

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 23rd September, 1937.

SECRETNO. 871WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS
AND AGITATION IN CANADAREPORT

The [~~deletion: 3-4 words~~] Ontario Federation on Unemployment opened its Fourth Annual Convention at Toronto this morning with less than two hundred delegates in attendance, representing 38 chartered organisations of unemployed throughout the Province. Fraternal delegates present included several representatives of the Communist Party of Canada.

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APPENDIX NO. 1. GENERAL

1. Communist Party to contest Provincial
By-election at Edmonton.

The Communist Party of Canada has instructed Ian Lakeman to contest the forthcoming Provincial By-election at Edmonton. In taking this step the Communist Party claims it has done so because Social Credit leaders and the C. C. F. have failed "To heed all suggestions for a conference of all progressives and failed to respond to the need for a candidate and a platform to oppose the Liberal-Tory Peoples' League coalition." In a recent statement, released by its secretary, Fred Winfield, the Communist Party at Edmonton points out that "It does not wish to split the progressive vote in this By-election and that it desires the greatest degree of unity at the polls." In a subsequent statement, Ian Lakeman, the candidate, emphasized that although he is standing as a Communist Party nominee, the door is not closed to unity. The six-point program which has been advanced by the Party, he said, is the subject of

discussion all over Alberta, and many Social Credit Clubs have endorsed it as the practical platform around which Alberta people should rally to defeat "the conspiracy of the bankers and big-business."

Leslie Morris, Provincial leader of the Party in a radio address, delivered over station C.J.C.A., Edmonton, on September 17th, pointed out that the paramount issue involved at the present time in the Province is that of "Bankers versus the People." The Communist Party, he said, is steadily trying to influence the Government and the Peoples' Movement and is urging the workers and farmers to build up their unions and farm bodies, in order to strengthen the independent movement of the people. He expressed the opinion that the Government will go to the people in a general election at the earliest possible moment in a "peoples' program."

The Communist Party is appealing to all progressives in the City of Edmonton, to make new efforts for unity and, failing the achievement of a joint platform and candidate, to endorse its candidate as the man "who will best serve the interest of the people and by his presence in the legislature and his proposals for progressive

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legislation strengthen the movement towards a really united peoples' front and government, which is now being born in our Province."

2. Communist Party Candidate withdraws
from Election contest in Bellwood's
(Toronto) Riding.

Alderman Stewart Smith, Communist Party Candidate in the Bellwood's riding, has withdrawn from the contest in favor of Arthur Roebuck, former Attorney General for Ontario. Citing Roebuck's declaration which he made in the course of a recent radio address, that he would speak with an independant voice in the legislature, that he would pursue his stand in favor of labour rights and press for progressive legislation, Stewart Smith for the benefit of the public declared: "In view of the stand of Arthur Roebuck, I have come to the conclusion that I should not run in Bellwood and withdraw from the field.

It is rumoured that some understanding has been reached between Mr. Roebuck and leaders of the Communist Party in Toronto.

3. The Campaign in Aid of Loyalist Spain.

The Friends of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion office at Toronto has announced the death of 10 more Canadian Volunteers, members of the International Brigade fighting in the ranks of the Spanish Loyalist Army. They are:

Mike Kobe, Toronto, Yugoslav.
 John O. Bloom, Edmonton, said to have been a member
 of the Calgary Regiment.
 Nick Nivirinski, Edmonton, Ukrainian.
 John Rackey, Kirkland Lake.
 Emil Koskela, Toronto.
 Tauni Lind, Toronto, Finnish -Canadian.
 Nick Harbociacu, Windsor, Roumanian.
 G. Haney, Timmins.
 Joe Milkovich, Port Arthur, Croatian.
 Mike Sirdar, Timmins, Yugoslav.

