

## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 13th May, 1937.

SECRETNO. 855WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS  
AND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

Reverend Edwin H. Baker is the only candidate nominated by the Communist Party of Canada in the British Columbia Provincial election. Baker, who joined the ranks of the Communist Party of Canada some time ago, is running in New Westminster riding and is expected to make a good showing at the polls on 1st June because of his popularity. He was the candidate of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation in that constituency in the last Federal election and came close to being elected. Tim Buck, general secretary of the Communist Party, is said to have left for British Columbia to assist in the campaign.

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Paragraph No. 1. May Day in Canada —

- (A) Toronto, Ont.,  
10,000 Paraded; 20,000 Attended Meeting in  
Queen's Park, 7,000 at Maple Leaf  
Gardens
- (B) Montreal, Que.,  
No Parades; 1,500 Attend Meeting in Arena
- (C) Hamilton, Ont.,  
800 Hear Speakers in Woodlands Park
- (D) Windsor, Ont.,  
1,000 in Parade
- (E) Sudbury, Ont.,  
Few in Parade; Harvey Murphy Addressed Meet-

ing in Park

(F) Kitchener, Ont.,

A. E. Smith Main Speaker

(G) Timmins, Ont.,

Open Air Meeting and Concert in Empire

Theatre Mark Celebration

(H) Port Arthur and Fort William, Ont.,

Over 1,000 in Parade; Mass Meeting in Fort

William City Hall

(I) Winnipeg, Man.,

4,500 in Parade Including Many Trade Union-

ists; James Litterick Main Speaker

at Market Square Meeting Following

Parade

(J) Regina, Sask.,

Only 400 in Parade; 1,800 Attend Open Air

Meeting After Parade

(K) Edmonton, Alta.,

Many Groups Represented in Parade

(L) Vancouver, B.C.,

5,000 in Parade; Meeting in Stanley Park

“ ” 2. Tim Buck to Assist in British Columbia Election Campaign

**APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES**

“ ” 3. BRITISH COLUMBIA

Vancouver City Police Arrest Many Single Unemployed  
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Tom Ewen Reported in U.S.A. to Confer with Harry

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Situation

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Montreal Garment Workers' Strike Ends

“ ” 7. THE MARITIME PROVINCES

"The Steelworker" in Circulation Again

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APPENDIX NO. J: GENERALI. May Day in Canada(A) Toronto, Ont.

Approximately 10,000 persons paraded in Toronto, Ont., on 1st May. Marching in three sections, the demonstrators converged on Queen's Park where already some 10,000 sympathizers were waiting to join in the celebration. For over one hour the demonstrators marched around the Ontario Legislative Building and then listened to a number of speakers. Many floats were in the parade, all of them designed to ridicule a particular branch of the Federal or Provincial Government. From three trucks, each installed with a loud speaker, people chanted "No Pasaran" (They Shall Not Pass), the battle song of the Spanish Loyalists. Tim Buck, a very conspicuous figure in the parade as he rode in an open touring car in the centre of the procession accompanied by his wife and Reverend Ben Spence, chairman of the May Day Conference, received considerable applause from the spectators that lined the streets. Upon arrival at Queen's Park, Fred Collins, chief marshal of the parade, after a few opening remarks, called upon George Watson, vice-president of the Toronto District Trades and Labour Council, to address the gathering. Watson extolled the "splendid unionisation victories" of the Committee for Industrial Organisation and called for solidarity in the trade union movement throughout the world. "I am an International Trade Unionist", he shouted, "because I know my position as a worker". "We must carry on," he concluded, "our march must not cease; we must organise the unorganised, the people are beginning to realize their strength; we must carry on and we will win".

"No Pasaran", shouted Tim Buck through the microphone upon commencing his address. "In Spain Fascism shall not pass; that is our slogan today but we shall transform it into: forward to victory and socialism". Louis Palermo, of the joint board of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, brought greetings from the needle trades workers of Toronto. "We will fight and smash any reaction in this country", he declared. "We are going to have the right to organise into the union of our choice. We joined Spain," he concluded, "and so

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reaction shall not pass". Other speakers included Reverend W. C. Almack, Glebemount United Church, Alex Welch, general organiser of the United Textile Workers of America, J. B. Salsberg, who extended greetings from the Communist Party, Mrs. Jean Laing, executive member of the Toronto Labour

Council, H. Simon, of the Left Poale Zion, and Ray Law, of the Progressive Veterans in Canada.

