

## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 8th September, 1937.

SECRETNO. 869WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS  
AND AGITATION IN CANADAREPORT

Labor Day, 1937, was observed in the usual manner with the Communist element taking a leading and active part in the various celebrations throughout the country. Although at one time bitterly opposed to any form of observation of this "National" Labour Day, the Communist Party now sees in it "a valuable aid in the development of political consciousness" and is doing all in its power to encourage observance of this event.

The Central organ of the C.P. — Daily Clarion — for 6th September, came out in 16 pages with a "Labor Day Supplement" and containing numerous Labor Day "messages" by prominent trade unionists, including one by Tim Buck, general secretary of the C. P. of C., who observes:

"Celebrations of Labor Day are rapidly regaining the militant working class character which distinguished them before the palsy of reaction, in the form of "business unionism," labor banking and insurance companies, and "union — management co-operation" emasculated the trade union movement and robbed the Labor Day celebrations of most of their working class character."

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#### APPENDIX No. 1 GENERAL

##### 1. The Communist Party and the Situation in Alberta.

Leaders of the Communist Party in Alberta are said to be constantly in touch with some of the officials of the Social Credit Party and are preparing for any eventuality that may arise out of the present political situation in that Province.

[~~deletion:2 words~~] speaking at a meeting of the executive committee of a local branch of the C. P. in Edmonton, on August 23rd, remarked: "We cannot give you every detail of the present situation in Alberta in a circular letter, or over the radio, but it must be borne in mind that the prevailing situation is very critical; we have inside information that a few of the 'big boys' who caused the stoppage of the trek to Ottawa at Regina are ready to act in Alberta at the first opportunity given. They are sending agents provocateurs to meetings for the purpose of creating disturbances and , from confidential sources, we find that the Dominion Government is ready to set up a Commission to govern Alberta. Therefore, we have to be ready and unify all progressive forces and weed out reactionaries like Hugill from the present government.

The Communist Party in Alberta has put forward a six-point platform in order "to stimulate the growing movement of Labour-farmer unity."

### 1. The Democratic Rights of the Alberta People - First and Foremost.

The welfare of the Alberta people, workers, farmers, middle class folk and professionals, must come before the vested interests of a greedy few who have brought our country to ruin by high interest rates, high monopoly prices, control of governments and of courts.

The British North America Act of 1867 must be immediately revised in the direction of clarifying the rights of the Provinces and the common people. This must be done, not by a small committee of capitalists and their servants, but by a broad interprovincial conference, whose findings must be final.

The Province must be given the power to provide low interest-bearing loans, in order to combat the usury of the banks and financial corporations and must have a great measure of control over banking and credit operations. Debts must be cut to the bone.

Alberta's untold riches must be developed to provide work and prosperity for her citizens, by the governmental development of these resources, by strict control of lessees and their labour policies, by cancelling all leases which are used to control production to bring exorbitant profits.

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The organs of law enforcement (police, magistrates, crown attorneys) must be made more democratic by the removal from Alberta of the R. C. M. Police, and the removal from office of all enemies of the people and friends of the reaction.

## 2. Justice for the Working People.

Legal minimum wages and a maximum 5-day, 40-hour-week is needed at once for all employees to end the miserable conditions now prevailing in stores, offices, plants and mines.

The provincial department of labour should be brought back with a labour bureau attached which will rigidly enforce the industrial protection acts now on the law books. Unions should have their representatives on such a committee.

Chiselling employers must be hailed before the courts and punished. The contract system must be abolished on all public works.

The trade union act should be rigidly enforced and any attempt to victimize workers or to organize company unions should be mercilessly punished.

## 3. Justice for the Farmers.

Farm debts must be drastically reduced, those in tax arrears should work out their arrears on road work. The Alberta government should fight for a minimum price for grain (\$1.15 per bushel, Ft. William) and set up marketing boards for produce and livestock to protect the growers and raisers and to eliminate profiteering. Farm groups should be represented on such a board.

Crop insurance up to 100 acres per farm at \$10.00 per acre, should be instituted by the government, and an immediate, thorough survey of the dried-out areas should be made in co-operation with Manitoba and Saskatchewan with the aim of producing a practical scheme for rehabilitation.

## 4. Taxation through Ability to Pay.

Taxation falls too heavily on those least able to pay, while the profiteers get away with relatively low taxation. The whole system of taxation should be revised, to ease the heavy burden on the producers, and to increase levies on the big property holders, the corporations. These should be taxed at their source, to catch the tax-evaders and those who skip out of the province to warmer climes. Heavier succession duties, greater royalties, etc., should be levied on the rich.

