

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 2nd June, 1937.

SECRET

NO. 858

WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANISATIONS
AND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

As part of its campaign during "Aid to Spain Week" — 30th May to 9th June — the Communist Party of Canada will distribute 150,000 copies of an appeal for aid to the Spanish Loyalists and the 500 Canadian volunteers — "The MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion" — fighting in the International Brigade. In addition to the general campaign of assistance to Spain, the Communist Party has launched a special drive to raise sufficient funds to send two fully equipped ambulances to the Madrid front. One of these is to be equipped out of funds raised in Ontario alone.

Reverend Edwin Baker, only Communist Party candidate running in the British Columbia Provincial election, was defeated in New Westminster riding.

[1]

APPENDICESTable of ContentsAPPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

- Paragraph No. 1. Notes on C.I.O. Activities and Industrial Unrest
Throughout Canada
I.L.G.W.U. Launch Campaign in Canada; Canadian
Membership Increasing
U.A.W. Form Canadian Committee
U.A.W. of A. Launch Boycott of Walker (Windsor)
Metal Products
Sheet Metal Workers of Toronto on Strike; A.A. of
I.S. and T.W. at Montreal to Present

Demands

U.A.W.U. Organiser Sentenced in Essex County Court
 Vancouver Island Coal Miners to Press for Union

Recognition

300 Rock Miners in B.C. on Strike

Inland Boatmen's Union in B.C. May Endorse C.I.O.

William Green Launches Campaign; Orders Expulsion of
 C.I.O. Affiliates from Central Bodies
 of A.F. of L.

- " " 2. J. W. Buckley Addresses Canadian Audience from Moscow
 Radio Station
- " " 3. Campaign in Aid of Spanish Loyalists; Four Volunteers
 from Montreal Reported Killed in Action
 Edmonton L.A.W. and F. Prepares for Aid to Spain
 Campaign
 Regina Organisation of Spanish Aid Formed
 Arthur Evans in Charge of Spanish Aid Campaign in
 B.C.
 Lily Adler Volunteers for Service; Jimmy Ewen of
 Vancouver and Seven Men from Edmonton
 Leaving for Spain

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

- " " 4. ALBERTA
 Annie Buller in Calgary
 Dr. Harry G. Timbres, Formerly of Edmonton, Died in
 Kazan, U.S.S.R.
 Unemployed Delegations Present Demands to Provincial
 Government
- " " 5. ONTARIO
 C.P. Mass Meeting in Queens Park, Toronto, Poorly
 Attended
- " " 6. QUEBEC
 [deletion: 1 line]
 \$3,000 Raised in Montreal for Jewish (Communist)
 Children's Camp
 Canadian Silk Products Employees in Sherbrooke on
 Strike
- " " 7. THE MARITIME PROVINCES
 Miners Strike in Nova Scotia
 400 at Inverness Mine

1,000 at Four Mines in Pictou County
550 at Florence Colliery, Cape Breton

—

[2]

APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

1. Notes on C.I.O. Activities and Industrial Unrest Throughout Canada

A concerted campaign to "clean up sweat shop conditions, and to organise the remaining trades in the ladies' garment industry" was launched by H. G. Langer, Canadian representative of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, an affiliate of the C.I.O., upon his return from the convention of the union held recently in Atlantic City, N.J.; he returned with instructions to press for complete organisation in Canada. The convention is said to have equipped the Canadian representative with full authority and adequate funds to conduct the campaign.

Reports submitted at Atlantic City showed there were 243,000 members in the United States and Canada with treasury assets of \$5,500,000; they further revealed that the Canadian membership of the union increased from 1,500 to 12,000 in the last three years. The Canadian membership is largely centered in the cloak and dress manufacturing plants of Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg and Vancouver.

—

The United Automobile Workers of America at a conference held at Toronto on 30th May, which was attended by 25 delegates representing Locals in Oshawa, St. Catharines, Windsor and Brantford, decided to form a Canadian Committee to co-ordinate the work of all Locals in Canada. Temporary officers of the committee were elected as follows: Charles H. Millard, president; Harold H. Baines, vice-president; Robert H. Lawrie, secretary-treasurer; Jack Wright, recording secretary, and Cooper Walker and Ratcliffe, trustees. The conference is said to have also discussed ways and means of giving assistance to other unions and establishing closer co-operation between the United Automobile Workers of America and the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada.