A mass meeting in the Maple Leaf Gardens held in the course of the evening concluded the celebration; approximately 7,000 people attended. Ben Spence, chairman of the evening, completely ignored the customary playing of the National Anthem and requested the audience to join in the singing of "The International". The speakers were Sam Lawrence, Tim Buck, J. B. Salsberg, Dr. Anna Louise Strong and Father Thomas O'Flanagan. J. B. Salsberg presented a number of resolutions which were adopted unanimously. Among the resolutions passed was one demanding that the Premier of Quebec cease his attacks against "organised labour" and one pledging the gathering to unite for the establishment of socialism in Canada.

Despite elaborate preparations made by the committee and notwithstanding the assertions in the Communist press that this was the biggest May Day celebration in the history of Toronto and in Canada, this year's turnout, particularly the one in the Maple Leaf Gardens, was not as large as that of last year. A feature of this year's celebration which is of considerable importance was the active participation of a larger number of trade unions.

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(B) Montreal, Que.

A mass meeting in the Mount Royal Arena marked the May Day celebration in the City of Montreal, Que. No parade was staged, the Director of Police having forbidden a demonstration of this nature. The mass meeting was attended by approximately 1,500 persons including a small number of French Canadians. Albert McGregor and Rudolphe Belanger acted as joint chairmen and the speakers were Eugene Forsey, president of the Provincial Co-operative Commonwealth Federation Council, David Lewis, also of the C.C.F., R.L. Calder, K.C., H. Desaulniers, Alderman Stewart Smith of Toronto, Fleurette Berthiaume and Stanley

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Ryerson. Premier Duplessis came in for much criticism as also did Premier Hepburn of Ontario as the different speakers referred to the "Padlock Bill" as the "weapon seeking to prevent workmen from organising." The efforts of the speakers, however, failed to arouse any degree of enthusiasm.

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(C) Hamilton, Ont.

Approximately 800 persons gathered at Woodlands Park at Hamilton, Ont., at 2.00 p.m. on May Day to hear Father O'Flanagan and other speakers expound the cause of the Spanish Loyalists and denounce Capitalism generally. Sam Lawrence, M.L.A., acted as chairman; among the speakers were a number of trade unionists and Phil Luck, of the Communist Party of Canada. Harry Hunter, Committee for Industrial Organization steel workers' organizer in Hamilton, one of the speakers, asserted that in recent weeks the Steel Workers' Union in Hamilton has accepted many new members.

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(D) Windsor, Ont.

Approximately 1,000 persons paraded at Windsor, Ont., on May Day. The procession was led by the German Youth Band and following the parade addresses were given by Mayor Wigle, Communist Alderman Reg. Morris, Joe Spence of the Communist Party, Roscoe S. Rodd, and Dave Kenny of the C.C.F., Tom Raycraft and Tom Devitt.

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(E) Sudbury, Ont.

At Sudbury, Ont., the May Day celebration took place under the auspices of the Communist Party of Canada, Sudbury branch. The parade was the smallest held in the district for a number of years. No labour unions were represented. The usual banners were carried and following the parade a meeting was held in the Athletic Park where the demonstrators were addressed by a number of speakers including Harvey Murphy, [~~2-3 words~~] of Toronto.

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(F) Kitchener, Ont.

Several hundred May Day demonstrators at Kitchener, Ont., heard Bill Walsh, [~~1 word~~] A. E. Smith, of the Canadian Labour Defence League, and several local trade union leaders stress the need for unity of the people against Fascism and reaction.

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(G) Timmins, Ont.

May Day was celebrated by the Communist element of Timmins district on Sunday, 2nd May, with an open air meeting in the afternoon at the Baseball Park and a concert in the Empire Theatre held in the course of the evening. The usual parade through the streets was not held this year. Approximately 500 attended both affairs and listened to speeches given by Ed. Sarman and Sam Scarlett, Communist Party of Canada, Toronto, on the significance of May Day, the Oshawa strike, and the Spanish situation.

