the Market Square on 12th April.

The Unemployed Married Men's Association at Edmonton met on 3rd April in the New Haddon Hall and elected a new executive as follows:—

President —————	[deletion:name]
Vice-President —————	[deletion:name]
re-elected General	
Secretary —————	[deletion:name]
Recording Secretary —————	[deletion:name]
Treasurer —————	[deletion:name]
Grievance Chairman —————	[deletion:name]
Investigation Chairman —————	[deletion:name]
Educational Chairman —————	[deletion:name]
Social Chairman —————	[deletion:name]
Chairman, Women's	
Committee —————	[deletion:name]

[deletion:3-4 lines]

The Edmonton District Committee of the Communist Party of Canada held a graduation banquet at the Albion Hall on 2nd April with approximately 200 persons in attendance. J. Lakeman, who presided over the banquet, announced

that the following students graduated from the school conducted by the Party at Edmonton: R. C. Mason, F. C. Wingfield, L. Champion, S. N. Levitt, P. Sullivan, Cooper, Watchman, Hall and three women whose names were not given. William Rigby, who acted as instructor at the school, addressed the banquet briefly outlining the conditions confronting the Communist Movement in Alberta at the present time. The aim and object of the Communist Party Training Schools, he said, was to develop expert organizers and agitators for the party and equip them with the necessary knowledge in Communist Party strategy and policy. The banquet opened with the showing of the film "Three Songs About Lenin" and concluded with a social and dance.

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III. SASKATCHEWAN

6. "Sit-Down" Strike of Moose Jaw Unemployed Fails to Materialise

A "sit-down" strike planned by the unemployed of Moose Jaw for 19th March failed to materialise through lack of support. The strike was planned to take place at the Government Employment Office by 15 members of the unemployed specially selected to stage the strike. On the day in question only three of the unemployed showed up. The strike was calculated as a protest against the refusal of more than two days' relief to the transient unemployed.

P. Mikkelson, president of the Saskatchewan Union of Unemployed, has been very active lately addressing meetings at Swift Current, Gull Lake, Maple Creek, Moose Jaw and other points in Southern Saskatchewan.

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IV. MANITOBA

7. Winnipeg Communists Concentrate on "Daily Clarion" Drive

Communist Party activities at Winnipeg at present centre largely around the task of making the Daily Clarion campaign a success. Annie Buller, transferred to Winnipeg recently, has taken charge of the drive and is making every effort to surpass the quota allotted to the Manitoba district.

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[~~3/2 line~~] of the Canadian Labour Defence League, explained the new "line" of the Canadian Labour Defence League at a meeting of its Winnipeg Council [~~3/4 line~~] He stated that although Section 98 of the Criminal Code has been rescinded and with the leaders of the Revolutionary Movement out of gaol the task of the Canadian Labour Defence League has not been completed. "We cannot as yet afford to liquidate our apparatus; we must carry on our work and consolidate our forces", he said. [~~1 word~~] suggested that if and where possible new groups should be organized and the work of the Canadian Labour Defence League broadened generally on a United Front basis. He also stressed the necessity of supporting the National Office as well as opening a District Office in the City of Winnipeg. The meeting, which was attended by 17 delegates representing the various mass organizations affiliated with the Canadian Labour Defence League in Winnipeg endorsed [~~1 word~~] report and instructed the secretary to communicate with all affiliated organizations regarding the monthly quota of \$25 for the National Office as suggested by [~~1 word~~]

V. ONTARIO

8. Hamilton Organized Labour Supports Campaign for Communist Organ "Daily Clarion"

The Trades and Labour Council at Hamilton is said to have voted to give full moral and financial support to the Daily Clarion drive recently. It is further said that 37 local unions affiliated to the council had pledged themselves to raise \$400 for the paper.

The drive for this paper is also being supported by a number of labour unions in other cities of Ontario including Local 325 of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, the Printing, Pressmen and Assistance Union No. 10, and Local 93 of the Office and Store Employees Association. The latter two locals are said to have each voted \$5 towards the Clarion sustaining fund.

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Furniture workers of the Baetz furniture plant at Kitchener struck on 9th April demanding wage increases ranging from five cents to ten cents an hour. Other furniture plants are said to be preparing similar action. Officials of the

United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners wired their full support to the strikers at the General Motors Oshawa plant.

VI. THE MARITIME PROVINCES

9. U.M.W. of A., District No. 26. Accept Wage Agreement

Members of the United Mine Workers of America, District 26, on 2nd April voted in favour of accepting the new wage agreement proposed by the Dominion Coal Company. A total of 8,035 miners in Cape Breton and Cumberland Counties cast ballots; the vote being 4,380 to 3,655 for acceptance. The result of the vote was almost a tie in Cape Breton with a majority of five voting against acceptance, while in Springhill the vote stood 941 to 213 in favour of acceptance. The company's proposal was endorsed by the District Executive Board and John L. Lewis' representative, William Sneed, and was recommended to the men as the best obtainable agreement available at present. The rejection of the proposal by the Cape Breton miners who polled 3,442 votes against the agreement and 3,439 for acceptance was the surprise of the balloting. The new wage agreement calls for an increase of nine per cent in wages to all men receiving less than \$4 per day, six per cent to all workers earning more than \$4 per day and six per cent to all contract workers. The new agreement is retroactive from 1st February of this year, the day on which the 1935-36 agreement expired.

Simultaneously with the signing by the Dominion Coal Company of the new wage contract came the announcement of a seven and one-half per cent raise in pay to employees of the Dominion Coal Corporation subsidiaries in the Maritimes, Newfoundland and Quebec. The pay increase applies to about 7,000 employees of the Sydney steel plant and the Seaboard Power Corporation at Sydney, the Halifax shipyards, James Pender and Company at St. John, the Port-au-Port limestone quarries

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in Newfoundland and the Peck Rolling Mills Security Fence Company and St. Lawrence Wire Company in Montreal.

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