

## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

OTTAWA, Oct. 27th, 1937.

SECRET

NO. 874

WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANISATIONSAND AGITATION IN CANADAREPORT

This issue of the Summary has been devoted entirely to an outline of the proceedings of the Eighth National Convention of the Communist Party of Canada held in Toronto, Ont., from 8th to 12th of October.

The Convention was an expression of the ever growing strength of the Communist Movement in Canada. The 452 delegates present — the largest attendance witnessed in the history of the movement — represented a cross-section of the Communist Party in all its ramification. The foreign speaking element, though forming the larger part of the attendance, remained well in the background with the English and French speaking delegates doing most of the acting; thus an atmosphere was created calculated to convey the impression that the movement is truly Canadian inspired.

---

The Eighth Convention of the Communist Party  
of Canada

The Eighth National Convention of the Communist Party of Canada opened with a public session in the Mutual Street Arena at Toronto, Ont., on the night of 8th October. Approximately 5,000 Communists and sympathizers attended including 450 accredited delegates from all parts of Canada, Alfred Costes of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of France, Earl Browder, General Secretary of the Communist Party of the U.S.A., and Angelo Herndon, internationally known Negro Communist leader. A wave of cheering swept the large hall as Tim Buck, Earl Browder, Alfred Costes and members of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Canada ascended the platform.

Following a brief opening speech by Alderman Stewart Smith of Toronto a service was held in remembrance of the members of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion who died in Spain while fighting with the Loyalist forces. For this purpose the entire building was placed in darkness with a spot light focused on a Cenotaph on the stage which bore the inscription "They died in

Spain that democracy shall not perish". Four veterans of the Spanish Civil War, clad in the uniform of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion stood around the memorial; three girls laid wreaths and flags dipped as the strains of the Last Post echoed throughout the arena.

A large streamer bade welcome to the delegates seated in a reserved section and behind the platform rose a huge banner depicting a young Canadian worker with a wife and child standing before a green maple leaf on which were drawn symbols of the wealth of Canada: lumber, wheat, factories, mines. Across the top of the banner was written "Our Country Is Rich Enough to Make Our People Happy". Prior to the opening of the meeting two brass bands of the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association of Toronto gave selections at alternate intervals, with the audience singing the Spanish Loyalist marching song "No Pasaran."

Messages of greeting were read from the Communist Party of the Netherlands and from Harry Pollitt on behalf of the Communist Party of Great Britain. The latter hailed the growth in the membership of the Canadian Party, the establishment of a daily paper and growing influence

[2]

of the Communist Party in the political life of the Dominion. A resolution urging the meeting to greet Joseph Stalin, General Secretary of the Communist Party of the U.S.S.R., George Dimitrov, Secretary of the Communist International, and Dolores Ibarruri, leader of the Communist Party of Spain, was passed amidst prolonged cheers and applause.

Earl Browder, in a short speech, depicted Fascism as a menace to world peace and urged everyone to join in the fight against it. He declared that the Communist Party of the U.S.A. has given complete support to the policy of President Roosevelt in "dealing with aggressive nations that are against world peace".

Alfred Costes extended greetings on behalf of his Party and the working class of France. The speech, delivered in French and interpreted into English, dealt also largely with the menace of war and Fascism.

Tim Buck, main speaker of the evening, spoke for one hour and forty-five minutes on "The road ahead for Canada". In his report, which has been published in the Communist press and which is to be reproduced in pamphlet form, Buck called for unity of the people to make "our Canada happy, prosperous and free". Purporting to be an analysis of present day conditions in Canada, the report outlined in a general form, the policy which the Communist Party of Canada seeks to pursue in the future.

The succeeding regular sessions, 10 in all, were held at the Masonic Temple, Yonge Street and Davenport Road. The hall was decorated to suit the

occasion with banners and large portraits of Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin and La Passionara. On the platform were two busts of Lenin and a large picture of Tim Buck.

The second session opened with James Litterick, M.L.A. of Manitoba, in the chair. Among the delegates present were Earl Browder, representing the Communist Party of the U.S.A. and the Communist International; Alexander Trachtenberg; Angelo Herndon and Jack Johnston of the U.S.A.; and Larry Ryan, representing the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion in Spain.

Joseph Stalin, General Secretary of the C.P.S.U., George Dimitrov, General Secretary of the C.I., Harry Pollitt, General Secretary

[3]

of the C.P. of G.B., Ernest Thaelman, imprisoned leader of the C.P. of Germany, Jose Diaz, General Secretary of the C.P. of Spain, Delores Ibaruri (Passionara), Bob Kerr, Political Commissar of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion, Chu-Teh, Commander of the Chinese (Communist) 8th Route Army, William Gallagher, M.P., William Z. Foster, Chairman of the C.P. of the U.S.A., and Tom Mann, of the C.P. of G.B., were elected members of the Honorary Presidium.

After appointing the various commissions, 10 in number, delegates listened to the report of the Party's national organisational secretary — Sam Carr — featured under the caption "The Communist Party from the 7th to the 8th Convention", and to a report by Evariste Dube.

Hailing the 8th Convention as an event of great importance in the life of the Dominion, Sam Carr reviewed the developments from the 7th Convention, held in 1934, to the present day, stressing particularly the movement centering around the demand for the abolition of Section 98 of the Criminal Code. "We have defeated Section 98. We have proved to the Bennetts, Holts, and Flavelles that our Party is an inseparable part of Canadian life and that it cannot be disposed of by arrests, threats and persecutions", he declared. He reminded the delegates that it was necessary to bear in mind the course the Party had taken in fighting for its legality, in fighting for a situation that made it possible to hold a convention such as this. Referring to the 7th Congress of the Communist International and developments internationally subsequent thereto, Sam Carr declared that the 7th Congress of the Comintern helped to focus the attention of Canada upon the problem of achieving unity between all those in Canada who stand for socialism "between our Party and the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation". He quoted as one of the major tasks of the Party the problem of increasing its membership to 25,000. "The possibilities of such an achievement are all on hand, we must find the methods to be employed by us if we are to realize the opportunities which life affords

us in building the Party at a rate commensurate with the present situation in Canada", he declared. He stated that the young people of Canada are in ferment as exemplified in the Canadian Youth Congress movement. He placed before the Party the need to recognise that the work among the young people is a main

[4]

task of the Party. "To this end", he declared, "the Party must strengthen the Young Communist League to the extent that it will provide the instrument for the struggle for unification of all socialist minded young people into a proletarian Youth League embracing the Co-operative Commonwealth Youth Movement and Y.C.L. and other youth organisations". In conclusion he emphasized that "900 of the best sons of our country, 800 of our Party members have gone to Spain", and, in the name of the Central Committee, he pledged to the C.P. of Spain the further support of the "progressive people of Canada". "Let the place in our ranks of every Communist who died in Spain be taken by 100 workers from the shops, mills and mines of Canada; let us, for every Communist who answered the call and joined the ranks of Canada's Mac Kenzie-Papineau Battalion in Spain, recruit 10 of Canada's progressive men and women workers by hand or brain, toilers in industry or on the land", Carr declared. He concluded by expressing the hope that the 8th Convention would open a new chapter in the life of the 'progressive' people of Canada and that all would "redouble their efforts towards people's unity, towards a socialist Canada".

