

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

OTTAWA, Nov. 4th, 1937.

SECRETNO. 875WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATION IN CANADAREPORT

The Communist Party Press campaign for which the month of October had been set aside has been extended to November 27th as at the end of the month only 30 per cent of the objective has been attained. The leaders, however, feel confident that the objective — \$20,000 — will be reached before the end of this month.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

**1. The Campaign in Aid of the
Loyalists of Spain**

A.E. Smith and Sgt. Walter Dent are at present touring Western Canada on behalf of the Friends of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion.

On October 31st, they addressed a meeting attended by approximately 1100 people in the “Starland Theatre” at Winnipeg, Man. J. Litterick, chairman of the meeting briefly outlined the political history of Spain since 1935 and paid tribute to the members of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion. He asserted that 17% of the members of that unit were “Winnipeg Boys.” A.E. Smith spoke for the most part of the needs of the men fighting in Spain while Walter Dent, member of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion, who has seen active service in Spain, is said to have made an attempt to describe recent developments in the Spanish Civil War. He is described as a poor speaker. An appeal for funds by A.E. Smith, netted the sum of \$59.00, %10.00 of which was in the form of a cheque from the Jewish Ladies’ Aid, signed by [deletion: 1 word] whose son is said to be in Spain.

Walter Dent, on the same evening, also addressed a large meeting in the Ukrainian Labour Temple, held in celebration of the 15th Anniversary of the founding of the Workers' Benevolent Association. He was given a great ovation and his speech, though poorly presented, was well received.

The itinerary for their tour as published in the Communist press, follows:

Winnipeg, Man.	Oct. 31st.
Edmonton, Alta.	Nov. 3rd to 7th
Sylvan Lake, "	" 8th.
Wetaskewin, "	" 9th.
Red Deer, "	" 10th.
Drumheller, "	" 11th.
Wayne, "	" 12th.
Calgary, "	" 13th to 14th.
Canmore, "	" 15th
Kamloops, B.C.	" 16th
Vancouver, "	" 17th to 23rd.
Trail, "	" 25th.
South Slokan, "	" 26th.
Nelson, "	" 27th.
Cranbrook, "	" 29th.
Fernie, "	" 30th.
Coalman, Alta.	Dec. 1st.

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Blairmore, Alta.	Dec. 2nd.
Bellvue, "	" 3rd.
McLeod, "	" 4th.
Lethbridge, "	" 5th.
Medicine Hat, "	" 6th.
Swift Current, Sask.	" 7th.
Moose Jaw, "	" 8th.
Regina, "	" 9th to 12th.
Brandon, Man.	" 13th.
Winnipeg, "	" 14th.
Kenora, Ont.	" 15th.
Finland, "	" 16th.
Fort Frances, "	" 17th.
Port Arthur, "	" 19th.
Geraldton, "	" 20th.

Their tour will conclude with a meeting in Sudbury, Ont., December 23rd.

2. The Twentieth Anniversary of the Russian October Revolution

[~~deletion: 1 word~~] of the Canadian Friends of the Soviet Union, recently addressed letters to the heads of various labour organisations and other prominent people throughout the country, requesting them to endorse a manifesto of the World Committee of the Friends of the Soviet Union, entitled "Twenty Years of the Soviet Republic." [~~deletion: 1 word~~] letter states that the names of the Canadians endorsing the manifesto would be sent to London for inclusion with the names of "the foremost citizens of all other countries to be forwarded to Mr. M. I. Kalinin, as an expression of good will to the people of the Soviet Union on their 20th Anniversary." The manifesto referred to reads, in part:

"We congratulate ourselves and not alone the Soviet people on the twentieth anniversary of the existence of the Soviet Republics.

We are glad that there exists a great land where in-numerable nationalities and races prove by their example that it is possible to abolish national and racial rivalry and to live — a real League of Nations — in amity and co-operation. We are glad that there exists a country that knows no colonial repression, that will not tolerate the persecution of Jews. We rejoice with the Soviet people that they have no longer the haunting fear of unemployment, that they have no derelict enterprises which are a standing reproach to Man's reason.

