

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 5th May, 1937.

SECRETNO. 854WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS
AND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

John W. Buckley, secretary of the Toronto (Ont.) District Trades and Labour Council, Mrs. Kerr of Vancouver, B.C., and Jean Peron of Montreal, Que. — the three Canadian representatives sent to the Soviet Union this year by the Friends of the Soviet Union — are reported in the Communist press to have witnessed the May Day demonstration in Moscow and that they were “greatly impressed by the mighty defensive strength of the Soviet Union and the display of international solidarity”.

[1]

APPENDICESTable of ContentsAPPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

- Paragraph No. 1. “Daily Clarion” Celebrates First Birthday Anniversary
May 1st Edition, Containing 20 Pages, Features Greetings from Prominent Persons in Communist Movement and J. L. Lewis, C.I.O.
Leader
- “ ” 2. C.I.O. Gains in Nova Scotia
3,000 Steel Workers now in Union Affiliated with C.I.O.
[~~deletion:1 line~~]
- “ ” 3. Reginald Morris Re-Elected Alderman in Windsor
His Candidature Endorsed by Local Trades Council
Receives More Votes Than in Last Election
- “ ” 4. Communism Growing in Ukrainian Communities Throughout
Canada
U.L.F.T.A. Organises 25 New Branches in Last Few
Months

- “ ” 5. Campaign in Aid of Spanish Loyalists
 [deletion:1 line]
 Dr. Anna Louise Strong Addresses Ottawa Audience in
 Interest of Spanish Aid Committee

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

- “ ” 6. BRITISH COLUMBIA
 Ed. Pierce Active in Trail on Behalf of C.I.O.
 Harold Pritchett Elected President of Federation of
 Wood Workers on Pacific Coast
 C.C.F. Club Voted to Have A. M. Stephen Reinstated in
 C.C.F.
 Vancouver C.P. Mass Membership Meeting Discusses
 Provincial Election Campaign
- “ ” 7. ALBERTA
 Edmonton Unemployed Defer Strike Action
 Strike at Gainers Packing Plant at Edmonton Continues
 [deletion:2 lines]
- “ ” 8. SASKATCHEWAN
 Annie Buller Addresses Regina Meeting
- “ ” 9. MANITOBA
 C.P. in Brandon Hold Local Conference
- “ ” 10. ONTARIO
 400 Textile Workers on Strike in Toronto
- “ ” 11. QUEBEC
 [deletion:3 lines]
 Reports Organisation of Steel Workers in Toronto
 Progressing Favourably
 129 New Members Join Montreal Union
 Montreal Y.C.L. Issues Circular to Its Members
 Some Achievements and Tasks Outlined

—

[2]

APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

**I. "Daily Clarion" Celebrates First Birthday
 Anniversary**

May 1st marked the first birthday anniversary of the Communist Party organs, Daily Clarion and the Clarion Weekly, formerly known as The Worker. Commemorating the event, the 1st May edition of the Daily Clarion

came out in 20 page form, featuring a number of leading articles on a variety of subjects relative to the "class struggle" and greetings submitted to the paper by a number of outstanding revolutionaries including Tom Mann and Harry Pollitt of the Communist Party of Great Britain, C. A. Hathaway, editor-in-chief of the Daily Worker, New York, R. Palme Dutt, well known intellectual of the Communist International and member of the Communist Party of Great Britain, Joseph Freeman, editor of New Masses, John Strachey, Scott Nearing, Stewart Chase, Rockwell Kent, J. W. Buckley and others, and John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers of America and chairman of the Committee for Industrial Organisation. Great significance apparently has been attached to the greetings of J. L. Lewis as they have been featured in bold type on the front page under the caption "John L. Lewis Greet Daily Clarion". It is rather significant to see John L. Lewis, known during the past as a bitter enemy of Communism, appear in bold type on the front page of a Communist daily, extending congratulations and greetings to a Communist organ. A number of the articles featured in this issue are devoted to May Day, the struggle in Spain and the glory of Moscow.

