
 ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 30th June, 1937.

SECRET

NO. 862

WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANISATIONS
AND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

A large shipment of gifts for the members of the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion is to leave Canada shortly. The cargo, consisting of cigarettes, soap, shaving material and other sundries worth about \$1,500 and weighing more than four tons, will be accompanied by A. E. Smith of Toronto, national secretary of the Canadian Labour Defence League, who will personally present the gifts to the Canadian volunteers in Spain.

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[1]

APPENDICESTable of ContentsAPPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

Paragraph No. 1. [deletion: 2 lines]

Most Pressing Problems of Party:—

- (a) Preventing Split in Labour Movement.
- (b) Formation of Labour Party.
- (c) Extension of Clarion Circulation.

“ ” 2. Notes on C.I.O. Activities:

David Dubinsky Addresses Montreal Dressmakers.
A.A.I.S.T.W. in Montreal Presents Demands to Cuthbert Co.
Balloting Among B.C. Lumber Workers Expected 100%
in Favour of C.I.O.

“ ” 3. Campaign in Aid of Spanish Loyalists

C.P. of C. Renews Recruiting for Spain
Applicants Are Medically Examined
Names of Personnel of Ambulance Staff not to be Made
Public

Communists Urge Demonstrations at German and Italian
Consulates

- “ ” 4. **Strikes and Industrial Unrest Throughout Canada:—**
 (A) Strike at No. 1B Mine, Glace Bay, N.S., Settled
 (B) Walkout of Machine Runners at Florence Colliery
 (N.S.) Causes Tie-Up
 (C) Strike at John B. Stetson Co. at Brockville, Ont.
 (D) Agreement Signed in Renfrew (Ont.) Textile Strike
 (E) Negotiations Started in A. R. Clarke Tannery
 (Toronto) Strike
 (F) Strike at Viceroy Rubber Co. Plant in West Toronto
 Reported Near Settlement
 (G) Steel Strike at Montreal
 (H) Textile Strike at Auburn Mills of Dominion Woollens
 & Worsted Co.
- “ ” 5. [~~deletion:1 line~~]

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

- “ ” 6. **BRITISH COLUMBIA**
 Workers' Alliance at Vancouver to Request Higher Relief
 Allowance
- “ ” 7. **ALBERTA**
 Edmonton Communists Give Farewell Party for A. Hogarth
 [~~deletion:1 word~~]
 Calgary Unemployed Hold Mass Meeting
- “ ” 8. **MANITOBA**
 Growth in Membership of C.P. of C. Claimed in Manitoba
 Winnipeg Unemployed Hold Well Attended Open Air Meetings

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[2]

APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

1 [~~deletion:2 lines~~]

[~~deletion:5 1/2 lines~~] Unity, in the political as well as in the economic sphere, was the most pressing problem confronting the Party today, he declared. Speaking of the activities of the Committee for Industrial Organisation in Canada, the main problem of the Party was to prevent at all costs a split taking place between the American Federation of Labor and the Committee for Industrial Organisation. The building of C.P. fractions within the trade unions is one of the important tasks laid down by the [~~deletion:2 words~~] he

declared. [§deletion:2 words] he said, considered it possible now to build a strong Labour Party with the support of trade unions even though the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation refused to co-operate. It has, therefore, been decided to commence organising Labour Parties in all cities around municipal issues. The Party, he said, feels confident that eventually the C.C.F. will be drawn into it. On the unemployed field the work of the C.P. has declined tremendously during the last few months, [§deletion:2 words] found. It was decided to revive and strengthen the unemployed movement and form unemployed federations wherever possible. The growth of the Daily Clarion, central organ of the party, is considered by the Communist International as the outstanding achievement of the Canadian C.P. The Communist International, he said, received with considerable surprise the decision of the Canadian Section to proceed with the establishment of the paper on a daily basis; C.I.O. leaders felt that the Canadian Party was not strong enough to carry through this task. While the party has been able to sustain the organ on a daily basis, its circulation however, particularly during the last month or so, has declined in a number of places. Therefore, [§deletion:2-3 words] has made it a primary task of all Party units to double the circulation before the next National Convention of the Party which is to take place during October

[3]

next. On The French paper Clarte an improvement can be noted, [§deletion:1 word] said, but its circulation is only 3,000 copies per issue and must be increased to at least 5,000 by October.

