

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

OTTAWA, 13th October, 1937.

SECRET

NO. 873

WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATION IN CANADAREPORT

Approximately 5000 communists and sympathizers, including delegates from every Province in the Dominion attended the opening session of the eight Convention of the Communist Party of Canada in the Mutual Street Arena at Toronto on the night of October 8th. A wave of cheering swept the hall as Tim Buck, Earl Browder (U.S.A.), Alfred Costes (France), and members of the Central Committee of the Communist Party ascended the platform.

After opening remarks by Alderman Stewart Smith of Toronto, a memorial to the members of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion who died in Spain was unveiled. The Service, quite an impressive one, was conducted by Sam Carr with a delegation of four in the uniform of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion in attendance. Three girls laid wreaths at the foot of the Cenotaph and Flags dipped as the strains of the Last Post echoed in the completely darkened building.

Prior to the opening of the meeting two brass bands gave selections at alternate intervals.

APPENDICES
TABLE OF CONTENTSAPPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

- Para. No. 1. Communists pleased with progress in Canadian Trades and Labour Congress. 53rd Convention of Congress attended by 140 'progressive' delegates of whom 69 were members of C.P.
- " " 2. The Communists in the Ontario Provincial election. J. B. Salsberg received 6,303 votes in St. Andrew riding; good showing made in Northern ridings; total vote for communists greater than in previous election.
- " " 3. Lakeman decisively beaten in Edmonton

- By-election.**
- “ ” 4. The XIIth Convention of the Finnish Organisation of Canada. Tim Buck in attendance;
 Organisation has 78 locals, 5 more than at last Convention;
 Organisation makes up loss in membership caused by migration of 2000 Finns to Soviet Karelia.
Yapaus to be moved to Toronto.
- “ ” 5. The Campaign in Aid of Spanish Loyalists.
 Secret recruitment of volunteers continues;
 over 800 volunteers now in Spain; 44 killed in action.
- “ ” 6. Executive Council of A.F. of L. given power to expel Unions affiliated to C.I.O. if necessary.
 Homer Martin said to be quietly campaigning against Communists in Auto Workers Union.
- “ ” 7. Croatian Communists hold “Croatian Day” at Pittsburgh, Penn.
- “ ” 8. Strikes and Industrial Unrest throughout Canada.
 (a) Miners Strike in Cape Breton; Settled.
 (b) Steel Strike at Sorel, Quebec; Settled.
 (c) Jewelry Workers strike at Toronto, Ont.
 (d) Strike at Canada Dairies Ltd., Toronto, Ont.
 (e) Negotiations in Rubberset Co. Strike at Gravenhurst, Ont. Fail.

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES.

- “ ” 9. **ALBERTA**
 [deletion:2 lines]
- “ ” 10. **MANITOBA**
 Jim Litterick urges larger membership as solution to problem of C.P. in Manitoba.
- “ ” 11. **QUEBEC**
 [deletion:2 lines]
- “ ” 12. **MARITIME PROVINCES**
 U.M.W. of A. seeks “closed” shop in Stellarton, N.S.

APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL1. Communists Pleased with Progress in
Canadian Trades and Labour Congress.

Sidney Sarkin, prominent communist leader, reporting to a recent meeting of the Montreal Local Trade Union Commission of the Communist Party, stated that the 53rd Convention of the Canadian Trades and Labour Congress can be regarded as the greatest manifestation of Labour strength in the history of Canada, due to a great extent to the presence of a substantial Left Wing block, controlled by the Communist Party of Canada. Of the 140 'progressive' delegates present, 69 were members of the Communist Party of Canada, he said. "This large 'progressive' block had the respect of nearly all the delegates and was a deciding factor in all the resolutions that were brought forward during the meeting," he declared. Sarkin proudly pointed to the fact that two members of the Communist Party were elected to Provincial executives, i.e. [deletion: 1 word] of Toronto and Charles Stewart of the Vancouver Street Railway Employees. Sarkin, himself placed as a candidate for the Quebec Provincial executive, complained that he was defeated because the delegates representing the International Ladies Garment Workers Union had been instructed to vote against him. He severely criticized the French Communist Party members who attended the Congress for not attending the sessions regularly.

Charles Stewart, delegate from the Street Railway Employees Union, upon his return from the Congress, declared that in his opinion "the Trade Union movement in Canada has travelled 10 years in the last 12 months." Stewart believed that Quebec Province at the rate it is going will be the 'hub' of the trade union movement in Canada, and that the bulk of the Catholic Syndicates are likely to be affiliated to the Trades and Labour Congress in the near future. He contended that "the deliberations and decisions of the Convention clearly showed that the workers of Canada want unity, and the handful of reactionaries who went to the Convention determined to cause a rift, did not get to first base."