2. C.I.O. Gains in Nova Scotia

Over 3,000 steel workers are said to have joined the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers of North America in Nova Scotia as a result of the Committee for Industrial Organisation drive to organise the steel industry in Canada.

In Sydney as in Trenton, N.S., during the past number of years, several attempts have been made to organise the workers in

[3]

the Dominion Steel and Coal Company and the Nova Scotia steel plants but without any notable degree of success. The initiative in organising the present union in Nova Scotia under the banner of the Steel Workers Organisation Committee of the Committee for Industrial Organisation was taken by the leaders of District 26, United Mine Workers of America, who supplied the necessary organisers and funds for that purpose.

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

3. Reginald Morris Re-Elected Alderman in Windsor

Reginald Morris, [~~deletion: 1/2 line~~] Windsor, Ont., was re-elected to his seat on the City Council, Windsor, in the By-Election held in Ward 1 on 30th

April. Morris was unseated following his election last December on a charge of non-payment of rent. Morris received 1,263 votes while his only opponent, Milton McWilliam, the man who instituted unseating proceedings, received 981

[4]

votes. Morris carried 16 of the 26 polls, gaining in the five polls where McWilliam was the leader in the December election. In December Morris' majority was only 51.

The Windsor Trades and Labour Council, at its regular meeting on 27th April, following a heated discussion, officially endorsed Morris as "labour's" candidate. The discussion in favour of Morris' candidature was led by ex-mayor George Bennett.

4. Communism Growing in Ukrainian Communities Throughout Canada

The Ukrainian Labour News for 26th April publishes a report by John Boychuk, secretary of the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association, on the results of the membership drive conducted by that organisation during last December. The report declares that during the period from December to 15th April 25 new branches had been organised; 13 in Saskatchewan, 10 in Alberta and two in Ontario. It further declares that the old branches of the association recruited 485 new members and the new branches 177, a total gain of 662. The results obtained exceeded all expectations, the report declares. This report furnishes additional evidence of the growth of Communism among the foreign speaking population of Canada.

5. Campaign in Aid of Spanish Loyalists

[~~deletion:2-3 lines~~]

On 29th April Dr. Anna Louise Strong, noted Communist lecturer, addressed about 600 people in the Convention Hall of the Chateau Laurier at Ottawa, Ont., under the auspices of the local Committee for the "Defence of Spanish Democracy". Reverend Ben Spence, chairman of the National Committee, also spoke outlining the function of his committee and the work performed by Dr. Norman Bethune's Medical Unit in Spain. The collection netted \$154.30l.

[5]

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCESI. BRITISH COLUMBIA6. Notes

Ed. Pierce, [~~deletion:1/2 line~~] organiser of the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers for British Columbia, is reported to be in Trail and Ymir on organisational business. Efforts are being made to land the miners in this area into the Committee for Industrial Organisation.

Harold Pritchett, [~~deletion:2-3 words~~] was elected president of the Federation of Woodworkers on the Pacific Coast at the convention held at Longview, Wash., recently. Pritchett attempted to move to Washington in order to take up his duties as president of this organisation but was refused entry by the United States Immigration authorities. However, a temporary admittance permit has been granted him by the United States Secretary of Labor.

The Dunbar Co-operative Commonwealth Federation Club, at its last meeting, unanimously voted to have A. M. Stephen reinstated as an active member. A. M. Stephen, it will be recalled, was suspended from membership in the C.C.F. by the Provincial Committee some time ago.

On 23rd April the Communist Party at Vancouver held a mass membership meeting in the Ukrainian Labour Temple to discuss the work in the coming Provincial election, especially with regard to the candidature of Reverend Ed. Baker, Communist Party candidate for New Westminster. Tom Ewen, in the course of his speech, remarked that Baker has a very good chance of being elected, having polled 10,000 votes in the last election. He further remarked that Tim Buck will be in Vancouver to assist in the campaign and that the Party had rented offices in New Westminster on 6th Street next to the offices occupied by The Columbian. Ewen also reported that during the next

[6]

few days a house-to-house canvass would be made, and that members of the Relief Project Workers' Union who have returned from the various forestry relief projects will be used for this purpose. Thousands of pieces of literature

are to be distributed to assist in the election campaign. A collection taken at this meeting netted \$125.

