

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 16th September, 1937.

SECRET

NO. 870

WEEKLY SUMMARY

REPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANISATIONS
AND AGITATION IN CANADA

REPORT

Preparations are on foot for another "sustaining fund" drive on behalf of the Communist Party's central organ the "Daily Clarion"; the month of October having been set aside for this purpose.

Since the first issue of this organ (formerly "the Worker") appeared as a daily on May 1st, 1936, a total of \$41,000. has been raised in various drives to maintain it. Last March an appeal for \$14,000. was over-subscribed and the objective of this coming drive is \$20,000. The quotas allotted to the various (C.P.) districts are:

Southern Ontario ———	\$8000.00
Manitoba —————	2500.00
Alberta —————	2000.00
Western Ontario ———	1800.00
Northern Ontario ———	1600.00
British Columbia ———	1500.00
Quebec —————	1000.00
Saskatchewan ———	1000.00
Central Ontario ———	800.00
Maritimes —————	400.00

APPENDICES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPENDIX NO. 1: GENERAL

- Para. No. 1. Communist Party Leaders in Manitoba meet in Convention.
 Opening ceremony held in Ball Room of Royal Alexandra Hotel, Winnipeg;
 Jim Litterick outlines Party's United Front platform;
 Membership in Province 1286;
 Ex-Judge Stubbs guest speaker;

- New Provincial Committee elected.
- “ ” 2. The C. I. O.
John L. Lewis radio broadcast states membership of C. I. O. nearly four million.
- “ ” 3. Russian Communist Paper concludes successful “Press Campaign.”
- “ ” 4. Communists in Ontario Provincial Election. Contest a number of constituencies, including: Bellwoods, St. Andrew, St. David, York South, Wellington North, Sudbury, Ottawa South.
- “ ” 5. The Campaign in Aid of Spanish Loyalists. C. P. has sent 870 volunteers to Spain, so far, Tim Buck states.
Ted Allan of Montreal returns from Spain; Also A. E. Smith and Larry Ryan of Toronto; recruits in future must be specialists and politically sound.
- “ ” 6. Dr. Peter Shih in Toronto.
Addresses meeting in Queen’s Park.

APPENDIX NO. 11: REPORTS BY PROVINCES.

- “ ” 7. ALBERTA.
Communists in Alberta anticipate Provincial Election. Every endeavour to be made to keep present Government in power.
Communists form a United Front in Lethbridge, additional branch of C. P. formed.
- “ ” 8. ONTARIO
Stewart Smith speaks at meeting in Timmins.
Fred Collins gets Provincial trade union position.
- “ ” 9. QUEBEC
Montreal Communists discuss trade union situation.
Picnic in interest of “Clarte”;
a success financially.

APPENDIX NO. 1. GENERAL1. The Communist Party Leaders in
Manitoba Meet in Convention.

The Manitoba district of the Communist Party of Canada met in convention in Winnipeg, from September 2nd, to 6th. The opening session was held in the Colonial Ball Room of the Royal Alexander Hotel, with about 250 people present, of whom 75 were accredited delegates; it was a public affair and stage managed with a view to impressing the public with the greatness and importance of the organisation.

Alderman M. J. Forkin opened the convention, welcoming the delegates and guests. James Litterick, M. L. A., and Provincial secretary of the Party, presented the main, or 'Political' report in which he sketched a 5-point program as a base for Communist election platforms in Manitoba. Highlights of this program are:

1. Taxation of the wealth of the province at its source, with no benevolent exemptions for the big corporations; increase of corporation tax, reduction of bonded debt interest to about 2% and moratorium on all interest payment; lower income tax for those with small incomes and steeply graduated increased taxes for those with large incomes.

2. The amending of present legislation to "insure that workers will be accorded fullest rights to organise into any trade union they choose"; increase in the minimum wage, a wide spread public works scheme; 100% workman's compensation.

3. Assurance that the farmer will be guaranteed a price for his crop that will provide him with "a return for his labour."

4. Revision of the Municipal tax system to assure the small property owner "freedom from the burden of taxes."

5. Development of facilities for training youth to be "useful and productive members of society."

Lamenting the failure on the part of the C.C.F. and Independent Labour Party to respond to the United Front overture of the Communist Party of Canada, Litterick stated that the Communist Party will not cease its efforts in that regard and will continue to strive to bring the C.C.F., Social Credit, Independent Progressive Left, and Progressive Liberals into a block that will carry through the above mentioned program. He frankly admitted that the Communist Party, during the past, has made all sorts of mistakes and blunders but in spite of these shortcomings the Party has gained prestige and has grown considerably during the past year.

