

## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

OTTAWA, 5th October, 1937.

SECRETNO. 872WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS  
AND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

Preparations for the forthcoming (Eight) National Convention of the Communist Party of Canada have been the most elaborate ever witnessed in the history of the Communist movement in Canada. A gala performance, open to the public, in the Mutual Street Arena, Toronto, on the night of October 8th, will mark the official opening of the gathering; it is to be attended by a number of foreign delegates including Alfred Costes, member of the Central Committee of the C.P. of France and Earl Browder, General Secretary of the C.P. of U. S. A. who together with Tim Buck, General Secretary of the Canadian Party, will be the feature speakers. The regular sessions will be held at the Masonic Temple, corner Davenport and Yonge Streets, commencing on the morning of October 9th.

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Unemployed Federation formed recently records progress.  
C. P. Branch in Quebec City expands.

**APPENDIX NO. I. GENERAL****I. Communist Party directive explains status of  
Friends of MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion and  
League for Peace and Democracy.**

To combat rumours current in Communist Party circles at Vancouver that the Friends of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion is to be liquidated, Tom Ewen, Provincial leader of the C. P. of C., addresses a directive to all sections and branches of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion which explains the relative status and function of the above named organisations. It shows that both are instruments of the Communist Party of Canada. The directive reads:

"Some time ago we sent you a bulletin explaining in detail the need for the role of the Friends of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion, Since then this organisation has made considerable headway in B. C. and already considerable sums of money and goods have been collected, as well as agitation spread on behalf of our boys in Spain.

The reason for this further bulletin is because from a few sources confusion has arisen as to the relationship of the F.M.P.B. to the League for Peace and Democracy. There have even been individuals who have regarded the F.M.P.B. as a competitor to the League, and have even advocated its liquidation, or absorption by the League for Peace and Democracy.

It must therefore again be pointed out, that the F.M.P.B. has an entirely different role to perform than the League. Both organisations are vitally necessary, and need in no way be in competition with each other.

The League for Peace and Democracy is what its name indicates, the vehicle for the building of a very broad peace movement, which takes in practically every cross section of the population that desires peace, irrespective of what opinions they may have on the question of peace — pacifists, League of Nations adherents, or communists. It can embody many people who do NOT approve of Canadians going to Spain. It is an organisation of diverse issues, taking in the many sided forms of the struggle for peace and against fascism. The F.M.P.B., on the other hand, has a specific task; it is a parent body to our boys in Spain, an auxiliary to Combatants, looking after their needs and comforts. More than that it will particularly play an important role in providing for wounded and maimed Canadians who return here, in building up sentiment based on their heroism, etc.

It must therefore become obvious, that it would be a suicidal policy if the League for Peace and Democracy were to add to its broad peace aims,

the specific task of the F.M.P.B. This would narrow down the League, and completely divert it from its main objectives.

There is room in every locality for the two types of work. Our members must therefore become activized in building both movements, not one at the expense of the other, but to so harmonize the activities that both organisations can benefit. The Party's task of conducting an active struggle against war and fascism must express itself not only by strengthening the independent work of the Party in this field, but by organising the widest possible united movement for Peace. The League for Peace and Democracy is

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the vehicle for this great united movement and in its tasks are embodied popularization of and humanitarian aid to Spain and China, boycott of Japanese, Italian and German goods, campaigns of pressure on aiming to make the Canadian Government break with the foreign policy of the British National Government and live up to the League of Nations Covenants on Collective Security and International Law, as well as campaigns exposing fascism and reaction in Canada in whatever forms these appear. The Friends of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion is on the other hand a solidarity organisation which directly fosters our heroic fighters in Spain, the combatants for democracy. Thus for each of these organisations can be found different spheres of influence, different forms of appeal, although naturally both organisations are anti-fascist in character and should keep up a friendly and helpful, but absolutely INDEPENDENT relationship.

Thus we must guard against mixing the financial appeals, or using one financial appeal at the expense of the other, just as we must guard against mechanically organising both committees from the same people in any given locality. There is no need for friction or confusion. If we will abandon the old sectarian methods of work which operate in the confines of a very narrow circle, there will be no problem for overlapping, since we will find that there is a wide field for each organisation to work in.

We trust that this bulletin will clarify this whole question and that our comrades will immediately squelch any rumours that may be abroad that the F.M.P.B. is to liquidated, but on the contrary, will continue this work with the same enthusiasm with which it was started."

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## 2. The Steel Workers (C.I.O.) Conference at Montreal.