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(H) Port Arthur and Fort William, Ont.

Over 1,100 persons paraded at Fort William on 1st May. Following the parade a well attended meeting was held in the City Hall Auditorium and the audience listened to various speakers including Don Stewart, Mrs. Miles and Garfield Boulter; the latter was the main speaker. The meeting closed with the singing of "The International" and the Communist salute.

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(I) Winnipeg, Man.

Approximately 4,500 participated in this year's May Day parade at Winnipeg, Man. Last year 4,600 paraded. While not quite as large numerically, this year's parade was more conspicuous owing to a larger number of trade unions participating. The parade assembled in the Market Square and got under way at 7.10 p.m. For the first time the Union Jack was carried by a contingent representing the Trades and Labour Council which headed the parade. A Red Flag, carried by members of the Single Men's Unemployed Association, followed. The parade was orderly and well organised.

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Following the parade a mass meeting was held in the Market Square with G. McLeod, of the Trades and Labour Council, Miss Flett, George Taylor, of the Young Communist League, M. Sago, representing the Manitoba Conference of Unemployed, and James Litterick, Communist M.L.A., as speakers. The [deletion:3-4 words] language mass organisations such as the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association and the Russian Workers' Clubs, formed a conspicuous section of the parade. James Litterick, the main speaker, reviewed the history of May Day, giving the usual Communist version of its significance.

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(J) Regina, Sask.

The May Day parade in Regina, Sask., took place at 7.00 p.m. on 1st May with over 400 persons participating. The parade was led by the Regina Boys' Band and a Union Jack was borne by one of the marchers. In the front rank of the paraders were Reverend T. C. Douglas, ex-Judge Stubbs (Winnipeg), Reverend S. B. East, Ernest V. Mills and Alex Theodor. [deletion:3 lines] the latter acting as marshal of the parade. About 10 banners were carried bearing various slogans calling for increased relief grants, to make Regina a one hundred per cent union city, etc. The parade was followed by a mass meeting at Broad Street Park which was attended by approximately 1,800 persons. S. B. East acted as chairman and the speakers included Rev. T. C. Douglas, Walter E. Wiggins, C.P. national farm organiser, Claude Ellis, who spoke on behalf of youth, and ex-Judge Louis St. George Stubbs. W. E. Cox, of the Trades and Labour Council, and Mayor A. C. Ellison were also scheduled to speak but were not present. The meeting closed at 10.50 p.m. with the hymn "God Save The People"; a dance at the Labour Temple brought the celebration to a close.

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(K) Edmonton, Alta.

Headed by three Communist Party leaders and a contingent of 136 Young Pioneers, approximately 1,680 persons marched in Edmonton's May Day parade this year. Conspicuous in the parade were the United

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Mine Workers of America, a contingent of the unemployed married and single men, the representatives of the Co-operative Commonwealth Youth Movement headed by Leslie Rodman, a group representing the Canadian League Against War and Fascism, the Canadian Labour Defence League and the various foreign language mass organisations. Altogether 41 banners were carried in the parade. On returning to the Market Square the marchers were addressed by the following speakers H. Gerry, James Corrigan, who spoke on behalf of the unemployed organisations, Mrs. Mason, representing the women's movement, J. Lakeman, of the Communist Party of Canada, William Thornton, Victor Thompson, Winnie Clarke and Harry Miller.

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(L) Vancouver, B.C.

Approximately 5,000 took part in the May Day parade in Vancouver, B.C. The demonstrators assembled at Cambie Street Grounds and from there

marched to Stanley Park, concentrating at the Lumbermen's Arch in the park. Simultaneously, with the passing of the parade through the city, a fleet of fishing boats left the inner harbour and in line proceeded through the First Narrows. The parade took about 40 minutes to pass any given point. Floats and a large number of banners featured in the parade. In the park the usual speeches were made by A. M. Stephen, William Black, Shearer, Malcolm Bruce, Mrs. Drayton and others under the chairmanship of Towle. The Communist Party of Canada and its various subsidiary organisations formed the most conspicuous part of the parade. The collection is said to have netted \$280. Trade union banners were conspicuous by their absence and the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation clubs were very poorly represented. Nothing of an untoward nature occurred; the turnout was neither spectacular nor as large as the one of last year.

