

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

OTTAWA, Ont. Dec. 10th, 1937.

SECRETNO. 878WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANISATIONSAND AGITATION IN CANADAREPORT

The Communists have decided to utilize the Civil Liberties' Union in their campaign against the Quebec anti-communist laws, using Mr. R. L. Calder, K. C., as the main spokesman. [deletion: 1 1/2 line] is reported to have remarked recently to an intimate of his that Mr. Calder was playing politics and likes to dream of the time when a Popular Front Government will be formed with him as the leader.

APPENDICESTABLE OF CONTENTSAPPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

- Para. No. 1. The Communists in the Ontario Municipal Elections.
Near-success of Tim Buck for Controllorship.
Stewart Smith and J.B. Salsberg elected Aldermen
and John Weir as School Trustee.
Vote cast for C.P. considerably larger than that
of the previous year.
Several Communists elected in adjacent Townships.
- " " 2. Finnish Communists stage successful "Press Campaign."
Over 1000 new subscribers for "Vapaus."
Finnish Communists boast of collecting \$3,500 for
MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion during the past few months.
- " " 3. Notes on Committee for Industrial Organisation.
William Green and John L. Lewis met in Washington
on December 2nd to consider methods of healing the
split.
Agenda agreed upon. No announcements made.
Steel Organising Committee of C.I.O. plan drive for

organisation of the Steel Industry.

Drive to organise Ford Motors planned by U.A.W.

- “ ” 4. Campaign in Aid of Loyalist Spain.
 Christmas campaign over-subscribed, announces
 Friends of MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion.
 Young Communist League also announce success in
 their campaign to Aid Spanish Loyalists.
 C.P. boast that there are over 1000 Canadian
 volunteers fighting for the Spanish Loyalists.
- “ ” 5. C. P. members to carry Membership Cards again, com-
 mencing January 1st, 1938.
- “ ” 6. Workers' Benevolent Association records growth in
 membership.
 As a result of recent campaign, membership increased
 by 815, bringing total membership to over 5000.
 Increase in branches from 73 to 90.
- “ ” 7. Strikes and Industrial Unrest throughout Canada.
 (a) Miners strike at Minto, N.B.
 (b) Lumber workers take possession of camp at
 Struthers, Ont.

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

- “ ” 8. British Columbia
 Anti-Japanese demonstrators convicted in Vancouver
 Court.
- “ ” 9. Alberta.
 Activities among Edmonton Unemployed revived.
- “ ” 10. Ontario.
 Attempt to organise Relief Workers in Northern Ontario.
- “ ” 11. Quebec.
 Meeting of [deletion:3-4 words] at Montreal.

APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

1. The Communists in the Ontario Municipal Elections.

The Communist Party of Canada registered notable gains in the Toronto Civic election held on December 6th. A feature of the election was the near-success of Tim Buck, General Secretary of the Communist Party, in the controllership contest, the re-election at the top of the poll of Stewart Smith

as Alderman in Ward 5, the election of J. B. Salsberg as Alderman in Ward 4 and the re-election of John Weir as School Trustee in Ward 4. In addition to these well known communists two others, running on the Communist inspired Labour Representation Association ticket, were elected, in the person of William Dennison, C.C.F. leader and J. Mc A. Conner, labour and communist sympathizer, as School Trustees in Ward 2 and 5 respectively.

Having succeeded in establishing a united front for the first time in the history of the movement in Toronto, through the formation of the Labour Representation Association, all candidates were running under the banner of that organisation with the Communist Party members contesting the most important wards. Communist Party influence in trade unions, particularly in the Toronto District Trades and Labour Council, made possible the formation of the L.R.A. and rally to its support large sections of organised labour. Although conducted officially under the auspices of the L.R.A., the election campaign was engineered by the Communist Party.

The showing made by the communists compared with the figures of the two preceding years, follows:

| <u>BOARD OF CONTROL</u> | <u>1938</u> | <u>1937</u> | <u>1936</u> |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Tim Buck | 44,148 | 31,342 | 20,975 |

(Gain over previous year 12,806)

ALDERMEN

| | <u>1938</u> | <u>1937</u> | <u>1936</u> |
|---------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <u>Ward 1</u> | | | |
| Malcolm | 1509 | 1161 | 2830 |

[2]