The subsequent sessions of the convention were held in

the Russian Workers' Hall, Dufferin Avenue. Conspicuous among those in attendance were Alderman M. J. Forkin, Jim Litterick, Alderman J. Penner, Andrew Bilecki, member of the Winnipeg School Board, Bill Ross, the other Communist School Board member, Walter Higgins, Party organiser among the farmers, Mitchi Sago, Jock McNeal, Anne Buller and Mary Kostaniuk.

The sessions were principally devoted to detailed reports on the various phases of Party activity. Alderman Jabob Penner reported on Municipal affairs; [deletion:2 words] on work in trade unions; M. Sago on unemployment; Anne Buller on the Party's organ "Daily Clarion"; [deletion:2 words] on work among women; H. Guralnik on War and Fascism; Bill Ross on youth; Alderman [deletion:4-5 lines]

The latter disclosed a total membership of 1286 made up, according to nationalities as follows;

Anglo-Saxon	165
Jewish	182
Russian	109
Polish	66
Hungarian	25
French	22
Ukrainian	533
German	29
Finnish	10
Negro	2
Others	<u>143</u>
Total	<u>1286</u>

The highlight of the afternoon session, September 5th, was an address by Ex-Judge L. St. George Stubbs, who was billed to speak at the opening ceremony but, apparently, preferred to speak at a closed session. He spoke on Spain, and claimed that he was fully in accord with the policy of the Communist Party of Canada. "If anybody had told me one year ago that I would now be on the platform of a Communist convention, advocating war, I would have said they were crazy, but that is just what I am doing." Speaking in support of the Spanish

[3]

Loyalists "armed struggle", he said "I hate war. I despise it, but there are wars and wars and this war should be endorsed for the eradication of brutal Fascism by every peace-loving citizen in the province." "Proof of the Marxian interpretation that class interests will ultimately override all other considerations, is exemplified in Spain by the action of Capitalist governments, especially that of Great Britain," Stubbs declared.

A provincial committee was elected with [~~3~~deletion:1 word] a boiler-maker employed in the Weston Shops, as chairman and Jim Litterick as secretary. The convention decided to send 40 delegates from Manitoba to attend the 8th National Congress of the Communist Party which is to convene in Toronto on October 8th.

2. THE C. I. O.

John L. Lewis, Chairman of the Committee for Industrial Organisation, in a nation wide broadcast Sept. 3rd, hailed the growth of the C. I. O. to a membership of almost four million and warned that the corporations responsible for the killing of 18 steel strikers, would be held responsible by the people of America. Calling his listeners attention to the growth of the C. I. O., Lewis gave the enrollment of the organisation at 3,718,000 in 32 affiliated national and international unions and 507 local units not yet attached to any of the national bodies. This phenominal growth, Lewis pointed out, is due to the fact that "purposes and objectives of the C. I. O. find economic, social political and moral justification in the hearts of millions who are its members and the millions more who support it."

A portion of the address was devoted to the opposition encountered by the C. I. O. In this connection, Lewis said: "No tin-hat brigade of goose-stepping vigilantes or bible-babbling mob of black-guarding and corporation-paid scoundrels will prevent the onward march of Labour or defeat its purpose to play its natural and rational part in the development of the economic, political and social life of our nation."

[4]

3. Russian Communist Paper concludes successful Press Campaign.

Kanadsky Gudok, (Canadian whistle), Communist organ publication at Winnipeg, for September 4th, gives the results of the recent "Press Campaign" conducted on behalf of this paper. Four-hundred and four new subscriptions were obtained; four-hundred and eighty six renewals, and \$2844.84 was collected for the sustaining fund. The campaign was a decided success, it is claimed.

4. Communists in the Ontario Provincial Election.

The Communist Party is contesting a number of constituencies in the forthcoming Ontario Provincial Election. Only one straight Party candidate has been nominated so far, i.e. Alderman Stuart Smith, Provincial leader [~~1 line~~] in the Bellwoods riding. All others are running as "Labour-Progressives," the majority of them as candidates of the [~~3-4 words~~] "Labour Representation Association," a new political movement (United Front) officially initiated by the Toronto District Trades and Labour Council. The following are some of the ridings that are being contested,

A. St. Andrew

J. B. Salsberg, prominent Communist Party leader, has been nominated Labour-Progressive candidate in the St. Andrews' riding. Next to Stuart Smith, he is the most important Communist Party member running in this Provincial election and has a chance of being elected.

B. St. David.

George Harris, secretary of the Ontario Federation on Unemployment [~~1 line~~] received the Labour nomination for the constituency of St. David. His nomination took place at a conference held under the auspices of the St. David riding, Labour-Progressive Provisional nomination committee.