—

Some 200 employees of the Walker Metal Products Limited at Windsor, members of the United Automobile Workers of America, an affiliate of the C.I.O., struck recently demanding union recognition.

[3]

Picket lines have been thrown around the company's property following the refusal to recognise the men's demand.

A general boycott of all Walker metal products has been announced by Local 195 of the United Automobile Workers of America whose members are employed at the General Motors and the Kelsey Wheel Companies at Windsor. The boycott is part of the plans formulated in an effort to force the management of the Walker Metal Products into recognition of the union. Commenting on the decision of Local 195, James Napier, union organiser, remarked: "Mr. Gregory (Walker Metal Products manager) had better realise right now that he is not only dealing with his own employees, he is dealing with all of Local 195 which has approximately 2,000 members in Windsor".

Seeking a seven and one-half cents an hour wage increase, Local #30 of the International Union of Sheet Metal Workers at Toronto called a general strike on 29th May affecting some 20 shops in the sheet metal industry in that city.

Lucien Dufour [~~deletion:1 word~~] president of Local 1195 of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers of America at Montreal, recently announced that negotiations between his union and the Dominion Steel and Coal Corporation will probably begin in the near future. The negotiations, he said, will cover some 3,000 steel workers, employees of the Peck Rolling Mills, a subsidiary of the Dominion Steel and Coal Corporation in Montreal.

Thomas Parry, United Automobile Workers' Union organiser of Detroit, Mich., and Walter Stillmach, employee of the Kelsey Wheel Company at Windsor, were sentenced to six months and two months, respectively, on 26th May on charges of unlawful assembly by Justice Greene in the Essex County Court at Sandwich, Ont.

[4]

Vancouver Island coal mine operators will be shortly faced with the question of recognition of the United Mine Workers of America, a C.I.O. affiliate, and an agreement with the miners regarding wages and working

conditions. According to J. Stokaluk [~~1 word~~], district organiser of the United Mine Workers of America, every eligible miner employed except one at Cumberland is now a member of the United Mine Workers of America and out of approximately 1,100 employees at Nanaimo 908 are members of the union.

Over 300 hard rock miners employed at the Cariboo Gold Quartz and Island Mountain Mines in British Columbia struck on 25th May demanding wage increases and the recognition of the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers. Both companies have threatened to close down the mines indefinitely and are reported to have ordered the strikers off the property.

Ed. Pierce, organiser of the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers and [~~3/4 line~~] arrived in Vancouver from Grand Forks on 23rd May after touring the mining areas of British Columbia, and stated to an intimate that he was getting good results all over the province.

[~~1-2 words~~] visited Victoria recently to sound out the Inland Boatmen's Union on the question of endorsing the Committee for Industrial Organisation programme and on the possibility of breaking away from the American Federation of Labor. On his return to Vancouver he stated to an intimate that he found the Victoria men ready to go C.I.O. Regarding the situation in Vancouver he said that the Boatmen's Union is about fifty-fifty in favour of breaking away from the A.F. of L. South of the International Boundary the I.B.U. is about evenly divided, according to [~~1 word~~] and with the I.B.U. more or less in line with him Harry Bridges figures that he can easily swing the Pacific Maritime Federation Convention, which opens on 6th June, in favour of the C.I.O. position.

{5}

Harry Bridges, president of the Pacific coast section of the International Longshoremen's Association, announced on 29th May that he would call a union referendum to consider joining the C.I.O.

William Green, president of the A.F. of L., has launched a vigorous organisational campaign in an effort to stem the tide of industrial organisation. In a number of places he has ordered the central bodies of the A.F. of L. to expel immediately all Locals affiliated with the C.I.O.