On the whole, Communist Party leaders seem very pleased with the results achieved at Ottawa. Their chief regret, however, is that the Convention voted against the proposal to enter the political

[2]

arena, to form a Farmer-Labour Party in Canada. They seem particularly delighted with the stand the Congress took on the question of Fascism and War, and with regard to the A.F. of L. — C.I.O. controversy.

2. The Communists in the Ontario Provincial Election.

Although no communist was elected, Communist Party leaders see in the outcome of the recent Ontario Provincial Election a vindication of the United-Front policy of the Communist Party of Canada. Failure to elect any of the Progressive-Labour candidates has been due to the 'splitting' policy of the C.C.F., they claim. The communists blame the C.C.F. for the defeat of J.B. Salsberg in St. Andrew (Toronto) riding, who was 179 votes short of being elected. Salsberg polled a total of 6,303 votes, while Harry Simon, C.C.F. received only 880 votes.

Tom Raycraft, prominent communist of Windsor, running on a Farmer-Labour ticket in Essex North received 1,343 votes; G. W. Anderson also a prominent communist running in Sudbury riding, 3,184; Tommy Church in South Cochrane, 6,730, while Mrs. J. Laing in St. George (Toronto) is credited with having polled 1,469 votes. The only candidate running on a straight Communist Party ticket was Harry Binder, in Ottawa South. He received 404 votes. Communist supported candidates, such as George Watson, West York and J.W. Buckley, Riverdale, made a fair showing. Sam Lawrence, a close sympathizer of the Communist party in Hamilton East lost his seat, having received 4,819 votes as against a total of 4,907 votes cast for him in the 1934 election.

On the whole the vote cast for the communists in this election has been greater than that polled by them in the 1934 election. The following table, showing the respective returns in some of the Constituencies may serve to illustrate the point.

	1937		1934	
J. B. Salsberg	6302	St. Andrew		
		M. Klig		1959
		St. George		
Mrs. J. Laing	1469	No candidate	—	
		South Cochrane		
Tommy Church	6730	W. Lehtinen		387
		Essex North		
Thomas Raycraft	1321	Ald. R. Morris		1048
		Sudbury		
G. W. Anderson	3184	Jim Davis		288

[3]

	1937		1934	
Harry Binder	404	Ottawa South		
		J. Lyons		191

The Communist Party fully anticipated the election of J.B. Salsberg in St. Andrew riding; his defeat gave rise to a bitter campaign directed against the

C.C.F. The following extract from an editorial appearing in the 8th of October issue of The Daily Clarion expresses the feeling of the communists.

"The C.C.F. leadership has played a shameful, ignoble part in the election campaign. The official C.C.F. policy has proved bankrupt. Two months ago, their organ The New Commonwealth suggested that John Mitchell would be the next Premier of Ontario. Election day revealed the regrettable situation that the C.C.F. could not hold the seat of Sam Lawrence in East Hamilton!

Such political puerility was combined with unprincipled opposition to any idea of unity of the working class forces, and a stupid refusal to lift a finger to achieve unity between the working class forces and the progressive liberals. The C.C.F. spite policy dovetailed with the criminal machine tactics of the Liberal machine in St. Andrew at Queen's Park. A stigma lies upon the C.C.F. officialdom that can only be wiped out in the united struggles of the people for their immediate needs. The C.C.F. dream of playing politics along the line of the tactics and practices of the old line parties is out of harmony with reality and the needs of the people."

3. Lakeman decisively beaten in Edmonton By-election.

The communists suffered a heavy defeat in the recent Provincial By-election at Edmonton. Jan Lakeman is reported to have received only 1,714 votes out of a total of 28,970 votes cast. Alderman Margaret Crang who entered the contest against the wishes of the Communist Party as a Labour-Progressive candidate received 1,309 votes while Roy Shepherd, People's candidate and Mayor Joseph Clarke, People's Front candidate, received 245 and 8,022 votes respectively. E.L. Gray, Liberal Party leader, received 17,680 votes.

4. The XIIth Convention of the Finnish Organisation of Canada.

The Finnish Organisation of Canada, [~~deletion:1 line~~] held its 12th National Convention in Toronto from September 25th to 30th with approximately 30 delegates in attendance together with the entire central committee of

[4]

the organisation and representatives of VAPAUS, the organisation's official organ, published daily at Sudbury, Ont.

