

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

OTTAWA, Ont. Nov. 30th, 1937.

SECRETNO. 877WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATION IN CANADAREPORT

Baron Arnold Friedrich Vieth von Golssenau, better known as Ludwig Renn, German anti-nazi author, now Chief of Staff of the International Brigade in Spain is at present touring America in the interests of the cause of the Spanish Loyalists. He is scheduled to address a mass meeting in Massey Hall at Toronto tonight.

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Attendance 169 delegates representing 114 organisations. with affiliated membership of 500,000.

Public mass meeting marked opening of Congress; speakers: Rev. Salem Bland, Dr. H.C. Tao, R.L. Calder, K.C., Phillip Jaffe and Professor Harry Ward.

Congress called for boycott of Japanese goods; for revision of Chinese Immigration Act; for investigation by Canadian Government into Fascist activities in Canada; for assistance to Loyalist Spain and China.

Communist Party remained completely in background.

" " 2. Quebec authorities continue drive against Communism. "Clarte" and "Clarion" banned.

" " 3. "Clarion" Drive ends; 94 per cent of objective attained. Maritimes District on top in contest; receives trophy.

" " 4. Results of municipal elections in Saskatchewan please Communists.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

1. The National Congress of the Canadian League for Peace and Democracy.

The National Congress of the League for Peace and Democracy, known formerly as the League against War and Fascism, was held in Toronto on November 19th, 20th and 21st last, with 169 delegates, representing 114 organisations with an affiliated membership of 300,000 people in attendance, including 60 delegates from trade unions. There were also present a number of observers from various organisations.

The Congress opened with a public mass meeting in the Victoria Theatre on November 19th with about 2,200 people present. Seated on the platform were R. L. Calder, K.C., Dr. H. C. Tao, Mrs. E. Morton, Kenneth Woodsworth and M. Desaulniers. Although listed as a speaker, John W. Buckley of the Toronto Trades and Labour Council, was absent. A. A. McLeod, acting as chairman, in his introductory remarks said that the most important aims of the

Congress were to form a foreign policy for Canada and to initiate a campaign against Premier Duplessis' "Padlock Law."

Rev. Salem Bland complimented the leaders of the movement on their achievements, saying that people who take an interest in "such worthwhile organisation must be fine and noble people." "We feel," he said, "that we are forerunners of a greater, finer, worthier Canada."

Following Rev. Salem Bland's brief address, the chairman — A.A. McLeod — read greetings from Chiang-Kai-Shek and the late Rev. C.W. Gordon, also a letter of greetings in the name of the "Spanish People" sent by the Spanish Consul General in Toronto.

Dr. H.C. Tao, Dean of the University of Nanking, then presented greetings in the name of the people of China and thanked the Canadian people for their kind sentiments towards China. "We have made up our minds," said Dr. Tao, "to resist the Japanese war-makers. There are three factors which will defeat them. The first is the unity of the Chinese people; the second is the rising wave of the

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democratic forces in Japan and third, the international aid given to China." Referring to Canada's export of minerals to Japan, he said, "I know that the people of Canada do not agree with this."

R. L. Calder, K. C., was the next speaker. He was introduced as a man who was not a communist but on the contrary, still supported the capitalist system. Mr. Calder remarked that democracy in China was being attacked from without, in Canada it was attacked from within. Attacking the Quebec Provincial "Padlock Law" he asserted that the campaign against this law will be a constitutional one. "No opportunity will be given Duplessis to club down, beat down or shut down the people," he said.

Professor Harry Ward, chairman of the American League against War and Fascism, denounced the American Non-Intervention Law, but praised President Roosevelt for his recent speech in Chicago. "We must rouse public opinion and thus influence the Government so that it will be possible for Spain to buy 10 airoplanes for everyone Mussolini gave to France." He urged that the people must force an embargo on raw materials to Japan.

The final speaker was Phillip Jaffe, Editor of "Amerasia," said to have recently returned from a four months tour of the Orient. He warned that if Japan is successful in conquering China, she will have a compact Empire, containing all necessary raw materials except oil, and will then be in a position "to advance still further her expansionist plans."

The first plenary session took place in the King Edward Hotel on the morning of November 20th, presided over by A.A. McLeod. It was taken up

largely with the appointing of committees, greetings from fraternal delegates and reports. During the afternoon session, R. L. Calder delivered the main report on "Our Vanishing Civil Liberties," in the course of which he severely criticized the Quebec Provincial "Padlock Law." He was followed by James Waterman Wise, who outlined the situation in the American League against War and Fascism.