ALDERMEN

| | <u>1938</u> | <u>1937</u> | <u>1936</u> |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| <u>Ward 2</u> | | | |
| W.G. Harris | 1735 | 808 | 412 |
| <u>Ward 3</u> | | | |
| Jean Laing | 1429 | 692 | — |
| <u>Ward 4</u> | | | |
| J. B. Salsberg | 4725 | 3689 | 2343 |
| <u>Ward 5</u> | | | |
| Stewart Smith | 8025 | 3590 | 1967 |
| <u>Ward 6</u> | | | |
| W. L. Haysey | 1417 | 518 | 1661 |
| <u>Ward 7</u> | | | |
| Minerva Reid | 3318 | 895 | — |

| | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|------|------|---|
| <u>Ward 8</u> | E. E. Wollon | 4266 | 1390 | — |
|---------------|--------------|------|------|---|

| | | | | |
|---------------|-------------|------|---|---|
| <u>Ward 9</u> | J. M. Innis | 7138 | — | — |
|---------------|-------------|------|---|---|

(Gain over previous year, all Wards 20,870)

BOARD OF EDUCATION

| | | | | |
|---------------|------------|------|------|------|
| <u>Ward 1</u> | Alice Cook | 1431 | 1121 | 1030 |
|---------------|------------|------|------|------|

| | | | | |
|---------------|------------------|------|-----|------|
| <u>Ward 2</u> | William Dennison | 4548 | 905 | 1546 |
|---------------|------------------|------|-----|------|

| | | | | |
|---------------|-----------|------|------|------|
| <u>Ward 4</u> | John Weir | 4404 | 3251 | 2347 |
|---------------|-----------|------|------|------|

| | | | | |
|---------------|---------------|------|------|------|
| <u>Ward 5</u> | J.McA. Conner | 4565 | 3773 | 2275 |
|---------------|---------------|------|------|------|

| | | | | |
|---------------|------------|------|------|------|
| <u>Ward 6</u> | Alice Buck | 4731 | 4185 | 3911 |
|---------------|------------|------|------|------|

| | | | | |
|---------------|--------------|------|---|---|
| <u>Ward 7</u> | Edna Barrett | 2977 | — | — |
|---------------|--------------|------|---|---|

(Gain over previous year, all Wards 9,430)

[3]

The communists are jubilant over the results obtained. The large vote cast for Tim Buck, who was only 250 votes short of being elected, the fact that Stewart Smith headed the poll in Ward 5, the election of Salsberg, the re-election of Weir and the election of Dennison and J. McA. Conner, are cited by the communists as a vindication of their united front policy. In a statement made subsequent to his election, Dennison, C.C.F. leader, who hitherto had been one of the principal opponents of the united front policy, paid tribute to the communists by declaring that the result of the election shows the wisdom of that policy.

Commenting on the election results the "Daily Clarion" in its 8th December issue declares: "Tim Buck's tremendous vote and the increased labour-progressive representation came about principally because the labour forces in Toronto co-operated as never before.....the platform of civic progress, so ably put forward by Tim Buck and Alderman Smith.....is becoming the platform of the people. This is why the reactionaries are so enraged."

Gains were also made in the Townships adjacent to Toronto and in other points throughout Ontario.

James Wilson, well known communist, was re-elected to the Scarborough Council; F. M. Russell was elected as Council in Long Branch; Alderman Reginald Morris was re-elected in Ward 1 at Windsor and Sam Lawrence topped the poll in the City of Hamilton to win a seat in the City's Board of Control. Mrs. George Ketcheson failed election for Alderman in Ward 3 at Windsor by only 200 votes.

2. Finnish Communists stage successful "Press Campaign."

The Finnish communists in Canada have just concluded a campaign on behalf of their organ "Vapaus." In progress during the month of November the campaign is said to have been a huge success. Over 1000 new subscriptions have been secured, "Vapaus" for the 3rd of December rejoicingly announces. The campaign also netted over 1000 renewals, it is said, thus exceeding the objective set by the

[4]

leaders of this campaign.

The Finnish Communist leaders also boast of having collected, during the last few months over \$3,500 for the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion.

3. Notes on the C.I.O.

William Green, President of the American Federation of Labour, and John L. Lewis, Chairman of the Committee for Industrial Organisation, met in Washington on December 2nd, for the first time since the split developed in the A. F. of L., to consider the possibilities of healing the split. Green was accompanied by George M. Harrison, President of the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks and Chairman of the A. F. of L.'s Peace Committee, while Lewis' aid was Phillip Murray, head of the Steel Workers' Organising Committee, and Chairman of the C.I.O.'s peace delegation.