It is of great importance to all of us that in a country covering one-sixth of the earth's surface the younger generation are so highly valued, that the privileges of the few are no longer a barrier in the path of the many, that women no longer cower and drudge but now stand proud and equal with men, that 170 million people, lifted from a recent backwardness, are

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flinging themselves into the new-found pleasures of a cultured life, that science is advancing with seven-league boots.

Finally on this twentieth anniversary we rejoice in the existence of a great country whose undeviating concern in the sphere of international relations is peace.

Long may the Soviet people continue their progress at home. For they have much to achieve before all their dreams are translated into reality.

And long may the Soviet Union continue to give its powerful support to all endeavours for world peace. For the cause of collective security has no greater champion than the U.S.S.R. That the U.S.S.R. has made itself an outstanding protagonist of international peace based on law and justice is one of the most heartening factors of the time."

The communists throughout Canada are also circulating thousands of post-cards which are selling at .10¢ each, already addressed to Mr. Kalinin, President of the U.S.S.R., Moscow, which bear the following message:

"I, citizen of the Dominion of Canada, hereby express to the peoples of the U.S.S.R. my most sincere congratulations and good wishes on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the founding of the Republic.

I greet with respect and admiration the contributions to human progress made by the U.S.S.R. in the fields of scientific research, of social welfare, of aviation, and Arctic discovery. I wish you success in your attempt, in the face of such great difficulties to increase through collective effort organisation the achievement of the widest Democracy, the measure of social and economic security. We wish you success in your increasing efforts in the field of international affairs toward the maintenance of Peace, indispensable to the future liberty and progress of mankind."

NAME — ADDRESS — TOWN — PROVINCE.

The cards are to be signed by the sender giving his or her address in Canada. The reverse side depicts two workers clasping hands under the caption "Canada Greets the Soviet Union."

3. J.B. MacLachlan, Deceased.

James B. MacLachlan of Glace Bay, N.S., many years leader of the Communist Movement in N.S. and a foundation member of the Communist Party of Canada, died on November 3rd, after a lingering illness. Up until 1936, Jim MacLachlan was a leading member of the Communist Party of Canada. He was president of the Workers Unity League during its life time. In 1936, although agreeing with the

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Communist Party's policy of trade union unity, he could not reconcile his political beliefs with his personal hatred of John L. Lewis of U.M.W.A. and in consequence, severed his connection with the Communist Party; in doing so he also separated himself from the revolutionary movement in general.

[~~3~~deletion: 1/4 page]

The proceedings revealed that the French Canadians are taking an ever growing interest in the life of the Party, and are gradually assuming the leadership of the movement.

[~~2~~deletion:2 words] gave the main report which was based on the "United Front" policy adopted by the Eight National Convention of the Party, held in Toronto recently. "It will not be easy to achieve unity in Quebec and it can only be won by a struggle which we must lead on the basis of a real and progressive," he contended. "Quebec," he said, "has once played a progressive role in history and it can do so again. If we apply our program correctly we can unite the people against the 'Trusts' and Duplessis." The program which he suggested and which is to serve to that end is based upon the following slogans:

- Salaries before dividends.
- Build the trade unions.
- For free speech.
- For amendments of fair wage laws.
- For a closed shop.
- Against the incorporation of the trade unions.
- Work for the unemployed at trade union wages.
- Abolition of the slums.
- Make the rich pay.
- Repeal the padlock law.
- Votes for women.
- For peace and against war and conscription.
- For racial and religious equality.

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Other reports were given under the following headings:

- "Clarte."
- Unemployed Work.
- Packers Union.
- Youth Problems.
- General C.P. Work.
- Trade Union Work.
- Party Problems in Quebec City.
- Work Among Jews.
- Work in Language Organisations.

Dave Kashton, speaking on the Youth Problems, stated that the aim of the Party at the present time is to extend the work among the youth, particularly through the Youth Congress. "We must help in building a Y.C.L. and the Youth Labour Movement," he said. [~~1~~deletion:1 line] reported on "Clarte," the Party's French organ, published at Montreal. It was generally contended that "Clarte" must become a mass paper, that every endeavour should be made to increase its circulation in the City of Montreal to at least 4000 copies per

issue. It was disclosed that at present approximately 1700 are actually sold in the City of Montreal. The weekly deficit of the paper was given at \$80.00. Jean Perron, editor of "Clarte" informed the gathering that henceforth the paper will devote more space to trade union matters and that he would endeavour to generally improve its contents.