About 100 delegates and 500 observers and visitors attended the fourth plenary session, held in the Crystal Ballroom of the King

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Edward Hotel. Dr. Tao spoke first, answering 16 questions, "he was constantly hearing about Chinese — Japanese relations." He denounced Japan as a Fascist nation and ridiculed the idea, often expressed, he said, that Japan is endeavouring to stop the spread of Communism by creating a buffer state. He declared that the Chinese Communists are working for the defeat of Japan. In closing he referred briefly to the Canadian Immigration Law, which he termed unjust. Replying to Dr. Tao, McLeod assured him that the campaign in aid of China would be intensified. A strong appeal for funds was made by McLeod. The first donation was made by the Russian Workers' Club which contributed \$50. Then followed donations from various locals of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers, the Jewelry Workers' Union, House Wreckers' Union, Window Cleaners' Union, Jewish Labour League, Lithuanian Workers' Club and the Hungarian Workers' Clubs and others. The largest individual donation came from the Finnish Organisation of Canada, who presented a cheque for \$150. [~~deletion:2 lines~~]

The next speaker was Hazen Sise, associate director of the Blood Transfusion Unit set to Spain by the Communists of Canada. He sketched the political developments in Spain. Following his speech the chairman read a cable from Hailie Selassie, ex-Emperor of Ethiopia. Then followed a speech by Phillip Jaffe on Japan's expansion in the Far East.

The fifth session was mainly devoted to resolutions and reports. Among the various resolutions adopted were:

- (a) A Resolution on China, sponsored by the Chinese Patriotic Society, calling for an embargo on war materials to Japan and a boycott of Japanese goods; also for a revision of the laws respecting Chinese immigration.
- (b) A Resolution suggesting that the Dominion Government be asked to disallow "anti-labour" legislation in Quebec.
- (c) A Resolution requesting the Government to

institute an investigation into Fascist activities in Canada.

- (d) A Resolution (presented by R.L. Calder) recommending that committees be formed

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in various communities to keep an eye on the legislations passed.

- (e) A Resolution expressing sympathy towards Spain and China proposed definite ways and means whereby help could be extended to those countries.

Kenneth Woodsworth, chairman of the Nomination Committee, placed into nomination 42 names for the National Committee. The nomination was approved with the proviso that the incoming National Committee be empowered to select 10 additional members from Quebec Province in order to give that province a better representation. Although conspicuous by their absence at the Congress a number of well known Communist Party members are included in the new National Committee.

At this Congress the Communist Party remained completely in the background lest the non-communist element may become antagonized. Every effort was made to make it appear that the League was a respectable body of persons, a democratic institution, totally divorced from the official communist movement and solely concerned with the preservation of peace and democracy. Only persons concerning whom little or nothing is known about their connection with the Communist Party, officiated at the Congress. In this connection it is interesting to note that [deletion: 1 word] who stands in high favour with the Political Committee of the C.P., completely dominated the proceedings and brought forward all important suggestions.

Much fuss was made over R.L. Calder, K.C., of Montreal, whom as head of the Civil Liberties Union, great things are expected.

The Congress proceedings disclosed that although claiming an affiliated membership of over 250,000, the said League, owing to organisational weaknesses, has as yet not been able to carry through any major campaigns.

2. Quebec Authorities continue drive against Communism.

The Quebec Provincial Authorities in their campaign against Communism, recently seized all the available copies of the "Daily Clarion" in the paper's local office at the rear of the "Modern Book

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Shop," 3536 Park Avenue, Montreal. Both the "Clarte" and "The Clarion" are now banned in this province.

3. "Clarion" Drive ends; 94 per cent of
objective attained.

"The Clarion" Drive for a \$20,000 sustaining fund came officially to a close on November 26th. The results as published in the 27th issue of "The Daily Clarion" follow:

| | <u>Funds</u> | <u>P.C.</u> |
|------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Maritimes | \$ 584.83 | 146.2 |
| Alberta | 2,335.82 | 116.7 |
| British Columbia | 1,695.66 | 113.0 |
| Quebec | 1,082.16 | 108.2 |
| Saskatchewan | 1,027.15 | 102.7 |
| Manitoba | 2,509.06 | 100.3 |
| Southern Ontario | 6,509.30 | 81.3 |
| Western Ontario | 1,417.82 | 78.7 |
| Northern Ontario | 1,194.01 | 74.6 |
| Central Ontario | <u>460.76</u> | <u>57.6</u> |
| Total _____ | \$18,816.57 | 94. |

While November 26th marked the official close of the campaign, it is said that some of the committees are pledged to raise the balance of their quotas and it is expected that the objective will be reached in due course. The Maritime District, as will be seen, reached first place in the contest and has been declared winner of the "Clarion" Trophy which is being awarded to the District receiving the highest percentage, over and above the quota allotted.

