

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

OTTAWA, Nov. 17th, 1937.

SECRETNO. 876WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATION IN CANADAREPORT

The boycott of Japanese-made goods movement is gaining momentum throughout Canada under the guidance of the Communist Party and its subsidiaries with many non-communist organisations, including churches, taking an active part therein. In some localities the boycott idea has been extended to embrace all nations "guilty of aggression." Every effort is being made to make the boycott effective. For example:

Alderman Jacob Penner recently introduced a motion in the Winnipeg City Council to the effect that the City instruct all departmental heads to cease buying any goods made in Japan, with Alderman Forkin, Blumberg and Simpkin speaking in favor of the motion. Such a move on the part of the City, it was pointed out, would have a big influence towards bringing about a genuine boycott of Japanese imports. The Mayor, however, ruled the motion out of order.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL1. Communists throughout Canada observe 20th
Anniversary of Russian October Revolution.

The 20th Anniversary of the Russian October Revolution was celebrated throughout Canada on November 7th. Much space was devoted in the Communist press to this event, in an attempt to glorify the revolution and its achievements.

Among the many articles appearing in the press dealing with the various phases of the life in the Soviet Union, subsequent to the revolution, were contributions by prominent communists eulogizing the Soviet leaders, particularly Lenin, Stalin, Clement Voroshilov and Gregory Dimitroff. Prominence was given to the manifesto of the Executive Committee of the Communist International under the caption "The 20th Anniversary of the Great October Revolution." The latter appealed to all proletarians and working people to build an "international fighting front against German, Italian and Japanese Fascism." "Let the mighty voice of the people resound throughout the world," it said, "with the words: Out with the fascist interventionists from Spain! Out with the Japanese usurpers from China! Rally closer around the U.S.S.R., the land of victorious socialism!"

The importance of the U.S.S.R. in relation to the international movement is stressed in the following terms:

"The world possesses an unyielding support of the international struggles for our own, workers' cause. A powerful fortress exists at the fighting front of the whole progressive mankind for liberty, peace and socialism. The millions of working people throughout the globe in an indissoluble alliance with the peoples of the powerful socialist republics constitute an invincible force. The achievement of this alliance imperatively demands the unification of the ranks of the international proletariat."

The manifesto concludes with the following slogans:

Long live the U.S.S.R., the great socialist
fatherland of the working peoples of all
countries.

Long live the democrats in Spain.

Long live free, independent China.

Long live the people's front of struggle
against fascism and war.

Down with capitalism.

Long live the victory of the world proletarian
revolution.

Celebrations were held in many cities and towns throughout Canada.

A. Toronto

At Toronto the main celebration was held in Massey Hall on Sunday evening, November 7th, with approximately 3,500 people in attendance. The hall was fittingly decorated with pictures of Lenin, Stalin, Marx, Engels and Kalinen, and large banners denouncing fascism and urging closer friendship between Canada and the Soviet Union. Leith McMurray acted as chairman and the speakers were Sam Scarlett and Tim Buck.

Speaking of his experience in the Soviet Union, Scarlett lauded the achievements of the Communist regime and concluded by appealing to the Toronto people to elect Tim Buck to the Board of Control at the forthcoming Civic election. He also made a strong appeal for funds which netted the sum of \$355.00.

Tim Buck made a lengthy speech in which he urged that fascism must be destroyed to save civilization. "The triumph of socialism in the Soviet Union is a living proof," he said, "that democracy and civilization can be saved." "On this 20th Anniversary of Soviet power we Communists pledge ourselves in Canada and throughout the world, in the name of our comrades who have fallen in Spain, in the name of our comrades who are fighting for freedom in the fascist states, in the name of our heroic comrades in China and in the name of our own Party of which we are so proud, that as the workers and farmers of the Soviet Union built, so we will build; as they conquered, so we shall conquer; as they reached the sunshine of a happy life, so we shall lead our people forward to victory and a Canada that shall be happy, prosperous and free," Buck declared.

