

## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 27th May, 1937.

SECRET

NO. 857

WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS  
AND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

The Ontario provincial Convention of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation held in Toronto, Ont., recently proved a bitter disappointment to the leaders of the Communist Party. In the opinion of Communist Alderman Stewart Smith of Toronto it "left the clubs empty handed without any plan of action to meet the political situation of today". The convention did not respond to the United Front overtures of the Communist Party; it quashed the Communist inspired resolution, presented by the North Toronto C.C.F. Club, which recommended to the Party's National Convention consideration of a conference to "co-ordinate the activities of all progressive, labour, farmer and socialist groups under one platform as a united people's movement."

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[1]

APPENDICESTable of ContentsAPPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

- Paragraph No. 1. Daily Clarion Campaign a Success  
Quota Oversubscribed; Trade Unions Render Active Support; Maritime District Shows Best Results
- " 2. Notes on C.I.O. Activities in Ontario  
Many Organisers and C.P. Representatives Meet in Conference at Toronto, Ont., Formulating a Plan of Action  
C.I.O. to Issue Charters in Ontario; Buffalo to Remain Regional Headquarters for Ontario and Quebec; Strike Strategy Committee to be Appointed; Peter van Horn of Detroit

Transferred to Toronto; Milton Montgomery Claims C.I.O. Progress in Hamilton Steel Industry

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

- “ ” 3. BRITISH COLUMBIA  
 Seattle Convention of I.L.A. Backs Vancouver Joint Policy Committee; Bridges Block (Communists) in Control of Convention; Vancouver Situation to be Discussed at Pacific Maritime Federation Convention Meeting in Portland, Ore., This Month  
 Vancouver and New Westminster Trades and Labour Council Refuses Offer of P. Burns' Co.  
 Tim Buck Addresses Vancouver Mass Rally of C.P.
- “ ” 4. ALBERTA  
 Annie Buller Speaks at Edmonton  
 Central Strike Committee at Edmonton Withdraw Pickets
- “ ” 5. SASKATCHEWAN  
 Provincial Committee of C.P. of C. to Stage Series of Radio Broadcasts  
 New Sub-District Bureau Elected at C.P. Conference at Saskatoon
- “ ” 6. ONTARIO  
 C.I.O. Union Defeated in Ontario Silknit Strike  
 Western Ontario District Committee of Finnish Organisation Met in Port Arthur  
 Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy Meeting in Toronto
- “ ” 7. QUEBEC  
 Montreal Communists Pleased with Progress in Trade Union Field

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 [2]

**APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL**

**I. "Daily Clarion" Campaign a Success**

The campaign for a \$14,000 sustaining fund for the Daily Clarion and Weekly Clarion held during the month of April came officially to a close on 21st May. The quota set has been over-subscribed by almost \$300. Comment-

ing on the campaign the Daily Clarion for 22nd May, under the caption "Over the Top", remarks:

"The workers and farmers of Canada have responded in truly magnificent fashion to once again demonstrate their determination that the militant voice of progress, the Daily Clarion shall live in spite of all difficulties".

This drive has witnessed many local trade unions and no less than five Trades and Labour Councils in Southern Ontario making contributions towards the sustaining fund of this Communist organ. This active participation of and assistance rendered by the trade unions is indicative of the ever-growing influence exerted by the Communist Party throughout the country. The final returns published by the Daily Clarion in its 22nd May issue, according to provinces and districts, follow:—

	<u>Funds</u>	<u>Objective P.C.</u>
Maritimes _____	\$ 329.25	164.6
Manitoba _____	1,890.08	135.0
Southern Ontario _____	6,068.56	121.2
Alberta _____	1,349.11	89.9
Western Ontario _____	1,136.92	87.4
Quebec _____	873.00	72.7
Northern Ontario _____	986.80	70.5
British Columbia _____	908.75	64.9
Central Ontario _____	474.75	59.2
Saskatchewan _____	<u>253.10</u>	<u>50.6</u>
Total . . .	<u>\$14,270.32</u>	<u>102.0</u>

A feature of particular interest is the showing made by the Communists in the Maritimes. They are the winners of the Clarion Trophy which is awarded to the district obtaining the highest results. British Columbia district, which in former campaigns of a similar nature always made a good showing, only reached approximately sixty-five per cent of the quota allotted to it. As in former campaigns, British Columbia district combined the Daily Clarion campaign with a campaign for the local weekly paper, the People's Advocate, formerly

[3]

known as the B.C. Workers' News. The good showing made by Manitoba is undoubtedly due to the activities of Annie Buller who was sent there from Toronto to act as circulation manager of the Clarion for Western Canada. The result of this campaign will enable the paper to continue to appear as a daily in six-page form.