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## 2. Tim Buck to Assist in B.C. Election Campaign

Tim Buck, general secretary of the Communist Party of Canada, has left Toronto for British Columbia to aid in the Provincial election campaign which is being waged by the Communist Party of Canada on behalf of its candidate in the New Westminster riding.

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## APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

### I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

#### 3. Vancouver City Police Arrest Many Single Unemployed Men

On the morning of 3rd May a delegation from the Relief Project Workers' Union called on the relief administration, City of Vancouver, and demanded relief for all those single unemployed who have as from 1st May been cut off from Provincial assistance with the closing of relief projects. Their demands were ignored and, after reporting the result to the headquarters of the R.P.W.U., it was decided to force the hands of the Civic authorities by organising street collections. At about 11.30 a.m. men appeared on all important street corners throughout the city displaying placards which read: "No Work — No Relief — Please Help". Each man carried a tin can and solicited financial assistance from pedestrians. It was said at the offices of the R.P.W.U. that there are about 400 single men, members of the union, in town at present.



The City Police arrested 52 of the men on the streets of Vancouver during the afternoon of 3rd May. They were charged with obstructing Police Offices and were, on the morning of the 4th, in the City Police Court, sentenced to one month in Oakalla Gaol. Following their conviction on the morning of the 4th, approximately 50 members of the R.P.W.U. with tin cans took the place of those arrested on the previous day.

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[~~deletion:1 3/4 lines~~] is said to have left Vancouver for Seattle, Wash., on 3rd May to confer with Harry Bridges, well-known Communist and leader of the Pacific longshoremen, on the Vancouver waterfront situation. [~~deletion:2 words~~] of the Inland Boatmen's Union, and six delegates from British Columbia, are attending the International Longshoremen's Association Convention which opened in Seattle on 3rd May. This convention will be watched by the Communist Party with particular interest as it is said that the waterfront situation in Vancouver will come up for discussion early in the sessions.

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At the end of the month the Pacific Maritime Federation will meet in Portland, Ore., and again the situation in British Columbia will be reviewed. No definite action is anticipated out of the International Longshoremen's Association Convention but hopes are being entertained by the radical element in Vancouver that some definite policy will develop out of the Pacific Maritime Federation meeting in Portland.

Reports from the East that the I.L.A. forced Montreal Canadian longshoremen's union to become affiliates of the I.L.A. have not been received in Vancouver favorably either by the Shipping Federation or the Canadian longshore unions that are working. It is understood that Harry Bridges has promised [~~deletion:3-4 words~~] for the Inland Boatmen's Union at Vancouver, that a definite policy regarding British Columbia would be decided upon at the Seattle convention or at the forthcoming Portland meeting.

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## II. ALBERTA

### 4. Edmonton Strike Situation Unchanged

The strike situation in Edmonton remains unchanged. A small number of the employees of Gainers Limited (packing plant), New Method and Snowflake Laundries are still on strike with negotiations at a standstill. The three companies mentioned are operating with reduced staffs. Small picket lines are retained at each plant.

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The Edmonton Council of the Canadian League Against War and Fascism, at its meeting on 28th April, endorsed a recommendation from the National Office of the league at Toronto to the effect that the league's name be changed to "Canadian League for Peace and Democracy". The recommendation will be submitted to the next local league conference.

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#### IV. QUEBEC

##### 6. Montreal Garment Workers' Strike Ends

The strike of Montreal dressmakers, conducted by the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, came to a close on 6th May when the manufacturers agreed to accept the terms of the union.

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#### V. THE MARITIME PROVINCES

##### 7. "The Steelworker" in Circulation Again

The Steelworker, published by the Communist Party in Sydney, N.S., after having been out of circulation since last November owing to difficulties experienced with the printers, has resumed publication again on 1st May. Finding it impossible to find a publisher locally, efforts were made to raise funds for the purchase of a small printing press. The efforts were successful and the paper is now being printed on a press owned by the Communists.

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