Dr. Norman Bethune addressed a capacity audience at Massey Hall, Toronto, on the 15th of September. Many are said to have been turned away from the doors, having been unable to gain ad-

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mittance. In addition to Bethune's speech, the film "The Heart of Spain," was shown. Larry Ryan, former member of the International Brigade and A. E. Smith, who has just returned from Spain, were given a standing ovation by the audience. Dr. Bethune predicted that General Franco will never take Madrid. He scored the profit motive in medicine and urged the nationalization of radium department in Canada. He maintained doctors should be civil servants.

4. Canadian Volunteer, recently returned from Spain, turns against Communist Party.

Henry Beattie, recently returned to Canada from Spain where he had been wounded while fighting in the ranks of the Spanish Loyalist Army, has given an interview to one of the Toronto Dailies, in which he is said to have stated that he had been brought back from Spain for propaganda purposes, and that he had been instructed not only to conceal but to distort the truth in all interviews and speeches. "Since my return from Spain," he said, "I have had an opportunity for the first time to talk over my experiences and to examine

the International Press, both labour and bourgeois. As a result, I came to the conclusion — very reluctantly at first — that the Communist Party, both here and in Spain is not fighting in the interests of the working class but is pursuing a reformist policy." Beattie asserted that in Spain they are attempting to suppress the revolution and are persecuting the working class organisations, such as the Anarchists, Left Socialists and POUM.

Admitting that he went to Spain as a member of the Communist Party of Canada, he has now, since "thinking the matter over," severed his connection with that Party. Asked if it was true that he was sent back to Canada because he was unfit for further service, Beattie declared, "No. When I left the hospital in May, I was asked by Comrade Bob Kerr, the Canadian Communist Political Commissar, if I would go home for propaganda purposes. Many comrades, who have been seriously wounded, among them men who have suffered amputations, are kept in Spain by force, probably because some of them were talking about exposing the entire show when they got home."

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Asked further, as to what there is to expose, he said, "The fact that Democracy is almost non-existent in the Spanish Army and that conditions are sometimes almost unbelievably inhuman." Illustrating his point, he said, "When I first went to Spain, I was struck by the enthusiasm of the workers that are welcomed to the International Brigade, and the freedom of expression that existed to all working class organisations. Later I saw things that shook my faith, though I did not realize their full significance till I returned to Canada."

Speaking of the International Brigade, Beattie declared: "The Communist International Brigades were not, as I had been led to believe, a workers militia; the rank and file were fighting for their ideals but the army itself, especially the officer staff, was organised along bourgeois-mercenary lines. Political and military leaders were not chosen by the rank and file but were appointed by the Communist Party in the country in which the unit had been recruited."

Speaking of the news bulletins of the International Brigade, he remarked that they became a "joke;" that they consisted almost entirely of Government propaganda and absurd reports of fictitious victories and kept the members ignorant of the outbreaks behind the lines and the conflicts of the workers organisations.

"What about conditions in the line," he was asked. "They sometimes were incredibly hard. I did not meet any cases, but it was said that many of the comrades had wounded themselves because of the length of time they had to spend in the trenches. The Lincoln Battalion, for instance, was not relieved for 140 days and almost each day had some kind of nerve-wracking activity."

Commenting on free speech and democracy generally, he said there was a decided lack of democratic methods. "On my trip out," he declared, "I found conditions drastically changed, especially in Barcelona. The people were no longer enthusiastic. International Brigade men were considered communists and therefore possible spies for the Government. Free speech had been suppressed. The committee rooms of the POUM and other workers organisations had been closed down. When I entered Spain POUM Battalions were fighting

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with the Loyalists against the Fascists. When I left, the POUM had been labelled Fascist and suppressed."

Asked about the coaching he got, Beattie remarked. "On my return to Canada I was touted as a returning hero. I was used to speak on behalf of the Canadian boys in Spain, to raise money for them. I was told, however, not to speak as a communist or even as an anti-fascist, but from a straight humanitarian angle, as an idealist. I was coached to make certain statements about the Trotzkyists, like, 'Trotzkyists who stab wounded soldiers in the back.' This in spite of the fact that in Spain I never saw or spoke to a Trotzkyist." In conclusion Beattie said: "I knew at the time that these statements were wrong and untruthful, but I believed it was necessary to make them in the interests of the Party and the working class. Now I realize I was wrong in not telling the truth from the beginning. The working class has nothing to lose from the truth, no matter how bitter it may be."

