

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

OTTAWA, Jan. 19th, 1938.

SECRET

NO. 881

WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANISATIONSAND AGITATION IN CANADAREPORT

Recruiting of volunteers for service in Spain by the Communist Party throughout Canada continues. Instructions have recently been issued to the people in charge of this work in Canada to exercise the greatest care so that only reliable anti-fascists and persons who will not cause any difficulties be recruited.

Henceforth any cigarettes intended for the members of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion in Spain will be purchased through the Friends of the Abraham Lincoln Battalion in the U.S.A. where they may be obtained for half the cost in Canada.

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Headed by Dr. Norman Bethune.

“ ” 2. Members of Central Committee of Communist Party

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“ ” 3. [Xdeletion:2 lines]

“ ” 4. Canadian Communist in Spain.

[Xdeletion:1 word] now Commander of MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion.

[Xdeletion:1 word] services as Political Commissar unsatisfactory;

[Xdeletion: 1 line]

[Xdeletion:1 word] cited as leading figures.

“ ” 5. “Narodna Gazeta” records growth of Communism among Ukrainians in Canada.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

1. Communist Party of Canada sends Medical Unit
to China.

Dr. Norman Bethune, formerly of Montreal and during 1937 in charge of the “Canadian Medical Service” in Spain, and Jean Ewen, daughter of Tom Ewen, prominent Communist Party leader, have left Toronto for China where they are to establish a medical unit similiar to the one functioning in Spain. They are being accompanied by two other Canadian medical workers whose names have not been divulged. They are to sail from San Francisco for Shanghai in the near future.

Although the Communist Party is solely responsible for the formation of the Unit, an endeavour will be made to give it a more representative scope

with a view to making it appear as an expression of good will on the part of the Canadian people.

2. Members of Central Committee of Communist Party
of Canada enroute to Moscow.

It is generally accepted in Communist circles that Tim Buck, Sam Carr and John Boychuk of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Canada are enroute to Moscow to attend the forthcoming Plenum of the E.C.C.I. The trio is also reported to have attended the recent Congress of the Communist Party of France, at Arles, France. John Boychuk is said to have visited Spain prior to the said Congress.

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4. Canadian Communists in Spain.

[deletion: 1-2 words] formerly of the "Clarion" staff of Toronto is now Commander of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion in Spain, holding the rank of Major. The Communist Party of Canada is endeavouring to have [deletion: 1 word] returned to Canada for propaganda work. It is also said that [deletion: 1-2 words] desires his return. It is unlikely, however, that he will be released from his present position by the leadership of the International Brigade.

[deletion: 1 word] of Vancouver, at present Political Commissar of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion in Spain is being replaced by [deletion: 1/2 line] who has left for Spain some time ago. [deletion: 1 word] work in Spain was very unsatisfactory to the communists in Spain and Canada. He is said to have been quite unpopular among the members of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion.

[deletion: 1 word], formerly active in the communist movement in British Columbia and now serving with the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion is considered an excellent Military figure in Spain. He is at present the Commandant of the English speaking Battalion in training at Tarazona de la Manche. He will not be returned to the front, however, but is expected to return to Canada within the next three months.

Among the Canadian volunteers who have distinguished themselves in Spain are (1) [deletion: 1 word] formerly of British Columbia who is in charge of "Service de Cadres" for the Canadians with headquarters at Al-

bacete. (2) [deletion:1 word], formerly of Winnipeg and at present a Lieutenant in the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion in Spain. (3) [deletion:1/2 line] for Sudbury District and at present Captain of the Machine-gun Company of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion.

5. "Narodna Gazeta" records growth of Communism
among Ukrainians in Canada.

"Narodna Gazeta" organ of the Ukrainian Communists, published at Winnipeg every day except Sunday, in its January 1st, 1938 issue, reviews the progress made during 1937. It records a

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marked increase in the membership of the various organisations composing the Ukrainian aspect of the Communist movement. It declares that the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association acquired 1,000 new members, its womans' section 500, the youth section 750, the Workers' Benevolent Association 1250, and Todowymazu 600 new members.

6. Toronto Labour College Opens.

The Toronto Labour College founded by the Communist Party of Canada was opened on the night of January 4th, with a class in Journalism. Although twenty-eight pupils were registered in this class, only twenty attended, including [deletion:2-3 words] of East York and [deletion:1-2 words] formerly "Clarion" correspondent in Saskatoon and now employed in the Communist Party head-office. [deletion:2 words] officially opened the class. He said this college was the beginning of what may develop into an important institution. [deletion:2 words] is conducting this particular class. Other classes or courses will embrace Marxism, Political Economy, Political Theory, (more advanced course in Marxism and Leninism), World Politics, Canadian Labour History, History of International Labour Organisations, Trade Unionism and Public Speaking.