4. Results of Municipal Elections in Saskatchewan
please Communists.

The communists are rejoicing over the outcome of the recent civic election in Regina. Commenting on the results, Tim Buck, secretary of the Communist Party of Canada, drew the analogy to the coming Winnipeg and Toronto municipal elections, remarking in that "the overwhelming victory of the candidates of the Civic Labour Association of Regina is a good sign." The C.L.A. is a United Front Organisation, embracing the Communist Party, C.C.F. and Trade Unions. "When we see," Tim Buck says, "that A.C. Ellison,

the Associations's candidate for Mayor, received a vote of 11,202 against the reaction-

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ary candidate's 2,722, we are justified in quoting this as an example of what united action can do for the labour movement." Commenting on the situation in Toronto, Buck expressed the opinion that Toronto will follow the example of Regina.

The Central organ of the Communist Party, "The Daily Clarion" for the 25th November, devotes the leading editorial to the results of the Civic elections at Regina and Moose Jaw. Captioned: "The Sun Rises in the West," the editorial says in part:

"The sweeping victories of western progressive candidates in the civic elections this week throw a bright light across all Canada.

Only two candidates were placed in the field in Saskatoon, but both were elected.

Five and a mayoralty candidate were put in the field at Moose Jaw, all were elected — giving a majority in the council.

United Labor also swept the Regina elections, capturing the council majority so emphatically that it is safe for at least two years, gaining ground on the school board, and making inroads on the collegiate board.

Six of the Civic Labor Associations's slate topped the poll — the four who failed rolled up a magnificent vote.

The extent of the Tory vote is measured by what happened to their candidate Black; he got only 2,722 votes to 11,202 for Mayor Ellison.

Congratulations, Saskatoon!

Congratulations, Moose Jaw!

Congratulations, Regina!

Your citizens have shown an understanding of all the issues of the day, a civic spirit, a desire for unity of all progressive people that sets an example to every community in Canada. Your victory will be an inspiration to Winnipeg where every labor and progressive candidate should be elected on Friday."

5. Communist Alderman and School Board member
re-elected at Winnipeg.

Alderman Jacob Penner and Andrew Billecki, candidates for the City Council and School Board respectively, were re-elected in the recent civic election at Winnipeg. Alderman Jacob Penner headed the poll in Ward 3 with 5,448 first choice votes, while Andrew Billecki, in the same Ward, received

4,655 first choice votes. In Ward 2, the Communist candidate for Alderman, J. McNeil, lost out but

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secured 2,080 votes, an increase of 422 first choice votes over last year. Mitchi Sago, candidate for the School Board in Ward 2, polled 1,277 first choice votes.

A large audience that packed the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple on the evening of election day, as the returns came in, heard Alderman M.A. Gray of the Independent Labour Party, say that he felt the Communist Party had played a prominent part in electing John Queen as Mayor, who received a majority of about 10,000 over Dr. Warriner. Gray further explained that harmony had always existed between himself and the Communist Alderman in the City Council. He stressed that labour had elected Queen as an important step in the fight against reaction.

J. Litterick, M.L.A., also addressed the gathering, appealing for unity between the Communist Party and the I.L.P.

6. Financial Report of Workers' Benevolent Association
shows substantive balance.

The financial statement of the [~~3-4 words~~] Workers' Benevolent Association, subsidiary of the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association, for the 3rd quarter, 1937, discloses the following summary:

RECEIPTS

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------|-------------|
| July | \$ 2,957.05 | |
| August | 4,395.09 | |
| September | <u>4,474.72</u> | |
| Total | | \$11,826.86 |

EXPENDITURES

| | | |
|-----------|-----------------|-------------|
| July | \$ 2,569.15 | |
| August | 4,014.28 | |
| September | <u>3,517.76</u> | |
| Total | | \$10,101.19 |

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------------|
| Cash Bal. for the Quarter | \$ 1,725.67 |
| | <u>115,588.73</u> |
| Grand Total Balance: | <u>\$117,314.40</u> |

The financial report reveals that the W.B.A. has branches at 76 different points throughout Canada.