C. York South.

Ewart Humphreys, Deputy Reeve of York Township [~~3/4 line~~] was nominated Labour candidate for York

[5]

South Constituency at a 'Labour-Progressive' convention held in Vaughan Road Collegiate on September 9th. Alderman Stuart Smith of Toronto was the guest speaker, who pointed out the importance of getting Labour representatives into Parliament.

D. Wellington North.

Alfred Mustin, president of local 67, United Rubber Workers of America and chairman of the Canadian District Council of the Union was nominated to run in North Wellington riding. Mustin, [~~3/4 line~~] is running as a "People's Representative."

E. Sudbury.

George W. Anderson, international organiser of the Mine, Mill, and Smelters Union [~~1/2 line~~] was selected "Labour" candidate for the Sudbury Constituency.

F. Ottawa South.

Harry Binder, eastern Ontario secretary of the Communist Party of Canada, has been nominated as Labour-Progressive candidate in South Ottawa.

5. The Campaign in Aid of Spanish Loyalists.

Tim Buck, addressing the Western Ontario District Convention of the Communist Party of Canada, held at Port Arthur recently, made the statement that the Communist Party so far has dispatched 870 volunteers to Spain and given thousands of dollars to help the Loyalists in their fight against Franco's forces. Reports given at this convention disclosed that the Thunder Bay district has already supplied 70 volunteers for the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion, and it was decided, largely at the request of Tim Buck, to continue recruiting with a view to securing an additional 25 men.

Ted Allan, special correspondent of the Daily Clarion, [~~deletion: 1/2 line~~] returned to Montreal on September 4th, after a 7 months stay in Spain. In an interview he indicated the importance of the Canadian Battalion in Spain as a Military Unit and how highly the Canadians were regarded by the Loyalist Military Command.

[6]

A. E. Smith, who conveyed a recent shipment of gifts from Canada to the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion in Spain, returned on the 12th of September. He was accompanied by Larry Ryan of Toronto who was wounded in the early days of the fighting in Spain while serving with the International Brigade.

Another shipment of gifts, destined for the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion left Toronto September 10th. It included cigarettes, soap, shaving material and other articles, which were donated by various organisations.

In future no men are to be recruited for service in Spain unless they are specialists, preferably transports or air-mechanics, and each man must be medically fit for active service. In addition they must be politically sound and agree to submit to iron discipline. It is said that out of 300 men sent from B. C. no more than 50 were suitable; most of them were out of relief camps and were useless at anything.

6. Dr. Peter Shih in Toronto.

Dr. Peter Shih of Nanking, said to be a member of the Communist Party of China and an active member of the Chinese League against War and Fascism was the guest speaker at a public meeting held under the auspices of the Canadian League for Peace and Democracy, at Queen's Park, Toronto, on the

evening of September 8th. Speeches were also given by K. N. Young of Toronto, A. A. McLeod, and Kenneth Woodsworth. The theme of the speakers was the situation in China; the message of the guest speaker was, China needs the assistance of the Canadian People, both morally and financially. Dr. Shih is at present on an extensive tour of Canada and the U.S.A., under the auspices of the Canadian and American Leagues for Peace and Democracy, formerly the League against War and Fascism.

[7]

APPENDIX NO. 2: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

1. ALBERTA

7. Communists in Alberta anticipate Provincial Election.

Ian Lakeman, prominent in Communist Party circles in Alberta, in conversation with other members of the Communist Party, stated that they (the party) have some "inside" information that the forthcoming Edmonton By-election will be cancelled at the next special session of the Legislature, and a general election in Alberta will be held instead. Lakeman remarked, "this is not public property yet." He further stated that unity with the progressive organisations taking part in the coming Edmonton Civic elections has been achieved but candidates have yet to be chosen. Lakeman urged that the Communist Party must be prepared in every locality to become the leader of the common people.

In advocating a general election in Alberta as quickly as possible the Communist Party has put forward as the main issue the "rights of the people as against the power of the rich."

Leslie Morris, speaking at a mass meeting of the Communist Party of Canada in the Labour Temple of Calgary, Alberta, on the 29th of August, emphasized that every means must be utilized to keep the present Provincial Government in power. He informed the gathering that C. C. F. groups, C. L. P. branches, U.F.A. organisations and Communist Party groups are meeting in rural points and are forming a popular people's front based on the immediate issues facing the common people of Alberta. He advocated an early provincial election in order to defeat the old line parties and the People's League who he thought were not ready for such an election. He suggested the slogan: "Hands off Alberta." A resolution was adopted by this meeting requesting the Dominion Government to force the 'fifty big-shots' to keep their hands off Alberta.