## 2. Notes on C.I.O. Activities in Ontario

At a conference of Committee for Industrial Organisation organisers active in Ontario held at 397a Parliament St. Toronto, Ont., on 20th May, a letter was read from the Steel Workers' Organising Committee urging the conference to carry on the steel campaign with greater speed, "as the time is near for a showdown with the Ontario Government". This conference, which was attended by organisers of the various affiliates of the C.I.O. from Windsor, Hamilton, London, Toronto, St. Catharines, Timmins, Kirkland Lake, Oshawa, Guelph, as well as Hugh Thompson (Buffalo, N.Y., regional director of the C.I.O.), Jack Sinclair, (C.I.O. organiser from Buffalo), and representatives of the Communist Party of Canada, Young Communists League, Co-operative Commonwealth Youth Movement, and the Ontario Unemployed Federation, decided:—

1. Canadian unions henceforth must finance their own strikes as no money can be expected from the U.S.A.; strike funds are to be collected for this purpose.
2. All C.I.O. locals and affiliated unions to give 25¢ per member to the Spanish Aid Fund.
3. Any unemployed single members of locals who wish to volunteer for service in Spain are to report to the office of the Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy; their respective local unions to pay half of their expenses and fare to Spain.
4. To organise all single unemployed men living in hostels into the Unemployed Federation for the purpose of bringing pressure to bear towards the closing of the hostels. Funds for this campaign to be supplied by the C.I.O.
5. To commence organisation of all migratory workers such as the farm labourers, Government project workers, domestic servants, etc. This campaign to be province-wide and the C.I.O. is to supply organisers for it.
6. The Steel Workers' Organising Committee is to be prepared for a long struggle in the Canadian steel industry. Funds must be raised and all steel workers urged to buy and support The Metal Worker. The

[4]

organisers are also urged to read and study William Z. Foster's book on the steel industry.

7. To open a school as soon as possible for field organ-

- isers and leading members of all organising committees for the purpose of teaching strike strategy.
8. The electrical workers organising committee to call for an immediate drive in the Hamilton and Peterboro area, organisation to be completed by 15th June when a wage agreement will be presented to the various plants.

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It is reported that a Council Office of the Committee for Industrial Organisation will be opened in Toronto shortly to issue charters direct to Canadian locals of unions affiliated with the C.I.O. This office will be maintained and paid for by the Organising Committee and will work on the same principle as the Trades and Labour Council of Toronto.

According to the latest information available regarding the organisation plans of the C.I.O. in Eastern Canada, Ontario and Quebec will be under the Regional Office at Buffalo, N.Y., the Sub-Regional Offices in these two provinces will remain as they are but will take direct orders from Buffalo. A Strike Strategy Committee will be created whose members will not appear at any time in public. The Strategy Committee will consist of seven men, or four men and three women, and will handle all propaganda, funds, correspondence, publicity, etc., pertaining to any strike that may take place; it will also look after the legal advice, defence of arrested strikers, etc., and map out all action connected with any strike.

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Peter van Horn of Detroit, Mich., [~~3/4~~ line] a C.I.O. instructor, arrived in Toronto recently to act in an advisory capacity in the steel industry.

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According to Milton Montgomery, organiser of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers, the Hamilton Bridge Works is 52% organised; the National Steel Car Company 44% and employees of the Steel Company of Canada are joining up at the rate of 60 a day.

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCESI. BRITISH COLUMBIA3. Seattle Convention of I.L.A. Backs Vancouver Joint Policy Committee

In a telegram received by the People's Advocate (formerly the B.C. Workers' News) from George Brown on 20th May it was stated that the International Longshoremen's Association Convention held at Seattle, Wash., had re-endorsed the Vancouver Joint Policy Committee. (This Committee is an instrument of the Communist Party created in an attempt to dominate the trade unions represented on it.)

On the authority of Jimmy Maskell, of the Inland Boatmen's Union, Harry Bridges set a trap for the moderates in the convention by selecting all moderates on the various committees and keeping the radicals on the floor. When the Resolutions Committee placed each resolution before the convention it was immediately attacked by the Bridges block and amended to suit them. The executive of Local 38/126 (Vancouver) is said to have received a tongue lashing on the floor of the convention. In connection with the affairs of this local union Bridges produced copies of letters passing between William Green, (president of the A.F. of L.) and the executive of the Vancouver Local and Dave Beck which were dictated by Percy Bengough, secretary of the Vancouver and District Trades and Labour Council. The local executive, it was alleged, established an office apart from their official headquarters to conduct this correspondence but the man in charge took a member of the Communist Party into his confidence who made copies of the letters and forwarded them to Harry Bridges. The incident is now being used in an effort to break the prestige of the moderate leadership in Vancouver.