Evariste Dube, co-reporter on the situation in Quebec, presented a lengthy analysis of the situation and conditions in that province, dealing particularly with the anti-Communist policy of the Provincial Government. "We are particularly happy", he said, "that for the first time at a conference of our Party there should be this strong representation of French-Canadian working men and women". "Our presence here", he declared, "is a ringing, defiant answer to those who do all in their power to keep our people shut away in isolation from the struggles of the French-Canadian people". "We remember that a hundred years ago next month", he continued, "our fathers stretched out the hand of solidarity to the Rebels of Upper Canada, in the common battle for democratic liberty; and in fighting for our right to survive as a national group, against an English ruling class which sought to crush us, we had the full support of the English and the English-Canadian democrats". He dealt with the recent struggle of the French-Canadian textile workers, quoting same as indication that "the wall which separated Quebec from the rest of our country, today is beginning to crumble".

[5]

He portrayed the Premier of the Province of Quebec as the chief enemy of liberty, of labour and of the Quebec people — “The public enemy of French Canada”. The report stressed the need for a “People’s Unity Against Duplessis, for a Progressive Front in the Province of Quebec”. The concluding portion of his report is of interest, it reads: —

“The struggle to unite the masses of the French Canadian people against the regime of Duplessis and the threat of Fascism demands a strong, developed Communist Party. The years since the last convention of our Party have seen a steady growth in our membership among the French Canadians, in Montreal, in Quebec City and other points in the Province of Quebec.

“In the course of these three years, through experience in the day to day work of organisation and through special training schools held twice yearly, there has grown up a French Canadian leadership of our Party which is growing to political maturity, Gradually weaknesses are being overcome, weaknesses which expressed the lack of organisational experience among French Canadian workers in general, the youthfulness of the French Canadian proletariat. Confusions dating from the ‘Saint Martin’ period of the movement in Montreal are being eliminated from our midst. The isolation from the workers in the factories, due largely to the great proportion of unemployed members in the Party, is being done away with; trade unionists, active both in the established unions and in the organisation of the unorganised in the steel, meat-packing, furniture, dairy and other industries. At the same time active work in the localities and in the Federation of Unemployed is being carried on with a more practical understanding of our tasks than existed formerly in the period of the ‘Front Populaire’ movement.

“At the same time we are aware of shortcomings which must be rapidly eliminated, in a certain slowness in recruiting in the organisation of work in the outside points, in the character and quality of our propaganda.....and, particularly important, decided weaknesses in our work among the French Canadian youth and among the professional and middle class people.

“One thing, however, must be mentioned before closing: the effect on our Party of the participation of French Canadians in the ranks of our Battalion in Spain. One can sense a new sense of seriousness and of responsibility among our comrades who are filling as best they can the places, here in Canada, of our fallen comrades, our Morins, Gosselins, Campbells from Quebec and Montreal. When Gosselin’s father (also a Party member, in Point St. Charles) learned of his son’s death on the Brunete front, he received the blow with quiet, Communist courage — and then went out with the copy of ‘Clarte’ that had his boy’s picture and an editorial saying how proud we were of him, and went from house to house

with it till forty copies were sold, and — I think that typifies the temper that our young Party among the French Canadians is beginning to achieve: a temper that will face the struggles ahead, and go to meet them”.

The third session was opened by Tim Buck who proposed the municipal and legislative program based on: —

1. A living wage and social security for all.
2. Save the farmer and agriculture from ruin.
3. A just taxation policy; make the rich pay.

[6]

4. Guarantee full civil liberties.
5. Full democracy, equality and social security for the French-Canadian people.
6. Give youth a chance.
7. People's platform

In explaining the various features of the program, Buck pointed out that the program is to be used to create mass struggles and that it should not be looked upon “as a thing in itself”. Following the introduction of the program, Buck suggested that the convention begin discussion on his main report, delivered at the first session in Mutual Street Arena, “The Road Ahead for Canada”.

A number of leading delegates, including Fred Rose, Leslie Morris, Jean Perron, Walter Wiggins, Tom Ewen, J. Litterick, J. Penner, Harry Binder, Beatrice Fernyhough, Fred Collins, Andy Hogarth and W. Findlay took part in the discussion which occupied the better part of the afternoon session.

The highlight of the fourth session, held on the evening of 9th October and presided over by Mah Sue of Vancouver, was the speech given by Norman Freed (Freedenthal) recently returned from Moscow where he had served on the Executive Committee of the Communist International as Canada's representative. He read his speech from a manuscript and it is suspected that it was the voice of the C.I. in the form of a “directive”. It was an excellent analysis of the Canadian political situation.

“The task facing the Canadian labour movement, he pointed out, “is to find a basis of unity with the reform liberals, the C.C.F., and all the consciously anti-old-line party groups with the object of gaining the support of the middle-of-the-way sections and isolate the reactionaries.

“The forces for progress and democracy are emerging and growing, they are taking shape in different provinces and localities, conditioned by life itself, conditioned by the diversified conditions in the various provinces, the different economic and social backgrounds, the difference in the level of class struggle and political security in the various sections of the population.

"It would be an unforgivable mistake to attempt at the present time to work out a blue-print as to the form the people's front movement will take. This would place the whole movement in a straight-jacket and defeat it. Instead of drawing a blue-print, we should seek out the forms for people's unity which life itself provides us with. Instead of excluding and limiting ourselves to one particular channel, we should rather include and utilize all avenues with which life provides us.

"In view of the chief character of the present situation, its diversity, its unclarity, its lack of crystallization, its timidity, it is impossible at the present time to

[7]

visualize the form that the people's front movement will take. The basic organisations for this are the Communist Party, the mass of farmers. To achieve a people's front movement in Canada, to break down the barriers that stand in the way of uniting all these forces would greatly facilitate the unity of the labour movement.

"It is possible, however, to indicate the present and potential democratic forces that have and will appear on the political scene in Canada. These should be summarized as follows:

"The C.P., C.C.F., the Trade Union Movement, Farmers' organisations, co-operatives, Social Credit Clubs, movement and organisations among the youth, and it is also possible to include sections and even organisations of the Liberal Party. This would constitute a mighty force if united and crystallized and would be capable of halting the reaction and would defeat its plans.

"We Communists are ready to co-operate with the C.C.F., we are ready to enter into joint action, we are ready to co-ordinate our efforts. We do not exclude the possibility of transforming the C.C.F. into an all inclusive labour party if this is possible. We are not concerned about what form the united movement takes, we are concerned about the crystallization of the united movement in the shortest time".

The remainder of the session was taken up with the discussion on the speeches delivered by Buck, Carr and Dube, with the following delegates taking part: Stanley Ryerson, Montreal; E. Holwell, Toronto; T. McManus, Regina; W. Findlay, Glace Bay; Ewart Humphreys, York Township; Phil Luck, Hamilton; J. Penner, Winnipeg; H. Childress, Lethbridge; G. Boulter, Fort William; and M. Sago, Winnipeg.

Ewart Humphreys gave a glowing report on his achievements in the York County Council, relating chiefly to the unemployed movement, while Stanley Ryerson dealt principally with the situation in the Province of Quebec.

The fifth session commenced at 9.00 a.m. on 10th October, with about 450 delegates and 20 visitors present. Doctor Bethune delivered a report on the Spanish conflict. He contended that the issue would not be decided by the forces in Spain, but in the International arena. "Most people in Spain", the doctor told the gathering, "Were at the beginning under the impression that our mission was an official one, that we actually represented the Canadian Government. It was difficult to explain to them that the Canadian Government not only did not sponsor the blood transfusion service, but even put obstacles in its way".