7. Split develops in C. I. O. Leadership.

The recent collapse of negotiations between the representatives of the A.F. of L. and those of the C.I.O. resulted in a clash between John L. Lewis, Chairman of the C.I.O. and one of his chief lieutenants, David Dubinsky.

Speaking at New York recently, Dubinsky, President of the International Ladies Garment Workers' Union, second largest affiliate of the C.I.O., charged that John L. Lewis is responsible for the continued breach in the Labour movement; that the C.I.O. rank and file have no voice in its affairs; that its claim of membership is exaggerated and that the communist daily newspaper "seems" to have become

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the C.I.O. "mouthpiece." Dubinsky voiced an emphatic demand for a renewal of negotiations between the two groups. A. F. of L. leaders said Dubinsky's speech substantiated the federations' statement that Lewis had broken up the recent peace conference after the negotiators had agreed on a method of settlement. Commenting on Dubinsky's statement, John L. Lewis said that Dubinsky "seems to be giving an imitation of Eliza crossing the ice and looking back like Lot's wife," and that he "ought to finally decide whether he is fish or fowl or good red-herring."

The speech in which Dubinsky voiced his first public disagreement with Lewis was made at a special meeting of 1,200 members of executive boards of International Ladies Garment Workers local unions. Dubinsky denied assertions made by Lewis and others in the C.I.O. that the A.F. of L.'s peace terms would have required the ten former federation affiliates which are now in the C.I.O. to desert the newly formed C.I.O. unions. Dubinsky said he hoped the "Constructive elements" in both camps will launch new peace efforts and make possible the consolidation of their forces. As a first step towards peace negotiations the C.I.O. must stop raiding and dividing existing A.F. of L. unions and confine itself to organising the unorganised. Dubinsky accused the communists of giving lipservice to the idea of peace in the labour movement, but all the while cheering the failure to make it a reality. Attacking bitterly the communists and the role they play in the C.I.O., Dubinsky said "it would seem as if the "Daily Worker" (official organ of the Communist Party of the U.S.A.) had become the official mouthpiece of the C.I.O.

Dubinsky's clash with Lewis precipitated wide-spread discussion and demands for new peace efforts are being voiced in many quarters.

8. Polish Communists conclude Press Campaign.

The Fall press campaign of the Polish Communists conducted on behalf of their organ "Glos Pracy" has come to a close. The

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results appear in the 15th January edition of "Glos Pracy" and inasmuch as the figures somewhat reflect the strength of the movement in the various localities, they are quoted here:

SUSTAINING FUND

Place	Quota	Amount Realized
Toronto	\$ 425.00	\$ 443.00
Hamilton	375.00	396.00
Winnipeg	175.00	50.00
Winnipeg	250.00	155.00
Windsor	200.00	150.00
Ft. William & Port Arthur.	175.00	224.28
Montreal	163.00	79.07
Montreal	162.00	189.00
Edmonton	150.00	150.03
St. Catharines	100.00	63.70
Brandon	45.00	45.87
The Pas	45.00	10.35
Vancouver	35.00	42.91
Driftwood	35.00	—
Blairmore	25.00	25.35
Kenora	30.00	3.15
Cadomin	25.00	30.00
Sudbury	15.00	—
Spruce Valley	15.00	21.75
Kitchener	15.00	5.00
Cranbrook	15.00	5.00
Diamond City	10.00	18.21
Athabaska	10.00	—
Sydney	10.00	—
Saskatoon	10.00	12.35
Lethbridge	10.00	—
Calgary	10.00	3.80
Regina	10.00	9.45
Other Places in Canada and in the U.S.A	<u>455.00</u>	<u>264.59</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$3,000.00</u>	<u>\$2,387.86</u>

From the above it will be seen that the objective, i.e. \$3,000 was not attained. The amount quoted above represents donations received for the sustaining fund. In addition to the said sum, 316 subscriptions were secured.

During the previous campaign conducted last spring which had for its objective the raising of \$2,000 for the sustaining fund and 500 subscribers, \$2,093.45 was collected and 199 subscribers obtained. Like all other communist papers published by the communist controlled language mass organisations in Canada this paper depends largely on the sustaining fund which has been created for that purpose. The figures would indicate that the movement is slowly but steadily advancing.