An account of this interview appeared in the September 11th edition of the Toronto Evening Telegram. To counteract the possible effects of Beatties' declaration, Ted Allan, special Communist Press Correspondent recently returned from Spain, in an interview published in the 14th September edition of the Daily Clarion declared: "Poor boy, he sounds shell-shocked." Allan characterized Beatties' allegations "too ridiculous to answer," remarking that "the boy is obviously in a bad nervous state and has been coached by Trotzkyists who utilized his mental frame by getting him to make a complete ass of himself." Allan roundly refuted the contentious part of Beatties statement.

5. Croatian Communists stage successful "Press" Campaign.

The Croatian Communists seem greatly elated over the results of the Press Campaign recently conducted in the interests of their official organ "Slobodna

Misao" published in the Croatian Language at Toronto, three times a week. The results are tabulated

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in the September 9th edition of the paper, a summary of which follows;

Quota — Results

New Subscriptions. —————	200 ———	324
Renewals —————	600 ———	536
Sustaining Fund —————	\$500 ———	\$1645.30

The Port Arthur Club of the Croatian Cultural Association attained first place in the drive. South Porcupine came second, with Kirkland Lake and Hamilton in third and fourth place respectively.

6. S. W. O. C. (C.I.O.) in secret
Conference at Montreal.

Silby Barret, International Board Member, United Mine Workers' of America, has been appointed regional Director of the Steel Workers' Organising Committee of the C.I.O. of Canada.

The Steel Workers' Organising Committee held a conference commencing September 20th, at the LaSalle Hotel at Montreal, with representatives present from all locals in Canada of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers' of America. Meeting behind closed doors, the conference, under the chairmanship of Silby Barret, is said to have discussed the problem of co-ordination of the organising drive in Canada's Steel Industry.

7. Strikes & Industrial Unrest
Throughout Canada.

A. Steelworkers Strike at Sydney, N.S.

A strike, affecting approximately 290 operatives in the Bar and Rod Mills of the Dominion Steel and Coal Company's plant at Sydney, is reported. The strike, which started on the 15th of September when 150 workers in the Bar Mill laid down their tools because of a disagreement between the management of the Company and the Union executive, was extended a day later when 140 Rod Mill workers joined the strike. Members of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers of America, Lodge 1064, under whose auspices

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the strike is being conducted, declared that the workers were locked out.

B. Lumber Workers strike at St. Boniface, Man.

Approximately 100 employes of the St. Boniface plant (Man.) of the Keewatin Lumber Company Limited, came out on strike on the 16th of September because of a dispute with the management on the matter of seniority. The strikers accused the Company management of breach of a contract, signed on June 21st, this year.

C. Strike at Blubber Bay, B.C. Settled.

The 7 weeks old strike of the workers at the Pacific Lime Company's plant at Blubber Bay, B.C., was settled on September 8th with the signing of an agreement between the employes and the Company. The settlement has been hailed by the Lumber and Sawmill Workers' Union as a decided victory of the strikers; the union claims to have the plant organised 100%.

D. H. B. C. Restaurant Employes at Vancouver, B. C., Strike.

The workers employed in the restaurant department of the Hudson's Bay Company at Vancouver, came out on strike on the 8th of September, demanding redress for many complaints. It appears that dismissal of the cook was largely responsible for the walkout.

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APPENDIX NO. 2: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

1. ALBERTA

8. A. A. McLeod at Edmonton.

On September 15th, in the course of the afternoon, the local council of the Canadian League for Peace and Democracy at Edmonton, held a meeting which was attended by A. A. McLeod of Toronto, national chairman of the League. Proposals drawn up at a meeting of the Communist Party fraction in control of the work within the said League were submitted and endorsed by the meeting. A. A. McLeod outlined the present relations existing between the League and the Spanish Aid Committee. He stated that the status of the national committee of the latter must be clearly defined as that of a co-ordinating committee composed of members, representative of the various organisations sympathetic with the giving of aid to the Spanish Republic; further that the national committee be the body which deals with the International Co-ordinating Committee, the "Centrale Sanitaire" and similar bodies within

or outside Republican Spain; and that money collected for activities initiated and sponsored by the committee be paid to the committee and disbursed as committee funds.