Stewart Smith reported on the importance of overcoming the conflict between the C.P. and the C.C.F. He spoke in part: —

[8]

"The main conclusion for our convention which flows from the report of Comrade Tim Buck is the urgent necessity of exerting all our strength now to abolish the conflict of the C.C.F. with our Party, to establish in as short time as possible at least the most elementary forms of co-operation and understanding between the C.C.F. and us on a local, provincial and national scale.....

"This question is the central key, the immediate problem of the whole labor movement.....

"It has become an extremely urgent necessity today that co-operation and understanding be established between the C.C.F. and our Party because *the working class, the labor movement in Canada has entered a new phase in its development...*

"The strike movement and growth of trade unionism is the decisive means by which the working class is beginning to challenge the right of big capital to divert to itself, in the form of ever increasing profits, the fruits of increased economic production activity while holding wages and living standards on a crisis level.....

"The beginning of this new awakening of the labor movement has particularly broken through to the forefront of Ontario politics and Quebec politics and the moves of Hepburn in Ontario in the direction of a reactionary coalition under the slogan of 'Crush the C.I.O. and Communism,' the crusade against the C.I.O. and Communism, indicate the extreme danger of new reactionary combinations and attacks which confront the labor movement and the progressive forces of Canada as a whole at this time.....

"It is for this reason, because of these developments, that the danger of Fascism today in Canada is reaching a new stage, a stage that is characterized by the beginning of attempts to find new forms of reactionary combinations and attempts to carry into effect new measures of a Fascist



repressive character directed against the growing movement for economic recovery of the people.....

"This contest will shake the whole future of the Dominion of Canada. In this great growing movement, at the heart of the movement, is the C.P. and the C.C.F., the Socialists and the Communists. This is true of every development of the strike movement.....

"In those industrial centres where the strike movement had its centre, where the C.C.F. completely disregarded the development of the new movement and on the basis of some narrow inner circle of its own organisation put forward an unknown trade unionist and blocked the way for a representative labor candidate, we see the most ineffective results in the election campaign.

"And the strongest results of all were attained in the election, the strongest evidence of the character and importance of the new developments for the whole policy of the C.C.F. and of our own party shown in those cities, whose constituencies like St. Andrew, South Cochrane and North Waterloo; where the labor movement was blocked and excluded from co-operation with the C.C.F., we found effective means of unity outside the C.C.F. and put forward labor candidates, in a number of cases openly opposed by C.C.F. candidates.

"In each one of those instances we see the most striking condemnation of the sectarian blind policy of the C.C.F. leadership.....

"These lessons of the election in Ontario must cause us to re-examine our whole fight for co-operation between our Party and the C.C.F. We must find ways now as a matter of

[9]

urgent and pressing necessity to strengthen and renew the fight concretely in keeping with the present situation as it actually exists in each locality to abolish this conflict and establish a basis for co-operation and understanding with the C.C.F. ....

"Sometimes we fail to see the C.C.F. masses and see only the C.C.F. leaders.....

"We do propose and we do advocate the unity of the C.C.F. and the C.P. as the centre of a large people's movement in a farmer-labor party and the forces for such a party are maturing.....

"The key to the solution of this problem is the development of the mass movement for economic improvement".

J. B. Salsberg told of his Provincial election campaign in St. Andrew riding, showing how 'Montreal' political methods had been used by the Liberal candidate to "steal the election".

Emile Miller spoke on the problems in Saskatchewan and on co-operation with the C.C.F. in that province. Following his speech the session adjourned in order to give the various commissions time to carry on with their work.

The sixth session, held in the course of the afternoon, was devoted to speeches by Alexander Trachtenberg of New York, head of International Publishers (a C.I. institution), Alfred Costes of France, Earl Browder, representing the C. I. and the C.P. of the U.S.A., and Ralph Bates, who was introduced as a distinguished British author and Political Commissar of the 15th Column of the International Brigade in Spain.

Alexander Trachtenberg praised the Canadian Party for having two publishing organisations; one for books and one for pamphlets. He congratulated Stanley Ryerson on his 'splendid book' and said it indicated that the Party leadership in Canada had reached political maturity.

Alfred Costes read his address in French; a translation of it was given the convention by Stanley Ryerson. His speech described the developments of the popular front in France, its struggles with fascism, and how he (Costes) inaugurated the tactic of the "sit-down" strike. In bringing to the convention greetings of the Central Committee of the C.P. of France, the greetings of the 350,000 members of the French C.P., he said that he was chosen to bring to the 8th Convention of the Communist Party of Canada "the sum total of the experience of the work of our Party in France."

[10]

Earl Browder spoke on "Twenty Years of Soviet Power." He traced the growth of socialism in the U.S.S.R, contrasting the progress made there with that in the U.S.A.

At the conclusion of Browder's address a motion was passed that his speech and that of Costes be published in pamphlet form.

"I want to speak," said Ralph Bates, "not only on behalf of the whole of the Spanish People's Army of which I am a part," in giving a survey of the work of the Republican Army of Spain. Referring to the popular front movement he claimed that "it has been the Spanish Communist Party that has done more than any other organisation, more than any other party to force back International Fascism." He presented a glowing account of the 'People's Army,' stating that it is one of the finest armies in Europe, willing and able to defend itself against any foe. "Before the war," he said, "there was something like 50,000 people in the Spanish Communist Party; today it can claim that 350,000 dues paid members have come into the Party." Speaking on behalf of the International Brigade and of its accomplishments, he said that it saved Madrid. "I want to say that it was the Communist Party of Spain that gave us that unified army, I speak for every man who fought in the firing line, no matter

what their political belief may be, when I say that we all have to be grateful to the Communist Party.....”

“When a political party is able to get the masses of the people to follow it, there is proof that its methods are right and the doctrines are right...comrades, I want to say emphatically that for those who are fighting in Spain that the people of Spain, and all the democrats of Spain must, as well as the whole world, stand up and thank the Communist Party of Spain and the Communist International which helped to defend Spain. Viva la Comintern.”

Tim Buck announced that a delegate from Cuba had been expected but the delegate was unable to cross the Canadian border. The session concluded with the passing of a resolution of greetings to J. Stalin of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union which reads:

“We greet you!

Through you, our dear comrade, the eighth National Convention of the Communist Party of Canada sends its warmest greetings to our brother Party and to the peoples of the Soviet Union on the eve of the twentieth anniversary of the great October revolution.

We regard with pride the rapidly rising standard of living and well being, the achievement of complete social security for the whole population, the unprecedented growth of your system of education and health protection to a level such as no other part of the world possesses, your great achievements in all other fields of

[11]

social life. You have proved under the most difficult imaginable conditions that only socialism, only the transfer of political power to the hands of the working class and the elimination of all exploitation of man by man, can liberate the productive forces of mankind and make man himself master of his own destiny. Your achievements are therefore an inspiration to make the tremendous resources of our own country available to our people as that misery and fear for the future should be banished from our homes and replaced by the happiness and security which you have gained for yourselves.

The Soviet trans-Arctic aviators who passed over our country on their historic flight to America brought added encouragement to all lovers of peace in Canada who see in the Soviet Union, the greatest bulwark against war, working to save the lives of millions of working people from being destroyed in a new world war to which the fascist rulers in desperation are driving.

We greet you the Soviet Constitution and your coming Soviet elections as the final and irrefutable proof that the October revolution introduced for mankind a new and higher type of democracy, which by destroying the economic roots of capitalism, has made impossible the fascist destruction of democracy witnessed in other countries. And you, who, together with and following Lenin, led the great Party which made these victories for mankind possible, we hail as our trusted leader, our dearest comrade, whose life and work inspire us to greater efforts to bring closer the victory of Socialism in our country and all over the world."