2. J. W. Buckley Addresses Canadian Audience from Moscow Radio Station

J. W. Buckley, secretary of the Toronto District Trades and Labour Council, at present touring the U.S.S.R. as a delegate from Canada and guest of the trade unions of the Soviet Union, spoke recently over the Moscow short wave radio station to the Canadian people, giving his impressions of his observation in the Soviet Union. He said, in part:—

“My first impression is that of a vast social and economic change in the structure of society. Even on a Soviet steamer we witnessed what one could not conceive on a modern Atlantic liner. Here discipline is strictly maintained. The crew, while they perform their duties to the passengers, and the orders of the superiors, in a proficient manner, yet outside of their duties, they are free citizens of the U.S.S.R. and captain, men, officers and passengers intermingle into one fraternity. Today we are in Moscow as the guests of the trade unions of the U.S.S.R., numbering in the neighbourhood of 25 million workers, composed of men and women. For here we find the women, who have now achieved their emancipation, are equally citizens with the men, claiming equal rights in all forms of industry, and participating as such on the farms, in the workshops, the mills, mines and factories, and are showing their competency and intelligence in the discharge of their duties”.

Buckley described the May Day celebration in Moscow saying that he was immensely impressed by the military strength and equipment displayed on that occasion. He concluded by saying:—

“These are my few impressions of what I have already seen in the land of the Soviets and shows what can be accomplished when material welfare of the nation as a whole is considered instead of the bolstered interests of few”.

[6]

3. Campaign in Aid of Spanish Loyalists

Joseph Campbell, Michael Russel, A. Gasshos and one named Avinger, formerly of Montreal, have been reported killed in action while fighting with the International Brigade on the Madrid front. Before leaving for Spain, Campbell was active in the Clarte office, the Canadian Labour Defence League and in the Communist Party, generally. He was a French Canadian and served a term in goal at Amos, Que., on a charge of sedition. Michael Russel was a member of the Rosemount Tenants' League and the [3<<dele-

tion: 1/2 line] Gasshos was a member of the [~~deletion: 1/2 line~~] and Avinger, a Jew and a returned soldier, was active in [~~deletion: 3-4 words~~]

At a conference of the Edmonton Local of the Canadian League Against War and Fascism held in the Masonic Temple on 20th May a letter was read from the National Office urging Edmonton to immediately initiate a campaign in Alberta to raise food, clothing, funds, etc., for the defenders of Bilbao and Spanish refugees. It was agreed that the Women's Committee of the league, in conjunction with the Committee in Aid of Spanish Democracy, launch a campaign as soon as possible. The conference instructed the league Council Executive, on the recommendation of F. Newman, to study the question of boycotting all goods produced in Germany and Italy and bring in a recommendation at the next meeting. On 24th July the league will hold a Tag Day in the city for the purpose of raising funds.

The newly formed Canadian Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy in Regina has circularised various social and church organisations in the city requesting them to send delegates as representatives on the committee. Along with the circular the committee also sent an outline of the work performed by Dr. Norman Bethune and his Blood Transfusion Unit in Spain and a list of the literature which is being handled by the committee. The latter includes "Spain's Democracy Talks to America" by A. A. McLeod and H. A. Ward, "Spain", a pamphlet describing the background of the present conflict; "Listen In", radio addresses given in

[7]

Madrid by Dr. Norman Bethune and Professor J.B.S. Haldane and Hazen Sise; "The Crime of Francisco Franco", illustrated booklet depicting rebel outrages, "The Spanish War in Pictures"; "Spanish Canadian Bulletin", a four-page tabloid with war pictures and reproduction of Fred Griffin's article in the Toronto Star Weekly; "The Crime on the Road Malaga-Almeria"; "30 Cartoons of the War", (Caricaturas de la guerra); "Why Bishops Back Franco"; "No Pasaran", sheet music of Spanish March with words in Spanish and English; "No Pasaran", gramophone record of song; "Spain in Arms, 1937", by Dr. Anna Louise Strong.

A meeting announced to be held on 18th May at which Father Michael O'Flanagan was to have spoken, has been indefinitely postponed. At a meeting of the committee held recently it was decided to apply to the City Council for permission to hold a Tag Day in Regina in support of Dr. Norman

Bethune's Blood Transfusion Unit. The request was turned down by the City Council.