Tim Buck, [§deletion:2 words] was one of the first of the leaders of the Communist International to reach Spain to render assistance to the movement there. The formation of the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion is one of Tim Buck's achievements, he said. It will remain the Party's special task to continue recruiting volunteers for service in Spain and to strengthen the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion.

The forthcoming National Convention of the Party is to be a mass affair with representatives present from the Communist International and several of its sections, including the C.P. of France and the C.P. of Great Britain.

Speaking of the standing of the Party in the Province of Quebec, [§deletion:1 word] stated that its membership stood approximately 1,200 at present with about 1,000 members fully paid up.

[§deletion:1/2 line] presented a report dealing with the situation in the various language mass organisations stating that a number of their members have left Canada and are now in Spain fighting in the ranks of the International Brigade. He also stated that the section has been successful in setting up a Central Unemployed Association with an initial membership of 80, also a

small branch of French unemployed. He urged that the "house-to-house" sale of the Clarion must continue and its circulation expanded.

2. Notes on C.I.O. Activities

David Dubinsky of New York, general president of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and a leading member of the Committee for Industrial Organisation, speaking at a mass meeting of dress makers at Montreal, Que., on 21st June in the Mount Royal Arena advised the church — "priests and rabbis" — to stay out of trade union business. Referring to the accusation heard in local circles that Bernard Shane, Montreal general organiser, Rose Pesotta, international vice-president of the Dress Makers' Union, and himself were foreigners and Communists, Dubinsky said the agitation had been started by employers who were

[4]

foreigners themselves. "If improved wages, shorter hours and better conditions mean Communism", he said, "then let me have Communism". Congratulating the dress makers for their success in the recent strike, Dubinsky revealed that two agreements had been reached recently in the industry in Canada, one in Winnipeg calling for a 40-hour week and the other in Vancouver for a 44-hour week. He welcomed the Montreal dress makers to "the great army of organised labour". The meeting is said to have been attended by 3,000 dress makers.

About 100 employees of W. R. Cuthbert and Company at Montreal, members of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers of North America, a C.I.O. affiliate, voted on 21st June for a strike in the event of wage negotiations with the company are not concluded in a manner satisfactory to the union. The Negotiations Committee appointed by the union is asking for the return of two ten per cent wage cuts said to have been made since 1929 and a straight twenty per cent increase in pay for those not affected by the cuts. Recognition of the union is also being asked. The union claims ninety per cent of the firm's 110 workers as members.

Balloting is now in progress among members of the Lumber and Sawmill Workers' Union in British Columbia on the question of affiliation with the Committee for Industrial Organisation. Organisers of the union consider that the vote will be practically one hundred per cent in favour of affiliation.

3. Campaign in Aid of Spanish Loyalists

A renewed effort is being made by the Communist Party to enlist additional volunteers for service in Spain.

The Workers' Book Store, James St., Hamilton, Ont., is said to have been transformed into a recruiting agency of the C.P. of C. with P. Boychuk in charge. Eight applicants for service with the Loyalist forces in Spain have been accepted during the past week or so by this agency; they are now waiting for the necessary transportation and arrangements to be completed.

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[5]

recently been recruited at Edmonton, Alta. He is said to have been medically examined by [~~deletion:2-3 words~~] and is to travel on a Jugo-Slavian passport. This appears to be the first case on record where a volunteer has been required to undergo medical examination before being accepted.

It has been ascertained that the C.P. of C. will not publish the names of the personnel of the ambulance staff going to Spain for fear that it might endanger their chances of getting there; [~~deletion:3/4 line~~]

A committee of the "Friends of the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion" has been formed in Vancouver, B.C., with Becky Buhay Ewen (wife of the provincial secretary of the C.P. of Canada) as secretary; its purpose will be to raise funds in aid of the Canadian volunteers fighting in the ranks of the Loyalists in Spain.

The Toronto Council of the League Against War and Fascism recently cabled a resolution to the Right Honourable W. L. Mackenzie King at the Canadian Legation in Paris which read:

"Whereas Germany and Italy have abandoned pretence of neutrality and perpetrated acts of war against the Spanish government, we demand that the Canadian government immediately assume trade relations with the legitimate government of Spain and press at Geneva for economic sanctions against these nations".

The L.A.W. & F. also urges every "progressive" organisation in Canada to send similar cables to Mr. King.

