

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 28th July, 1937.

SECRETNO. 865WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANISATIONS
AND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

According to a statement released by the Friends of the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion head office at Toronto, Ont., six more volunteers from Canada have been killed while fighting with Loyalist forces in Spain. They are: Clare Leige, Walter Bohmer and Gabriel Szysz of Toronto; Francois Morin, Quebec City; Michael Chodur, Port Colborne; and Alex Romanchuk of Montreal. Tom Cacic, one of the eight Communist Party leaders convicted under Section 98, C.C.C., at Toronto in 1931 and subsequently deported from Canada, who served as Political Commissar with the Dimitroff Battalion of the International Brigade, has also been killed, it is said.

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[New page — no number]

APPENDICESTable of ContentsAPPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

- Paragraph No. 1. Campaign in Aid of Spanish Loyalists
 Dr. Bethune Enthusiastically Received at Winnipeg
 Addresses Well Attended Meeting in Walker Theatre
 Collection Nets Over \$1,800
 Addressing Banquet Given in His Honour, Bethune Admits
 Being a Communist and Eulogizes
 Regime in Soviet Union
 Groups of Volunteers Leave Toronto, Ont., for Spain
 Every Thursday
- “ 2. Communists in Saskatchewan Hold Provincial Conference
 Reports Disclose C.P. Membership in Province 1,257
 Resolve to Concentrate on Drought-Stricken Area
 New District (Provincial) Bureau and Committee

- Elected, Also 24 Delegates to Represent Province at Forthcoming National Convention of Party
- “ ” 3. C.P. for Southern & Eastern Ontario in Conference at Toronto
 Stewart Smith Gives Main Report Outlining Party's Policy for Future
 Claims C.I.O. Tending to Produce Political Consciousness of Working Class
 J. B. Salsberg Speaks on Formation of Canadian Textile Union
 Financial Report Shows \$2,000 Deficit
 Party Makes Good Progress in Trade Unions
- “ ” 4. Notes on C.I.O. Activities
 I.L.A. on Pacific Coast to Apply for C.I.O. Charter
 A.A. of I.S.T.W. Formed in New Glasgow, N.S.
- “ ” 5. Strikes & Industrial Unrest Throughout Canada —
 (A) Steel Strike at Montreal Settled
 (B) Strike at J. B. Stetson Co. at Brockville, Ont.
 (C) Textile Workers Strike at Cornwall, Ont.
 (D) Textile Strike at Peterboro, Ont.

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

- “ ” 6. MANITOBA
 Winnipeg Unemployed Hold Mass Meeting
- “ ” 7. ONTARIO
 J. W. Buckley Lauds Conditions in U.S.S.R. at Toronto
 [✂deletion: 1 line]
- “ ” 8. QUEBEC
 Montreal Communists to Organise Milk Delivery Men
 [✂deletion: 1 line]

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[1]

APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

I. Campaign in Aid of Spanish Loyalists

Dr. Norman Bethune, after a tour of Northern and Western Ontario, arrived in Winnipeg, Man., on the morning of 19th July and was greeted by over 500 Communists who had gathered at the railway depot to welcome him to that

city. He was met at the train by the Hon. E. J. MacMurray, Chairman of the local Committee in Aid of Spanish Democracy, L. St. G. Stubbs, Marshall J. Gauvin and others and was carried through the rotunda amidst deafening cheers with his fist tightly clenched in the Communist salute.

During the afternoon Bethune attended a session of the annual convention of the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association at the Ukrainian Labour Temple and thanked the organisation for its work in aid of the Spanish Loyalists' cause.

In the evening Bethune was the principal speaker at a huge mass meeting at the Walker Theatre. The theatre was packed to capacity with the Hon. E. J. MacMurray acting as Chairman. L. St. G. Stubbs eulogised Dr. Bethune and his work as leader of the Blood Transfusion Unit in Spain. He vehemently denounced the great European powers, particularly Great Britain, for their attitude towards the Spanish conflict and remarked that Karl Marx was right when he said that class interests over-ride every other consideration. Stubbs called for unity of the working class and emphasized that emancipation of the working class must come from the workers themselves.

