

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 25th August, 1937.

SECRETNO. 868WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANISATIONS
AND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

At a meeting of the National Committee of the Canadian League Against War and Fascism held in Toronto, Ont., recently it was decided to change the League's name to "Canadian League for Peace and Democracy".

Jock McNeil and M. Sago have been selected as Communist Party candidates for the Winnipeg (Man.) City Council and School Board, respectively. Their nomination took place at a recent C.P. meeting in Ward 2.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

1. The Communist Summer Camps (A) Camp "Nitgedieget" (No Worry), Shawbridge, Que.

The summer camp "Nitgedieget" conducted by the Canadian Workmen's Circle [~~deletion: 1 word~~] at Shawbridge, Que., is having a very successful season this year, it is reported. It has accommodation for approximately 225 guests who pay a weekly rate of \$11.00. During week-ends over 400 guests are being accommodated. Twice weekly lectures of a radical character are given by speakers from Montreal and on Sundays entertainments take place,

the proceeds of which go to the [deletion:2-3 words] Left Wing movement. Built at a cost of approximately \$17,000 the camp is now practically paid for and new buildings are being erected with a view to accommodating 50 more guests. Up to last year the majority of the guests were either members of Communist organisations or sympathisers. This year many non-Communist guests are patronising the camp.

The functionaries in charge of the camp are all trusted C.P. members: [deletion:3/4 line] until recently local Manager of Der Kampf at Montreal, [deletion:3-4 words] who had been imported for this particular position.

The children's camp, which adjoins camp "Nitgedieget", accommodates approximately 85 children who pay a weekly fee from \$2.50 to \$4.00. The children spend usually two weeks which means that approximately 425 children pass through the camp during the season. They receive elementary schooling in Marxism through the medium of revolutionary plays, songs, etc. On Sunday afternoon the children usually present some concert or play in the adult camp. The camp is run by the Women's Section of the Workmen's Circle; only Jewish children are admitted. It is said that it has been operating at a financial loss.

(B) International Children's Camp at Val David, Que.

Conducted along similar lines as the one at Shawbridge, this camp is operated by the International Women's Committee of Montreal with Miss Popovich — daughter of Matthew Popovich — in charge. It accommodates 48 children of various nationalities including Ukrainians, Finns and a sprinkling of French-Canadians, all of whom are children of C.P. members and Communist sympathisers.

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(C) Camp "Naivelt" (New World) at Eldorado Park,
Brampton, Ont.

The summer camp "Naivelt" (New World), conducted by the [deletion:2-3 words] Jewish Labour League of Toronto, at Eldorado Park, near Brampton, is said to be remarkably well attended this year. The camp, organised only two years ago, is the property of the said Labour League, having been purchased by it with money collected for that purpose. It has two sets of management; one has charge of the property and equipment and the other supervises the "Cultural" activities of the camp. The Chairman of the committee in control of the property is [deletion:1 1/2 lines] The "Cultural"

Committee is headed by [Xdeletion:1/2 line] and the "Cultural" director is [Xdeletion:1/2 line] of the school conducted by the Liberty Temple (Jewish) in Winnipeg, Man. The latter was brought from Winnipeg especially for that purpose. Like the one at Shawbridge, Que., it has an adult and a children's section. The latter is known as "Kindervelt" (Children's World). Five hundred children are being accommodated and five hundred adults. The director of the children's camp is one [Xdeletion:1 word]

Approaching the camp, the first thing one observes is a huge figure carved in wood representing a man and a woman holding a sickle and a hammer, the C.P. emblem. There is a pavilion with a stage wherein revolutionary plays and lectures are given to both adults and children. There are also streets in the camp which bear names such as "Lenin Street," "Red October Street", etc.

(D) Finnish Camp at Woodbridge, Ont.

The Finnish Organisation of Canada, [Xdeletion:3/4 line] is conducting several summer camps throughout Canada, most important among them being the one at Woodbridge. Easily accessible from Toronto, it is being used by various Communist Party controlled organisations for picnics, etc. Although "Cultural" activity is a major phase of this camp, considerable attention is given to the promotion of sports and general recreation.

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(E) C.P. Summer School Sylvan Lake, Alta.

Each summer the Communist Party, Alberta District, is operating a small camp and school for children at Sylvan Lake, west of Red Deer, Alta. While its inmates are mostly children of C.P. members and sympathisers from Edmonton and Calgary its main financial support comes from the Finnish settlers of that area. This year, due to financial difficulties, the camp was open for only two weeks and its attendance was below the average.