[~~deletion:2 lines~~] declared that the conference held under the auspices of the Steel Worker's Organising Committee (C.I.O.), at the LaSalle Hotel a few

days previously, was attended by delegates from 26 unions in Canada, representing a membership of over 12,000, including representatives of the union at Sault St. Marie, an affiliate of the All Canadian Congress of Labour.

The conference agreed that both unions, A.F. of L. and A.C.C. of L. should unite for a common purpose, the raising of the wage standard in the steel industry. It decided to advance the following demands:

- (1) A 10¢ per hour increase for all steel workers.
- (2) A minimum of \$4.00 per 8 hour day.
- (3) Time and one half for over time; double time for Sundays and holidays.
- (4) Recognition of the union as the sole bargaining agency.

The conference further agreed to meet the Government in an effort to have the tariff raised on steel entering from the U.S.A. It was felt that unless some effort were made in that direction it would be impossible to win major concessions for the steel workers in Canada.

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[~~3~~deletion: 1 1/2 lines] He is to receive a salary of \$35.00 per week and an allowance of \$3.00 per day towards his expense account.

Silby Barrett, newly appointed Director of the Steel Workers Organisation Committee in Canada, in an interview with a Clarion (Communist) representative at Montreal, following the conference, stated that prospects for the complete organisation of the Canadian Steel Industry were very bright. He estimated the total number of steel workers in Canada as being approximately 142,000. "The Organisation of all these workers will make the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers of North America the largest union in the country," Barrett said. At present this organisation, he declared, has 26 lodges in Canada, the largest of which are in N. S., Montreal and Hamilton; the Sydney, N. S. Lodge alone has 3,500 members, Barrett also emphasized the need for workers independent political organisation and expressed gratification over the manner in which the recent convention of the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada maintained the unity of C. I. O. and A. F. of L. Unions.

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### 3. C.C.F. refuses to co-operate with C.P. C. in Ontario Provincial Election.

In spite of all the efforts of the Communist Party and its auxiliary, the Labour Representation Association, leaders of the C.C.F. in Ontario have refused to co-operate in the present Ontario Provincial election campaign. The C.C.F. refused to withdraw any of its candidates and Communist Party leaders

are particularly annoyed over the refusal to withdraw the C.C.F. candidate Harry Simon from the contest in St. Andrew riding, where J.B. Salsberg, prominent communist is running on a labour ticket. The communists have withdrawn a number of Communist Party members, running under Progressive-Labour auspices in some of the constituencies. With the exception of Harry Binder in the Ottawa South riding, there is no official Communist Party candidate running.

Condemning the C.C.F. leadership for its "vote-splitting" policy, particularly in St. Andrew riding, many members of the Carleton

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C.C.F. group in Ward 2, Toronto, have deserted the C.C.F. [~~deletion:1 1/2~~ lines]

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#### 4. C. P. faces difficult situation in Edmonton (Alta) By-election.

The Communist Party is facing a difficult task in the Edmonton By-election. The situation has become rather complicated with the entry of 3 additional candidates — Mayor Joseph A. Clarke, K.C. (People's Front), Alderman Miss Margaret Crang, (Labour-Progressive), and Rice Sheppard (People's Candidate) — who are also contesting the election as "progressives." Communist Party leaders are very angry towards these candidates, especially Alderman Miss Margaret Crang, because, as one of the leaders remarked "it will play into the hands of the reactionary People's League." The Communist Party leaders appear to be under no delusion as to the probable result of this contest. Privately they are already conceding the seat to Mr. E. L. Gray, the "Liberal-Unity" candidate.

In an open letter to Mr. Aberhart, circulated throughout the Province, the Communist Party urges the Provincial Government at this session of the Legislature to:

- Amend the Minimum wage for male workers to make 40¢ an hour the minimum wage, and extend this to all categories of male and female workers.
- Enact a 5-day, 40-hour week for all workers.
- Tax the profiteers to provide a big program of public works to assist the unemployed and the farmers.
- Set up a marketing board to fight for a guaranteed minimum price for farm produce.

- Renew the moratorium on debt payments until the Dominion acts on this matter, and stop money leaving Alberta in payment of interest.
- Enact a health insurance scheme at once, as well as a housing program at the lowest possible cost.
- Re-establish the department of labour, and rigidly enforce all labour legislation, amending the compensation act along the lines suggested by the unions and the Alberta College of Physicians and Surgeons.
- Increase the youth grant and set up a youth assistance department of the Government.
- Cancel the R. C. M. P. agreement as soon as possible.
- Demand a National Constitutional Conference.