[~~deletion:3/4 line~~] stated in confidence to an intimate that the Longshoremen's Association Convention held in Seattle recently left the question of maritime organisation in British Columbia and the Hawaiian Islands to the Convention of the Pacific Maritime Federation which will meet in Portland, Ore., during the latter part of the month.

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[6]

The management of P. Burns and Company, Vancouver, recently offered to reinstate 25 of its striking employees following recommendations of Judge J. C. McIntosh provided the Vancouver and New Westminster Trades and Labour Council would remove Burns' products off the "unfair" list. The striking employees were quite agreeable to accept this and made repre-

sentation to the Vancouver and New Westminster Trades and Labour Council to comply with Burns' request. However, at a meeting held on 18th May the Vancouver and New Westminster Trades and Labour Council refused to accept these terms on the motion of Harry Douglas who is the business agent of the Meat Cutters and Packing House Employees' Union.

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A banquet held in honour of Tim Buck in the Orange Hall at Vancouver on 15th May showed a favorably balance of \$30.

On 16th May approximately 1,000 attended a Communist Party "mass rally" at the Powell Street Grounds at which Tim Buck spoke on the question of unity of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation and the Communist Party of Canada, Malcolm Bruce was chairman of the meeting and Becky Buhay Ewen also addressed the crowd on the same subject. Tim Buck dwelt for some time on the conditions of the Relief Project workers endeavouring to convey the impression that a man is better off in the penitentiary than working in one of the Relief Project Camps. The tenor of the speeches was support for Rev. Edwin Baker, C.P. candidate running in the riding of New Westminster. The collection taken at this meeting netted the sum of \$68.

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## II. ALBERTA

### 4. Annie Buller Speaks at Edmonton

Annie Buller, Clarion circulation manager for Western Canada, was the feature speaker at a meeting held under the auspices of the Edmonton Clarion Committee in the Rialto Theatre at Edmonton, on 16th May. The subject of her address was: "Who Are the Enemies of the People". Approximately 500 people attended with Mrs. Jean Mason in the chair. The Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association orchestra

[7]

under the leadership of William Holowach, rendered a few revolutionary selections. Annie Buller described the "50 big shots of Canada and their political henchmen, who are plundering the Canadian people", as the real enemies of the people. She contended that the Clarion is "our weapon to mobilise the broad masses for unity and action". She also spoke of the "sweeping victory of the C.I.O." and praised the "heroic struggle of the Spanish people against Fascism".

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The Central Strike Committee at Edmonton, at a meeting on 4th May, decided — in view of the announcement made by the Honourable Dr. W. W. Cross, Provincial Minister of Trade and Industry — that a commission of two will investigate the circumstances surrounding the strike of laundry workers and packing plant employees, to withdraw the picket lines from Gainers Limited packing plant, the Snowflake Laundry and Dry Cleaners and the New Method Laundry and Dry Cleaners.

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### III. SASKATCHEWAN

#### 5. Provincial Committee of C.P. of C. to Stage Series of Radio Broadcasts

The Provincial Committee of the Communist Party in Saskatchewan intends to deliver a series of broadcasts under the caption "Your Party Speaks" over Radio Station CJRM at an approximate cost of \$58 per broadcast. These broadcasts are to acquaint the Party membership particularly in the outlying districts with the political and organisational questions facing the Party in the province. To defray the expenses in connection with these broadcasts the Provincial Committee, in a circular issued under date of 12th April, proposes to assess the various branches in the province on the basis of their numerical strength. The circular asserts that the Party has now 160 branches in the province and that they are beginning to realise their proper function in the communities. The circular further asserts that it is the ambition of the Provincial Committee to increase the number of branches to 300 by next October.

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[8]

A Sub-District Conference of the Communist Party of Canada was held in Saskatoon on 8th and 9th May with 40 delegates, 30 of whom were from Saskatoon and 10 from outside points, in attendance. A new Sub-District Bureau was formed composed as follows:—

[Xdeletion:name] —————	Secretary
[Xdeletion:name] ———	Organisation Secretary
[Xdeletion:name] ———	Saskatoon City Organiser
[Xdeletion:name] ———	Field Organiser
[Xdeletion:name] ———	Women's Work
[Xdeletion:name] ———	Youth Organiser
[Xdeletion:name] ———	Languages Department
[Xdeletion:name] ———	C.C.F. and C.C.Y.M.
[Xdeletion:name] ———	Press Work



[&deletion:name] ——— Trade Union  
 [&deletion:name] ——— No special office

On 9th May Walter E. Wiggins, national farm organiser of the Communist Party, addressed a public meeting in the Market Square at Saskatoon with approximately 400 people in attendance. Ed. Gilroy and M. Woolard also spoke briefly outlining the effects of a moratorium in Northern Saskatchewan and the need for unity amongst progressives to "defend peace and democracy". Walter Wiggins dealt principally with the question of a three-year moratorium, as advocated by the Communist Party of Canada, as a means towards abolishing "farm slums" and to allow the farmers an opportunity to adjust their financial difficulties.