Dealing with the situation in Spain, Buck declared that "the hypocritical speeches of Eden only make it more clear that their treachery to loyalist Spain and to the very ideal of democracy is calculated and deliberate." Comparing conditions in the Soviet Union — the fruits of revolution — with conditions in Canada, he depicted the U.S.S.R. as a land of plenty, as a land where the right of assembly and free speech is vested in the people.

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"Whereas in the Soviet Union," he declared, "the finest club rooms, assembly halls, arenas and other public meeting places are the property of the people, operated by them through their own organisation — freedom of assembly is fully and constitutionally guaranteed — in Canada we find the Mayor of the largest city in the land prohibiting a meeting simply because he and the reactionary financial clique surrounding him are opposed to the purpose for which the meeting was being held."

Before adjournment the meeting decided to send telegrams of greetings to the Soviet Union, to the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion in Spain, to the Spanish Government and the Chinese Government.

B. Winnipeg.

At Winnipeg, a mass meeting in the Starland Theatre on Sunday afternoon, November 7th, marked the main celebration; it opened with the "International," played by the Mandolin orchestra of the Ukrainian Farmer Labour Temple Association. The speakers were: James Litterick, M.L.A., Alderman Jacob Penner, Anne Buller, and Alderman J. M. Forkin, while M. Sago presided over the meeting. James Litterick spoke of the progress and achievement of the U.S.S.R. during the 20 years since the October revolution, while Anne Buller emphasized the growth of the Communist Party in Spain and France. She declared that in Canada "the best we can do to commemorate the 20th Birthday of the U.S.S.R. would be to increase the membership of the Communist Party of Canada to 25,000 in 1938." Jacob Penner indulged in an attack upon Trotzkyism while J. M. Forkin spoke on the deliberations of the Eighth National Convention of the C.P., held in Toronto recently.

At the conclusion of the meeting a collection was taken, netting the Communist Party the sum of \$100.00.

The Ukrainian element held their own celebration at their Temple, corner of Pritchard and McGregor Streets, in the course of the evening. A packed house listened to musical selections rendered by the orchestra of the U.L.F.T.A. and speeches by M. Shatulski and P. Arsen on the glory of the U.S.S.R.

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C. Vancouver.

A well attended meeting held under the auspices of the Communist Party of Canada at the Beacon Theatre, constituted the main event of the celebration at Vancouver. The speakers were Arthur Evans, Dr. W. J. Curry, M. Rosenberg, L. Lindberg, Miss. Agnes Martin and Tom Ewen. The speeches generally dealt with the Soviet Union, depicting same as a model country governed by a truly democratic regime. The meeting sent greetings to the U.S.S.R., also to Bob Kerr, prominent member of the Communist Party, now political Commissar of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion in Spain, and to the Chinese people.

The cablegram sent to the Government of the U.S.S.R. read:

"A mass meeting of Vancouver citizens greets you while celebrating the 20th Anniversary of the October Revolution. The U.S.S.R. is the hope and

inspiration of the toiling people of the whole world. We pledge the Soviet fatherland all support against Fascist pacts. Long live the Soviet Union."

2. Quebec Authorities "Padlock" French Communist Organ "Clarte".

On the morning of the 9th November, Provincial Police raided and padlocked the "Clarte" office and the "Artistic Printing Shop" at Montreal. At the "Clarte" office all property was seized, while the "Artistic Printing Shop" was merely padlocked.

Continuing their enforcement of the new "Padlock Law," Provincial Police, on November 10th, closed up a St. Lawrence Boulevard printing plant, and raided the "Modern Book Shop," situated at 3536 Park Ave. They also padlocked the living quarters of Jean Perron, editor of "Clarte." Almost the entire library of the "Modern Book Shop" was seized but the establishment was not padlocked.

R. C. Calder, K. C., Council for the Civil Liberty Union, on the 10th November, suddenly left a hearing in Judge Maurice Tetreau's chambers, of his application for a summons against Roland Guy, President of the Student's Association of the University of Montreal, on the charge of 'conspiring to create a disturbance' when a Communist meeting was to have been held at the Mount Royal Arena, recently.