Instructions were recently forwarded from the [~~deletion: 1 line~~] at Vancouver that Arthur Evans was to be placed in charge of the drive to raise funds for another Ambulance Unit for service in Spain. The quota set for British Columbia is \$250. All Party forces are to be mobilised to canvass and tentative plans are made for concentration on door-to-door calls in Shaughnessy and Dunbar. Arthur Evans is to embark on an extended tour of the province in the interest of the campaign.

Lily Adler (Mrs. Malcolm Bruce) of Vancouver is said to have volunteered for service with the new Ambulance Unit which is to be organised.

Jimmy Ewen, son of Tom Ewen, left Vancouver on the night of 25th May en route for Spain.

It is reported that a group of six men are to leave for Spain shortly from Edmonton including several Hungarians.

[8]

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. ALBERTA

4. Annie Buller in Calgary

Approximately 400 people heard Annie Buller speak on "Who Are The Enemies Of The People" in the Labour Temple at Calgary on 23rd May. The meeting was held under the auspices of the Communist Party of Canada with Andy Hogarth in the chair. Following the meeting a reception was held for Annie Buller in the Ex-Service Men's Hall with approximately 100 people in attendance. J. Boker of Lethbridge brought greetings from the C.P. members there; Jack Taylor, of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, spoke in favour of unity demanding a strong United Front Movement; D. Fraser presented greetings from the Single Unemployed Association, while A. C. Rowe, of the Social Credit Party, was pleased to attend the reception saying, "I am not a Communist yet, but I like your platform and your Party". Annie Buller briefly addressed the gathering on the ways and means of organising a United Front Party.

Dr. Harry G. Timbres, formerly of Edmonton and internationally known for his work in bacteriological research, died in Kazan, U.S.S.R., on 12th May of typhus contracted while carrying out anti-malarial work for the Tropical Institute of Moscow. Dr. Timbres was active in the Canadian League Against War and Fascism and the Friends of the Soviet Union at Edmonton during 1934.

Demands for increased relief allowances were presented when unemployed delegations from Edmonton and Drumheller appeared before the Special Relief Committee of the Provincial Legislature on 20th May. An increase of thirty-five per cent was urged by the Drumheller delegation while the Edmonton delegates advocated a twenty per cent increase.

[9]

II. ONTARIO

5. C.P. Mass Meeting in Queens Park, Toronto, Poorly Attended

The Toronto Committee of the Communist Party of Canada held a meeting in Queens Park on 25th May in protest against the action of the Provincial Government in the recent labour troubles in Ontario. The attendance was very poor and little enthusiasm was shown by those present. Sam Scarlett presided and the speakers were John Weir and A. E. Smith. The tenor of the speeches was support for the Committee for Industrial Organisation and condemnation of Premier Hepburn's attitude in relation thereto.

III. QUEBEC

[deletion: 1/2 page]

It is reported that approximately \$3,000 have been raised in Montreal to build a Jewish Children's Camp. Apart from this camp, a Women's Committee is arranging for the establishment of an International Children's Camp for workers' children.

[10]

Some 600 employees of the Canadian Silk Products Limited in Sherbrooke, Que., struck on 29th May for union recognition and higher wages. Picketing of the plant began when workers on the night shift left work, it is reported.

IV. THE MARITIME PROVINCES

7. Miners Strike in Nova Scotia

Approximately 400 employees of the Provincial Government-operated coal mine at Inverness went on strike on 27th May in protest over the method of distribution of work. The strikers, all of them members of the United Mine Workers of America, charge the Provincial Minister of Mines with failure to alter working conditions, so as to increase employment and output of the mine.

On 31st May over 1,000 men came out on strike for higher wages in four Pictou County mines operated by the Acadia Coal Company after a resolution calling for a one hundred per cent strike was passed at a mass meeting of miners — members of the U.M.W. of A. — held at Stellarton on the previous day. Maintenance men remained at work.

Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company's Florence Colliery in Cape Breton was tied up again on 1st June when 550 miners walked out in sympathy with the machine cutters on strike for increase in pay for Sunday work.

In Antigonish County 160 workers employed on highway construction declared a strike on 28th May demanding wage increases.
