

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

OTTAWA, Dec. 22nd, 1937.

SECRETNO. 879WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANISATIONAND AGITATION IN CANADAREPORT

Tim Buck, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Canada is reported to have sailed for France to attend the Convention of the Communist Party of France. He will also, the "Daily Clarion" remarks, present greetings to the French people in the name of Canada.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL1. Canadians attend C. I. O. Steel Workers' Convention at Pittsburgh, Pa.

The first convention of the Steel Workers' Organising Committee of the C.I.O. opened at Pittsburgh, Pa., on the 14th December with 1000 delegates, representing more than 1000 lodges, in attendance. Canada was represented by a delegation of 12, headed by Silby Barrett, Dominion Director of S.W.O.C. The other members of the delegation were: Coll MacDonald, Dan Mackay, John Wilson, George MacEachen from Nova Scotia; Lucien Dufour from Quebec; Harry Hunter, Harry Hamburgh, Tom Delaney, Dick Steele, Milton Montgomery and Paul Smith from Ontario.

The primary purpose of the Convention was “the drafting of a wage policy for new contracts in the steel industry; a broad program looking towards more satisfactory housing for the nations' workers,” it was announced.

The Convention on December 15th unanimously adopted a resolution expressing “appreciation for the contribution which the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada is making to the International Trade Union movement.”

The Convention extended greetings to "Canadian brothers and workers" for their "splendid" support.

The Convention approved joining other organisations throughout the world to take part in the boycott of Japanese-made goods. Further, it passed a resolution asking progressive and liberal groups to ally themselves with labour and farmers in the activity and program of Labour's Non-Partisan League.

John L. Lewis, addressing the Convention on December 16th, called for unity in the labour movement; he was specially critical of President William Green of the American Federation of Labour and his associates' "reactionary policy," which, he said, is hindering unity. Hailing the growth of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers', under S.W.O.C. auspices, the C. I. O. chief urged the 1000 delegates to build and consolidate the union.

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With regard to the Canadian situation the Convention adopted a resolution authorizing a Convention of Canadian Steel Union Lodges in the immediate future to "determine an organisation program and discuss economic social conditions prevailing in Canada." Phillip Murray, Chairman of the S.W.O.C., said the committee had lodges in "every Province of Canada, 27 in all."

2. Communists to open "Labour College" at Toronto

The Communists are planning to open a permanent school at Toronto in January, 1938, to be known as the Toronto Labour College. It will be modelled after similiar institutions in other parts of the world, such as the Marx House in London or the New York Workers' School. The Toronto School will be a permanent institution, giving three terms a year. The first term for 1938 will last from January 23rd till March 29th. The curriculum includes a wide variety of subjects, such as political economy, public speaking, journalism, newspaper preparation, history of the labour movement, etc. The teaching staff includes Alderman J. B. Salsberg, who will conduct the course in trade unionism; John Weir, who will lecture on Canadian labour history; Sam Carr, Charles Sims, Joseph Wallace, William Rigby, Charles Marriott and Oscar Ryan, every one of whom is an outstanding Communist Party member. Although divorced for obvious reasons from the Communist Party, the school is in fact a Communist Party institution.

3. Communists intensify Campaign against Japan.

The National Office of the Canadian League for Peace and Democracy recently announced that the campaign for (a) an embargo on the export of war material to Japan, (b) a boycott of Japanese goods, and (c) medical aid to China, will be intensified. Further that in connection with this campaign, Dr. H. C. Tao of the South Eastern University of Peiping will make a tour during the month of

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January under the auspices of the League which will take in every important Canadian city and town.

Announcement was also made of the appointment of Malcolm McKenzie Ross, recently returned from China, said to have been Assistant Professor of English Literature at Lingnan University, Canton, to the position of General Secretary of the Canadian League for Peace and Democracy.

Resolutions calling on the Dominion Government to impose an embargo on the export of war materials of any kind from Canada to Japan and urging Canadian citizens to boycott goods imported from Japan were unanimously passed by a mass meeting held at the Walker Theatre at Winnipeg on December 15th. The meeting, which was attended by approximately 1900 people, was held under the joint auspices of the Chinese Patriotic League, the C.C.F., the I.L.P., the C.P. of C., the Trades and Labour Council, the Ministerial Association and Youth and Women's Organisations. There were many Chinese present and the Communists were out in full force. The resolutions were passed following numerous speeches in which Japan was condemned in no uncertain terms for its invasion of China. The collection, following an appeal by Charlie Foo of the Chinese Patriotic League, netted the sum of \$361.69.

Proposals for a public boycott of Japanese goods and that the Dominion Government be asked to place an embargo on shipments of war materials to Japan were embodied in a resolution sponsored by S. J. Farmer, C.C.F. - Labour leader in the Manitoba Legislature on December 15th. After 12 members had spoken on the resolution the debate was adjourned.