On August 25th, a mass meeting of the Communist Party, C.C.F., Social Credit and the Alberta Federation of Labour groups was held in

[8]

the arena at Lethbridge, with John Beluch, secretary of the [~~deletion:2-3 words~~] Beet Workers Industrial Union, acting as chairman. The speakers were Beluch, Joe Bowker and Alex Young of Blairmore, [~~deletion:1/2 line~~] The speakers roundly condemned the recent action of the Dominion Government in vetoing the Bill passed by the Alberta Legislature, respecting the control of Banks in that Province.

A new branch of the Communist Party was formed in North Lethbridge recently, [~~deletion:1 1/2 lines~~] Radio talks have been given every Wednesday night over station C.J.O.C. by prominent Communists.

At a general meeting of the Communist Party at Lethbridge, held on the 26th of August, Joe Bowker was selected as candidate for the City Council.

11. ONTARIO.

8. Stewart Smith speaks at Meeting in Timmons.

Alderman Stewart Smith of Toronto, was the guest speaker at a public meeting held at Timmons, Ontario on the 5th of September, under the auspices of the local Communist Party branch. W. Rogers, [~~deletion:1/2 line~~] acted as chairman, and an address was given by Jack Gillbanks, [~~deletion:1/2 line~~] of the Communist Party of Canada. The meeting, held in the Empire Theatre, was poorly attended, there being only approximately 150 people in attendance. Smith's talk was a typical United Front oration, centering around the need for Labour Farmer Unity in the forthcoming Ontario Provincial election. In conclusion, Smith appealed to the audience to vote for Tommy Church of Kirkland Lake, who is running as a "Progressive" candidate in this constituency. Church is prominently identified within the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers' Union [~~deletion:1 line~~]

Fred Collins, [~~deletion:1/2 line~~] active in the Trade Union field, was recently appointed as general organiser for

[9]

Canada of the Upholsterers, Furniture, Carpet, Linoleum, and Awning Workers' International Union. With his appointment and financed by the International Office, a drive is to be started by the newly formed Canadian Council with Collins at its head to organise the furniture industry in the Dominion.

III. QUEBEC.

9. Montreal Communists discuss Trade Union Situation.

[~~deletion:2 lines~~] Reporting on the results of the Quebec Textile Strike and its effect on the International Trade Union Movement, [~~deletion:2 words~~] said there is a feeling of discontent among the textile workers who seem very dissatisfied with the settlement of the strike; that many of the workers have expressed their desire to sign up with the International Union. After considerable discussion the meeting agreed that it would be wrong at the present time to split the ranks of the textile workers, and that an endeavour should be made to achieve some unity between the rival unions.

[~~deletion:1 word~~] reported that he has a list of 90 architects and engineers who have expressed a desire to form some sort of a Union. It was agreed to attempt to organise these men into a union affiliated to the American Federation of Labour.

Fred Rose reported that successful work had been done by the Communist Party in forming new Unions and getting many of its members elected to leading positions in these A.F. of L. Unions.

[~~deletion:2 words~~] reported that in the Steel Workers Union there was functioning Communist Party" fraction" of 35 members. He remarked that within a month at least 25 additional members of this union will be drawn into the Communist Party.

[~~deletion:1 word~~] said that the Communist Party Unit of 9 members functioning in the C. P. R. Angus Shops, has been rather inactive, having not met for the past month. He promised that a small Communist

[10]

Party Unit would be set up in the C.N.R. Point St. Charles Shop within the near future, further that a unit would be recruited from the running trades within a week.

[~~deletion:2 words~~] commenting on the Needle Trades, stated that there was operating a Communist Party fraction of 35 members within the Dress-makers Union, a fraction of 15 members in the Tailors Union, 7 members in the Cloakmakers Section, and a fraction of 15 members in the Dresscutters

Section. He pledged that at least 25 workers from the Needle Trades will be recruited into the Communist Party within a month.

Some discussion took place on the situation in the Canadian Seaman's Union. It was pointed out that this union is entirely under radical leadership but has very few Communist Party members within its ranks. It is said that the Montreal section, with a membership of approximately 3,000 seamen, has a functioning Communist Party of only 4 members. To improve the situation it was agreed, on the suggestion of Fred Rose, that a general waterfront Communist Party fraction be set up immediately with a view to co-ordinate the Party's activity in the Long-shoremen's organisation, seamen and other waterfront workers and a special Communist Party organiser devoting most of his time to this particular phase of party activity.

The French Communist Organ "Clarte" at Montreal, held a very successful picnic on Labor Day, September 6th, at Ville Lasalle, a Montreal suburb. Over 1000 people attended and although no results were given out the picnic is said to have been a decided success financially.