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#### 5. Communists in B. C. urge Boycott of German, Japanese and Italian Goods.

A meeting of the B. C. League against War and Fascism under the chairmanship of A. M. Stephen, was held in the Moose Hall, Vancouver, on the 20th of September, at which the name of the organisation was changed to "Canadian League for Peace and Democracy." It was explained by the chairman that the new name indicated a broader scope and that it would tend to bring closer together similar organisations in other parts of the country. Speeches were made by Stephen and A. A. McLeod of Toronto, national chairman of the League, dealing with the situation in Spain and the conflict in the Far East. Approximately 900 people attended the following a strong appeal for financial assistance, the collection taken netted \$100.00.

During the meeting a pamphlet was distributed, urging the boycotting of German, Italian and Japanese goods; "Stop War by Boycott" and "Refuse to buy German, Italian and Japanese Goods, anywhere at any price" are some of the slogans around which the contents of the pamphlet centers. Officially issued by the Canadian League for Peace and Democracy, 615 Hastings St., W., Vancouver, B. C., the pamphlet asserts that anti-fascist boycotts are being successfully enforced in many parts of North America and other countries; further that this boycott has the full endorsement in B. C. of:

The Vancouver, New Westminster and District Trades and  
Labour Council, and,  
Over 100 affiliated organisations of the Canadian  
League for Peace and Democracy.

It further asserts that the anti-fascist boycott has the endorsement of the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada, the American Federation of Labour, and the Committee for Industrial Organisation.

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6. Strikes and Industrial Unrest throughout Canada.

A. Steelworkers Strike at Sydney, N.S. Settled.

The strike of operatives in the Bar and Rod Mills of the Dom. Steel & Coal Co. at Sydney, in progress since the 15th of Sept., terminated on the 25th of Sept., after the Steelworkers' Union agreed with the Dosco executive on a plan of settlement. The strike caused a

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tie-up in five other departments, affecting more than 300 workers at the Sydney plant as well as 150 men at James Pender, Ltd., a St. John N. B. subsidiary.

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B. Tie-up at Dom. Coal Co. Mine in New Waterford.

Operations were resumed on Sept. 27th at No. 12 Colliery, Dom. Coal Co.'s big producer in the New Waterford area, after the mine and its 1200 miners had been idle since Sept. 22nd, tied up by a pan-shifters' strike, pending an investigation of the strikers grievance.

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C. Strike at Florence (N.S.) Colliery.

On Sept. 30th, the 'Lag' men at Florence Colliery, Cape Breton, struck for better wages. As a result, the mine which employs approximately 750 men was completely tied up for the day. The strikers decided to return to work pending the outcome of negotiations between the mine management and the union executive.

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D. Strike of Canadian Seamen Averted.

A threatened strike of seamen was averted when on Sept. 28th, 22 shipping companies signed an agreement with the Canadian Seamen's Union. The agreement reached, which entails an average increase in wages of \$7.50 per



month, affecting some 5000 seamen employed on over 200 Canadian ships, has been hailed as a great victory of the Canadian Seamen's Union.

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E. Flour Mill employes Strike at Fort Colborne, Ont.

Approximately 100 employes of the Maple Leaf Milling Co. at Fort Colborne, Ont., came out on strike on the 22nd of September, demanding recognition of the Union — The national Council of Grain Processors, an A.F. of L. affiliate.

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F. Strike in Kaufman Rubber Plant, Kitchener, Ont.

Operations in the A. R. Kaufman Rubber Plant at Kitchener, ont., came to a complete standstill on Sept. 23rd, when approximately 600 employes came out on strike. Work was resumed on the 27th after negotiations between the Company and the local of the U.R.W. of America.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

7. Communist Party of Canada in B. C. has 1,497  
Members.

According to figures issued by the Provincial Committee of the Communist Party in B. C., the total membership of the Party in that Province is 1,497, divided into 36 nationalities; 1,203 males, and 294 females; 425 employed and 1,072 unemployed; trade unionists number 423, and 54 members are listed as farmers.

These figures include 142 members of the Communist Party who went to Spain, also the transients who went to the Prairies in search of employment.

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The members of the Fishermen's fraction [~~3-4 words~~] at Vancouver, are very dissatisfied with Jack Phillips' achievements as editor of The Fisherman, and the membership at large of the Fishermen's organisation is frank in its criticism of the Communists in foisting him on their union for a "meal-ticket." The fraction has asked for his removal but Tom Ewen, Provincial leader of the Communist Party in B. C. has refused to consider the request until the National Convention of the Party.