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Mr. Calder left the Judge's chambers when the latter, questioning him concerning the circumstances of the alleged offence, asked if it was not possible that the students had gone to the Arena on the night in question, to preserve the peace, not to disturb it. "Good day, sir," Mr. Calder is reported to have said, and left the room abruptly. Asked by observers if he intended making the application before another Judge, Mr. Calder is reported to have said, "it's not a Judge I want, it's a Court of Justice."

At a meeting [~~deletion: 1 1/4 line~~] it was reported that quite a portion of the membership of the C.P. has been frightened as a result of the action taken by the Provincial Police. Fred Rose who was present at this meeting, observed that it was quite true that many of the C.P. members were made 'panicky.' "This cannot be allowed in our Party at the present time," Rose remarked. He thought that in times like this the Party will be better able to judge who are "the best comrades and fighters." He intimated that in as much as the movement is very much stronger today, it was in a better position to meet these attacks, and "if we do not fight back it will be exactly what Duplessis is waiting for and we would be playing right into his hands." He found great comfort in the fact that

the Civil Liberties Union and the Trades and Labour Council of Montreal are proving of valuable assistance to the Party in this fight. Speaking of the paper "Clarte," padlocked by the Provincial Police, Rose declared that it will be printed again and that the next issue will be appearing "not in 3,500 copies but will come out soon in 25,000 copies." He intimated that it will be printed henceforth in Toronto and sent to Montreal for circulation. In this connection it is noted that Jean Perron, editor of "Clarte" is already in Toronto.

3. Communists stress importance of coming Alberta Youth Congress.

On November 1st, a circular letter over the signature of Lawrence Anderson, Provincial secretary and Ben Swankey, Provincial Youth Director, was sent to all Communist Party branches in Alberta,

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on the subject of the forthcoming Alberta Youth Congress which is scheduled to take place in the City of Calgary on November 20th, 21st.

The letter directs, inter alia: to publicize as widely as possible the congress in the community; to popularize and distribute copies of the Youth Act among non-Communist groups and individuals; to elect as many of the young Party members to the congress as possible and to endeavour to induce other youth and adult groups in their respective areas to send delegates. It is further directed that Party members should attempt to get some prominent persons from their district — teachers, ministers, M.L.A.'s, school board members, municipal council members, trade union leaders, etc., to attend the congress. It is further urged that special attention and effort should be directed towards getting Social Credit groups to send delegates to the said congress.

A footnote appended to the letter states, that on November 22nd, the day after the Youth Congress, there will be held a Provincia conference of the Young Communist League. All Party and Y.C.L. member attending the Youth Congress at Calgary, are instructed to attend the Y.C.L. conference.

4. C.I.O. to continue drive in Canada's Steel Industry.

Speaking at a concert evening, held in his honour, at the Forester's Hall, Toronto, on the 6th November, Silby Barrett, recently appointed Canadian director of the Steel Workers' Organising Committee of the C.I.O., stated that "no stone would be left unturned to unionise the 146,000 employees in the Dominion's steel industry." In the year that his committee has been organising

in this industry, from 14,000 to 15,000 steel workers have been enrolled under its banner, he declared.

Rev. Dr. Salem Bland, who attended the gathering, remarked that the three letters C.I.O. will come to shine "with heavenly lustre" and that there is "something divine about the C.I.O." "I rejoice," he said, "the C.I.O. has been discovered and is helping its less skilled brethren in industry."

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Silby Barrett, on his arrival at Montreal from Pittsburg, on the 9th November, announced that he would open an office in Toronto on or about the 15th November, "to co-ordinate the organisation drive of the Committee throughout Canada." A number of sub-regional directors would be appointed for the various steel manufacturing centers at the first Steel Workers' Organisation Committee International Convention which is scheduled to open in Pittsburg on December 14th, he said.

The Campaign in Aid of Spain.

Every effort is being made by the Communists throughout Canada to have \$5,000 worth of Christmas presents for the members of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion, ready for shipment to Spain before December 1st.