The small storekeepers, squeezed by the big distributors should have a friend in the government which will combat the big stores and their undercutting at the expense of the workers and small merchants.

Rural municipal districts have too narrow a field of taxation to keep up social services. Alberta should fight for a Dominion per capita grant to municipal districts to enable them to carry on.

## 5. Put Alberta Back to Work.

There is plenty of work to be done, building hospitals, clearing slums, building roads and play centers, etc. The present rotten relief system must

go. The government must fight to put Alberta back to work, at decent wages.

The government must fight for a national system of social and unemployment insurance, and bring pressure to bear on Ottawa with other provinces, to move in this direction.

#### 6. Give Youth a Chance.

Half our population are young people. They must be given a chance to learn a trade, to enter production, to raise families, to live socially useful lives. The Alberta Youth Congress should

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receive official backing. The Youth Act, proposed for the Dominion should be enacted Provincially. A Youth assistance department should be set up in the province to assist and advise young people, and to save them from the streets and from crime.

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The leaders of the Communist Party feel that they now have sufficient support among the Social Credit members of the Legislature to successfully put into operation the policies of the Communist Party should a Provincial Election be called. It is to this end that they are continually urging the Social Credit Board to call a general election in the near future. However, up to the present, the Social Credit Party seems opposed to such action and the Communist Party is now urging the people of the province to demand that an election be held in order that they, the people, may have an opportunity to express their opinion.

During the past few days all important records, documents, and books of the Communist Party have been removed from the District and City Headquarters and placed in custody of well trusted members of the Party in the City of Edmonton.

Communist Party leaders contend that the critical stage in Alberta Politics has been reached and that the Party may have to throw its forces into the field in an effort to take over control of the administration of the Province. They fear though that efforts will be made by the authorities to render the Communist Party illegal and destroy its influence. They intend lining up all unemployed men as a vanguard, should hostilities break out in the province between the Alberta People's League and the Communist Party.

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[~~deletion: 1 1/4 line~~] stated that Leslie Morris and Lawrence Anderson, who are in charge of the Communist movement in Alberta, were in almost

daily communication with the Social Credit Council in an advisory capacity. [~~deletion:1 word~~] claims that the Communist Party is wield-

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ing a big influence behind the scenes in the Alberta Government and will, in the near future, launch still another "farmer and worker" movement with a "People's Front Government" as the objective. [~~deletion:1 word~~] further stated that C.P. factions are growing up inside the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation clubs and are causing the national leaders of the C. C. F. considerable worry.

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## 2. The C.P. and the Canadian Trades and Labour Congress.

Communist Party branches throughout the country have been instructed to pay immediate attention to the question of sending suitable delegates to the forthcoming convention of the Canadian Trades and Labour Congress, which opens in Ottawa, September 13th. The National Trade Union Commission of the Party has issued several Directives on the matter and has urged the Districts and lower Units of the Party throughout the country to make the necessary preparations for the Congress. The latest instructions emanating from the National Office of the Party are embodied in a circular letter addressed to all District Bureaus and District Trade Union Commissions of the Party; they center around a number of resolutions which the Party seeks to introduce, through various Trade Unions and Central Councils, when the Canadian Trades Congress meets. The instructions read in part:

(a) Resolution on Unity of the International Trade Union  
Movement in Canada.

This resolution to dwell on the dangers of such splits to all trade unions and the need of maintaining a unified T. & L. Congress and a unified T. & L. Council in which both craft and industrial unions should co-operate, the elements of peculiar Canadian conditions and the special dangers of a split in Canada as well as the question of the Trades and Labour Council being the Canadian expression of the International T. U. movement should also be introduced in the resolution dealing with unity. This resolution may also express satisfaction with the unity policy of the T. & L. C. heads as followed last year and express the hope that this policy will be continued.

It would be incorrect to introduce resolutions endorsing the C.I. O. This is hardly necessary now. It would but provoke the situation. The emphasis should be placed upon unity and co-operation.

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(b) Resolution on Independent Labour Political Action.

The resolution dealing with this subject should, on the basis of recent experiences, emphasize the need of independent labour political action; mention the decision of the Congress at the 1923 Vancouver Convention, which was in favour of a Farmer Labour Party; record the action taken by the T. & L. Council in Toronto, and elsewhere, and call upon the Congress to actively participate in, and to encourage its affiliated bodies, to enter into the building of such a broad Labour Political movement in Canada.

(c) Resolution on the Organization of the Unorganized.

Again urging the Congress to set up an organization department to help organize the unorganized into their respective unions and propose their raising of funds for such work through contributions for which an appeal should be issued by the Convention.