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## II. ALBERTA

### 8. Calgary Unemployed form one Union.

Various unemployed organisations of Calgary have recently been merged into one organisation to be known as the Unemployed Union of Calgary. A meeting of this newly formed union was held on the 15th of September, with about 65 members present, including 15 Chinese. L. Nelson, delegate from the Trades and Labour Council, spoke on the relationship between the Council and the new union. Two delegates from the Social Credit Unemployed, who attended the meeting, endorsed the new union and promised the support of their organisation. William Griffin presented the following proposals:

- (1) That the union, comprising the unemployed in the city, be non-partisan and that there be no discussion of Political questions.
- (2) That locals be set up in various localities.
- (3) That there be locals for single men, for women, for Provincial relief recipients and for ex-service men; every local to have an executive committee.
- (4) That the Union negotiate with relief authorities.
- (5) That other interested organisations be approached with a view to obtaining their support.

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## III. SASKATCHEWAN

### 9. Single Unemployed urged to resist proposed Federal Farm Bonus Scheme.

Led by Communist agitators the transients in Regina seem determined to resist any attempt to have them placed on farms under the proposed Federal Farm Bonus scheme. The Single Workers' Union at Regina is said to have the support of 35 organisations in its campaign for the abolition of the scheme. It is the intention of the said union to picket the Government Employment Office and prevent, by force if necessary, transients and single unemployed from entering it.

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The Communist Party at Saskatoon, Sask., recently elected a new city committee, consisting of:

- [&deletion:name] Director of Trade Union Work.
- [&deletion:name] Organisation Secretary.
- [&deletion:name] Finance Committee.
- [&deletion:name] Youth Work.
- [&deletion:name] Dues Secretary and Finance Committee.

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- [&deletion:name] C. C. F. Work.
- [&deletion:name] Clarion and Finance Committee.
- [&deletion:name] East Side (Nutana) Organisation.
- [&deletion:name] Language Department.
- [&deletion:name] Language Department.

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#### IV. MANITOBA

##### 10. Lewis St. G. Stubbs speaks at Meeting of Winnipeg Unemployed.

Lewis St. G. Stubbs, M.L.A., was the principle speaker at a mass meeting in the Hebrew Free School, Winnipeg, on Sept. 23rd. The meeting, held under the auspices of Ward 3, unemployed association, was poorly attended, there being only approximately 100 people present. Mr. Stubbs spoke on the workers right to organise and the need for organisation. "Capitalism," he said, "is in its death throes." "It will be a terrible finish though," he declared, "because they will fight to the end and the working class must be prepared to wage an effective struggle to deal the final blow to capitalism."

He spoke at great length reviewing the history of the labour movement in England where men, he charged, were sentenced to long years of prison life and were sent to penal colonies, like Australia. In this connection he told the story of George Lovelace. He recounted the proceedings of his trial, comparing same with the trial of the 8 communists in Toronto in 1931. In conclusion he urged the audience to organise, to be better able to carry on the "struggle."

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#### V. QUEBEC

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The Quebec Federation of Unemployed, formed this summer, is said to be making rapid progress. It has succeeded in forming a united front with the unemployed C.C.F. groups of which 11 became affiliated to the Federation recently. The C.C.F. groups affiliated on the following conditions:

- (1) That 3 C.C.F. members be appointed on the Federation executive.
- (2) That the C.C.F. be given the right to use their own dues cards, but would pay the regular fee of 2¢ per member per month to the Federation.

An executive committee consisting of 15 members, 12 of whom are members of the Communist Party of Canada and 3 C.C.F. men, was appointed recently. The Officers of the Federation are:

President ———	[&deletion:name]	(CP)
1st. Vice. Pres.—	[&deletion:name]	(CP)
2nd. “ ” —	[&deletion:name]	(CCF)
3rd. “ ” —	[&deletion:name]	(CP)
Organiser. ———	[&deletion:name]	(CP)

[&deletion:name] is assisted by 4 members of the Communist Party, who are acting as assistant organisers. The Federation's headoffice is located at 254 St. Catherine St., E., Montreal.

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[&deletion:1/2 line] visited Quebec City recently, and on their return to Montreal in conversation with other members of the Communist Party, they stated that there are now signs of improvement in Quebec. The Quebec City Section of the Communist Party, they said, has now approximately 40 dues-paying members, a good functioning bureau with one named Parent as secretary-organiser.

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The Young Communist League in the City of Montreal is now planning to open a French Youth Center in the French section of the City. A campaign has been started with a view of raising \$300.00 to finance the project.

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