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7. Strikes and Industrial Unrest Throughout Canada.**(a) Miners strike at Minto, N.B.**

In progress since October 13th the strike of coal miners in the Minto (N.B.) area continues. On Nov. 25th, the strikers voted 762 to 15 against a Provincial Government proposal that they return to work and allow the Fair Wage Board to deal with the situation.

(b) Meat Packers' Strike at Montreal ended.

The strike led by the Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmens' Union at Montreal, collapsed on November 23rd, after having been in progress for two weeks. Operations in the three plants, i.e., Wilsil Eastern Abbatoirs, Ltd., and Modern Packing Company, were back to normal on November 23rd. Recognition of the Union, the demand which precipitated the strike, was refused.

(c) Tie-up in Cotton Mills at Cornwall, Ont.

The three mills operated by the Canadian Cottons, Ltd., at Cornwall, Ont., suspended operation on the 24th November on account of labour trouble. Approximately 1,500 men, women and girls being involved. Cessation of work was due to a tie-up in the napping room of the Canada Mill where some 40 operators refused to operate their machines pending adjustment of their grievances. Tie-up in this key department forced closing of the mills.

(d) Street Railway Strike averted at Winnipeg.

A threatened strike of street railway employees at Winnipeg was averted when employees of Winnipeg Electric Company in mass meeting assembled at midnight on 27th November, voted to accept a modified wage restoration agreement advanced by the Company.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCESI. British Columbia8. A. E. Smith and Walter Dent speak at Vancouver.

Approximately 900 people attended a meeting under the auspices of the Vancouver local of the Friends of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion at the Colonial Theatre on Sunday, November 21st, at which Sgt. Walter Dent and A. E. Smith spoke on the situation in Spain. Speeches were also delivered by Mrs. Matheson, who acted as chairman, Chivers and Violet McRae. The latter gave a short talk on the work of the Girls' Brigade of the local branch of the Friends of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion. She claimed that they had already raised several hundreds of dollars for Spain.

The collection at this meeting netted \$150.

 II. Alberta
9. Communist Party Training School started at Edmonton.

A meeting of secretaries of the various local branches of the Communist Party at Edmonton, held on the 20th November, decided to hold a training school, commencing November 26th at 9957 Jasper Avenue. The school is to be divided into two sections, one for trade unionists and the other for non-trade unionists. Classes for the former will be held every Friday from 8 P.M. till 10.30 P.M. and the latter will be accomodated each Saturday from 10 A.M. to 12.30 P.M. Leslie Morris is to be instructor and the school is to last all winter if possible. Among the subjects to be studies will be:

“History of the Communist Party in Alberta and Canada.”

“The decisions of the Eighth National Convention of the Party, and their application, especially in Alberta.”

“The Foundation of Leninism.”

A. E. Smith and Walter Dent of Toronto, addressed a meeting in Drumheller, Alta., on November 12th, in the interests of the Friends of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion. The meeting was well attended and at the conclusion of a local committee of the Friends of

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the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion was formed.

III. Saskatchewan

10. C.P. active in Pelly Constituency.

The C.P. in Saskatchewan has decided to concentrate on work in the Pelly constituency and for that purpose Alex. Theodor has been dispatched to Sturgis. Theodor made a survey of the constituency recently and on the basis of his report it was decided, tentatively, to run a C.P. candidate in the next Provincial election. According to Theodor there is "good material to work on in the North East part of the Province."

IV. Ontario

11. Toronto Single Unemployed instructed to resist Provincial Government edict.

The edict of Provincial authorities regarding the single unemployed men will be made a major issue by the Ontario Federation of Unemployed for the remainder of the year, or until such time as they receive relief. Members of the Toronto Single Unemployed Mens' Association have been ordered to refuse any employment paying lower than trade union rates for skilled work, or 2.50 per day with board for unskilled labour.

Trade unions and other organisations in Toronto have received collection sheets from the executive board of the United Labour Front in Quebec with the request to raise \$8,000 to fight the Quebec Provincial "Padlock Law." The said executive board is said to consist of 15 members, most of whom are prominent leaders of the C.P. of Canada, including [deletion: 1/2 line], Sam Scarlett, [deletion: 1/2 line], Fred Rose, [deletion: 1 line]