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9. Strikes and Industrial Unrest throughout Canada.

A. Strike of Minto, N.B. Coal Miners Settled.

Latest information from Minto would indicate that the strike of coal miners in that area has been settled and the men are returning to work.

B. Strike of Pulp-wood Cutters at
McKirdy, Ontario.

Some four hundred pulp-wood cutters employed by the Lake Sulphite Pulp Company at McKirdy are reported out on strike demanding higher pay and better living conditions. The Company employs over 900 men in its various bush camps in that area.

C. Upholsters' Strike at Winnipeg Settled.

The strike at the Parkhill Bedding Plant at Winnipeg which involved approximately 85 employees has been settled. The agreement signed includes higher wages and recognition of the Union.

D. Miners Strike in Drumheller Valley.

Approximately 80 men came out on strike at the Elgin Coal Mine, Drumheller Valley, on January 11th, demanding an increase of eight cents per ton on "boundary mined coal." An officer of the District Committee of the U.M.W. of A. is expected to visit the mine in an attempt to effect a settlement of the dispute.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCESI. British Columbia.10. Unemployed Demonstrate at Vancouver, B.C.

On January 3rd a large number of men congregated at the corner of Georgia and Granville Sts. at Vancouver, bearing improvised placards, worded "We want Work and Wages," and soliciting alms from passing people. The Vancouver City Police arrived at the scene and arrested 47. As the patrol wagons arrived the demonstrators literally ran towards them in their anxiety to be arrested. Immediately after these arrest a statement was issued by the Workers' Alliance to the effect that "If the Government cannot keep these men out of gaol at a coast of .40¢ per day, then they would have to keep them in gaol at a cost of \$1.00 per day."

On January 4th in City Police Court, 30 of these individuals were found guilty of "obstructing the police" and were remanded to January 11th for sentence. The remainder were not proceeded with but were remanded until January 7th on which date 10 of them were sentenced to 1 month in Oakalla Gaol and 5 were let off with a suspended sentence.

On January 11th the 30 individuals who were found guilty on January 4th appeared before Magistrate Wood for sentence. Eighteen were given suspended sentences, six with previous convictions to their credit were given two months imprisonment in Oakalla Prison Farm and six were given terms of one month in Oakalla. In passing sentences, Magistrate Wood said in future more drastic sentences would be handed out for offences of this nature.

 II. Saskatchewan.

 11. Communists at Regina plan to organise Branch of
U.A.W.A. in General Motors Plant.

At a recent meeting [~~3-4 words~~] the Communist Party at Regina it was decided that the time was ripe for organising a branch of the United Automobile Workers of America (C.I.O.) at the

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General Motors Plant in that City. It was pointed out that there were five Communist Party members working in the said plant and others are endeavouring to find employment there.

[~~deletion:3 lines~~] In a discussion centering around the Regina Trades and Labour Council it was pointed out that the present leadership of the Council was "reactionary" and consequently very little work is being accomplished. It was said that there were approximately 20 progressive delegates sitting on the Council, of whom six were Party members.

III. Manitoba.

12. Annie Buller at The Pas.

Annie Buller, prominent Communist Party leader stationed at Winnipeg, addressed a meeting in the Adanac Hall at The Pas, Man., on the 29th December, speaking on "The Road Ahead for the People of Manitoba." She severely criticized the "Padlock Law" of the Province of Quebec and generally attacked the present system which she alleged was controlled by the "multi-millionaires" of Canada. A resolution was adopted protesting the Quebec "Padlock Law" copies of which were to be forwarded to the Prime Minister of Canada and Premier Duplessis of Quebec.

She also spoke at a meeting at the Ukrainian Labour Temple on the 4th January on the danger of war. At this meeting a resolution was passed demanding Canada cease shipping nickel to Japan.

IV. Ontario

13. Stewart Smith addresses Y.M.C.A. Discussion Club at Toronto.

Alderman Stewart Smith, Communist Party leader was the guest speaker at a meeting of the Discussion Club held in Room 18, Central Y.M.C.A., College Street, Toronto on 10th January.