The remainder of the sessions were taken up largely with meetings and reports of the various commissions. The first resolution adopted was on Spain; it called for increased efforts to aid the Spanish Loyalists, and for extending the activities of the Friends of the MacKenzie Papineau Battalion throughout Canada. "We are in full accord," the resolution stated, "with the Communist Party of Spain and with the democratically elected government in their efforts to achieve a mighty People's army, a unified command, a powerful munitions industry so that once and for all Fascism will be wiped off the face of Spain."

A resolution on China said that the essential thing to do was to develop a campaign for an economic boycott of Japan; it branded as criminals the exporters of war materials to that country and concluded by calling on the Canadian people, all labor and progressive forces in Canada, to unite in support of the Chinese people, "who are defending their native land against foreign aggression."

A further resolution whole-heartedly endorsed the action taken by the government of the Soviet Union against the Trotzkyists "wreckers and traitors." It branded Trotzkyism as an ally of Fascism and called for the routing out of all Trotzkyists from the labor movement.

A resolution on organisation, for "a mighty Communist Party in Canada," presented by Sam Carr, calls the attention of the Party membership towards the need of overcoming the "serious lagging in recruiting

[12]

into the Party." It calls for a membership of 25,000 by the next convention (the present membership is said to be 15,000). It reads in part:

"This Convention declares it to be the solemn duty of each and every Party member to build the ranks of our organisation by recruiting his or her shop mates, friends and neighbors.

(a) The Convention directs the Party to a concentrated and systematic effort to recruit into the Party thousands of workers from industry. To achieve this the Provincial and Regional executive committees should immediately select in their given areas a number of important shops, mills

and mines and concentrate all forces upon building the Party in these enterprises.

(b) To consolidate the unity of the workers and farmer, to serve the needs of the people in the countryside more effectively, the Party should be built in the rural areas. The Eighth Dominion Convention calls upon the Party to overcome the lagging in work among the farmers. Some of the best Party people should devote their entire time to the building of the Party in the rural areas. To ensure success in the field it is imperative that no preconceived notions of organisational forms be imposed upon the rural membership. Forms of organisation and methods of work in the countryside should be evolved in the process of building the Party among the farm population of Western as well as Eastern Canada.

(c) Our Party suffers by the deplorably small number of women in its ranks. Immediate steps toward overcoming this are urgently required. Particular attention to training women personnel, special educational courses and pamphlets dealing with problems of special interest to women should be introduced. Where found advisable, special women's branches of the Party should be organised.

(d) The Eighth Dominion Convention urges particular attention to recruiting large number of Canadian workers, farmers and professionals into the Party. Whilst not slackening the rate of recruiting among immigrant workers, we must achieve in the nearest possible future a predominantly Native Canadian and French Canadian composition of our Party ranks.

The weakest link in the Party work remains the lack of work among the masses of Canadian Youth. The Eighth Dominion Convention directs the Party to make work among the youth a major task to which some of our best forces devote their main attention. The Convention directs the Party to give the greatest possible aid in the building of a strong Young Communist League, and combat any attempts to replace daily building of the youth movement by the organisation of so-called Party Youth Branches. The Convention whole-heartedly endorses the Youth Act and pledges aid to the Youth Congress Movement.

The Eighth Dominion Convention directs the Central Committee to issue individual membership cards, January 1st, 1938, being the date of issue. The present weekly dues system is to be replaced beginning January 1st, 1938, by monthly dues payments according to the following schedule:-

<u>Earnings per month.</u>	<u>Dues per month.</u>
Unemployed	10 cents
Earnings up to \$30.00 per month	20 cents
Earning \$31.00 to \$50.00	40 cents
Earning \$51.00 to \$75.00	60 cents

Earning \$76.00 to \$90.00	75 cents
Earning \$91.00 to \$115.00	\$1.00
Earning \$116.00 to \$140.00	\$1.50
Earning \$141.00 to \$180.00	\$2.50
Earning \$180.00 and up	\$4.00

To help the Party pay its international affiliation fees and to provide the necessary money to assist brother parties when occasion arises, the Central Committee shall introduce beginning with January 1st, 1938, three International Assessment stamps per year paid at intervals of three months, the fourth quarter of each year

[13]

reserved for the collection of the year's Convention Assessment.

The International solidarity stamps shall be issued in three denominations of five, ten and twenty-five cents each, it being left to each member to determine the amount he or she wishes to pay.

The membership card to be issued is to provide the appropriate spaces for the affixing of the International Solidarity Stamps."

Other important resolutions passed by the convention were:

- (1) Resolution expressing enthusiastic admiration for the Communist Party of France.
- (2) Resolution demanding an investigation by Canadian Authorities into the operation of Nazi agents and Fascist organisations in Canada.
- (3) Resolution condemning the Polish Government for its "vicious pogroms against the Jewish People."
- (4) Resolution demanding freedom of speech in radio broadcasts.
- (5) Resolution labelled "For Social Progress," which sets forth the Party's aims and objects in municipal politics.
- (6) Resolution on the maintenance of unity of the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada, embodying an endorsement of the decisions and policies of the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada which were adopted at its recent convention.
- (7) Resolution on Press, Education, Publicity.
- (8) Resolution on Work among Women.
- (9) Resolution on the Youth Movement and People's Unity. Expressing complete approval of the Canadian Youth Congress and the Progressive Student movement, it places before the Party membership the task of materially assisting the Young Communist League in its work in the Youth

Movement.

- (10) **Resolution on Next Steps in Alberta.** "The Eighth Dominion Convention," it says, "declared its profound sympathy with the fight of the people of Alberta for increased purchasing power and a lower cost of living." The resolution condemns the People's League as the main enemy of the Alberta people; it pledges to the people of Alberta that the Communist Party in every province will do all in its power to counteract "the vicious campaign of misrepresentation of Alberta in the reactionary press;" it extends sympathy and understanding towards the "strivings" of Alberta people and demands that the Federal Government stop interfering in the legislative activities of the Alberta Government.
- (11) **Resolution on Work in the Rural Areas.** Stressing the problems facing the farmers, it urges the building of the United Farmers of Canada and to actively participate in the work of co-operatives, rate-payers associations, municipal councils and social and cultural organisations.
- (12) **Resolution on the Right to Organise.** Supports Bill 62, sponsored by the executive council of the Trades and Labour Congress and the parliamentary group of the C.C.F.

[14]

- (13) **Resolution on Co-operatives.** "We, the Communist Party," it declares, "while pointing out the limitations of the co-operatives under capitalism will do everything in our power to assist them in their efforts to improve the living standard of the people.

The night session on the 11th of October was featured by the re-election of Tim Buck as General Secretary of the Party. Tim Buck in accepting the decision, raised his fist in the Communist Salute and said;

"I can only say, comrades, that I hope from the bottom of my heart that nothing ever happens to cause you to feel that I have not lived up to what you expected. The people of Canada are rapidly approaching an historic cross road. Our Party must lead the workers to victory or fail in its historic task. This Convention marks a milestone, a turning point, towards the realization of a People's Front."

The concluding session witnessed the election of the Central (National) Committee of 50 members. The election was characteristic of the highly "democratic" procedure adhered to in such cases. Only about 60% of the

delegates, those delegates supplied with a special badge, were admitted to the Convention hall and allowed to take part in the election; and those that were admitted were actually instructed to vote for a slate selected by the men in control of the organisation. This procedure gave rise to some caustic remarks and caused considerable resentment among some of the delegates. The new Central Committee consists exclusively of well tried "Stalinites" and old-time members of the Party.