The reports, under the heading "Trade Union Work," revealed that there exists now a better understanding between the right and left wing element in some of the unions, particularly in the garment industries; further that communists are receiving greater respect from the right wing element than hitherto.

[~~deletion: 1 line~~] stating that the situation was fairly good. He pleaded with the delegates that the organisational ability of the Quebec members should not be judged by the small Party membership in that City. He contended that there are many progressive elements in Quebec City but "they are as yet afraid to openly come out and associate themselves with the Communist Party." Owing to the vigilance exercised by the "Duplessis Government" it is difficult and almost impossible to carry on any mass work in the open, he said. He further declared that

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"although we have at present a list of at least 700 names of people sympathetic to the movement, it has been impossible to call them to any meeting because of the impossibility of securing a hall. The City authorities and the landlords absolutely refuse to rent a hall, and as long as this situation continues, it will be very hard to carry on any work on a mass scale," he said.

[~~deletion: 3/4 line~~] stated that the Party, during its one and one half years of existence has attained a dues-paying membership of 35. He further stated that there are being sold approximately 150 copies of "Clarte" per issue. He felt certain that the membership of the Party would be increased to 80 by the end of the year.

[~~deletion: 2 words~~] delivered a lengthy address on the Communist Party of France and the popular front movement in his country. He amused the delegates by giving a description of how the Communist Party and himself particularly, had instituted the sit-down strike in the various industrial centers of France. He contended that the lead given by the Communist Party of France in this regard, has done much to raise its prestige. The Party, he asserted, had grown from 50,000 members a few years ago, to a membership of 350,000.

There were also present [~~deletion: 3/4 line~~] three veterans of the Spanish Civil War, recently returned to Canada, who, each in turn, addressed the convention, bringing greetings from the members of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion in Spain.

Before adjournment the Convention elected a new Provincial committee consisting of 35 members and 4 candidates.

5. Strikes and Industrial Unrest
Throughout Canada.

A. Rubber Workers Strike at Kitchener, Ont., settled.

The 600 employes of the A.R. Kaufman Company at Kitchener, Ont., terminated their six week strike on November 2nd, after

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promise was given by the Ontario Labour and Industry Board that an investigation into their wages and working conditions would be made. The employes returned to work under a five point agreement which provides for the same wage scale in force when the strike was called.

B. Coal Miners Strike at Minto, N.B.

Demanding recognition of their union (U.M.W.A.) and a "check-off" system, approximately 1200 miners in the Minto, N.B. area came out on strike on the 13th October, involving eleven mines. No trouble was experienced until the 29th October, when stones were thrown at cars used to take men to work at the Evans Mine. One mine (McDougall) is said to have recognized the union. On the whole the strike is being conducted in an orderly manner.

6. Communist Meetings Banned in Montreal.

A meeting at the Mount Royal Arena, called by the Communist Party for the 22nd of October, with Alfred Costes and Tim Buck as the speakers, was banned by the City authorities on the day it was scheduled to take place. A further meeting, arranged by the Friends of the Soviet Union for October 29th to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Russian October Revolution was also cancelled.

In response to a call sent out by the C.P., approximately 1000 communists and sympathizers assembled in front of the Mount Royal Arena on the evening of October 29th to give the Montreal University students, at whose insistence the meetings had been banned, "a good thrashing" should they show up. No trouble occurred as the students did not make an appearance.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES.I. BRITISH COLUMBIA.7. Vancouver Communists hear Reports on 53rd
Convention of Trades and Labour Congress of Canada

The Communist Party at Vancouver held a mass membership meeting in the Orange Hall on the 21st of October, to hear reports on the 53rd meeting of the Trades and Labour Congress. Sam Shearer, one of the delegates attending the said Congress claimed that the meeting was one of the best he had ever attended. The most outstanding feature of the meeting, he said, was the *organised manner in which the communist delegates worked. Comparing the 53rd meeting of the Congress with the one held last year, he stated that whereas last year the convention delegates did all they could to avoid the communist delegates, this year they came to the communists for information. He also boasted of the fact that the communists succeeded in electing two of their men to provincial executives.*

Charles Stewart, delegate from the Street Railway Mens' Union of Vancouver, [~~deletion: 1 1/2 lines~~] was the second reporter, verifying most of the statements made by the previous speaker — Sam Shearer. He also emphasised the leading role played by the Communist Party delegates at the Congress.