2. The Campaign in Aid to Spain

Secret recruiting for the Loyalist forces in Spain by the Communist Party of Canada continues. Ten volunteers, mostly Hungarians, are said to have left Lethbridge, Alta., on 21st August for Toronto, Ont., en route to Spain and several men at Regina, Sask., are awaiting transportation to Toronto for the same purpose.

The Communist organ Daily Clarion for 21st August features photographs of the two ambulances and crews now on the high sea en route to Spain. The personnel accompanying the ambulances consist of: E. B. Rose, [~~3/4~~ line] Victor Himmelfarb, of Toronto, [~~1/2~~ line]; Gadeon Menard, French-Canadian auto mechanic of Montreal; and Thomas Patrick Sims, a miner from British Columbia. The ambulances were purchased in New York City.

An item published along with the photographs includes a statement by Tim Buck, General Secretary of the C.P. of C., in which he — in the name of the Central Committee and on behalf of the members of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion — expresses thanks to all contributors in the last Aid to Spain Week campaign: —

“To us”, Buck declares, “who remain to carry forward the struggle at home, the ambulances are one more of the links which make us a part of the world-wide upsurge of democratic forces determined to make the gates of Madrid the tomb of Fascism; the war is not yet over and our work remains. The People’s Army, of which our boys are a proud part, WILL PASS. The Central Committee of our Party thanks you all sincerely for your help in making their victories sure”.

The Young Communist League at Vancouver, B.C., staged a demonstration in front of the Italian Consulate, 207 West Hastings Street,

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on August 14th. Three men accompanied by three young women, each carrying placards, marched up and down the sidewalk in front of the Consulate while other members of the league distributed leaflets to the passing people. The leaflets informed the readers that the Italian Consulate was being picketed as a protest against Italy’s part in the Spanish conflict. One of the leaflets contained the following statement: —

“For one year the civilized world has witnessed a most horrible destruction of human life in war-torn Spain.

“The means of modern warfare have been brought to play upon a peaceful and democratic nation.

“We, the delegates who represent the awakened conscience of the young people of Canada, raise our voice with those the world over, condemning the actions of the Italian and German Governments for their invasion of peaceful Spain and demand that your Vice-Consulate Office, as the official

representative of the Italian Government, undertake the following measures: —

“That you immediately send a message to your Government embodying the following demands of the youth of Vancouver:

“(a) That the Italian Government immediately stop the butchering of helpless men, women and children by withdrawing their troops from the shores of Spain.

“(b) That the Italian fleet be immediately removed from Spanish waters in view of the fact that they have been withdrawn from the system of control and can have no rights in the waters of a foreign state unless to be used for war purposes”.

The picketing was kept up for approximately 30 minutes during which time some 3,000 people collected in the vicinity almost completely blocking that part of the street. As the crowd became heavier, Vancouver City Police intervened and began to disperse the crowd. A delegation that had entered the building was unsuccessful in its attempt to interview the Italian Consul and to present to him the “Protest”. Four individuals were arrested, one of them being Morris Rush, Y.C.L. leader, on charges of obstruction.

At a meeting of the Edmonton Council of the Canadian League Against War and Fascism on 15th August it was decided to send a resolution to the Prime Minister of Canada protesting the passing of the Order-in-Council in respect of the Foreign Enlistment Act. The resolution is to be presented for endorsement at the next Delegate Conference of the League. It was further agreed that all affiliated organisations be requested to take a similar step.

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The Trotskyist inspired Friends of Workers' Spain at Montreal is now holding an exhibition of Spanish posters and paintings in Strathcona Hall in an endeavour to emphasize the strength and unity of the force behind the Madrid-Valencia Government. The exhibition includes many paintings and photographs depicting the cruelties and atrocities allegedly committed by Franco's Force.

3. The World Congress for Jewish Culture

The Communists have issued a call for a World Congress for Jewish Culture to be held in Paris, France, commencing 17th September. The call is also endorsed by a number of noted Jewish writers who are sympathetic to the movement. In calling this Congress the Communists have appealed to the need of a co-operative effort to reorganise Jewish culture; they are using the same tactics as applied to the building of other United Front organisations [deletion: 1 line] In other words, it is an old trick of the C.P. to use so-called non-partisans for a false front.

Recent developments in Palestine, culminating in the report of the Royal Commission recommending the division of Palestine, appear to be responsible for this move on the part of the Communists who are now trying to advance under cover of this democratic smoke-screen. Hitherto the position of the Communist International and its affiliated sections has been one of hostile opposition to the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine and the situation in Palestine has been usually referred to in the Communist press as a problem of the Arabian people's fight against British Imperialism. This policy appears to have been changed or modified recently, for, George Dimitroff, chief of the Comintern, has now decreed that the Jewish masses are justified in their aspirations for a Jewish state in Palestine.