[~~deletion:1/4 page~~]

Reports of the various departments of the National administration of the Party were supplied to the delegates in the form of mimeographed memorandum. Some of the more important ones were:

(1) Memorandum on the Work of the Mass Language Organisations.

In this memorandum [~~deletion:1 line~~] records a steady growth of the various "National Language Organisations" in the country which are under [~~deletion:3-4 words~~]

[15]

The memorandum comprises 33 closely type-written pages and consists largely of reports of the various [~~deletion:1 line~~] mass organisations. Being of general interest these reports are quoted hereunder in abbreviated form.

(a) Ukrainian.

It is difficult to estimate the exact number of Ukrainians in this country due to the fact that many of them came from different countries such as Roumania, Poland, etc., and are listed as subject of that country. Nevertheless the official statistics of 1936 show that in the three Prairie Provinces, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, there were 226,039 Ukrainian people. Besides the Prairie Provinces there are many Ukrainian people in Ontario, Quebec and B.C. and a small number in Nova Scotia. It is estimated that there are close to 200,000 Ukrainians in Eastern Canada, thus making a total of over 400,000 in the country.

The U.L.F.T.A. and the fraternal movement (W.B.A.) as well as the organisation helping in the struggle for the liberation of Western Ukraine (Todowymazu) are closely co-operating in their activities and are generally known as the Ukrainian progressive organisation. There are branches of these organisations in practically every Ukrainian community in the country. Ukrainian organisations are very actively participating in general political campaigns such as the campaign to aid Spain, Clarion drives, etc.....



Our organisations are the most active among the Ukrainian people. Our dramatic and cultural activities are carried on practically by every branch of the organisation. Our daily newspaper is increasing its circulation and since the recent conventions is improving considerably in its content, becoming fast the tribune of the Ukrainian people in Canada. In addition to the daily paper we have a special paper for the farmers and until recently used to publish a special magazine for the women....

Our organisations are very active in general campaigns such as Clarion drives, unionisation campaigns and the campaign to help Spain. The struggle for people's unity among the Ukrainians to improve the economic conditions of our people and to raise their cultural level is as yet insufficiently developed. We are facing organisations whose reactionary leaders are trying their best to keep their members from co-operating with the progressive Ukrainian movement. On the other hand we ourselves have not yet outlived completely our old attitude towards the people of the other organisations.

(b) Finnish.

There are about 45,000 Finns in Canada. The great majority of them are living in Ontario. The largest Finnish settlement in Canada is in and around Port Arthur, Ont., where there are some settlements composed almost entirely of Finns. There are also considerable Finnish settlements in Northern, Central and Southern Ontario. In Quebec, the Finnish settlement has been until lately, limited to Montreal, but lately there has been some migration to the mining camps in Northern Quebec. There are hardly any Finnish settlements east of Montreal and in the Prairie Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Finnish settlements are few and scattered. Going further West, they increase, In Northern Alberta and on the B.C. coast there are quite a few Finnish settlements.

There are about 1000 members in the C.P., about 2500 in the F.O. and a number in various unions and farmers organisations. Just how many Finns there are in the Lumber Workers, Miners and other

[16]

unions and farmers organisations and sports clubs, we have no definite knowledge of. But there is a great deal of overlapping, the same persons being members of more than one organisation, but when we say there are 3000 members in Progressive organisations, including Party members, we are close to the correct number.

The Finnish workers and farmers in Canada have had their own paper for the last 20 years — Vapaus will be 20 years Nov. 6th of this year, and

it has been a daily for the last 9 years. The circulation of the *Vapaus* just now is about 4000, but it fell during the summer months. For the last two years we have been publishing a weekly literary paper, "*Liekki*" the circulation of which at present is between 2500 and 3000, and recently we started to publish a quarterly magazine "*Vapaudon Virri*" of which only two issues have so far been published (2500 copies). But in this connection also we have to take into account the fact that the same persons often take all three publications. So that in reality we have about 5000 subscribers to our press but the publications are read by a far greater number.

A number of smaller books have been translated and published, of which "France today and the People's Front" by Maurice Therez and "From Opposition to Assassination" by Sam Carr are the most recent ones. A number of theoretical books have been imported from the Soviet Union and circulated.

Canadian Finns have responded very generously to the appeals in aid of the Spanish people, \$2700.00 has been sent to the National Office of the F. O. during the various campaigns in this connection and many of our local organisations and individual contributors have sent their contributions direct to the committee to Aid Spanish Democracy, Friends of the Mac Kenzie-Papineau Battalion and other organisations carrying on work on behalf of Spain. The total collected by Finns must be well over \$4000.00. The weakness in this connection has been that our work so far has mostly been limited to the members and supporters of our own organisations. We have not been able to penetrate into the wide masses of Canadian Finns and draw them into this campaign, because we have not succeeded in building a real wide united front movement on this issue.

Over 60 Canadian Finns have gone to Spain to fight in the ranks of the people's front army, among them are a few who were not members of our organisation.

The task facing the Party on the Finnish field is to draw into the Party the best elements in and around our mass organisations thus strengthening the Party among the Finns; to organise the unorganised in the basic industries, lumbering, and mining, etc., into the Unions; build the mass organisation and mobilize the masses of Finnish workers and farmers to fight for better conditions, against reaction and war, on the basis of a wide united front, as a part of the people's front in Canada.

(c) Russian.

According to our estimation there are about 30,000 Russians in Canada. The government figure of 88,000 is incorrect because they include all the people that come from the territories of the former Russian empire. About

8000 Russians are located in the cities and 22,000 on farms. The largest colonies are in Montreal, Toronto, Windsor, Hamilton, Winnipeg, Calgary and Edmonton. There are about 3000 Russian white guards (anti Soviet emigres) who came here after the defeat of the white armies in Russia. They are mostly concentrated in Eastern Canada.

The majority of the Russian workers are engaged in the mining, lumber, automobile, textile and needle industries. In the West they are mostly concentrated in the mining industry.

[17]

[~~deletion:7-8 lines~~]

The Doukhobours have 3 major organisations, the Progressive Society of Doukhobours, the Independent Doukhobours and the official Doukhobours itself. The Progressive Society is in very close relations with our progressive Russian movement and is the most active of all the Doukhobour organisations. Their work is primarily cultural and educational work and anti-war propaganda. That society has been in existence only three years, and is small in number, having only 9 branches. In spite of its small size, however, it is quite popular among the Doukhobours and particularly among the young people because of its activities in regards to schools, etc. The society uses as its official organ a special page in the "Kanadsky Gudok." The independent Doukhobours are in friendly relation with the progressive Doukhobours. In many localities they carry on joint activities and there is also friendly relation between the two central committees of these groups.

The influence of the progressive movement among the Doukhobours is largely expressed through the paper "Kanadsky Gudok." The special Doukhobour page in that paper has helped considerably in the progressive education of the Doukhobours. Now that they have a special editor for their own page the Doukhobours are in a much better position to utilize the "Kanadsky Gudok" for the benefit of their people. [~~deletion:1 line~~] There are also individual members of the Party in many other Doukhobour communities....

The struggle in Spain has stirred the Russian colony very deeply. Close to 100 members and friends of the Russian movement are fighting in the ranks of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion. We helped to raise close to \$5000.00 in aid of the Spanish Democracy (through the Kanadsky Gudok). This does not include the sums of money raised by the local organisations and individual members directly in contact with the Spanish Committee. In campaigns of a general Canadian character, the Russian workers and

farmers display a very high degree of activity. This is shown in the campaigns for the Clarion, etc.