The Sewing and Handicraft Circles of the Ukrainian Farmer Labour Temple Association and other Communist Party controlled organisations at Winnipeg, are busily working, knitting and sewing, preparing different articles, mitts, sweaters, socks, etc., for the "Canadian boys in Spain." It is said that a number of knitting machines and sewing machines are busy in the homes throughout the city, being constantly supplied with yarn and other materials, turning out a large quantity of finished goods to be ready at the end of November for shipment to Spain.

6. Strikes and Industrial Unrest throughout Canada.

(a) Springhill, (N.S.) Miners stage Protest Strike.

Fourteen hundred miners went out on strike at Springhill, N.S., on 12th of November, following the arrest of one of their number, a mine laborer, on the charge of tampering with a signal wire in No. 4 Colliery. After being idle for one day, the miners decided to return to work.

(b) Meat Packers strike at Montreal.

Employees of the Wilsil, Ltd., Montreal Packing concern, staged a walk-out on November 8th, after the Company management de-

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clined to negotiate a collective labour contract with the Union officials. Approximately 300 workers, members of Local 121, of the Meat-Cutters and Butcher Worker's Union, are involved. The strike soon spread to other packing plants involving the Modern Packing Company and East End Abattoir.

(c) Lumber Workers strike in Western Ontario.

A number of lumber workers strikes are in progress at present, in the Thunder Bay and Rainy River area of Ontario. At the Thomas Falls' camp at Ozone, 121 men are said to be on strike and at Camp 17, operated by A. E. Bell at Peninsula, Ont., 60 men are out. At Camp No. 3 of the Campbell and Holmes Timber Company at Glenorchy, near Fort Frances, the men who went out on strike were paid off and the camp closed, while at the camp of Joseph Greer, near Shabaqua, Ont., 31 employees were discharged as a result of a demand made by them.

(d) Drumheller Valley Miners stage Strike.

Approximately 600 miners came out on strike on November 3rd, tying up four mines in the Drumheller (Alta) Valley Coal fields. The strike marked the culmination of a dispute with management officials over timbering conditions in the mines. A mass meeting, attended by over 600 striking miners, held at Drumheller on the 5th November, decided to return to work on the 8th, pending negotiations to be conducted under the chairmanship of F. E. Harrison, Dominion Fair Wage Officer, Three mines involved, resumed operations on the 8th and work was expected at the fourth on the day following.

7. Fred Rose transferred to Toronto.

Fred Rose, at a banquet given in his honour at Montreal, recently, stated that he was leaving Montreal temporarily; that he was being loaned to the National Bureau of the Party at Toronto for the purpose of setting up the control commission and that after having completed his task he would return to Montreal for a lengthy stay.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCESI. BRITISH COLUMBIA8. Progressive Arts Players at Vancouver
adopt new name.

The Progressive Arts Players have changed the name again and will in future be known as the Vancouver Theatre of Action, with H. Griffin as acting executive director. The latter is at present acting editor of the C.P. organ, "The People's Advocate," published weekly at Vancouver.

II. ALBERTA9. A. E. Smith addresses leaders of C.P. at Edmonton.

On November 3rd, the executives of the various branches of the C.P. at Edmonton, met in the basement of the Corona Hotel. A.E. Smith of Toronto, who in the course of an address praised the achievements of the C.I., under the leadership of Stalin and Dimitroff, said; "Comrades, our Party is a great international movement and the C.I. is faced with a gigantic task in proposing and formulating a policy to meet the various problems throughout the world." Hailing the recent Eighth Convention as a great achievement, he declared: "Our Party is and will become still more an important factor in the life of Canada, and every other country but we must follow the decisions of the C.I." Smith related how, a year ago he met Dimitroff and others at Moscow and discussed the Balkin and North American political situation. He described Dimitroff as "the most significant man I have ever met." Speaking of the Spanish situation, he claimed that the Spanish People's Army is now well organised, especially the International Brigade, which, he claimed, consists of over 75% communists. In this connection, he recounted a meeting which he held on board the "Berengaria" during which he collected the sum of \$120. in aid of the "boys in Spain." This gathering, he said, was made possible through the assistance given him by the "Comrades on the ship."