4. R. L. Calder, K.C., Speaker at Communist Party meeting.

Over 2000 people attended a mass meeting staged under the

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auspices of the city committee of the Communist Party in Massey Hall, Toronto, on December 12th. Alderman Stewart Smith presided and the speakers were Stanley Ryerson, Provincial Secretary of the Communist Party in Quebec; R. L. Calder, K.C., President of the Civil Liberties Union in Montreal and Tim Buck, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Canada.

Stanley Ryerson paid tribute to the leaders of the 1837 Rebellion and particularly the French Canadian Leaders. Cheers greeted Ryerson's statement that "Clarte," Communist French weekly, continues to appear on the streets of Montreal and "is sold in increasing numbers, despite the application of the Padlock Law."

R. L. Calder, at the commencement of his speech made it clear that he was still a Roman Catholic and a believer in the capitalist system, although "it has not done very much for me." He agreed that the Church at the present time was not "on the side of progress." "I am here this evening at some moral risk to myself," he declared. "Tomorrow, I expect to be told, editorially, at least by the 'Illustration Nouvelle' and by some others, that it is not a seeming thing for me to attend a meeting like this," he said, "but I have an answer ready; we are now in a fight which interests every colour of the political and social spectrum. I don't care whether a man is a true Conservative, or a real practicing Liberal, or a Communist, or a Socialist, or an Anarchist. We are all in the same fight." Referring to the Rebellion of 1837, he is reported to have said:

"Today, even the descendants of these men are inclined to say that they were impatient, inconsiderate, rash, and they even tell you that they were fools. We need such fools today, and I cannot help thinking that the conspiracy of silence around the events of 1837 is due to a feeling of shame on the part of too many Canadians who have not got the guts to be as those men were.

Because whatever may have been their shortcomings in foresight, this much is certain, that they had a quality which is not so abundantly found today, the quality of courage.

Now, the peculiar significance of 1837 is this, that in the Province of Quebec we are back to the line where Papineau and Nelson fought, nay more,

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we have been forced back of that line and we have not as much liberty as they had."

"To win the battle against the 'Padlock Law' it is necessary," Mr. Calder declared, "to form the very broadest kind of united front." He predicted that Premier Duplessis would be defeated after a sharp conflict. He considered it very significant that the labour unions had made a stand against the Premier

and thought that there were already indications pointing towards a dissention in the ranks of Duplessis' Party.

Tim Buck indulged in a tirade against Premier Hepburn of Ontario, claiming that he has betrayed his election pledges. "The Hepburn-Duplessis alliance," said Buck, "is trying to prepare a national election within a year, thus hoping to place reactionaries in power." In conclusion he pledged the support of all "labour-progressive" forces to back the fight in Quebec against the 'Padlock Law', and stated that the "traditions of 1837, were carried on by the Communist Party of Canada, even though it will lead to another 1837 affair."

The meeting was part of the campaign launched by the Communists in opposition to the so-called 'Padlock Law' in the Province of Quebec.

5. Strikes and Industrial Unrest throughout Canada.
Miners strike at Minto, N.B.

The strike of approximately 1200 coal miners in the Minto area, in progress for nearly two months, is said to have reached the stage of a lock-out. On 13th December, hundreds of miners reported for work at the various mines to facilitate appointment of a conciliation board, but only a few were given employment. Operators declared that had no intention of granting large scale re-employment and negotiating new orders, only to risk another strike by the union if it found the rulings of the conciliation board unsatisfactory.

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APPENDIX NO II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

1. Alberta

6. Jan Lakeman and Lawrence Anderson active in
Southern Part of Province.

Jan Lakeman and Lawrence Anderson, Provincial leaders of the Communist Party in Alberta, are reported to be touring the Southern part of the Province.

On December 12th, they addressed a public meeting in the Variety Theatre at Calgary under the auspices of the Communist Party, Calgary Branch. Lakeman spoke on trade unionism, claiming that only 10,000 workers in the Province were organized into trade unions. He stated that one of the reasons why the numerical strength of the trade union movement was so low was its weak leadership. He cited Fred White as an example of a weak labour leader. Lakeman appealed to the working men to join the unions, assuring them that

the present leadership would soon be overthrown and replaced by a strong rank and file control. Speaking of the People's League, he said that it was the forerunner of Fascism in Alberta.

Lawrence Anderson dealt principally with the Social Credit Movement, saying that despite its many failings it had introduced several progressive measure in the Provincial House. He also appealed to the working people to become organised and fight the People's League.

Addressing a concert meeting of Polish and Ukrainian members of the Communist Party in Edmonton at the Ukrainian Labour Temple on Sunday, December 4th, on the subject of "The Organisation of Alberta Youth," Mike Martinuik, alias Martin, of the Young Communist League, emphasized that the Y.C.L., in its endeavour to bring about the unity of youth in Alberta had gained the support of a large number of progressive, welfare, political and church organisations; that it was this support that had made the Alberta Youth Congress, held in Calgary recently, an outstanding success. Martinuik briefly outlined the proceedings of the said Youth Congress and in

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conclusion urged the parents of children to enroll all their children of school age into the Pioneer and Junior organisations of the Youth movement.