Approximately 450 people attended a mass meeting of the Communist Party of Canada at Powell Street Grounds on 25th April. The chairman was Oscar Salonen and the principal speaker was Arthur Evans who stressed the necessity for every Party member to poll a vote in the coming Provincial election.

II. ALBERTA

7. Edmonton Unemployed Defer Strike Action

The proposed strike of unemployed at Edmonton scheduled to commence on 27th April was postponed indefinitely as a result of a meeting of the Unemployed Married Men's Association at Edmonton held on 24th April. Among the reasons given for this action were: (a) relief authorities lately have been sending a considerable number of the unemployed to work with pay at 48¢ per hour, (b) the executive of the U.M.M.A. failed to popularise the strike sufficiently and did not succeed in gaining the support of organised labour.

The Strike Committee, appointed in connection with the strikes at Gainers Limited packing plant and the Snowflake Laundry, held a mass meeting in the Emery Hall on 25th April. Approximately 180 people attended. Mrs. J. Corrigan, Miss W. Clarke, Alderman Miss M. Crang and Alderman Guy Patterson spoke on the strike situation, upholding the "struggle of the strikers against the bosses" and condemning the authorities' and police action. While the strike at Gainers continues there are indications that an agreement will be reached between the strikers and the company shortly.

[7]

{~~deletion~~: 1/4 page}

III. SASKATCHEWAN

8. Annie Buller Addresses Regina Meeting

Approximately 600 people attended a meeting held under the auspices of the Daily Clarion Drive Committee at the City Hall, Regina, on 22nd April. Annie Buller, who is in charge of the Clarion Drive in the Prairie Provinces, was the principal speaker. After recounting her previous experience in Saskatchewan in the class struggle, she made her customary appeal urging the people to subscribe to the Daily Clarion. The collection in aid of the Clarion Sustaining Fund amounted to \$32.25.

IV. MANITOBA

9. C.P. in Brandon Hold Local Conference

Communist Party members at Brandon met in conference on 24th April to hear Annie Buller, representing the Provincial Committee of the Party, criticize their work. Buller spoke on Brandon's failure to obtain more recruits for the Party and showed how the local "comrades" could be more active amongst teachers, students, railway employees and the unemployed. She also urged them to take a more serious view of the need of building up the circulation of the Daily Clarion and Party literature, generally. She also stressed the youth movement, declaring that the youth movement was one of the most important phases of Party work. As a result of the conference and on the insistence of Annie Buller a new literature committee

[8]

was appointed whose task will be to boost the circulation of the Clarion by means of a house-to-house canvass. S. Forkin was instructed to address trade unions and ask their support for the paper.

V. ONTARIO

10. 400 Textile Workers on Strike in Toronto

Some 400 textile workers came out on strike at the Ontario Silknit Mills on 28th April after two weeks of negotiations with the company officials through the officials of their union, the United Textile Workers of America, Local 2495. On the night of the 29th some minor disturbance occurred in front of the plant, resulting in the arrest of two pickets on charges of common assault. Alex Welch, organiser of the U.T.W. of A., under whose auspices the strike

is being conducted, is reported to have remarked that recognition of the Committee for Industrial Organisation is not an issue with the strikers. "The employees want recognition of Local 2495 of the U.T.W.," he said. The strike continues.

VI. QUEBEC

[~~deletion:2 lines~~]

[~~deletion:2 1/2 lines~~] He stated that he attended a conference of the Steel Organisation Committee of the Committee for Industrial Organisation at Toronto at which it was reported that organisation among steel workers was progressing rapidly, that in Toronto alone over 1,500 steel workers have been organised recently. The conference, he said, was not considered a success as Mr. Payne, C.I.O. steel organiser from Buffalo, N.Y., could not be present. The conference decided to send a delegation consisting of [~~deletion:1/2 line~~] to Buffalo to interview Mr. Payne. When the delegation was presented to Mr. Payne he flatly refused to see [~~deletion:1 word~~] stating that he did not care to deal with any Communists and that