Tim Buck, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Canada attended the opening session, delivering greetings from the Party and eulogizing the contributions of the Finnish Organisation towards the revolutionary movement in Canada. He emphasised that the Finnish Organisation is taking an active part in the every day struggle of the working class of Canada, and was pleased it followed the "line" of the Communist Party. He spoke of the new developments that are taking place in the labour movement, declaring that industrial unionism, as represented by the C.I.O. has given a new impetus to the "struggle." He informed the Convention that the Communist Party fights for democracy because "thereby we keep the road open to socialism." He thought that the Finns must be proud of their fellow-countrymen who are fighting for "democracy" in Spain. He urged the gathering to pay more attention to the problem of youth, maintaining that it was one of the chief tasks that the organisation must face in the future. He warned them against Trotskyism and explained how the communists are gradually "liquidating" this treacherous group within the Soviet Union.

The reports given by the delegates representing the various districts and localities showed that a steady progress is being made by the organisation throughout the country.

G. Sundqvist, National Secretary of the organisation, in his report covering the period from the 11th to the 12th Convention, indicated that the organisation has now 78 locals throughout Canada, or 5 locals more than at the last Convention. He stated that the organisation has played a great part in aiding the People's Front Movement in Spain; that it had collected over \$4000.00 in aid of that cause. He dwelt at great length upon the need for extending the United Front Movement among the Finns in Canada. In conclusion he stressed the need for greater education of the Finnish youth and intensifying their activities. His report disclosed that over 2000 Finns from Canada, nearly all of them members of the Finnish Organisation, had migrated to Soviet Karelia during the last few years, thus depleting the ranks of the organisation. The resultant loss in membership, however, has been offset by

[5]

the steady growth of the Organisation.

The Fraternal Delegate present from the Finnish Organisation of the U.S.A. explained that his organisation has learned much from the Finnish Organisation of Canada, particularly with regard to its "United Front" and "cultural" policy.

A matter receiving considerable attention by the Convention was the paper VAPPAUS. The report of the business manager indicated that the property of Vapaus Publishing Company, subsidiary of the Finnish Organisation of Can-

ada, at Sudbury, Ontario, was valued at \$50,988.85, exclusive of the mortgage on the property and debts. The total liabilities inclusive of the mortgage amounted to \$6,240.00, the report stated. The Convention gave consideration to a recommendation that the Sudbury property be sold and the printing plant moved to Toronto. After considerable discussion it was agreed to effect the transfer, as Toronto afford better facilities in every respect. Before taking this step, however, the matter is to be submitted to the various locals of the organisation throughout the country and should they agree with the wishes of the Convention the incoming executive board stands instructed to implement the decision of the Convention in that regard.

The financial statement submitted by the Manager of Vapaus Publishing Company disclosed a very favorable balance; the income for the fiscal year ending December 31st, 1936, being considerably higher than that of the preceding year. Receipts by subscriptions, advertisements and donations amounted to approximately \$34,000.00, it was disclosed.

5. The Campaign in Aid of Spanish Loyalists.

Enlistment of volunteers throughout Canada for military service in Spain continues. Strict secrecy, however, is maintained by the Communist Party leaders in charge of this work. Only the functionaries of the Party who have been chosen for this particular task seem to be acquainted with the procedure underlying the sending of recruits

[6]

from Canada. Thus for instance, [~~3/4 line~~] recently left that city suddenly for the East, [~~2 words~~] who was left in charge of the work has not been able to carry on because of lack of instructions.

It is reported that on the 2nd of October a number of volunteers left Winnipeg for Spain, including [~~1 word~~] a prominent figure in Communist Party circles and [~~1 word~~] a leading member of the Young Communist League.

The Communist Party claims that there are now over 800 Canadian volunteers serving in Spain. A recent announcement made by [~~1 word~~] Secretary of the Friends of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion at Toronto, states that 44 Canadians have been killed fighting in the ranks of the Loyalist Army so far. Casualties were particularly heavy on September 20th when 9 men met death on the Bruete Front, and 1 at Cordola. These included:

Mike Kobe
Emil Koskela

Toronto, Ont.
" "

Tauno Lindh	“ ”
John O. Bloom	Edmonton, Alta.
Nick Nivirinski	“ ”
John Rackey	Kirkland Lake, Ont.
Nick Harbocian	Windsor, Ont.
G. Yaney	Timmins, “
Mike Sirdar	“ ”
Joe Milkovitch	Port Arthur, Ont.

On September 28th, Charles (Chuck) Parker, formerly Vancouver Sports Club Instructor and Alcide Bigras of Winnipeg, were killed at Quinto. In this engagement 9 are said to have been seriously wounded.

6. Executive Council of A.F. of L. given
Power to expel Unions affiliated to C.I.O.
if necessary.

The offer of the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada, to mediate the present differences existing between the American Federation of Labour and the Committee for Industrial Organisation, was spurned by the leaders of the A.F. of L. assembled in Convention at Denver, Col. The Federation's executive report to the Convention bristled with attacks on the C.I.O. with President William Green declaring "there can be no turning back, we will face uncompromisingly towards the enemy." By an

[7]

overwhelming vote, the A.F. of L. Convention approved a Resolutions Committee report, giving the executive council power to expel the suspended C.I.O. Unions. The report, however, held the door to peace open with a provision that a fight to exterminate the C.I.O. be delayed until all peace efforts fail.