2. Saskatchewan

7. A. E. Smith and Walter Dent speak at Regina and Saskatoon

The local committee of the Friends of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion at Regina held a meeting in the Labour Temple on the 12th of December at which Walter Dent and A. E. Smith spoke on conditions in Spain. Walter Dent told of the prowess of the People's Army which he said will ultimately down all Fascist Forces in Spain. He said the Canadian volunteers were giving their lives in Spain to decide whether Canadians will have to fight on their own soil for democracy or not. He told of how the Spanish Government had built up a tremendous army from nothing. When he and others arrived in Spain they were sent to the trenches without any previous training, and were given a rifle and three rounds of ammunition to learn how to use it, and some bayonet drill, he said. Smith declared that the Friends of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion in Canada has undertaken to provide \$2,500 monthly for a Canadian Hospital in Spain as well as support a movement for education of refugee children. The

war in Spain was an acid test for every country in the world, Smith said. He criticized the Roman Catholic Church in Saskatchewan for issuing propaganda which proclaimed that Franco's forces were fighting for Christianity in Spain. He advised the women in Canada who were knitting socks for soldiers in Spain that every stitch was a political stitch to stop Fascism.

A. E. Smith and Walter Dent also addressed a public meeting in Saskatoon on the 9th of December. Approximately 700 people attended of whom 75% were Anglo-Saxon. The net proceeds of this meeting amounted to approximately \$20.

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Petitions are being circulated by the Communist Party amongst trade unions and other organisations at Saskatoon to protest to Premier Duplessis of Quebec against the 'Padlock Law' in that Province. The Petition also asks the Prime Minister to disallow that particular Quebec Provincial piece of legislation.

3. Manitoba

8. "New Theatre" at Winnipeg stage two new radical plays.

The [deletion:2-3 words] "New Theatre" at Winnipeg, recently staged "Waiting at Madrid" and "Sit-Down," two short plays, the former depicting the defence of Madrid by the Loyalist Forces and the latter demonstrating the "Sit-Down" strike tactic employed in U.S.A. factories. Joseph Zukin, well known member of the Young Communist League, directed the productions. The performances were said to have been very inspiring and impressive as the young amateurs played their rolls very well; the attendance was very poor, however.

4. Quebec

9. Communists at Montreal fear they will be ousted from Trades and Labour Council.

[deletion:2 1/4 lines] stated that a very "dangerous" situation now exists in the Montreal Trades and Labour Council; that there is a movement on foot to oust the Communist Party members. The Communist leaders are to be accused of sabotaging the work of the Council. [deletion:1 word] said that Trepannier, President of the Council, is said to have been heard to remark that

action must be taken to remove the communists from the Council and that he is making an investigation with that end in view. "Even though we have 79 Left Wing delegates in the Council of whom 40 are Party members, we are nevertheless in a very vulnerable position and are not powerful enough to withstand an onslaught of this type at the present time," [§deletion:1 word] declared. To combat the attack, [§deletion:1 word] suggested that "we must first prove to the Council that

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we are sincere and not carrying on disruptive activity." In the discussion that followed on [§deletion:1 word] report, [§deletion:2 words] remarked that "Trepannier likes to picture himself as the coming Minister of Labour." He suggested that Trepannier be used as little as possible in strike negotiations, etc., and that he must be convinced that it was the Communist Party that was mainly responsible for the formation in recent months of the new trade unions. It was agreed to call a special meeting of all Communist Party members who are delegates to the Trades and Labour Council and sympathizers, at which a policy to be pursued in the Council in future will be formulated.

Determined to circulate the "Daily Clarion" in the City of Montreal, members of the Communist Party have been instructed to receive bundles of that paper at their private residences, and later, when notified to that effect, bring the bundle to a given address. This procedure is designed to out-wit the Provincial authorities in their attempt to stem the flow of Communist Party publications into the Province of Quebec. It has been reported that attempts on the part of the Communists to bring the paper in by truck have failed so far, as the Provincial authorities have been able to intercept such shipments.

Reporting on the work among the unemployed to a meeting [§deletion:1 1/4 lines] said that work in that direction is progressing very slowly. He further stated that the two largest bodies of unemployed — the "Cremazie" and "Central Unemployed" Clubs are now without a place to meet and as a result had lost many of their members. [§deletion:1 word] suggested that the section advance a sum of money to the aforesaid clubs which will enable them to secure a suitable meeting hall. It was agreed to advance the clubs \$25, the money to be taken from the "Clarion" campaign funds as the section is at present heavily in debt.

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[~~deletion:2 words~~] delivered the political report in which he endeavoured to analyze the present situation arising out of the anti-communist attitude of the Provincial Government. "We must now become the main supporters of liberty, and unite to defeat Duplessis." "Attempts must be made," he declared, "to unite the sincere elements in the National Government, the Liberal Party, the C.C.F. and organised labour into one broad popular movement, all united for one purpose, the defeat of Duplessis." In order to achieve this unity, [~~deletion:1 word~~] maintained, Communist Party forces must be strengthened in the trade union field as without a strong party it will be impossible to carry through the program. He further stated that the Communist Party will soon issue an official call for unity to defeat the aims of the Duplessis' Government.