The circulation of the Kanadsky Gudok is 5,000. The number of Party members active among the Russian workers is very close to 500.

(d) Hungarian.

According to official statistics there are in Canada 40,500 Hungarians, but this is not correct, since at the time of the taking of the census those of our countrymen coming from Jugoslavian, Roumanian and Czecho-Slovakian territory were not listed as Hungarians. In our estimation there are in Canada approximately 60,000 Hungarians, half of whom work on farms while the other half are in cities.

Approximately 2,000 Hungarians are organised in our clubs and 1,500 in our Benefit Federation, these mostly in cities and to a lesser extent in the more densely populated settlements. The ideological influence of our organisations on the Hungarian population, however, is much greater. The majority of those living in cities sympathize with our movement and a large section of the farmers. [deletion: 1 line] Of the 3200 subscribers of the Munkas, one-third are families living on farms scattered through-out the Dominion.

[18]

We can record greater achievements in the distribution of literature. In one years time we issued 6 books of 1500 copies each. A 240 page book entitled "History of the Hungarians" is now in preparation, it will be printed in 2500 copies, also a 200 page calendar, which will be distributed in 3000 copies. All our literature for distribution is sent out to our literature agents or committees functioning already and our aim is to organise one in every Hungarian settlement. In addition to the literature we issue ourselves, we order books from the Soviet Union and the United States as well as Hungary.

There are no openly reactionary Hungarian organisations, in Canada, but there are religious organisations, which are influenced by leaders who have reactionary tendencies. The Hungarian religious organisations are mostly skeleton organisations with a small membership, very few of whom are active, which makes it easy for their reactionary leaders to maintain the leadership and refuse the united front proposals made from time to time by the Hungarian workers organisations.

(e) Serbian.

Until Sept. 1936, the Serbians, Croatians and Slovenians were working together in the Jugo Slav movement. In Sept. of that year a separate organisation of the Serbians came into existence under the name of the Serbian People's movement. Before the first convention of that organisation we had about 300 members. Today we have a number of improvements in the work of our organisation. It enabled us to overcome the old frictions within the organisation among the Croatians and Serbians and we find it easier to overcome the pro-fascist agitation that was particularly strong among the Serbian immigrants under the leadership of the Jugo Slavian consul (official government representative.)

~~3/4 line~~ and they are the most active in the struggle against reaction, for the promotion of trade union work among our countrymen and in the general activities of our movement.

Since January, 1937, our organisation is publishing a bi-weekly paper (Pravda) with a circulation of about 400 to 500.

The main centres of the Serbian colony are in Sudbury, Kirkland Lake, Hamilton and Windsor. The majority of our people are engaged in the heavy industries, mining, metal, etc. Our members are becoming more and more actively involved in the life and work of the trade union movement in Canada.

#### (f) Lemko Movement.

There are Lemko people residing in every province in the country. The life and work of the Lemko colony according to provinces can be summed up as follows:

In Quebec, Montreal is the largest colony of our countrymen, with over 2,000 people. ~~1 line~~ The majority of our people are engaged in the light industries. Very few of them belong to unions. In addition to the progressive organisations there are two fraternal organisations under the leadership of the clergy. Very little progress was made in the direction of building up a united movement of our people to improve their economic conditions and to raise the cultural level of our people. In addition to the Montreal colonies we also have colonies in Val-D'or, Terron gold mine.

In Ontario, Toronto has a large colony of over 1,500. The Toronto organisation ~~2 words~~ and they are very active in general campaigns. There is also an organisation known as the Karpatho-Russian League. This organisation is under extremely reactionary

[19]

leadership. Our efforts to develop united activities with them were so far unsuccessful. Sections of their members have recently broken with their

organisation and joined the Lemko progressive movement. Outside of Toronto we have small colonies in a number of towns in Southern and Western Ontario.

In the Western Provinces the Lemko colonies are considerably smaller. According to our estimation there are close to 15,000 Lemkos in the country. The majority of our people come from the backward regions of the Carpathian mountains and are culturally very backward. The work of education among our people and raising its cultural level is not as yet sufficiently developed by our progressive movement. The other organisations are doing very little in this direction.

(g) Polish.

There are approximately 145,000 Poles in this country. With Polish-Canadian children and youth born in Canada there is supposed to be about 200,000 people of Polish origin in this Dominion. The main Polish colonies are in: Montreal, 12,000, Toronto, 10,000, Winnipeg, 12,000, Edmonton, 3,000, Fort William and Port Arthur district, 3,000, Hamilton, 3,000, Sydney, N.S., Vancouver, B.C., Windsor, Sudbury, Brandon, Kirkland Lake, Oshawa, Ottawa, Ont., etc.

Unemployment and lowering of the standard of life in Canada during the past years, the deeper crisis in Poland and the sharpening of the class struggle in that country which caused bloody massacres of thousands of workers and peasants in Poland — helped to free an ever larger number of Poles in Canada from the influences of the Polish consuls and their reactionary tools.

Many prominent members of these now independent organisations co-operate with our Polish People's Ass'n., with different progressive committees and even with the Communists.

Losing their ground in the West, the Polish consuls and their closest associates tried their best to get the 30 year old and strongest Polish organisation in Ontario — Polish Alliance of Canada with headquarters and paper "Zwiazkowiec" in Toronto and with 1500 members of 13 branches in Ontario.

Our influences in the Alliance, although obvious, were too weak to handicap that strong, clever and dangerous influence so we decided to support the once upon a time "Socialist" democrats and progressives in the Alliance, helping them by our "Glos Pracy," by writing leaflets for them and by our people within the Alliance to turn down a motion to join the "Sanacja,".... thus saving the Polish Alliance of Canada as an independent democratic organisation.

The 8th Convention of the Polish Alliance of Canada, held on Sept. 4, 5, & 6th in Toronto gave more to the cause of democracy and progress than we ever expected.

The national-fascist consul's clique found itself in the minority - 15 votes to 32. The reaction was so astounded and got such a blow that it quieted down, did not accept any part in the new leadership which consists of old socialists.....

The change of the name "Polish Worker's and Farmer's Ass'n into Polish "People's Ass'n", the acceptance of the names of famous Polish democrats, writers and heroes by the branches, the transfer of the centre and of the "Glos Pracy" from Winnipeg to Toronto —helped a lot in broadening of the influence of the Ass'n, and increased the number of members and readers by a couple of hundreds, but this is still way behind the possibilities which now exist.

Polish People's Ass'n had done splendid work to help Spain.

[20]

The most active cadres of the organisation, 50 boys, are now fighting at the front, a couple of them are lower officers, two were killed in action, and many are going to replace them. The Polish People's Ass'n and Polish Workers in Canada contributed over \$2,000.00 in cash to aid Spanish democracy.

The cadres of the organisation are weakened, we have to organise the National training school this winter, in order to develop politically and organisationally new cadres. The weekly has 2,500 readers.

(h) Czecho-Slovakian.

In Canada we have an immigration of about 45,000 from Czecho-Slovakia, about 40,00 Slovaks and 5,000 Czechs.

Our movement began in 1931, the growth has shown mainly last year. [~~deletion: 1/2 line~~] In the past our clubs were called Czechoslovak Worker's Educational Clubs, but since the 5th Convention held in July 1936, the name was changed to Slovak Cultural Federation. Our total membership: 960 men, 115 women, 100 children.