III. MANITOBA10. Women Members of C.P. At Winnipeg hold meeting in Y.M.C.A.

The Women's Commission of the C.P. at Winnipeg, for the first time, succeeded in arranging a meeting in the Y.W.C.A., where Anne Buller and

other communists will speak. Members of the Party have been asked to pack the hall in order to create an impression.

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IV. ONTARIO

11. Communist leaders meet at Sudbury to discuss Miners' Union.

[~~deletion:1 line~~] to discuss the present situation in the Mine, Mill and Smelter Worker's Union (C.I.O.). George Anderson, [~~deletion:3-4 words~~] and chief official of the union, reported that conditions surrounding the union were bad; that the union was in debt to the International Union to the tune of \$1,000. Unless something can be done immediately with regard to liquidating this and other debts, the union would be forced to go out of existence, he maintained. Hugh Anderson, editor of the "Union News" [~~deletion:3/4 line~~] stated that the paper was indebted to Vapaus Publishing Company (C.P.) to the extent of \$250. Oscar Brooks informed the meeting that the smelter men were very disappointed at the showing made in the last Provincial election. He complained that the union is not carrying on mass activities and consequently is failing to make an impression.

J. B. Salsberg of Toronto, who apparently had gone to Sudbury specially to attend this meeting, spoke at great length in an endeavour to instill a little enthusiasm into the gathering. He contended that nothing is impossible and that a solution can and must be found. "We can and we will find a way out and we will carry on," he said. He urged that they negotiate a small loan to carry on with the publishing of the "Union News;" also to sent at least \$100. to the International office of the Union for dues stamps. He suggested they carry on a secret campaign with a view to convincing the employees of the International Nickel Company that the wages have been increased \$24. a month because of the efforts of the Union. He further suggested that they publish a number of leaflets to meet what he termed "INCO-terrorism," and to write letters to Members of Parliament, complaining about the discrimination practiced by INCO officials against employees known to be connected with the labour movement. He also suggested that the Parliament Buildings in Toronto, be picketed and that a demand be made to investigate the "INCO tactics."

It was resolved to sent letters, on the stationary of the "Union News," to Bob Livett of the U.M.W.A., District 18; to the C.P. of Alberta; to the Automobile Workers at St. Catherines and Oshawa; to the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of Toronto and to Silby Barrett, asking

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for financial support.

V. QUEBEC

12. Communists aim to create powerful Transport Workers' Federation in Canada.

[~~deletion:1 1/2 lines~~] Pat Sullivan said that the first meeting of the committee, appointed to look into the possibilities of the formation of a water-front federation, was held in Toronto recently, attended by 13 delegates, representing 7,200 workers from Toronto, Montreal, Hamilton, Fort William and one other inland port. An executive committee of 7 members was elected which will function for the next 6 months. The meeting, he reported, decided to call the proposed organisation "The National Transport Federation" with a view to embracing all types of transport workers, instead of only water transport workers. Sullivan believed that this federation can be turned into one of the most powerful bodies in the Dominion.

Dealing with the local water-front situation, Sullivan said a serious situation was developing among the longshoremen. LaBelle, President of the Longshoremen's Union, No. 375, has been accused of misusing Union funds and placed under arrest. He said the longshoremen are tired of LaBelle's leadership and mistrust Ryan, the International President. "Unless something is done to alter the situation the longshoremen may break away from the Union and may join up with anybody who is successful in securing the Shipping Federation contract for the coming season," he declared.

In summing up the report and ensuing discussion, Fred Rose remarked that the proposed transport workers federation might easily embrace 60,000 workers and stressed the importance of this organisation in time of war. "It is only then that we can realize what it would mean to our Party," he said. He urged that the creation of this body should be one of the major tasks of the C.P. Rose also remarked that Sullivan was the man to win "the confidence of the longshoremen."