Dr. S. Margoshes, writing in The Day, national Jewish daily published in New York, for 16th August summarises the proposed Congress for Jewish Culture as follows: —

“The crucial question in connection with the Jewish Cultural Congress is who are its sponsors and conveners? For Jewish culture cannot be created in a void. It is to be organised and co-ordinated, those organisations already in the field must be ready to co-operate in the endeavour. In the U.S. we have a number of such organisations — the Jewish Writers' Union, the Yiddish Scientific Institute, the Culture Gezelshaft, the Educational Departments of the Jewish Workmen's Circle and of the

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Jewish National Labour Alliance, to cite only a few, though the most outstanding. Of these not a single one has accepted the call of the Communists. There must be a good reason for the failure to respond.

“The reason is simple. Jewish culture is rooted in Jewish tradition, and no true friend of Jewish culture can possibly make common cause with Jewish Communists who are the inveterate foes of Jewish tradition. Regardless of what the Jewish Communists may say now of their friendship for the Jewish people, no one who has watched Jewish Communist activities in the past few years, can have the slightest particle of faith in their

honeyed words. For years the Jewish Communists have been ridiculing and abominating every Jewish cultural value antedating the October Revolution; for them Jewish history started with the rise of the Soviet power. Hebrew has been suppressed in the Soviet Union and there are still, today, thousands of Jewish martyrs languishing in the wastelands of Siberia for the crime of disseminating Hebrew culture. The role of the Jewish Communists as attackers and wreckers of the Jewish National Home in Palestine is too fresh in memory to require much elaboration. At the outbreak of the Arab riots in 1929 Jewish Communists, both in Palestine and in the U.S., openly sided with the Arabs against the Jews and incited to further bloodshed. In 1936 Jewish Communist proclamations called for the arming of the Arabs and the disarming of Jews and for the complete stoppage of Jewish immigration into Palestine”.

4. Notes on the C.I.O.

Speaking before the General Mining Committee of the United Mine Workers of America at Hazelton Park on 18th August, Lieut.-Governor Thomas Kennedy — one of the leaders of the Committee for Industrial Organisation — predicted that the C.I.O. will have a membership of 4,000,000 by 1st September. The C.I.O. is said to have a membership of 3,250,000, having already surpassed that of the American Federation of Labor.

The United Brotherhood of Carpenters & Joiners of America has ordered members of all its local unions in Canada and the U.S.A. to refuse to work with materials furnished by unions affiliated with the C.I.O. It has been charged that the C.I.O. has invaded the jurisdiction of the Brotherhood; further, that C.I.O. Organisers have been active among mill and factory workers and that they were attempting to induce local unions of the Brotherhood to swing away from the A.F. of L. and join the C.I.O.

An attempt on the part of the Moderates, led by the delegates of the local union of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, in the Winnipeg Trades & Labour Council in meeting assembled on 17th Aug., to have the official delegate of the Council vote at the forthcoming meeting of the Canadian Trades & Labour Congress against any suggestion support-

ing the C.I.O. was defeated by the Communists after a heated discussion. Robert Lawrie, local Organiser for the C.I.O. at St. Catharines, Ont., made the statement recently that the workers of the four largest dairies in that city are almost 100% organised into the C.I.O. union and will soon present their demands to the companies.

5. The Communists and the Canadian Trades & Labour Congress

Stressing the importance of the forthcoming meeting of the Trades & Labour Congress of Canada, a letter from the National Bureau of the Young Communist League of Canada to all its District Committees, under date of 29th July last, instructs that: —

- (a) Resolutions dealing with the Youth Congress, reaffirming support on the part of the Trades & Labour Congress and the unity of French and English Canadian youth calling upon the labour movement to support the activities of the Youth Councils locally, be prepared and forwarded to the Congress.
- (b) Resolutions be drafted calling for a Government programme of work with trade union wages as the most immediate solution for unemployment.
- (c) Resolutions be submitted calling for the building of a labour sports movement as part of the general life of the unions.

Deliberating upon the importance of the above resolutions, the letter urges the District Committees to introduce these questions into the local unions, with sufficient time allowed for explanations and discussions. It further states that, while the Y.C.L. has been able to stimulate some good work in and with the trade unions in Southern Ontario, Quebec, Winnipeg, Alberta and British Columbia, yet what has been accomplished is very little compared with the tasks before the League. "We cannot be satisfied today with the few achievements that have been made in this regard and districts should seriously consider concrete measures for bringing the Y.C.L. before the union movement as a healthy, willing and capable assistance to their work". The letter further states that Toronto district is instituting a policy of building industrial Section Committees of the Y.C.L. whose task it will be to initiate the work of the various branches among the youth employed in the factories.