Marshall Gauvin, who preceded Dr. Bethune, briefly reviewed the history and events leading up to the present Spanish conflict, describing in a very compassionate manner the conditions of the workers and peasants of Spain under the previous regime.

Dr. Bethune, when called upon to speak, was given a great ovation to which he replied with the Communist salute. After reviewing the history of his career as a doctor in Canada, he related how he became connected with his present mission. He also bitterly denounced Great Britain for what he termed her pro-Fascist attitude. "Madrid will never be taken, never, never," he asserted. In conclusion he appealed for unity of the Canadian working class and called upon all clerks and office workers to organise.

[2]

The collection taken at this meeting netted over \$1,800. This included a cheque for \$1,000 from Kanadsky Gudok, a cheque from the Doukhobors for \$200, and \$50 from the Workers' Benevolent Association; other donations ranged from \$1 to \$10.

At a banquet given in his honour at the St. Charles Hotel on the night of 20th July, which was attended by approximately 100 persons prominent in the radical movement of that city, Norman Bethune is reported to have said: "I have the honour to be a Communist". Describing his conversion he told how, two years ago, he had visited London, England, and seen "women and children starving in the slums" and then gone to Moscow and found there the healthiest women and children he had ever seen. "I didn't care then," he continued, "what

the system was called but I knew that what we wanted was the thing those Russians had got." Speaking of the Spanish conflict he said: "The men who are fighting in the Government forces in Spain are fighting for you just as much as did the men in the Great War; it is a better thing to fight for democracy than to fight for your King and country." "Canada's time of agony," he declared, "has not come yet but it will come. Do not despair if the bourgeois class will not co-operate with you. When the clash comes they will melt like snow." Short speeches, mostly eulogising Bethune's effort in Spain, were given by Marshall Gauvin, Mrs. Gloria Queen-Hughes, the Hon. E. J. MacMurray, K.C., (Chairman), J. A. Cherniack, Chairman of the Jewish League Against Fascism and Anti-Semitism, who referred to Dr. Bethune as "an angel of life", Dr. S. J. Johannesson who regretted that the doctors of Winnipeg had not come together to honour such a distinguished pioneer of the medical profession, Alderman M. J. Forkin, Madeline Govan, Steve Hansen, M. Popovich, who conveyed the greetings of the National Convention of the U.L.F.T.A. then in session at Winnipeg, and Mrs. E. Scott who proposed a minute's silence for James Bayden of Winnipeg just killed in action in Spain. Mrs. M. (Lil) Popovich entertained the gathering by singing several Russian gypsy songs and folk songs.

Groups of volunteers for service with the Loyalist forces in Spain are said to be leaving Toronto every Thursday for Montreal where they embark for Europe and Spain. They are being provided with transportation in an office situated on the third floor of 441 Queen St., West,

[3]

Toronto, Ont., between the hours of 3.00 and 6.30 p.m. on Thursday afternoons.

2. Communists in Saskatchewan Hold Provincial Convention

The Communist Party in Saskatchewan, known as District No. 10, held a Provincial Convention in Regina from 2nd to 5th July with representatives present from about 140 units throughout the province. There were also present James Litterick, M.L.A., representing Manitoba, Jan Lakeman of Alberta, Annie Buller, representing the Clarion, and Leslie Morris of the Central Committee of the Party.

Reports submitted at this convention disclosed that the Saskatchewan district has a membership of 1,257 [~~3~~deletion:1 line] It was reported that many letters had been received by the District Bureau from farmers in the

drought-stricken area applying for membership in the Party. The number of such applications was not given, however, but it was intimated that the applicants include, in addition to people engaged in farming, small store keepers and others usually referred to by the Communists as petty bourgeoisie. A matter receiving considerable attention by the convention was the question of relief for the farmers in the drought-stricken area. The convention decided to utilise the plight of the drought-stricken farmers for propaganda purposes. A delegation was elected to interview the Provincial Government to press for immediate steps to be taken to relieve the sufferings of those affected by the drought.