Homer Martin, leader of the Auto Workers Union (C.I.O.) is said to be quietly campaigning with a view to removing Communist Party members from the leadership of various local Unions. Communist Leaders have expressed themselves to the effect that should it come to a real fight, Martin would likely double-cross the C.I.O.

7. Croatian Communists hold "Croatian Day"
At Pittsburgh, Penn.

The Croatian communists held a United Front Conference, a so-called 'Croatian Day' in Pittsburgh, Penn., on September 19th last, with delegates present from 243 Croatian organisations in the U.S.A. and Canada, representing a total membership of 27,560. Among the delegates in attendance from Canada was [deletion: 1 1/2 lines]

The Conference is said to have pledged support to the movement led by Doctor Vladko Macek in Yugoslavia. It sent a protest resolution to the Prime Minister of Yugoslavia demanding the release from prison of all radicals and the establishment of freedom of speech in that country. It elected an executive committee composed of 14 members to be known as "The Permanent Croatian Day Organisation Committee."

8. Strikes and Industrial Unrest
Throughout Canada.

(a) Miners' Strike in Cape Breton Settled.

Miners of the Florence Colliery, near Sydney, N.S., came out on strike on the 2nd of October, for the second time within a week. A one day strike ended on the 30th of September when the strikers agreed to return to work, pending negotiations with the Company. Failure of negotiations resulted in the new walk-out. On October 3rd, the men

[8]

employed at the Princess Colliery struck in sympathy with the Florence miners. The 1500 men involved went back to work on October 6th.

(b) Steel Strike at Sorel, Que., Settled.

A final settlement of the two months old strike of National Catholic Syndicate Steel Workers in 5 steel plants at Sorel, Quebec, was reached on October 2nd. The companies, it is understood, have agreed to re-employ the strikers as conditions permit. Terms of the settlement were presented to a meeting of strikers for approval. Two-thirds of those attending voted in favour of it.

(c) Jewelry Workers Strike at Toronto, Ont.

On October 4th, a total of 6 jewelry shops at Toronto had signed agreements which included a twelve and one-half cent hourly increase in wages with the Jewelry Workers' Union, which had declared a general strike of jewelry workers throughout the city on October 1st. As a result of the agreement signed, 50 of the 200 strikers went back to work.

(d) Strike at Canada Dairies Ltd. Toronto, Ont.

The strike at the Canada Dairies Limited, at Toronto, now in its 4th week is dead locked. The strike leaders, officials of the Milk Drivers, Helpers and Dairy Workers' Union, have announced that through their propaganda campaign they have been able to cut down the orders 60% and will soon be able to completely boycott the Company's products. Thus far, Company officials ignored efforts of the Union to negotiate a settlement.

(e) Negotiations in Rubberset Co. Strike at Gravenhurst, Ont., Fail.

A strike called by the employes of the Rubberset Co. at Gravenhurst, (Ont.), on September 23rd, continues after negotiations arranged by the Provincial Department of Labour had failed. Strikers declared the terms offered did not meet their demands.

[9]

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES.I. ALBERTA.

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II. MANITOBA10. Jim Litterick urges larger membership as Solution to Problems of C.P. in Manitoba.

Speaking at a membership meeting of the Communist Party of Greater Winnipeg, on the 29th of September, Jim Litterick, M.L.A., stressed the need for increasing the membership as a solution to many of the minor problems

which the party faces. He referred to the growth of Communism in France and Spain, explaining how a year ago there were only 18,000 communists in Spain, whereas today the membership of the Communist Party of Spain is 250,000. He claims that the Popular Front in France was kept intact through the Communist Party and what has been done in France and Spain can be done in Canada. In the discussion that followed it was pointed out that during the past, many new members had been taken into the Party but that an equal number had left, thus neutralizing the increase in membership. A matter receiving attention at this meeting was the "Clarion" drive during the month of October. Alderman Penner, Alderman M.J. Forkin, M. Sago and Bill Rose volunteered to parade the streets carrying placards bearing inscriptions, such as

[10]

"I Read and Support the Clarion."

III. QUEBEC

[deletion: 1/2 page]

IV. MARITIME PROVINCES.

12. U.M.W. of A. Seeks "Closed" shop in Stellarton, Nova Scotia.

The United Mine Workers Local at Stellarton, N.S. has given a 30 day ultimatum to all non-union employes of the Acadia Coal Company in the Stellarton Mine, to join the Union in an attempt to create a 100% closed shop.