Newspaper, Our newspaper "Hlas "L'udu" is the strongest and most influential newspaper issued in the Slovak Language in Canada. There are two nationalist Slovak papers in Canada. In Montreal "Slovak in Canada" (organ of Slovak nationalists), also "Nova V'last (organ Czechoslovakia) which is under the jurisdiction of Czechoslovakian consulate. Both are four-page weekly papers. "Hlas L'udu" (Voice of the People) existed six years, issued twice weekly, four-page issue and six-page issue. That its

circulation has not spread as it should have is partly due to discrimination in towns like Sudbury, Timmins, Kirkland Lake and in the bush camps. That our paper has sympathy among the masses is seen from the fact that our last August campaign for \$2,000.00 was fulfilled 100%. Although it was financial campaign we gained 115 new subscribers. In last December campaign we got 619 new subscribers.

(i) Croatian

There are 15,000 Croats in Canada. They are concentrated in the following cities: Vancouver, Sudbury, Schumacher-Timmins, Kirkland Lake, Toronto, Port Arthur, Montreal, Hamilton, Welland, Windsor, Rouyn-Noranda, Val-D'or, Nelson, Princeton, and many smaller places, mostly mining and lumber camps.

There are three Croatian organisations in existence. The Educational Alliance, the Peasant party, and the Fraternal Organisation. The Educational Alliance is a working class organisation (Communist). It has 1,300 good-standing members and publishes its own newspaper, "Slobdna Misao," which is issued three times a week. The paper has a circulation of 2,500 of which 2,300 are subscribers. The Educational society carries on varied educational activities intended to raise the cultural level of the Croatian people. It participates actively in all working class campaigns in the country. It published two books this year dealing with working class problems.

(j) German

There are close to half a million people of German descent in Canada. They come from a number of European countries and bring with them the different traditions and customs of their countries of origin. The largest German settlement in Canada is found in Western Canada.

Since Hitler's coming to power in Germany, the German colony in Canada began to take on a new appearance. Traditionally, the German settlers were used to agree with whatever was happening

[21]

in Germany. They were ready to associate Hitler with Germany and an attack on Hitlerism was considered by many to be an attack on Germany. This situation made it comparatively easy for the Nazis to develop their activities among the German masses in Canada. They succeeded to place trusted Nazis in the leadership of existing German clubs and organisations. As time went on more and more German people began to show their



disapproval of the actions of the Nazis and particularly some of the Nazi chiefs in Canada.

The anti-fascists (Communists) in Canada have their organisation since 1929 — known as the German Workers and Farmers' Association. At the time of Hitler's coming to power in Germany the G.W. and F.A. had 12 branches.

The German anti-fascist paper, previously the "Arbeiter Zeitung" passed through a critical period. At present a new German paper is published replacing the old "Arbeiter Zeitung." The new paper, "Volkszeitung" shows a considerable improvement in its contents and to a certain extent an improvement in circulation. The paper is published once a week, a 12 page tabloid, and has a circulation of 2,000.

(k) Italian.

Since the last Congress of the Party our language fraction has notably grown in numbers and has succeeded in extending its influence and its prestige among the large number of Italian workers in Canada. This has resulted in the launching of a fortnightly publication in March 1936. "Il Lavoratore" was published in small size with an impression of 500 copies. The favorable reception among the more politically developed Italians induced us to enlarge its size and today we print 1,250 copies of which 770 are sent to subscribers and the rest to agents.

The present situation among the Italians is very favorable to the future development of our Party and the further extension of our paper "Il Lavoratore."

[~~deletion:1 1/4 lines~~] They are located in the following localities: Montreal, Vancouver, Toronto, Port Arthur, Welland, Niagara Falls, Windsor. The largest and most important mass organisation is the Ordino Italo-Canadese (Order of Italo-Canadians) which is completely out of fascist control and has among its officials well known anti-fascists. It has a membership of 1,300 in 18 lodges or groups, in Quebec and Ontario. Acting in accordance with the leadership of the Order we are at present organising branches in Ontario. Here in Toronto 100 members have already signed up.

The work of organising branches for the Order not only enables us to pursue mass activities and to strengthen and enlarge the circulation of "Il Lavoratore" but will also open the way for the practical application of our policy of uniting the Italian workers through a specific form of Popular Front.

(l) Lithuanian.

The number of Lithuanians in Canada is about 8,000. Most of the Lithuanians came to Canada during 1926-1930. Most of the Lithuanians are sons and daughters of peasants. At the time most of them were religious and patriotic.

In 1931 there were organised groups of the Communist Party of Canada in Montreal and Toronto. The Toronto group started discussions on the question of publishing a paper in the Lithuanian language, after two or three months a committee was elected which issued a call to all Lithuanians in Canada re the publishing of a newspaper. The Central Committee of the Communist Party of Canada proposed the organisation of a Lithuanian National Buro which when established

[22]

made attempts to contact other groups and to organise. Under the leadership of the Lithuanian National Buro the Lithuanian movement in Canada was centralised and a paper finally published.

From 1931 to 1935, we had a bitter fight with so-called socialists who made attempts to discredit us and take over the leadership of the Lithuanian organisations. But we, the Lithuanian communists, and our supporters, succeeded in smashing their attempts.

Soon after the Congress of the Communist International Dimitroff pointed out how to organise the united people's front, we called a conference of our fractions and made plans for a Canadian Lithuanian Congress. The Congress was held in Montreal a little over a year ago. At the Congress nearly 100 delegates participated, including one from Vancouver and two fraternal delegates from the U.S.A. representing over 3,000 Canadian Lithuanian workers and 80,000 American Lithuanian workers. At this Congress we laid the foundations for a Lithuanian People's Movement against war and fascism. The Congress decided to organise local committees in every place where there are some Lithuanians and to do everything possible to help our brothers and sisters in Lithuania who are fighting against fascism.

After the Congress we were successful in organising committees in every town and camp where there are some Lithuanians. These committees are leading not only those workers who belong to any one of the Lithuanian organisations, but also those who are not organised at all. In some places they participate in nearly all campaigns. In some places they participate only in the anti-fascist movement. At the present moment these are the organisations which are participating in the Lithuanina People's Movement.

(m) Bulgarian and Macedonian.

The progressive Macedonians are organised in the Macedonian People's League of Canada. [deletion:1 line] The progressive Bulgarians are organised in the Bulgarian-Macedonian Workers' Educational Clubs in Canada, with [deletion:2 1/4 lines]

In Toronto we publish a paper called "Edvinstvo." It is issued in the Bulgarian Language and has a circulation of 850. The paper has 650 subscribers.

[deletion:1/4 page]

(n) Jewish.

The majority of the Jews in Canada come from other countries and brought with them revolutionary traditions and in the main a great

[23]

number of them are very progressive in their views, thus making the work of the reactionaries very hard in connection with winning over a substantial number of Jews against our movement. There are 260,000 Jews in Canada. About 30% of the employable Jewish people are workers.

The Communist and left-wing movement among the Jewish people has succeeded during the last few years in strengthening its position among the Jewish people. Such organisations as the Labor League in Toronto, the Canadian Workmen's Circle in Montreal and other cultural organisations, have grown considerably both in membership and in influence. We can state quite confidently that the fraternal organisations that are close to our movement are now the largest single Jewish organisation in Canada. Our cultural organisations, choirs, orchestras, libraries, etc., are now considered the most valuable in the country among the Jewish people.

Opposition to unity on the Jewish field comes from two different sources. One of them is the Canadian Jewish Congress and the other the general Zionist Movement.