The convention went on record as being opposed to the proposed consumers' tax; it resolved: —

“Whereas we further believe that in order to meet its budget requirements, and at the same time to initiate a general program of rehabilitation for our province, our Government should declare a moratorium on the provincial debt; THEREFORE be it resolved that this Saskatchewan Convention of the Communist Party of Canada go on record vigorously protesting the proposed Consumers' Tax, and requesting that the Government postpone the application of it until the next session of the legislature, when means more equitable and just might be found to secure the necessary finances”.

The most important decision of the convention may be summarised as follows: —

- (a) To concentrate on the drought area with a view to forming a united front of farmer-labour.
- (b) To bring pressure to bear on the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation for the formation of such a united front.

[4]

- (c) To strengthen the Communist Party in the drought area.
- (d) To build up and strengthen the units of the Party in all the constituencies.
- (e) To increase the circulation of the Clarion.

Saskatoon has been selected as one of the main points of concentration and with this end in view the convention decided to transfer [~~3~~deletion:1 1/4 line] The convention further decreed that Young Communist League fractions must be established in all youth organisations including young Liberals, young Conservatives and Catholic youth organisations.

The District Bureau for the coming year was elected as follows:

[~~3~~deletion:3 lines]

The new District Committee elected by the convention consists

[~~3~~deletion:4 1/2 lines]

A Farm Commission was set up composed of: [~~3/4~~ 1 1/4 lines]

A number of other committees were also appointed including the Aid to Spain Committee, consisting of [~~3/4~~ lines]

The convention elected 24 delegates to the National Convention of the Party which is to convene in Toronto on 9th October.

3. C.P. for Southern & Eastern Ontario in Conference at Toronto

A conference of the Communist Party of Southern and Eastern Ontario was held at 660 College St., Toronto, on 10th and 11th July, with delegates in attendance from Toronto, Hamilton, Kitchener, Niagara Falls, Oshawa, Ottawa, Windsor and Peterboro. Stewart Smith gave a lengthy report which centered mainly around three questions: (1) changes in the political situation; (2) Farmer-Labour Party; and (3) building the C.P. Smith stated that the main problem confronting the C.P. was the "fight

[5]

against reaction"; that the main danger which the Party faces was the possibility of a coalition of the "Hepburn and Tory" forces in Ontario. He maintained that large sections of the Conservative Party were ardently supporting the policies of Hepburn. Hepburn, he said, is making clever bids for the support of backward sections of the working class and farmers and was meeting with considerable support. "Developments in this direction, which were being accelerated by the drive to stop the growth of the Committee for Industrial Organisation movement, were giving the various groupings a class character," he said. The C.P., he declared, must do everything in its power to assist the Liberal groupings striving for a break with Hepburn's policies. Smith suggested that all branches of the C.P. take measures to contact Liberal constituency leaders, the membership of Liberal organisations and Liberal M.P.P.'s and have them won over to an anti-Hepburn policy. This strategy, he said, might weaken the base of Hepburn's grouping and would undoubtedly bring wavering Liberal elements closer to progressive political action. The fact, he said, that Roebuck and Croll had broken their silence and were now making approaches towards progressive political action must be viewed with satisfaction by the C.P.; the Party must aid such developments wherever they should manifest themselves. The C.P., he declared, could not approach the Farmer-Labour Party (the Canadian version of the People's Front) as previously contemplated. The C.C.F. (which, according to a previous formula, was to provide the basis for a Farmer-Labour Party) could not be used for that purpose in Ontario as the C.C.F. now is resisting the development of the Labour

Representation Association in Toronto and is also refusing to recognise the need for winning over Left Liberal elements for progressive political action. The C.C.F.'s attitude has to be broken down, Smith declared, and this would require that the C.P. cease to neglect the C.C.F. and begin concentration work to smash through the policies of the C.C.F. leadership. The C.P., he said, must work to bring about an alliance of Left Liberals, C.C.F. and the trade union movement for progressive political action as part of the Canadian pattern of the People's Front. Ideas that the C.P. plus the C.C.F., plus the trade union movement was the People's Front had to be done away with as it was only resulting in the neglect of the Liberals and sections of the lower Conservative organisations, Smith declared. Whether or not a definite

[6]

coalition could be achieved of all progressive forces would depend on the work of the C.P. The building of the C.I.O. unions, he said, was one of the main methods of bringing forth a political consciousness of the working class and the C.P., therefore, must whole-heartedly support and lead the C.I.O. unions. Attempts to deny Communist affiliation on the part of the C.I.O. union leaders who are C.P. members was only playing into the hands of the "red baiters" and could only make things more difficult for the C.P., Smith stated. He admitted, however, that Alec Welch [deletion:2 1/4 lines] of which he was the head. This, he said, was also true of Arthur Laverty, of the Cornwall Textile Union, [deletion:3-4 words] The C.P. leadership, Smith alleged, had done good work in building the union in the various localities but had neglected to build and strengthen the C.P. within some of the locals.