II. ALBERTA8. Edmonton Council of the Canadian League for
Peace and Democracy hold Conference.

The Edmonton Council of the Canadian League for Peace and Democracy at a conference held in the Masonic Temple on the 26th October, passed a resolution protesting against Japanese aggression in China and the action taken by the Canadian representatives at Geneva in not voting in favour of the Spanish Loyalist Government being given a seat on the League of Nations Council. Another resolution asks the Canadian Government to adopt a free and independent policy instead of "following the policy of the Imperialist Nationalist Government of Great Britain." A further resolution demands free

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trade with the Spanish Loyalist Government and a boycott of imports and exports from and to 'Fascist' nations, while a further resolution protests the

banning of the meetings arranged for Tim Buck and the "French Government" representative, Alfred Costes, in Montreal.

E. Wing spoke briefly on the political situation in the Far East. He appealed for support for the Chinese people and contended that the fight in China is between fascism and democracy.

III. SASKATCHEWAN.

9. Leslie Morris speaks at Saskatoon.

Leslie Morris, member of the Central Committee of the C.P. of C., addressed a public meeting under the auspices of the C.P. of C. in the Regent Hall, Saskatoon, Sask., on the 22nd October. There were approximately 325 people present and the meeting was presided over by J. Graham.

Morris spoke on and appealed for a United Front movement, particularly in the labour movement. His speech was based on the united front policy adopted at the recent convention of the C.P. of C.; his main contention being that the method by which socialism (communism) will be brought into being is not the issue to be considered at the present time as the majority of the workers in Canada are not as yet sufficiently class conscious and in a position to realize the benefits of such a system.

IV. MANITOBA.

10. C.P. Members in Winnipeg hear reports on National Party Convention.

Speaking to a mass membership meeting of the C.P. of C. at Winnipeg on the 24th October, James Litterick, M.L.A., described the Eighth National Convention of the C. P. of C. as a "mile stone in the immediate history of Canada," and "in the movement towards socialism and a crushing blow to capitalism." "We no longer have to hide under ground, in basements and bedrooms" he remarked. "Our Party is now a legal organisation but its legality will depend on the people of this country whose unity we should strive to achieve," he said. Speaking

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of the recent C.C.F. convention, held in Brandon, Man., Litterick said although the leadership of the C.C.F. is against co-operation with the C.P., the rank and file members are for it. M. Sago, referred to the Eighth Convention of the C.P. as something "almost unimaginably marvellous in enthusiasm."

V. QUEBEC

11. Alfred Costes and R.C. Calder speak at "Forum Populaire" in Montreal.

The "Forum Populaire" organised by the French sections of the C. P. at Montreal, held its second weekly meeting on October 24th. On the speakers' platform, along with Jean Perron, the chairman, were Alfred Costes, F. X. Poirier and R. L. Calder, K. C., of Montreal.

Alfred Costes spoke on the Popular Front Movement in France, declaring it was the communists who protected and fought for the rights of the people. Referring to the coming revolution, he remarked, "when the people get booted about too often, class consciousness develops and there comes a time when the mob will not stand the booting any more; it might be well for those who do the booting to take notice as the time might not be so far away."

R. L. Calder spoke on the subject of free speech, reviewing the event which led to the banning of the meetings at the Mount Royal Arena. Referring to the said University students as a bunch of hairbrained youth, Calder promised that he would see that a charge of 'conspiring to riot' is laid against the leaders of the students delegation. Calder informed his listeners that he was a member of a newly formed organisation of professional men called "La Ligue Des Droits de L'Homme" (The League of the Rights of men), the purpose of which, he explained, is to watch the politicians, study the legislation and regain the rights which the people have been losing for the past 100 years. He remarked that he might not be fully in accordance with his friend, 'Joan Perron, but if he has to chose between the "speculating financiers" and the workers, the latter could rely on his support.