(d) Resolution on Bill 62.

Resolutions should come forward endorsing Bill 62 (for the right for workers to organize) which is now before the Federal House. The Convention would be urged to call upon all Labour and Progressive Organizations, to develop a national campaign around Bill 62 and similar T. U. Bills which should be introduced in all Provincial Legislatures. In most provinces no such legislation exists. A special resolution should be therefore also introduced, calling upon the Congress to take the initiative in introducing such bills in every Provincial Legislature and for all T. U.'s in each province to develop the greatest activity around such bills.

(e) Resolutions against the Anti-Labour Policies of  
the Hepburn-Duplessis Governments.

(f) Resolution re Spain.

To urge the more active participation of the T. U's in aiding Spanish Democracy and urging the Congress as an affiliate of the IFTU to urge united world action in aid of the Spanish workers.

(g) Resolution on National and International Trade  
Union Unity.

Internationally the resolution should urge the IFTU to meet with the trade unions of the U.S.S.R. to achieve complete international trade union unity. For Canada, resolutions urging the T. & L. Congress to make an urgent public appeal to all trade union groups outside of the Congress.

(h) In addition Resolutions dealing with:

- (1) The establishment of diplomatic relations with the USSR.
- (2) Endorsing the Canadian Youth Movement.
- (3) Approving and calling for the extension of

Labour sports in all T. U's.

- (4) Against the amalgamation of the Railways.
- (5) Against the use of injunctions.
- (6) Adequate unemployment and social insurance.
- (7) For a national programme of slum clearance.
- (8) Resolutions dealing with Fascism and War.
- (9) For the outlawing of espionage employed by large corporations, etc.

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- (10) A shorter working week.
- (11) For a vacation with pay.
- (12) Prohibiting of employers from giving work to be done at home.
- (13) Agitational resolutions such as a mass campaign to make every man, a union man, and every town a union town.

There are indications that the Communist Party has been successful in having a number of its members and sympathizers elected as Delegates to the Convention of the Congress, who will endeavour to apply the Communist Party line in the Convention.

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### 3. Notes on C. I. O. Activity.

The International Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers Union held its 34th convention at Denver, Colorado, during the first week of August, attended by more than 100 delegates from various parts of the United States and Canada. The union is one of the original 10 international unions affiliated to the C. I. O. The report presented by President Reid Robertson disclosed that the membership of the union has grown from 17,000 to 45,000 since the first of this year.

One of the representatives from Canada was W. R. Armstrong of the Timmins (Ont.) local of the union. Reporting to an open meeting of his union at Timmins on 27th August, Armstrong stated that the union officials were very pleased with the growth of the union in Northern Ontario. One of the most interesting business on the agenda of the convention, as far as the Canadian Delegates were concerned, was a resolution whereby permission has been granted to form a Canadian Division of the union; the Division to be divided into sections with Northern Ontario and Quebec to be known as No. 8 Section, Armstrong explained. This section, he claimed, is to have complete



jurisdiction over their own affairs and not as at present where all important matters have to be referred to the Central Executive of the union.

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The committee for industrial organization has launched a campaign with a view to organizing the employees of the Canadian Westinghouse electric plant at Hamilton into the United Electric and Radio Worker's Union, an affiliate of the committee for industrial organization. The objective is to organize the 1500 workers employed by September 30th.

Locals of the United Electric and Radio Worker's Union have already been set up in the Thor Canadian and the Canadian General Electric Company plants in Toronto.

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#### 4. The Campaign in Aid of the Spanish Loyalists.

Twenty-one volunteers who have been recruited by the Communist Party in Vancouver for service with the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion in Spain are said to be awaiting orders to depart for the scene of the Spanish conflict. These recruits, according to reliable reports, are to be routed through Mexico. None of them have had war experience and are all, except one, from relief camps.

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Dr. Norman Bethune has concluded his tour of Western Canada. It has been a great success; over 30,000 people heard him speak and saw the film "The Heart of Spain," it is said. This film, produced in Spain at great expense by the Canadian Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy, under the supervision of Dr. Bethune and filmed by the Hungarian Camera-man, Geysa Kaiser, has helped considerably to swell the proceeds of the numerous meetings which he addressed throughout Western Canada. Dr. Bethune publicly acknowledged that he was a member of the C. P. of C. and his meetings, particularly the more recent ones, were more in the interest of the C. P. of C. than what they intended to be. During his tour, Dr. Bethune met many intellectuals, especially medical men, who he says, have expressed sympathy with the movement.

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#### 5. Strikes & Industrial Unrest Throughout Canada.