J. B. Salsberg led the discussion on trade union work raising the question of building a Canadian Textile Union. He stated that Hillman, of the United Textile Workers of America, refused to give the assistance of his union to Canada as they were under too much pressure in the U.S.A. This action of Hillman's had angered sections of the Canadian textile workers who had expected that the C.I.O. would give aid in organising Canadian textiles. Salsberg further maintained that the leadership of the Canadian affiliate to the C.I.O. was weak and inexperienced which led to further aggravation of the situation. Sentiment for a Canadian union affiliated to the Trades and Labour Congress was prevalent and this was what the C.P. would try to carry through if P. M. Draper at Ottawa could be convinced of the need for this and consent to issue a charter. Arthur Laverty was popular with Draper and would be visiting him prior to the conference on textile which the C.P. had initiated through its contacts in the textile unions. If agreement could be reached with Draper, then a new union would be formed and steps would be taken to initiate a drive to organise Canadian textiles. This, Salsberg said, would kill in the bud

any attempt of the American Federation of Labor groups under William Green to organise Canadian textiles and would also stop the All-Canadian Congress of Labour from doing likewise. Discussion on Salsberg's report showed complete agreement with the proposal for a Canadian Textile Union.

[7]

M. Cohen delivered the financial report for the District Bureau which showed a total income for the past year of \$16,000 and a deficit of approximately \$2,000 at the end of the year. He urged that the sections improve their own finances as the deficit was caused mainly as a result of assisting the sections.

O. C. Doolan, reporting on the financial position of the Daily Clarion, stated that the situation was so bad that the future of the paper was actually threatened. He proposed that brigades be formed in each section to boost the sale and circulation of the Clarion.

The conference revealed that the C.P. is making considerable headway in the trade union movement, that its membership is well entrenched in the unions and is influencing the course of events in the trade union field.

4. Notes on C.I.O. Activities

According to a statement made in Seattle on the 20th instant, Matt Meehan, Secretary-Treasurer of the Pacific Coast district of the International Longshoremen's Association, the I.L.A. will apply to the C.I.O. for a charter on 31st July. This action is a result of a decision handed out by the Executive Board in Seattle on 18th July after a meeting which Harry Bridges, notorious Communist and C.I.O. Organiser operating on the Pacific Coast, attended. This decision will affect some 30,000 longshoremen from Mexico to Canada on the Pacific Coast, it is said.

It is not known at this time what effect this will have on the waterfront situation in Vancouver. It is known, however, that a personal canvass amongst the longshoremen now working on Vancouver's waterfront is to be made as a preparatory measure before the Maritime Federation organisers are imported. Names and addresses of men working are being listed by the Editor of the Waterfront Organiser, Ivan Emery.

A recent report from New Glasgow, N.S., states that a local of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers of America, a C.I.O. affiliate, has been formed in New Glasgow embracing approximately two-thirds of the employees of the J.W. Cumming Manufacturing Co. Ltd. As soon

as organisation has been completed, an application for check-off of union dues is to be made.

[8]

5. Strikes & Industrial Unrest Throughout Canada
(A) Steel Strike at Montreal, Que., Settled

The first strike conducted by the C.I.O. in the steel industry in Montreal waged for 23 days in the plant of W.R. Cuthbert & Company, plumbing supplies manufacturers, terminated on 21st July. In announcing the end of the strike Lucien Dufour, head of the Montreal local of the A.A.I.S.T.W., emphasized that it was not a defeat for the C.I.O. affiliate since the walkout had been declared only on spontaneous decision of the Cuthbert employees and against the desires of international headquarters. It was a case, he said, of complying with the men's wishes or losing them as members of the International Trade Union Movement. The strike apparently was settled without any of the demands of the strikers having been met which included recognition of the union as the sole bargaining agency for its members and rescinding of two alleged pay cuts instituted since 1929 with a 20% increase to those workers not affected by the reductions.

