

## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 10th June, 1937.

SECRETNO. 859WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANISATIONS  
AND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

Dr. Norman Bethune arrived in New York, N.Y., on 7th June after seven months in Spain. He is scheduled to visit Toronto, Ont., on 14th June to address a mass meeting in Queen's Park. He has returned to tour Canada and the United States for the purpose of raising money to extend the service of the Canadian Blood Transfusion Service in Spain, it is said. He is bringing with him a film on the work of his Unit which he intends to show throughout Canada and the U.S.A.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

1. C.P. Endeavours to Revive Spirit of 1837 Rebellion

In their endeavour to provide the movement with a more national outlook or complexion, and in order to silence the critics who persistently charge that it is inspired and controlled from foreign sources, i.e., by Moscow, the leaders of the Communist Party of Canada have decided to revive and perpetuate the spirit of the 1837 Rebellion, and to pose as the true (political) descendants of William L. Mackenzie and Louis Joseph Papineau, its leaders. Great stress is laid on the fact that the rebels of 1837 resorted to the force of arms. This they insidiously emphasize in justification of the Communist programme which includes armed insurrection as a step to power. Having elected to carry on in the "spirit of the 1837 Rebellion" against the "Family Compact of 1937", also referred to in their propaganda as "Canada's fifty big shots", appropriate use is made of the names of the two leaders of that rebellion. Thus, for instance, the battalion recruited by the Communist Party of Canada now fighting in the International Brigade in Spain has been named the "Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion", and sub-committees of the Communist-controlled "Canadian Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy" became known as the "Friends of the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion" whose specific function is to collect funds for the said battalion.

The French weekly *Clarte*, published by the Communist Party in Montreal, for 22nd May, offers a typical illustration of this new Communist endeavour. Appearing as a special edition, it is almost wholly devoted to the anniversary of the Rebellion of 1837. An editorial on the front page entitled "A Hundred Years Ago" depicts the rebellion as a warning to the "oppressors of the masses of today"; it declares:—

"In commemorating the beginning of the rebellion of 1837 in this special issue the 'Clarte' is sounding the clarion call to awaken our population to the insulting threats held out by the monopolistic trust regime of Duplessis, foe of democratic freedom and of the working people. The attacks on our rights, the corporate and anti-labour laws with respect to wages, all serve the money powers, bent upon crashing any workers' or liberal movement impeding their run for profits....."

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"If we wish to win for Quebec a higher standard of living and combat the scourge of misery we must hold on to our freedom of action and speech; it is necessary to revive the proud and militant spirit of Canadian democracy, of Papineau and Mackenzie and of their valiant followers, in order to make the enemies of the people retreat, the monopolistic trusts and their agent, Duplessis — the starver".

Page three contains a feature article which loudly proclaims that the names of Papineau and Mackenzie live in Spain on this 100th anniversary of the rebellion, and on page five there appears an article by Dave Kashtan on the youth problem under the caption "Les Etats-Generaux" which suggests that youth through the Canadian Youth Congress should carry on in the spirit of 1837. Page six is almost entirely devoted to an article by L. O. David entitled "The Battle of Saint-Denis". On this page there appears also a poem under the caption "Homage to Papineau" adapted to the tune of a well-known French song "T'en Souvines-Tu", the concluding verse of which reads: "You will hear the sounds of this liberated land repeat your name in honour". An illustrated article by E. Roger (Stanley Ryerson) entitled "La Rebellion de 1837 — Bataille pour la Democratie!" (a rather insidious interpretation of the event) along with a drawing, depicting patriots in their national costumes fighting against the army, take up a double page while page 11 features a list of leading Canadian financiers who are described as the descendants of the Family Compact of 1837 — "the Family Compact of 1937".

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## 2. Campaign in Aid of Spanish Loyalists

Communist Party efforts for the moment are being concentrated on the "Spanish Aid Week", part of a world-wide special campaign launched by the Communist International. In Canada the Communist Party printed and distributed 150,000 copies of a pamphlet entitled "Help Spain, Make the World Safe for Democracy" containing an appeal from Tim Buck, general secretary of the C.P. of C., addressed 'to all friends of democracy' in Canada. The pamphlet declares that "500 of our sons are today fighting in the front line trenches, proud members of the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion of the International Brigade". The aims and objects of the campaign are set forth in the pamphlet as follows:—

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- "1. Organize hundreds of meetings, lectures, conferences, concerts, and other events, devoted to Spain, and for the purpose of raising funds for the Committee to aid Spanish Democracy, Manning Chambers, Toronto, Ont.
- "2. To arrange *Memorial meetings to commemorate the great sacrifice made by the brave Canadians who have been killed while fighting in the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion. To collect \$2,500 for a battalion ambulance, this to be a direct contribution of the Communist Party of Canada to the brave soldiers of the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion.*
- "3. To make widely-known by leaflet, radio broadcast, lecture and newspaper — the issue at stake in Spain.
- "4. To call upon the federal government to protest the horrible massacre of innocent non-combatants at Guernica, in the Basque Province by Italian and German bombing planes on April 26th, when 800 aged people, women and babies were blown to shreds by foreign fascist bombs, and the Catholic churches and convents laid to waste.
- "5. To call upon Prime Minister Mackenzie King and the Canadian delegates at the Imperial Conference in London to demand the extension of full trading rights to the lawful Spanish government, and that the British Commonwealth of Nations acts to prevent further aid to Franco by Hitler and Mussolini".

