

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 19th May, 1937.

SECRETNO. 856WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS
AND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

The Dominion Executive of the Communist Party of Canada last night issued a proclamation addressed to "all friends of democracy" calling for a nation-wide "Spanish Aid Week" from 30th May to 9th June. A five point programme is proposed, a summary of which is:—

- (1) Organisation of meetings, conferences and other events throughout the country to raise funds.
- (2) By memorial meetings to commemorate the "sacrifice made by Canadians killed while fighting for the Loyalist cause in Spain".
- (3) Mass popularisation of the issue at stake.
- (4) To call upon the Federal Government to protest the "horrible massacre of non-combatants at Guernica".
- (5) To call upon the Right Honourable W. L. MacKenzie King and the other Canadian delegates at the Imperial Conference in London to demand extension of full trading rights to the Madrid Government and insist that the British Commonwealth act to prevent further aid to Franco by Hitler and Mussolini.

During the campaign it is intended to collect \$2,500 for a battalion ambulance, this to be a direct contribution of the Communist Party of Canada.

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[~~deletion~~:3 1/2 lines]

2. C.P. of C. "Directives" on C.I.O.

[~~deletion~~:4 1/2 lines] The document reads, in part:—

"All comrades must remember their Party discipline insofar as admitting Party affiliation. Never mention the Party. All comrades are to consider themselves potential C.I.O. organizers and are to interview workers in all plants unionized by independent, National, A.F. of L. Unions, or those where there is no Union, and to swing them along into the C.I.O. They must report all contacts with workers, conditions leading up to same, and after effects, possibility of organizing C.I.O. Locals where no Union exists and undermining reactionary leadership where there is a Union. If possible, plan small social evenings in your home, invite these workers and their families and notify the Organizing Committee of whatever industry you are working on and they will send a Field Organizer to speak to them. Every organizational drive of the C.I.O. is also a drive for the Party. We must back Industrial Unionism as only true Communists can, recognizing the fact that therein lies our salvation and the establishment of the Workers' State."

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3. C.P. Work Among Children Explained

The document referred to in the preceding chapter also contained a passage which deals with the question of how to bring children under Communist influence; it reads:—

"Proper headway has not been made by the various Children's Organizations in the Public Schools, whether through lack of interest of the part of those who have been intrusted with this task, for some other reason, has not been ascertained. Mothers have been instructed to coach their children along Juvenile Party lines, to bring other children home with them to play,

then make it so that these children will come again, giving them food or candy, etc. Gradually bring forward the idea of a Young People's Club where the girls can make doll clothes, boys play games. All these must be in sympathy with the Party, for example, Russian Dolls, models of workers in famous U.S.S.R. factories, stories of good times of Russian children, games for boys of athletic ability where Socialist competition can take a major part, singing of songs (those popular today and Workers' Songs). Organizers of such a Club would do well to visit the Club conducted by the Youth Section of

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the Ukrainian Labor & Farmers' Temple Association at 143 Berkeley St., where Comrade ANNA KASHIMER will be glad to give any information desired. We of the Party must do as the Young Communist League is doing in the Youth Congress. From a reactionary organization, they have swung it to the left so much that it is the most progressive Youth Movement today".

4. Campaign in Aid of Spanish Loyalists

[~~deletion:1 word~~] in charge of the recruiting for the Spanish Loyalist Government at Regina, is said to have succeeded in enrolling several volunteers recently, among them [~~deletion:2 words~~] described as a Scotchman who arrived in Canada about a year and a half ago, and [~~deletion:2 words~~] also of Scottish nationality and a war veteran. [~~deletion:1/2 line~~] having been discharged from his former employment on account of his radical views. The two men mentioned onlisted in Regina and are expected to leave there for Montreal shortly with England as the immediate destination.

Adrian Van der Brugge of St. Catharines, Ont., formerly Communist Party of Canada organiser for the Niagara Peninsula, has been killed in action on the Madrid front while fighting with the International Brigade. Van der Brugge, a Canadian by naturalisation, was one of the students selected by the C.P. of C. in 1935 to attend the International Lenin's School at Moscow. He was a Civil Engineer by profession.

William Kashtan, secretary of the Young Communist League of Canada, who left Canada recently on some mysterious mission, is now in Spain. On 14th May he spoke from Station EAQ-2, Madrid, appealing to all Canadians to help "defeat fascism in Spain by giving every support to the Spanish people in every way possible".

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

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Lawrence Simpson, an American seaman who is alleged to have been arrested by the German Police in Hamburg and confined in concentration camps for anti-Nazi activities, addressed an audience of approximately 900 in the Moose Hall, Vancouver, on 5th May. Simpson, who is on a speaking tour of the United States and Canada under the auspices of the League Against War and Fascism, told of the atrocities committed by the Nazi authorities in Germany. His speech was a typical anti-Fascist talk; he concluded by appealing to the audience to actively

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engage in the fight against Fascism. He is said to have spoken at Victoria and Nanaimo and intends speaking in some other parts of Canada.

Following the arrest of the 52 unemployed in Vancouver recently, the Provincial Government reconsidered the decision to close the relief projects and decided to employ all single unemployed of good record resident in the province prior to November, 1936. As a result between 300 and 400 men who had congregated in Vancouver, following the closing of the camps, have returned to the relief projects.

II. ALBERTA

6. Communist and C.I.O. Organisers Active in Oil Fields
of Turner Valley

[~~3~~deletion:3-4 words] both prominent leaders of the Communist Party, and [~~1~~deletion:1 word], C.I.O. organiser, are reported to be active in the Turner Valley, Alta., in an endeavour to organise the workers in the oil fields into Committee for Industrial Organisation unions.