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

The strike of 250 employees of the John B. Stetson Co. at Brockville, now in its fifth week, continues unchanged.

(C) Textile Workers Strike at Cornwall, Ont.

Demanding union recognition and a 20% increase in wages, approximately 1,700 textile workers came out on strike on 20th July causing a tie-up at the three mills of the Canadian Cottons Ltd. at Cornwall, Ont. Although the plants have been picketed, the strikers are conducting themselves in a very orderly manner.

(D) Textile Strike at Peterboro, Ont.

Peace proposals made by officials of the Dominion Woolens and Worsteds Company are said to have been rejected by the strikers; the strike continues.

[9]

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. MANITOBA

6. Winnipeg Unemployed Hold Mass Meeting

Approximately 1,500 people attended a mass meeting sponsored by the Manitoba Conference of Unemployed in the Market Square at Winnipeg on the evening of 20th July and listened to speeches centering around the proposed relief cut that was to take effect on that day. The speakers were Mitchie Sago, Jack Clancy, Jacob Penner, Jim Litterick and L. G. Stubbs. They all contended that while it was good news that the Provincial Government was going to continue the relief, the arrangement was only good until January, 1938. They all contended that the matter of unemployed relief and unemployment generally will never be solved satisfactorily until the Federal Government assumes the entire responsibility for it. The speakers urged the workers to continue to organise so that they may be in a position to more effectively counteract any move calculated to do away with relief grants.

II. ONTARIO

7. J.W. Buckley Lauds Conditions in U.S.S.R. at Toronto

John W. Buckley, one of the Canadian delegates attending this year's May Day celebration in Moscow and who subsequently toured the Soviet Union as the guest of the trade unions of that country, addressed a public meeting in Queens Park, Toronto, on 23rd July. The meeting, held under the auspices of the Toronto District Trades & Labour Council, was poorly attended. Sam Lawrence, M.L.A., acted as Chairman, and short speeches were also given by George Watson, President of the T. & L.C., and Fred Collins. Watson, in a brief speech, condemned Capitalism and, among other things, said that the workers of Canada should be ashamed of themselves as the workers in New Zealand, Australia, Sweden and other countries live under far better conditions owing to Socialistic and Democratic Gov'ts. which they created. He took up the question of the Ontario Provincial elections and, after having condemned Premier Hepburn and his whole administration, appealed to the workers to put aside the differences and go to the polls in the next election as a united front voting in a new Government.

[10]

Buckley, in a lengthy speech, related his experiences in the Soviet Union depicting that country as a paradise industrially and economically. He also condemned Capitalism and appealed for a united front in the next Provincial election.

[~~deletion:5-6 lines~~]

III. QUEBEC

8. Montreal Communists to Organise Milk Delivery Men

[~~deletion:1 3/4 lines~~] reported to the approximately 450 unorganised milk drivers, most of whom are employed in the Guaranteed Pure Milk Co., were anxious to form a union affiliated to the A.F. of L. Following a brief discussion, it was decided to appoint [~~deletion:4-5 words~~] of the Milk Drivers' Union at a salary of \$15 per week. [~~deletion:1 word~~] further reported that the Catholic Syndicate Union has been making considerable inroads into the textile industry and that the situation was becoming quite serious. After a lengthy discussion it was decided that [~~deletion:2 words~~] be released from all Y.C.L. activity so that he may give his entire attention to the organisation of textile workers.

[~~deletion:2 words~~] reported on the steel strike at Cuthbert's manufacturing plant. The union (Amalgamated Assoc. of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers of North America) which is conducting the strike has at present a local dues-paying membership of slightly over 500, he said. He stated that the C.I.O. office had agreed to cancel all dues payments from the Montreal office for the next two months. This, he said, was the best they could do to help the local union in the present strike. (The strike has since terminated, resulting in a defeat for the union.)