6. Strikes & Industrial Unrest Throughout Canada

(A) Textile Strike in Quebec Province

The textile strike at the Dominion Textile Ltd. plants throughout the province continues.

Four mills in Montreal resumed operations on the morning of 19th August with a limited number of workers at work. One hundred and fifty Montreal Police were on hand for the opening. Ten arrests were made and minor disorders occurred in front of these plants when workers returned to their jobs.

(B) Steel Workers Strike at Sorel, Que.

Several of the steel and shipbuilding plants at Sorel reopened recently with a number of strikers returning to work.

(C) Rubber Workers Strike at Drummondville, Que.

The situation at the Holetite Rubber Co. at Drummondville, where about 75 men have been on strike for nearly two weeks, remains unchanged.

(D) Silk Workers Strike at Acton Vale, Que.

Six men were under arrest on 19th August on charges growing out of the strike of 125 employees at the Acton Vale silk mills.

(E) Lumber Workers Strike in N.B.

Approximately 1,500 sawmill, shiploading and road workers went on strike in the Miramichi River district, N.B., on 20th August demanding higher wages. Loading of pulpwood and lumber aboard five freighters at Nelson, Chatham Head, Douglastown and Newcastle was at a standstill after the strike was declared.

(F) Silk Workers Strike at Montmagny, Que.

Four hundred employees of the M. E. Binz silk mill at Montmagny returned to work on 19th August after having been on strike for 30 hours.

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(G) Strike at J.B. Stetson Plant, Brockville, Settled

The 9 weeks' old strike of 225 employes of the John B. Stetson Co. plant at Brockville, Ont., ended on 20th August. The agreement reached does not include recognition of the United Hat, Cap and Millinery Workers' International Union, leader of the strike.

(H) Textile Strike in Ontario

Striking textile workers at Cornwall, at a mass meeting on 19th August, unanimously accepted the recommendation of their committee settling the 4 weeks' strike in the Canadian Cotton Mills. The strikers are said to have returned to work on 23rd August.

Two plants of Dominion Woollens and Worsteds, Ltd. at Peterboro reopened on 20th August when 320 of some 500 strikers returned to their machines they left over 7 weeks ago.

Claiming that the company had violated the terms of the agreement which ended the strike, 180 employes walked out of one mill, the Auburn plant. The new dispute did not affect the second plant.

(I) Lumber Workers Strike at Foleyet, Ont., Settled

A strike of lumber workers at Foleyet, said to have been in progress for 28 days, was settled on 19th August with the workers returning to work under improved conditions.

(J) Relief Strike at Brandon, Man., Settled

The Brandon City Council, at its meeting on 16th August, endorsed the demand for increase in relief rations submitted to it by the striking relief recipients, thus bringing the relief strike to an end.

(K) Longshoremen Strike at Owen Sound, Ont.

On 11th August about 60 longshoremen are said to have come out on strike at Owen Sound demanding a higher wage scale.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES
I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

7. Many Unemployed Arrested in Vancouver

On 11th August the Workers Ex-Service Men's League at Vancouver held a meeting to discuss some plans of action to have themselves reinstated on the relief rolls of the city; they having been cut off on 9th August. The meeting was quite orderly until some unknown person from the floor of the meeting shouted out a demand to "tin-can" on the city streets. Immediately the meeting became an uproar and got out of the control of the Chairman. Of the 80 persons present, mostly members of the Workers' Alliance, 63 voted for this plan and at 2.00 p.m. 62 men appeared on the streets with tin cans and improvised placards to collect money. Fifty-three of these were arrested on charges of obstructing; they were given an opportunity of release on their own recognizance by the Magistrate on the 13th August but they preferred to await trial in custody.

Many more arrests were made on similar charges during the days following, thus bringing the total number in custody awaiting trial to almost 100. Apparently it is the intention of the leaders of this organisation to send out new collectors as each group is arrested. Meanwhile the city is being flooded with pamphlets issued by the Ex-Servicemen's League and the Canadian Labour Defence League in an endeavour to enlist public sympathy.

II. QUEBEC

8. Jean Perron Returns from U.S.S.R.

Jean Perron, recently returned from the Soviet Union where he had spent several months as the guest of the Soviet trade unions, delivered a lecture on the life in the U.S.S.R. before a meeting of the French Branch of the Communist Party in Montreal on 16th August. He eulogised the collective system and life generally in the U.S.S.R. Speaking of religion and churches, he stated that very few churches were open for the simple reason that there are "only a few old people interested in religion".