The agenda agreed upon included the following points:

- (1) Designation of those industries which should have industrial or craft form of unionism.
- (2) The continuing status of the C.I.O. in the event of a peace agreement — whether it shall be dissolved or become an independent autonomous department of the A.F. of L.
- (3) Joint recommendations to a special A.F. of L. convention on the authority of the Federations' executive council, together with possible proposals for amendment of the Feder-

ations' constitution.

- (4) Creation of machinery to make a peace agreement effective after one is called.
- (5) Calling of a special convention for the purpose of ratifying the peace agreement and fixing the basis of the representation each union would have there.

Interviewed at the noon recess, Green informed newspapermen that the morning conference had been "a satisfactory and most interesting discussion," but had arrived "at no conclusion." Lewis made an equally brief announcement, "no conclusion, no comment," was his reply.

[5]

The Steel Workers' organising Committee of the C.I.O. for Canada, at its last executive meeting, held in Toronto recently, decided to form a group of organisers who are to be sent to all important cities in Ontario to conduct the drive to organise the steel workers.

The Committee has announced the formation of a new Local (1448), of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers at the National Cash Register Company, Dundas Street, West, Toronto and Lodge 1449 at the Dominion Bridge Company.

The United Auto Workers' Union (C.I.O.), has called a conference at Toronto of all interested unions to plan for the organising of employees at the Ford Motors' Company. Delegates are expected to be present from the Steel, Aluminum, Electrical and Rubber Workers' Unions. A joint organising committee is to be elected which will have control of unlimited funds and will be given full charge in Canada. This committee will not only look after the unionisation of the Ford plants but all other industries as well. Silby Barrett and Charles Millard are thought to be in line for election as leaders with Richard Steel, Alex Welch and Duncan also mentioned. Sam Scarlett and Paul Phillips will represent the Communist Party at the Conference.

4. The Campaign in Aid of Loyalist Spain.

The Friends of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion's National Office at Toronto, issued a statement to the effect that its \$5,000 Christmas campaign was a huge success, that in one month, \$7,500 was collected in cash, and about

the same amount in merchandise. Some of the Christmas gifts, consisting of 55 large crates of food and merchandise are enroute to Spain now.

A special campaign, waged by the Young Communist League of Canada, with a view to raising 100,000 cigarettes has also been successful. So far, over 105,000 cigarettes have been collected in

[6]

this campaign, it is said.

The communists openly boast that there are now over 1,000 Canadian volunteers fighting in Spain as members of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion of the International Brigade.

5. Communist Party members will carry Membership cards again commencing January 1st, 1938.

The Eighth National Convention of the Communist Party of Canada, held in Toronto recently, decided to revert to the old membership card system which was abolished as a safety measure after the Party was declared illegal by the Supreme Court of Ontario in 1931. A recent directive, issued by Sam Carr, organisation secretary of the Party, instructs the various branches to have this system reintroduced by January 1st, 1938. The directive states in part:

"It would be a grave error on our part to consider the issuance of the membership cards as a simple technical change in the administration of Party affairs. The decision for the re-issuance of the membership cards indicated that we have not only succeeded in smashing Section 98, but also that our party now sets the helm for the fastest possible recruiting into our ranks of thousands of Canadian toilers, men, women and workers by hand and brain, producers in the city and on the farm."

6. Workers' Benevolent Association records substantial growth in membership.

The Central Executive of the Workers' Benevolent Association at Winnipeg announced that the recent campaign conducted by this association for new members has been highly successful; that its membership has been increased by 815 members, thus bringing the total membership well over the 5000 mark. They further claim that new members continue to join the organisation since the close of the campaign. It is said that since the 11th Convention which was held last summer, the association gained 1500 new members and that local branches have increased from 73 to 90 throughout the country.

[7]

7. Strikes and Industrial Unrest throughout Canada.

A. Miners' Strike at Minto, N.B.

The strike situation in the Minto, N.B. area remains unchanged. Picketing is being continued but no disturbances have occurred. Several mines are said to be operating with a small staff.

B. Lumber Workers take possession of
camp at Struthers, Ont.

On November 29th last some 70 men arrived at Struthers, Ont., having been hired at and fares paid from Timmins, Ont., to work in Gerrard's Pulp Camp, sub-contractor for the Abitibi Pulp and Paper Company.

On the 30th November they thought conditions were not satisfactory at Gerrard's Camp so came out to the track and took possession of the headquarters camp at Struthers, and then sent word to the Ontario Provincial Police demanding that their employer be made to pay their fares back to Timmins, Ont. On arrival of Police re-inforced from Port Arthur, the men left camp without further trouble.