[9]

he has "heard all about [~~deletion:1 word~~]. Payne, however, consented to see the other two delegates. At this interview Mr. Payne remarked that it has not been the intention of the Committee for Industrial Organisation to organise the steel workers in Canada for the time being and that the C.I.O. can do very little in the way of financing activities in Canada. He, however, agreed to put in a request for one organiser in Quebec and one in Toronto in addition to the three already active in Toronto and Hamilton. Mr. Payne also stated that although the Automobile Section of the C.I.O. sent over \$50,000 to Oshawa, the most the steel industry could expect was moral support and he, therefore, strongly advised against calling any strike at the present time.

Reporting on the local situation, [~~deletion:1 word~~] stated that 129 new members had joined the Steel Workers' Union in Montreal and that sentiment for organisation remains very good. [~~deletion:1 word~~] severely criticised the Party for not extending sufficient aid to the union as there was a very good field among the steel workers for recruiting Party members. A lengthy discussion ensued following [~~deletion:1 word~~] report. [~~deletion:1 word~~] reminded the meeting that it must be understood that the C.I.O. does not want any strikes and suggested that its leadership "is more reactionary than that of the American Federation of Labor". He said that "unless we go out and do some real work and force the hand of the C.I.O. leadership, nothing will ever

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.

[4]

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

be accomplished". He agreed with [~~deletion: 1 word~~] that the Communist Party now has a real opportunity to build up its organisation. He thought that if the Party would carry through a strong organisation campaign among the steel workers and other industries "Mr. Duplessis would not dare to attack us as we would have gained a foothold among the most important industries". The workers in those industries if properly organised could give the C.P. the needed support to withstand any attacks the Provincial Government may want to direct against it, he contended.

The following are extracts from a document recently issued to all Young Communist League members in Montreal, Que.:—

TRADE UNION WORK

One of the main weaknesses has been in trade union work. In order to overcome this the following must be done: (a) Full co-operation with the Party in every day union work in steel, textile,

[10]

needle trades, office employees association, etc.; (b) Recruiting to the Y.C.L. from unions and industry must be emphasised; (c) Research work in industrial conditions (factory, working conditions, slums, etc.); (d) A major task will be the development of youth clubs (educational, sports) as in the Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union and the Millinery Union.

YOUTH CONGRESS

The Canadian Youth Congress will be held in Montreal in the near future. Inasmuch as all the major campaigns of the Y.C.L. are tied up in one way or another with the activities of the Youth Congress, the job now is to make this Youth Congress as huge a success as is humanly possible. The task of us locally is to get at least one thousand delegates to attend from Montreal.

RECRUITING

The Y.C.L. is at present conducting a recruiting campaign. The present district membership, 350, is to be increased to 500. The section membership, at present 240, is to be increased to 340. The campaign ends May 27th. In connection with this special attention will be paid to the setting up of closed branches in unions, youth organisations, Y.M.H.A., Y.M.C.A., Y.W.H.A., Y.W.C.A., etc.

The Y.C.L. is developing a new form of organisation — that of Circles whose main activity will be athletics, drama, science and society, sewing, etc. The objective is that later these Circles are to become Branches of the Y.C.L.

New Branches of the Young Communist League are to be set up in the language mass organisations and the main objective of the district is to set up new sections in Outremont and Park Extension.

FRENCH MEMBERSHIP

The policy at present is not to recruit young French workers and students to the Y.C.L. For a number of reasons this is not practicable. However, active recruiting among young French people is being carried on for La Jeune Garde and the Party.

RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

- (a) A big improvement in the functioning of the Y.C.L. organisationally.
 - (b) The biggest change was from the organisational form of units to branches. This change was successfully made.
 - (c) The biggest success was in student work. There has been a large increase in the student branch at McGill.
 - (d) The McGill branch started the circulation of a PEACE PETITION. This Peace Petition rapidly spread to other universities in Canada. All in all, over 1,700 signatures were collected. Members of this branch participated in a delegation which presented this petition to the Government in Ottawa.
-