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Approximately 1,000 people attended a mass meeting in the Massey Hall, Toronto, Ont., on 30th May under the auspices of the Friends of the Macken-

zie-Papineau Battalion, to commemorate the death of eight Canadian volunteers who fought in the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion of the International Brigade in Spain. The speakers were Jack King, national secretary of the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation youth movement; George Watson, recently elected president of the Toronto and District Trades and Labour Council, Sam Carr, of the National Bureau of the C.P. of C.; and Jim Litterick, Communist Member of the Manitoba Legislature. Jim Litterick and Sam Carr both announced that there are now 500 Canadian volunteers in Spain, organised into the "Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion" fighting in the International Brigade. All speakers eulogised the fallen comrades, "heroes fighting for democracy". Musical selections were rendered by the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Band including the "Russian Funeral March", "No Pasaran"; four vocal selections were presented by the Jewish "Freiheit" Choir. A collection was taken up but the amount received was not announced.

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Over 500 attended a meeting sponsored by the "Committee of the Friends of the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion" in the Prince Arthur Hall, Montreal, Que., on the evening of 4th June, to commemorate the death of five volunteers from Montreal who served in the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion in Spain. Stanley Ryerson presided over the affair and Evariste Dube and Fred Rose were the speakers. At the start of the meeting the audience stood in silence for one minute and remained standing while the choir of the Russian Workers' Club sang the "Russian Funeral March" with mandolin accompaniment. The International Brigade, Fred Rose said, was an inspiring force for the Spaniards. It showed them the need for discipline and showed them how to fight. Evariste Dube said the five Montreal'ers — Joseph Campbell, J. Garcia, M. Russell, Elias Aviezer and M. Marinoff — had died for the liberty of all workers of the world and to save the universe from "barbarous" Fascism. During the meeting a collection was taken up which amounted to more than \$150.

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Four volunteers recruited by the Communist Party of Canada at Lethbridge, Alta., are said to have left for Toronto, on 21st May en route to Spain. They are [deletion: 1/2 line] and one individual whose name could not be ascertained. They are all Hungarians, said to be travelling on a Hungarian passport, and received transportation through the local headquarters of the Communist Party of Canada.

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### 3. William Kashtan Returns to Toronto, Ont.

William (Bill) Kashtan, general secretary of the Young Communist League of Canada who left Toronto for New York on about 19th April on some mysterious mission, has returned to Canada a few days ago. He is said to have attended a secret conference in Spain of international leaders of Communism who had been called together by the Communist International to discuss with the leaders of the Communist Party of Spain ways and means of further assistance to the Spanish Loyalists. His return to Toronto on the eve of the 12th Enlarged Plenum of the Central Committee of the C.P. of C. is interesting, especially in view of the Plenum having been called hurriedly and un-

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expectedly. Tim Buck, who was campaigning on behalf of the C.P. candidate in British Columbia and scheduled to address a series of meetings on his way East, left Vancouver suddenly and cancelled all meetings and engagements. While no definite reports are available, it has been intimated that the most important issue on the agenda of the Plenum, which convened in Toronto on 5th June, was the Spanish situation.

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### 4. Strikes & Industrial Unrest Throughout Canada

#### (A) Coal Miners Strike in Pictou County, N.S.

Eleven hundred Acadia Coal Company employees in the Allan, Albion, Moss and MacGregor mines at Stellarton and No. 3 shaft at Thorburn, who came out on strike on 31st May for higher wages, rejected recommendation of the District Executive Committee of the United Mine Workers of America that they return to work.

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#### (B) Strike at Provincial Government Mine at Inverness, N.S.

Employees of the Government operated coal mine at Inverness, on strike since 27th May in protest over the method of distribution of work, agreed to resume work on 8th June pending discussion of a suggestion by Minister of Mines for Nova Scotia.

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(C) Strike at Florence Colliery, C.C.

The 550 miners on strike at this colliery since 1st June returned to work on 8th June pending a satisfactory settlement within a week between the company and the union.

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(D) Strike in Highway Construction at Springhill  
and Dufferin Co. Camps, N.S.

The tie-up at the above named camps on the New Glasgow-Antigonish Highway continues. A province-wide increase for highway labourers of three cents an hour has been announced by the Minister of Highways.