During the evening a "delegate conference" was held, attended by 52 delegates, representing 23 local organisations, and several visitors, including A. A. McLeod. Alderman Miss. Margaret Crang, chairman of the meeting briefly outlined the purpose of the conference and called upon H. Gerry and A. A. McLeod to elaborate on the proposals adopted previously by the Council. A. A. McLeod in his address said that if the Fascists won the Spanish Civil War, there would be a clash between Great Britain and Italy in the Mediterranean with a resulting larger war in Europe. He remarked that Italy was seeking control of Spain in preparation for a test of strength against Great Britain for supremacy in the Mediterranean. The League for Peace and Democracy, he said, has raised \$30,000 in Canada and \$2,000,000 has been sent from the American continent during the past two months.

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The conference resolved to re-organise the office staff of the League at Edmonton and to put a general organiser into the field as soon as possible.

II. ONTARIO

9. C. P. of C. at Fort William endorses C.C.F. Candidate.

The Communist Party at Fort William has thrown its support behind Mrs. E. A. Miles, C. C. F. candidate in the coming Provincial election. Mrs. Miles is said to be a left-winger in the C. C. F. and is known to have taken a very active part in the work of the local Spanish Aid committee.

III. QUEBEC

10. Meeting of Quebec Provincial committee of C.P. at Montreal.

The district committee of the Communist Party for the Province of Quebec, met in Montreal on the 15th of September, with 45 members in attendance, the majority of whom were French-Canadians. [deletion:2 words] reported at great length on the situation in that Province. He said that during the past the Communist Party had made good progress, particularly in the trade union field where its prestige has been greatly increased. He lamented the fact, however, that the membership has not grown correspondingly, in fact has been on the decrease since the last Plenum. The actual membership in good-stand-

ing, he gave as 1080, of whom 443 were French-Canadian as 75 Anglo-Saxons. Lack of good leadership and poor educational work has been the main fault of the Party during the past, he said. [deletion:1 word] further complained that the French units are not concentrated in Industry as over 80% of the French membership is unemployed. [deletion:1 word] however, noted some improvement in educational work. He referred particularly to the work of [deletion:2 words] a graduate of the Lenin School at Moscow, who returned to Canada only a short time ago and who is now in charge of this particular work. The Provincial school, which was held during the summer for six weeks was attended regularly by 34 French-Canadians and the graduates of the school are gradually being placed as secretaries in the various units throughout the city.

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The membership of the Party must be increased to 1500 within a month, [deletion:1 word] insisted. He said that a very good opportunity exists to recruit new members from the unemployed groups, of which there are now 14 attached to the Federation des Sans-Travail de la Province.

Stanley Ryerson then gave a short report in French, stating that good work has been done by the Party, especially by the trade union Commission. He acquainted the meeting with the latest plans of the District Buro, concerning Work for the next six months, which stipulate:

1. That a permanent French Organiser be placed in charge of all the French Sections [deletion:2 words] having been selected for that position.

2. To hold another Provincial Party school during the Winter months and to conduct small classes in all the Sections. [deletion:2 words] to be in charge of the work.

3. To open an English speaking center that will have joint charge of Sections 10 and 2.

4. To open a Labour College (English) during the Winter months.

5. To open a French Culture center with [deletion:2 words] in charge.

6. To form an unemployed and women's commission similar to the trade union commission.

7. To open an office in the down-town section. This office, for the time being and for tactical reasons, will not operate under the name of the C.P.

After a lengthy discussion it was generally agreed that the Communist Party is suffering from lack of correct leadership in the French Sections. All Sections present, pledged themselves to do their utmost in the recruiting campaign and to improve their work.