[8]

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. British Columbia

8. Anti-Japanese Demonstrators convicted in
Vancouver Court.

The 24 men and 4 women arrested on charges of obstruction, arising out of the picketing of the R.M.S. "Empress of Canada," on November 17th last, were sentenced in Vancouver City Police Court on November 30th to a fine of \$5 each or in default of payment, 5 days imprisonment. The individuals are said to have refused to pay the fine imposed and are each serving 5 days imprisonment in default thereof.

2. Alberta

9. Activities among Edmonton Unemployed revived.

At a meeting of the Unemployed Married Mens' Association at Edmonton, held on November 27th, it was disclosed that the Edmonton Central Unemployed Committee has asked the present membership of the U.M.M.A. to contact all married unemployed people in their respective neighborhoods and request them to attend Married Mens' Unemployed Association meetings in an effort to organise the whole of the married unemployed in the City of Edmonton. It was decided at this meeting to attempt to unite all progressive unemployed organisations, such as the Unemployed Ex-Service Mens' Association and the Provincial Unemployed Association with a view to compelling Civic and Provincial authorities to provide full time work for unemployed at a trade union rate of wages or failing this an increase in relief grants to meet the present rise in cost of food and commodities.

3. Ontario

10. Attempt to Organise Relief Workers in Northern Ontario.

The [~~2-3 words~~] Ontario Federation of Unemployed has decided to launch a drive to unionize all relief workers in Northern Ontario. At least 3 organisers will be included in each shipment of men to Northern Ontario, one of whom will be a member

[9]

of the Communist Party. The following have been elected to the Northern Ontario Relief Workers' Organising Committee: [~~1 1/4 lines~~] The Ontario Unemployed Organising Committee consists of: [~~1 1/4 lines~~] The office of the first mentioned Committee will remain in Toronto for the present but will move to North Bay in January while the Ontario Unemployed Organising Committee will maintain an office at 441 Queen Street, West, Toronto. All members of these committees will be paid by the Communist Party; the Directors to receive \$21 per week and ordinary members, \$17 per week. It is said that each committee is planning to issue a paper which will be distributed free of charge to the members of the Federation.

[~~2 words~~] at present President of the Federation, is to be transferred to Regina (Sask), on or after January 1st, to take charge of the Unemployed movement in Saskatchewan. [~~2 words~~] is to become General Organiser of the Ontario Federation of Unemployed with [~~2 words~~] a leader of the "On To Ottawa" trek of 1935, and who was

prominently mentioned in connection with the Regina Riot on July 1st of that year, who arrived at Toronto to take over the duties of District Organiser of the Federation.

4. Quebec

11. Meeting of the [deletion:3-4 words] at Montreal.

[deletion:1 1/2 lines] and amongst other things, discussed an offer, said to have been made by Raoul Trepanier, President of the Montreal Trades and Labour Council, to accord the Quebec Federation of Unemployed the right to affiliate to the Trades and Labour Council. Fred Rose, speaking on the matter stated that the Federation should not affiliate with the council at the present time, that it would be a better tactic to merely send fraternal delegates. In doing so, he said, the Federation would stay clear of the possibility

[10]

of being refused affiliation by the reactionary elements within the council. Rose further stated that Trepanier had made the suggestion that the Unemployed Federation should change its name to the Workers' Federation of Montreal for the reason that the name would sound much better to the council when the matter of affiliation comes up before the credentials committee. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed by the commission members that the Federation should become affiliated to the council in the manner suggested by Fred Rose, viz. to send fraternal delegates, and that the Federation retain its present name.

[deletion:2 words] executive member of the Millinery Union, reported that his Union during the past few years had won many concessions for its members and the Millinery Workers in general; that there are two members of the Communist Party on the executive board, namely, [deletion:1 1/2 lines]

[deletion:2 words] reported that his union — the Milk Drivers Union — was in bad shape and practically defunct. He stated that many members refused to pay union dues and that the union is threatened with the loss of its charter because the assessments to the International office have not been paid for many months. Following a discussion it was decided to call a meeting of Milk Drivers in order to appoint a new organiser and with a view to rebuilding the Union.

Stanley Ryerson, Provincial secretary of the Communist Party, reported that a trade union school is being organised for French speaking members of the Communist Party. The course will be for six weeks and the classes will be

held every Sunday morning commencing December 5th, with Stanley Ryerson, [~~deletion: 1/2 line~~]