Charging that Mussolini is calling for war against Britain and France and that thousands of foreign troops are being thrown into Spain to augment the fighting strength of Franco's armies, the Daily Clarion for 28th June editorially demands "democratic Canada must throw her weight on to the scale of peace and democracy at this fateful hour". "Into action, Canadians!" the editorial urges, "demonstrate at every German and Italian Consulate; flood Ottawa with

demands that Canada must do her duty to aid Spain in the League of Nations; inform Mr. King that his place is not in Berlin serving as a salesman for Canada's fifty big shots, or as 'negotiator' with Hitler for the reactionary Chamberlain Government".

Projecting himself into the role of spokesman for the Canadian people, Tim Buck, as the secretary of the C.P. of C., on 28th June dispatched a lengthy cable to the Right Honourable Mackenzie King warning him that Canada would not tolerate diplomacy and commitments encouraging Nazi aggression.

[6]

4. Strikes and Industrial Unrest Throughout Canada
(A) Strike at No. 1B Mine, Glace Bay (N.S.) Settled.

The strike of 1,100 miners at No. 1B Mine at Glace Bay, which started on 23rd June, was settled with the men deciding to return to work on the 28th. The strike, which was not recognised by the union, was in direct contravention of the existing contract.

(B) Walk Out of Machine Runners at Florence Colliery, N.S.,
Causes Tie-Up

As a result of the machine runners at the Nova Scotia Steel and Coal Company's Florence Colliery refusing to work on 27th June, more than 650 miners were kept out of the pit and the mine tied-up. The machine men, whose duty it is to prepare the walls for work, were demanding higher rates for Sunday tonnage. This is the third time within the last few months the machine runners refused to work and in consequence tied up the mine.

(C) Strike at John B. Stetson Co. at Brockville, Ont.

Approximately two-thirds of the employees of the John B. Stetson Company at Brockville are reported on strike. The strikers, members of the Hat Workers' Union, Local 74, of the United Hatters, Cap and Millinery Workers, submitted a series of demands which include a closed union shop, a five-day week of eight hours per day with time and a half for overtime, and a stipulated increase of existing wages. The company refuses to negotiate with the international representatives of the union.

(D) Agreement Signed in Renfrew (Ont.) Textile Strike

Striking employees of the Renfrew Textiles Limited resumed work on 25th June as a result of an agreement signed granting ten per cent wage increases.

(E) Negotiations Started in A. R. Clarke Tannery (Toronto) Strike

A committee of strikers and a representative of Toronto District Trades and Labour Council met the management on 28th June in their first negotiations since the walk out four weeks ago. An early settlement is anticipated.

[7]

(F) Strike at Viceroy Rubber Co. Plant in West Toronto Reported Near Settlement

Settlement of the strike at the Viceroy Rubber Co. Plant in West Toronto at an early date has been forecast.

(G) Steel Strike at Montreal, Que.

The first strike in Quebec Province of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers of America, an affiliate of the C.I.O., commenced on 29th June when about 100 employees of the plumbing supply manufacturing firm of W. R. Cuthbert at Montreal walked out in an attempt to enforce the demands of the union which include recognition of the A.A.I.S.T.W. as the sole bargaining agency for its members; recognition of the union shop principle; and restoration of two alleged ten per cent pay cuts in effect since 1929.

The Amalgamated Clothing Workers agreed to call a strike of the workers in the Freedman's Clothing Company which is owned by Cuthbert's unless union demands are met.

(H) Textile Strike at Auburn Mills of Dominion Woollens and Worsted Company

Approximately 350 employees of the Dominion Woollens and Worsted Company at Auburn near Peterboro, Ont., struck on 29th June demanding increases of twenty-five per cent for day shift workers and thirty-five per cent

for night shift employees. Company officials flatly refused to meet the demands.

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[8]

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

6. Workers' Alliance at Vancouver to Request Higher Relief Allowance

On 21st June a Committee of the Workers' Alliance at Vancouver met the City Social Service Committee requesting aid in placing before the Provincial Government the need for increased relief allowances. The committee particularly requested the city to assist in financing a delegation to Victoria to lay its claims before the Provincial Government. The Social Service Committee pointed out that advices from Ottawa indicated that relief allowances to cities would have to be curtailed and, therefore, it could not see what further assistance could be given. However, the City Committee promised it would take the matter up with the Government at an early date.

Though rapidly gaining in membership, the Workers' Alliance does not consider itself strong enough at present to take any drastic action in the way of demonstrations.

A similar delegation from the Relief Project Workers' Union also approached the City Social Service Committee requesting that they use their influence with the Provincial Government with a view to have work camps opened throughout the province. The delegation maintained that unless the camps are reopened the men would be forced to beg on the streets. The claim was made that some 2,000 destitute men were now roaming the province unable to secure work.