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(E) Strike at Walker Metal Products, Ltd., Windsor, Ont.

The three weeks' old strike at the above plant terminated on 7th June when strikers ratified an agreement which includes higher pay and shorter hours but no union recognition. The plant has resumed normal operations.

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(F) Strike at A. R. Clarke's Tannery, East York, Ont.

Over 400 workers, members of Local 8 of the Canadian Shoe Workers' Union, employed by the above tannery are reported on strike since 1st June. The employees claim they were locked out for refusing to work with a non-union employee. They are, however, also demanding higher pay and improvement in working conditions.

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(G) Employees of B. E. Harris Lumber Co. at Crooked  
River, Sask., Strike

Over 100 lumber workers employed by the above company at Crooked River, Sask., are reported out on strike for an increase in pay of seven and one-half cents an hour. A number of the employees are still working and the company is said to have asserted that it will refuse to negotiate or increase wage scales.

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5. [deletion:name] Appointed Political Commissar of Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion in Spain

[deletion:name] of Vancouver, B.C., who left for Spain some short while ago, has been appointed as Political Commissar of the 500 Canadian volunteers, known as the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion — now fighting in the ranks of the International Brigade in Spain. Before leaving for Spain, [deletion:name] was a leading member of the Provincial Committee of the Communist Party in British Columbia. His appointment was made by the [deletion:3-4 words] Communist Party of Canada.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

6. C.P. Not Surprised at Result of B.C. Election

The results of the Provincial election in British Columbia offered no surprise to the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of Canada, it is reported. Reverend Edwin Baker, only C.P. candidate running in the election, was expected to poll a heavier vote than the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation nominee, however, and A. M. Stephen was expected to win as an Independent in Nanaimo. Stephen received approximately 3,000 votes while Edwin Baker only received 549 votes. In considering the support received by Baker it must be borne in mind that this does not represent the actual strength of the C.P. in New Westminster. Baker has a large personal following and, according to reliable figures on hand, only about 100 Communists were eligible to vote in that riding. The failure of A. M. Stephen to win in the Nanaimo riding is attributed to the refusal of prominent C.C.F. leaders to take the platform for him although the C.C.F. had no official candidate in that constituency. Communists charge that the C.C.F. deliberately sabotaged A. M. Stephen. The vote of the Communist-supported Sam Shearer of 922 against Honourable F. M. McPherson's 2,990 in Cranbrook is looked upon as a gain. It was anticipated that Shearer would be very lucky to poll 500 votes. The bad showing made by the C.P. in this election is undoubtedly due to the attacks made upon certain C.C.F. candidates by the C.P., particularly in its organ The People's Advocate. This attack on the "Trotskyites" of the C.C.F. has been recognised by the leaders of the Party as a tactical error.

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The Workers' Alliance at Vancouver, which came into being about a year ago as a result of an Unemployed and Economic Conference sponsored jointly by the Communist Party and the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, is said to be making considerable progress, is increasing its membership rapidly and shows signs of becoming a factor in the near future. Its meetings held periodically at 49 West, 5th Avenue are well attended. It is [deletion:3-4 words] and there are at present five branches in Vancouver and district. Its purpose is to organise all

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married unemployed and all employed workers who have not become attached to any organisation.

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## II. ALBERTA

### 7. Edmonton City Organisation of C.P. Holds Conference

The Edmonton City Organisation of the C.P. of C. held a membership conference in the International Russian Hall on 30th May with approximately 100 members and delegates in attendance. During the forenoon session Jan Lakeman presented a report on the present political and economic situation. He maintained that high taxation, the rise of the price of commodities and the low standard of living will compel the working class to "move faster". His report urged unity between the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, Canadian Labour Party, trade unions, unemployed organisations, United Farmers of Alberta, Social Credit and the Communist Party of Canada, and to transform these forces into instruments of the struggle based on the common people's immediate needs. He also advocated the establishment of summer camps and short term courses for Party members.

A. Hogarth endorsed and elaborated on Lakeman's report stressing particularly the unity achievements in the Drumheller Valley. He also spoke on the general trend in world affairs claiming that a strong sentiment for unity is becoming crystallized throughout the world. After some discussion the reports submitted by Lakeman and Hogarth were adopted. During the afternoon session [deletion:1 word] presented a report on trade unionism; [deletion:2 words] reported on the women's question, [deletion:2 words] reported on the Young Communist League and the youth movement, and [deletion:2 words] presented the organisational report. The latter said that the Party had gained approximately 100 new members in the City of Edmonton during the last six months. Before adjournment Jan Lakeman announced that about 500 Canadian volunteers, 20 of whom were from the City of Edmonton,

are fighting in the ranks of the International Brigade in Spain. He suggested that the *delegates returning from the Montreal Youth Congress* should be utilised immediately upon their return with a view to advancing the youth movement.

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