Speaking on "Some Abuses of our Economic System," Stewart

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Smith In his one and one-half hours talk dealt largely with the present system of production under capitalism. The abolition of private ownership and the establishment of a system similiar to that existing in the Soviet Union was the ultimate goal of the Communist Party of Canada, he declared. He also spoke on fascism, making particular reference to the situation in the Province of Quebec. Replying to a question put to him by a member of the audience, "Does the Communist Party still follow the teaching of Marx and Lenin," Smith said that Marxism demanded changed tactics to meet a changed situation and that

is what the Communist Party is doing. In answer to another question "Are Fascist and Communist Dictatorship essentially the same," Smith explained the differences in the economic structure underlying the two systems. Under Socialism a dictatorship was impossible, he said; he denied that Stalin was a dictator. "What about the recent liquidations," someone asked. "The Soviet Union," Smith said, "is perfectly justified in dealing with wreckers and spies." Other questions were answered in a like evasive manner. It is said that Smith excelled himself and that he made a profound impression on the members of the club..

Garfield Boulter, a candidate for Alderman, running under "Labour" auspices in the civic election at Port Arthur, held on January 3rd, received 1,020 votes. For a time it looked as if Boulter was to head the polls but gradually his lead diminished until finally he was eliminated, finishing in 12th place. Ten alderman were elected. In the previous civic election, Boulter, running as a Communist Party candidate, received 1,281 votes or 261 votes more than this year.

V. Quebec

14. Montreal Communist Leaders Discuss "Clarion" Circulation.

[~~deletion: 1 1/4 lines~~] and amongst other things discussed the campaign now in progress in Montreal on behalf of the Central organ of the Communist Party, the "Daily Clarion." Member [~~deletion: 1 word~~] reported that

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there has been a serious drop in the local circulation of the "Clarion" because it is "becoming increasingly difficult to make regular delivery". [~~deletion: 1 word~~] reported that the Party leaders in Toronto were very anxious to secure steady readers. He intimated that in the event of the Provincial authorities interfering with the mail deliveries, the Communist Party would take up the matter with the Federal Government, charging the Provincial authorities with interfering with the mail. The campaign now in progress has for its objective the securing of at least 1,000 steady readers, subscribers, to whom the paper would be supplied by mail.

Another matter discussed was the effects on the Party of the recent actions of the Provincial authorities under the "Padlock Law." It was pointed out that it was practically impossible to secure any large meeting halls. To offset this the Bureau decided to hold a series of small meetings on the issue all over the

city, preferably under the joint auspices of the Civil Liberties Union, the League for Peace and Democracy and the Communist Party. Another report presented to the Bureau indicated that the situation was fairly good throughout the district considering the effects of the "Padlock Law" enforcement; that recruiting for the Party has been "fair." It was further said that although a number of French Canadian members had dropped out of the Party, some new recruits have been secured in that field.

VI. The Maritime Provinces.

15. C.P. District Office Transferred to Halifax.

[~~deletion: 1/2 line~~] has arranged to transfer the District office of the Party from Glace Bay to Halifax. It is suspected that this step has been prompted by the recent attacks on [~~deletion: 1 word~~] launched by [~~deletion: 3-4 words~~] "The Steelworker." Efforts are being made by the Party leadership to have the steel-workers union issue a periodical under the caption "Union News" in opposition to the "Steelworker."

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

OTTAWA, Ont., Jan. 27th, 1938.

SECRETNO. 882WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANISATIONAND AGITATION IN CANADAREPORT

On January 26th Quebec Provincial Police in their warfare against Communism raided and padlocked the Ukrainian Labour Temple on St. Lawrence Boulevard, the property of the [deletion:2-3 words] Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association. Raids were also made on the homes of [deletion:3/4 line] where police seized a quantity of literature.

APPENDICESTABLE OF CONTENTSAPPENDIX NO. J: GENERAL

- Para. No. 1. Notes on the campaign in aid of the Spanish Loyalists.
C.P. to intensify recruiting.
Jack Steele recently returned from Spain to address series of meetings; [deletion:3-4 words],
[deletion:1 word] Captain Ralph Bates speaks at Toronto.
- " " 2. The campaign in aid of China.
Dr. Hing Chih Tao touring Canada; addresses well attended meeting in Toronto. [deletion:2-3 words]
[deletion:3-4 words] to show anti-Japanese films; to hold tag-day in Edmonton in support of China.
- " " 3. Communist Party attempt to organise Chinese.
Plan to organise them into special section of the Party.
- " " 4. Todowymazu (Society for assisting the liberation movement of Western Ukraine) Annual campaign.
- " " 5. The Communists and the Trade Unions.
Gain control of several unions in Toronto, also Hamilton Council of Canadian Seamen's Union.
C.P. control 79 votes in Montreal Trades and