(a) Textile Strike in Quebec Province Settled.

The 26-day old strike of the 10,000 employees of the Dominion Textile Company throughout the Province of Quebec was settled following a round-table conference held on 27th August between representatives of the Government, officials of the company and strike leaders. Operations were resumed at the various plants on 30th August.

(b) Coal Miners Strike at two mines in Wayne  
(Alta) district.

Strikes are in progress at the Western Gem Mine and the Excelsior Mine in the Wayne (Alta) District. It is reported that the United Mine Workers' of America, following a meeting of delegates from 22 locals in the district, held on 30th August, have threatened to call a general walk-out of coal miners in the Drumheller area unless the two strikes are settled within the near future.

6. Ukrainian Communist Daily appears under new name.

The Communist organ Ukrainian Labor News published at Winnipeg, Manitoba, is now appearing under a new name - Na odna Gazetta (People's Gazette) in compliance with the decision of the last national convention of the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association, to widen the scope of the paper in conformity with the United Front policy, and to make the publication "the leading instrument and organ of the broad masses of the Ukrainian people in Canada."

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APPENDIX No. 11: REPORTS BY PROVINCES1. SASKATCHEWAN.7. Single Unemployed & Transients at Regina  
Organize.

Transients and single unemployed men in Regina, who have been steadily increasing in numbers the past two weeks, estimated at 700 on August 31st, seem determined to resist any effort to place them on farms, under the Government Farm Bonus Scheme, this coming winter. There is talk among them of resorting to violence should the Government attempt to enforce this scheme.

The organization of the Single Worker's Union has improved considerably of late. French-Canadian transients who hitherto stood aloof from the Union and its activities are now reported to be joining it in greater numbers. Thirty-six of these are said to have joined the Union on August 31st. The Union is said to have now a membership of approximately two hundred.

There is little activity among the transients and single unemployed at Saskatoon. Members of the District Bureau, of the Communist Party at Regina, are greatly concerned about this, and have resolved to send [~~deletion:1/2 line~~] to stimulate organization at Saskatoon.

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## 11. QUEBEC

### 8. [~~deletion:1 word~~] reports on conditions in Montreal.

[~~deletion:4 1/2 lines~~] "The main question on which we try to concentrate our attention," [~~deletion:2 words~~] "was our French-Canadian work." Part of the report reads;

"And yet we witness a continued movement towards struggle for a better life, whose reflection we have already seen at the Congress. The present textile strike conducted by the Catholic Syndicates, the active role of 1,500 young French-Canadians in the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, the continued affiliation of young French-Canadian workers to the A. F. of L. trade unions such as the moulders, all are indications of this. Among the middle class people we witness a growth of disgust with Duplessis and the desire, as yet

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vague and not organized, of securing a better life. This is shown in the movement of the students of the University of Montreal against the threat of suspension.

At the same time there is a certain slackening of separatist and corporatist propaganda. Perhaps new ways towards Fascism are being sought for. The previously openly Fascist groupings such as the Jeunesse Patriote are going out of their way to convince people that they are against Facism and Communism. On the other hand the reception accorded the speech Abbe Groulx at the French Language Congress indicates that the danger of Fascist developments is real and must find us alive to combat it."

[~~deletion:1 1/2 lines~~] While in the Party there are about 20 young French people and, while theoretically all these are supposed to do work among youth, they receive little leadership and consequently are ineffective.

Commenting on the work among English young people, [⌘deletion:1 word] remarks: —

“It is obvious to anyone who has seen the Montreal comrades that here we have a live youth movement. The comrades are among our very best, and good leadership has been developed here which is carrying on activity which brings results. The youth center campaign was a great success. The Spanish work is beginning to produce results with some thousands of cigarettes already collected. The comrades have done good work helping out the steel strikers, feeding them for a number of days.

But with all this we must not forget that the membership is still almost exclusively Jewish and that the work of the league is still narrow. For example, at a conference at which new methods of work were being discussed the comrades did not propose a single non-Communist speaker for their meetings. There is no question but that, if the sports and cultural activity which has now been undertaken is developed, the league in Montreal can recruit a large number of new people.”

In this connection [⌘deletion:1/2 line] should establish progressive associations of young people and work among them rather than to concentrate on sections which are not close to the league.

Dealing with the Youth Congress movement [⌘deletion:1 word] alleges that since the last meeting of the Youth Congress there has not been any noticeable participation of French-Canadian young people in the work of the Montreal Youth Council. He further discerns a deliberate effort on the part of the French-Canadian young people who are new in the Congress movement to keep out of the mass youth Catholic organizations.