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#### IV. ONTARIO

##### 6. C.I.O. Union Defeated in Ontario Silknit Strike

The strike at the Ontario Silknit Limited, Toronto, was settled on 19th May when a general vote taken by the striking employees resulted in over eighty per cent of the strikers expressing a desire to return to work. No agreement was signed and it is understood that in future grievances will be adjusted between the management and the employees without union intervention. It is generally claimed that the strike ended in a defeat, the first real defeat in Ontario, of an affiliate of the Committee for Industrial Organisation.

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The Western Ontario Enlarged District Committee of the Finnish Organisation of Canada met in Port Arthur on 9th May with 31 delegates in attendance representing the various local organisations

[9]

throughout the district. W. Eklund submitted the report of the District Council which disclosed the existence of 22 locals throughout the district with a joint membership of 574; 15 of these have their own halls valued at \$34,064.63. The furniture of the various locals was valued at \$7,396.08. The report further revealed that the locals actively supported the Committee in Aid of Spanish Democracy and had collected \$343.63 for that purpose within five months. The tenor of the reports given by the various delegates was unity with other groups and the question of enlarging the circulation of the Finnish revolutionary papers and the Daily Clarion. The report from the Nolalu Local revealed that the said local conducted a children's summer camp last year with 40

children in attendance and that preparations are being made to hold a similar camp this summer with an expected attendance of 60.

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The Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy at Toronto held a mass meeting in the Massey Hall on 18th May; only a little over 600 people attended. Sam Lawrence, M.L.A., who acted as chairman, read a despatch from Congressman John T. Bernard, one of the speakers scheduled to address the meeting, expressing his inability to be present. The speakers were Alderman Stewart Smith, Reverend Dr. Bland, Reverend Ben Spence and Bishop Francis J. McConnell, of the Methodist Episcopal Church of the United States; the latter was the feature speaker. The meeting closed with the playing of the "International" while the audience stood with clenched fists in the Communist salute.

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## V. QUEBEC

### 7. Montreal Communists Pleased with Progress in Trade Union Field

The Communist Party at Montreal held a "Trade Union Conference" on 15th May attended by 40 prominent members of the Party who are active in various trade unions in the city. Lucien Dufour acted as chairman and the main report was given by Alex Gauld. The latter reported that considerable headway has been made since the liquidation of the Workers' Unity League in the fall of 1935. He cited Toronto as

[10]

an "excellent example" of how Communist Party members should work in the trade union field. In Montreal, he said, great changes are now taking place in the Trades & Labour Council, maintaining that the Council has taken a definite stand against the leadership of the International Longshoremen's Union because of the settlement of the jurisdictional dispute on the waterfront. Gauld stated that the Committee for Industrial Organisation is now making great strides and the workers are showing a desire to become organised. He said that whereas the Dressmakers' Union had only a few hundred members at the commencement of the strike, today it had a membership of over 5,000. He contended that the sentiment for unity in the Trades and Labour Council between the C.I.O. and A.F. of L. is very good and in consequence the C.P. can now assume a more precise and open C.I.O. line within the Trades and Labour Council. He also pointed out that there is a great opportunity of linking up the unemployed with the Council as the leaders of the Council are now

seeing the need of their becoming the champions of the unemployed, further, that they are also realising the need of giving political leadership to the workers and are forming a strong Labour Party. He went on to say that Premier Duplessis has been constantly threatening the Communist Party but "if we become firmly entrenched and rooted in the shops and unions we can put the Premier in his place". He concluded with a strong appeal for organisation, pointing out that each Party member must become an active trade unionist. The meeting, after some discussion, arrived at the following decisions:—

- (a) Regular C.P. fraction meetings to be called in unions.
  - (b) All C.P. members active in unions to be checked with regard to their activities.
  - (c) All delegates to the Trades and Labour Council to be checked upon.
  - (d) A check to be made on the possibility of forming new trade unions.
  - (e) Each C.P. section must establish a trade union committee headed by a section trade union organiser; this committee to check upon all plants and factories in their respective districts as to the possibilities of their being organised.
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