A branch of the New Theatre of Canada has recently been established at Edmonton under the name of "The Progressive Arts Players". It is the intention

of this group to produce plays similar to the ones produced by Progressive Arts Clubs in Toronto, Winnipeg, Montreal and other cities in Canada. On 14th May it will produce the play "And The Answer Is"..... by Mary Reynolds of Vancouver. It is to be presented in the Moose Temple and tickets will set at 25¢.

III. MANITOBA

7. Communists Survey Situation at Flin Flon & The Pas

George Drayton, Communist Party organiser for Manitoba, visited Flin Flon recently and on his return to Winnipeg reported to a C.P. meeting that he, together with Jim Litterick and Sol Simkin, had looked into the possibility of reviving the movement in Flin Flon and The Pas and found that the situation was far from being discouraging. "We are going ahead to organise the trade unions up there as well as

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build up our Party", he remarked. "There is every chance of having those mining barons at our feet and if we organise properly it will not be like the last time when they defeated us at Flin Flon", he asserted. Drayton stated that it was the intention of the Party to send a few organisers up there and that these organisers would be looked after by friends of the Party in Flin Flon and The Pas. He thought that it will take "a little time organising them", but insisted that the prospects were decidedly good.

A determined effort is being made by the Communists in Winnipeg to reorganise the Single Men's Unemployed Association and to introduce new blood into its executive. The activities of the organisation have fallen off considerably, especially since some of its leaders were convicted and sentenced. Appeals have been entered in the case of those convicted leaders and should the hearing of the appeals be put off until fall, some of the convicted leaders intend to go to the mining districts in an endeavour to obtain work. M. Sago is said to be making every endeavour to have them stay in Winnipeg and have them continue their activities in connection with the Single Men's Unemployed Association.

Jim Litterick, Communist M.L.A. for Winnipeg, is said to be in bad grace with the rest of the Communist Party leaders in Winnipeg. It is charged that

Litterick has become very headstrong and is giving orders in a very autocratic and most unreasonable manner. It is said that he is spending practically all of his time in reading and studying the works of Lenin, Stalin and Marx. His behavior has alienated practically all of his friends in the Party leadership in Manitoba.

IV. ONTARIO

8. Strike at Silknet Plant in Toronto Continues

Striking employees of Ontario Silknet Limited recently voted to continue the strike pending further negotiations. Pickets continue to patrol plant entrances. Negotiations are being continued and a settlement of the strike is expected shortly.

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V. QUEBEC

[~~2 lines~~]

[~~2 lines~~] it was reported that there is a general feeling among the waterfront workers and in American Federation of Labor circles at Montreal that Ryan, president of the International Longshoremen's Association, has "sold out" the Montreal longshoremen. The local seamen's union is very much up in arms and at the last meeting passed a resolution to cancel their charter with the A.F. of L., it was said. It was further reported that at a recent meeting of the Trades and Labour Council a resolution was adopted condemning the action of Ryan and urging a complete investigation of the longshoremen's settlement. In the meantime, the Trades and Labour Council who refuse to recognise the new longshoremen's union, will not give them a seat on the Council until the whole question is settled. Following a lengthy discussion the [~~3-4 words~~] decided: (a) to suggest to the longshoremen that they again picket the waterfront, (b) to urge that a delegation visit Ryan in an attempt to rearrange the settlement. It was further proposed that the delegation mentioned should also contact the "rank and file" on New York's waterfront and ask for their co-operation in forcing Ryan's hands. This "rank and file" body is evidently quite strong and is under the direct control of the Communist Party of America having particularly very strong support in San Francisco and the Gulf ports. It was further revealed at this meeting that J. B. Salsberg of Toronto is the contact man for the rank and file body in Canada; he, it was said, has already been communicated with as a preliminary to the proposed

visit of the delegation. [deletion:3-4 words] then appointed Pat Sullivan and Munroe to take the matter up with the local longshoremen and attempt to have all the decisions made by the Commission put into practice at their next meeting.

It would appear that the C.P. is not prepared to let the present situation among the Montreal longshoremen rest and are attempting to stir up more trouble with a view to having the settlement con-

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cluded by president Ryan reversed.

At this meeting the [deletion:3-4 words] also discussed a report submitted by [deletion:2 words] on the situation among the steel workers of Montreal. [deletion:1 1/2 lines] organiser of the newly formed C.I.O. union operative in the steel industry at Montreal, reported that the employees of Peck's Rolling Mills are now prepared for strike action and are insistent that a strike be called in the event of the employers refusing to meet their demands which include: (a) a minimum wage of \$3.50 per day, (b) an 8-hour day and a 40-hour week, (c) time and one-half for overtime, and (d) union recognition. [deletion:1 word] also reported that he had been warned by Montgomery, Canadian steel organiser, to avoid strike action until some sort of settlement can be made with the Dominion Steel and Coal Company (Dosco). In the discussion that followed it was suggested by Fred Rose that no strike be called until results from "Dosco" were known. He pointed out that defeat of the strike in the steel industry at this early stage might have some very harmful effects. This suggestion was agreed to by the [deletion:3-4 words] and, later, was endorsed by the workers of Peck's Rolling Mills at their meeting held on 12th May. [deletion:1 word] and Fred Rose both advanced the opinion that a major strike of steel workers in Canada is likely to break out in the near future affecting all the major steel plants throughout Canada. The opinion was expressed that at least 5,000 steel workers will come out in Montreal should a strike occur.