II. ALBERTA

7. Edmonton Communists Give Farewell Party for A. Hogarth

[~~deletion: 1 word~~]

The Provincial Executive Committee of the Communist Party at Edmonton recently gave a farewell party for A. Hogarth [~~deletion: 2 words~~] who had

been transferred, on instructions from Toronto, to Sudbury, Ont. J. Lakeman, speaking on behalf of the Provincial Committee, stated that the National Committee of the Party at its last meeting in Toronto had decided to transfer two comrades to a more strategic point and expressed the opinion that Comrade Hogarth was well qualified to meet the tasks

[9]

imposed on him by the Central Committee. Others taking part in the speech making praised Hogarth for his devotion to the revolutionary cause which he manifested while in Alberta. Among those present were Miss Margaret Crang, [~~deletion:3/4 line~~]

Calgary unemployed held a mass meeting in the Victoria Pavilion on the afternoon of 20th June with A. Champion acting as chairman. Corry Campbell, George Stark and C. Halischeff were the speakers. Corry Campbell spoke on and ridiculed the "work for wages programme" as enunciated by Alderman Southern. He suggested that the author of the programme, a member of the Labour Party, should be disciplined or expelled from the Party for his anti-working class stand in the matter. The meeting expressed the feeling that the Provincial Legislature should do something immediately to relieve conditions, particularly in the rural areas. The meeting elected a Committee of Action of 15 to draw up ways and means to organise the unemployed. The collection taken up at this meeting netted the sum of \$8.40.

III. MANITOBA

8. Growth in Membership of C.P. of C. Claimed in Manitoba

A recent survey of the Communist Party strength in the Manitoba district indicates an increase of approximately 150 members in the Province of Manitoba. The Party's strength in the City of Winnipeg is said to be 715 made up as follows. Anglo-Saxon 120, Ukrainian and Russian 300, Hungarian 41, Scandinavian 30, German 34, Polish 90, Jewish 100.

Ward 3 Unemployed Association at Winnipeg, Man., held a well attended mass meeting at the Exhibition Grounds on the evening of 20th June. There were at least 1,500 people present and the speakers included L. St. G. Stubbs, Alderman Jacob Penner, M. Sago, secretary of the Manitoba Unemployed Conference, P. Arsen and John Boychuk. The speakers pointed out the urgent

need for organisation and agitation. Mr. Stubbs maintained that political democracy without economic democracy is a mere shadow without a body. "Your leaders", he said, "without your support will not be able to do a thing; you must unite and demonstrate your

[10]

solidarity; don't wait, improvement will not come from above, there is no prosperity around the corner and the machine will continue to displace man power as long as this system lasts, until the machine becomes the property of the people". He urged his listeners to forget their religious and other differences and unite on the issues confronting the "common people". He reminded them that their emancipation must come from themselves.

Approximately 2,000 people attended a meeting held under the auspices of the Manitoba Conference of Unemployed in the Market Square at Winnipeg on 29th June. The meeting, called to discuss the local relief situation, was addressed by Mitchie Sago, secretary of the conference, ex-Alderman V. B. Anderson, of the Independent Labour Party, Grant McLeod, president of the Trades and Labour Council, Alderman Jacob Penner and James Litterick, M.L.A. Sago dealt at great length with the development subsequent to the announcement by the bank that no more loans would be given to the city for relief. He contended that the struggle has just begun and urged his listeners, employed as well as unemployed, to rally in protest against the proposed relief policy and not to allow the children of the unemployed "to go hungry after July 20th". He promised the authorities plenty of trouble "if it is trouble they want".

Ex-Alderman Anderson, who hitherto has not been known to associate himself with this movement, assured the meeting of the support from the Independent Labour Party.

Grant McLeod briefly urged the workers to organise regardless of political, religious or racial affiliations.

Alderman Penner discussed the financial position of the city and the Relief Work Projects demanding full pay for the work performed by the unemployed. He also urged the unemployed to organise as the only possible means of counteracting the move of the city authorities.

James Litterick spoke on the situation in Ontario and Quebec and, although admitting that the scale of relief is somewhat higher in the West than in the East, the people of Winnipeg should continue the struggle for more adequate and higher relief grants. On behalf of the C.P. he appealed for organisation,

unity and action. "We can force the Government to take the responsibility", he said, "and by force I mean real force".