Another source of opposition comes from the right-wing socialists on the Jewish field. Most of them became a part of the C.C.F. movement since the inception of the C.C.F. Such organisations as the Workmen's Circle, the Jewish Socialist Verband and others have dared recently to adopt resolutions against the Spanish Loyalist Government and against the Soviet Union, though it be said quite safely that the majority of the members of these organisations are very much in favor of the Soviet Union and the Spanish Loyalist Government in its struggle against fascism.

Our Jewish press, the weekly 'Der Kampf' and the New York daily Jewish newspaper, the 'Morning Freiheit' have not a large circulation in the country. 'Der Kampf' has gained several hundred additional circulation

during the last year, but the 'Morning Freiheit' did not gain any circulation since it began to come into Canada after it was prohibited for several years.

The building of the Party among the Jewish masses is one of the tasks for our Jewish Buros, and quite a considerable number of Jewish workers have been recruited into the Party during the last year and a half.

(o) Mutual Benefit Federation.

1. Structure (a) Membership — Total 2330

(b) No. of branches — 87

(c) Where membership concentrated —

The majority of the membership of the Federation is concentrated in the heavy industries, predominantly in the coal and steel. In this respect we might mention those districts where our organisation gained quite a foothold: Nova Scotia (New Waterford, Sydney, Glace Bay, Gardiner Mines), Ontario (Niagara Peninsula and South Western Ontario), Alberta (East Coulee, Blairmore, Crow's Nest Pass, Drumheller Valley). The light industry workers and the farmers are as yet practically untouched by our organisation.

(d) Financial standing.—

The organisation since its inception has paid out a total of \$107,687.01 in benefits to its members. We show a favorable balance each month and have a reserve of \$11,500.00 which is fairly good taking into consideration that our entire insurance policies are covered by a certain insurance company of Canada.

[24]

2. Accomplishments.

(a) Growth — Membership figures for the past five years.

1933 — 600

1934 — 750

1935 — 1700

1936 — 2100

1937 — 2330

(b) Influence — The influence of our organisation is steadily growing. In these localities where our Federation has operated for 8 and 10 years the sympathy of the workers towards the organisation runs high.... In many localities the halls of the Federation, and other facilities are the centre of all labor activities and of all nationalities. The halls being established entirely through the work of the members and their friends. Our members are active trade unionists and in some places have helped to establish the

union in unorganised industries. They are active in the Clarion campaigns in the campaigns to aid Spanish Democracy, etc. We have made a marked improvement in our methods of work. During the past year in those localities where we have branches a real campaign was conducted to expose the relation of the big insurance companies with Canada's fifty Big-shots.

### 3. Memorandum on Literature Distribution.

This memorandum, prepared by W.Sydney and comprising fifteen pages, gives a detailed statement of the distribution of C.P. literature; it also deals with the various problems of the Party in connection therewith.

"During the summer of 1936 the [~~2-3 words~~] of the Party discussed ways and means to increase the distribution of Marxist-Leninist literature in Canada. A special Commission —the Commission on Publication — was set up to work out the details along the lines decided upon by the Political Bureau. One of its first tasks was the formation of the New Era Publishers, Ltd., to undertake the publishing of Party pamphlets and books, to centralize all literature distribution within the Party. That there is a considerable demand for Marxist-Leninist literature is shown by the increasing number of such titles on the lists of most publishers and by the organisation in Canada of a Publishers' House which acts as Canadian Agent for International Publishers (New York) and Lawrence and Wishart (London) and is engaged in publishing specific Canadian titles. Under these conditions it is now possible to secure sufficient literature to cover a demand which could not previously be filled.

Immediately upon its organisation, the New Era Publishers were faced with the following tasks: (a) The centralization of literature distribution. (b) The general increase of literature sales. (c) The organisation of literature departments in the districts. (d) The organisation of book stores in the leading centres. (e) The publication of new books and pamphlets. (f) The organisation of the sale of the C. I. (g) The re-organisation of literature finances.

In eight months we have sold 56,000 books and pamphlets through the Districts and stores. This does not include books from other publishers, newspapers and magazines....

The [~~1/2 line~~] and the Commissions on literature have discussed the question of broadening out our literature sales, organising stores, so that we can reach with Marxist-Leninist literature the broadest sections of the people. We have come to the conclusion that while not neglecting our broader distribution of literature our main immediate base for literature sales must be within the Party itself.

At the beginning of this year we had functioning book stores in Montreal, Winnipeg, Toronto, Hamilton and Vancouver. The situation in the stores was not very promising; great changes were necessary

[25]

before the stores could carry on properly and efficiently. The first thing that we undertook to do in revitalizing these stores was the granting to all stores of large stocks of books on long term credits. After this was done the stores immediately began to do much better.

Today, therefore, we have functioning book stores in Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton, Sudbury, Winnipeg and Vancouver. We are now discussing the establishment of stores in Edmonton, and possibly in Regina.

The circulation of the Communist International, is still low in Canada. No Party member, especially any functionary, can feel that he is able to do his work properly unless he or she becomes a steady reader of this important organ of the Executive Committee of the Communist International.

#### 4. Financial Report of the Daily Clarion Publishing Association.

Containing some 25 pages this report deals with the financial position, circulation and shortcomings of the Party's central organs — The Daily and Weekly Clarion.

First Year of Publication.

May 1, 1936, to April 30, 1937.

<u>RECEIPTS</u>		<u>PAYMENTS</u>	
Daily Clarion	\$57,701.15	Daily Clarion	\$64,796.19
Clarion Weekly	12,532.55	Clarion Weekly	12,013.80
Old Loans Returned	830.00	Loans Advanced	5,821.05
Loans Collected	3,770.53	Loans Repaid	10,015.00
Loans	13,765.00	Interest on Loans	41.75
Sundry Receipts	<u>26.78</u>	Cuts for Others	<u>16.67</u>
TOTAL RECEIPTS —	\$88,626.01		\$92,704.46

#### Summary

Payments as above	\$92,704.46	
Receipts as above	\$88,626.01	
Bal. as at April 30, 1936	<u>1,262.80</u>	<u>89,888.81</u>
Deficit as at April 30, 1937	—————	-2,815.65

Covering the four months of May, June, July and August, 1937, the report discloses the following figures:

Total income from sales of papers and advtg. May 1, 1937 to August 31, 1937	\$13,812.20
Income from donations May 1, 1937 to August 31, 1937.	<u>8,632.36</u>
Total _____	\$22,444.96
Total expenses May 1, 1937 to August 1, 1937 —	<u>\$28,383.45</u>
Total deficit this period _____	\$ 5,938.49

Regarding the circulation of the two papers, the following figures are given:

[26]

Daily Clarion

Average daily PAID circulation May 1st, 1936 to April 31st, 1937	6225
Average daily PAID circulation May 1st, 1937 to August 31st, 1937	6902
Average daily PAID circulation since the inception of the <u>Daily Clarion</u> May 1st, 1936 to August 31, 1937	6395

Clarion Weekly

Average net PAID circulation May 1st, 1937 to August 30th, 1937	8949
Average net PAID circulation May 1st, 1937 to August 31st, 1937	10911
Average net PAID circulation since inception of paper May 1st, 1936	9440

Other mimeographed documents submitted to the Convention and which formed the basis of some discussion included the following:

- (1) A report on Education and Publicity by Bill Rigby, National Director of Education.
- (2) Memorandum on Work Among Women by A. M. Cooke.
- (3) Memorandum on Work Among Children by Millie Stern, National Director of Work Among Children.

—