

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

OTTAWA, Feb. 9th, 1938.

SECRET

NO. 883

WEEKLY SUMMARY

REPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANISATION

AND AGITATION IN CANADA

REPORT

Continuing their warfare on communism under Quebec's "padlock law", provincial police raided and padlocked the Maxim Gorky Hall, operated by the Russian Workers' Clubs, [~~3/4 line~~] in the East End of Montreal.

The recent padlocking of communist halls at Montreal is having a profound effect upon the membership of the various communist foreign language mass organisations. It was admitted at a recent meeting of the local C.P. secretariat that as a result of the raids, the morale of the members has sunk to a low level.

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Winnipeg.

Brandon Communist Party members urged to apply for naturalization.

APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

1. United Mine Workers hold Convention —
C.I.O.-A.F.of L. Conflict sharpens.

The 35th biennial convention of the United Mine Workers of America opened at Washington, D.C. on January 26th with approximately 2,000 delegates in attendance. John L. Lewis formally opened the proceedings with a speech in which he stated that the Committee for Industrial Organisation unions will join the American Federation of Labour if the Federation will “take them as they stand.” As an alternative, Lewis offered to take all A.F. of L. unions into the C.I.O. as they stand. In this connection he is reported to have said; “if that be not pleasing to the A.F. of L. we offer the alternative proposal that on the first day of February the A.F. of L. unions march in to the C.I.O., horse, foot and dragoon, receive charters and hold a convention later to arrange details.” This pronouncement brought the entire convention to its feet cheering, whistling and applauding. Following Lewis’ speech the executive officers report was given which showed a balance on hand in the union treasury of

\$2,534,668. or an increase of \$236,649. over the balance in 1936. This surplus, the report said, accumulated in the face of "substantial contributions for the fight to re-elect President Roosevelt, contributions to the textile organising drive, the steel organising drive, Labour's Non-Partisan League, and the purchase and the remodeling of the United Mine Workers building. The figures presented showed that in the two years between conventions the union spent nearly \$5,000,000. on its own affairs and in contributions to other organisations. In regard to political activity, the officer's report stated that "outstanding among the achievements of Labour's Non-Partisan League, has been the development of a formal working alliance with the most progressive groups of organised farmers in the United States.

On February 2nd the convention, acting as a Grand Jury, indicted William Green, a member of the union and president of the American Federation of Labour on charges of treason. The convention directed the union's executive board to give William Green a hearing and to expell him from the U.M.W. of A. if he were found guilty.

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On February 3rd, Frank Hayes, Lieutenant Governor of Colorado and Lewis' predecessor as President of the U.M.W. of A. addressed the convention expressing hope that some day the union would place one of its members in the White House. He added that the union had the material in Lewis and when the delegates cheered this remark, Hayes said he wished the miners convention was the Democratic national convention.

Before adjourning the convention directed Lewis to demand a 30-hour week in the 1939 wage and hour negotiations with the soft-coal operators.

On February 7th William Green announced that the Executive Council of the A.F. of L. in meeting assembled at Miami, Fla., on 4th February, revoked the charters of the U.M.W. of A., the International Union of Mill, Mine and Smelter Workers and the Federation of Flat Glass Workers; and that action against the other 7 suspended A.F. of L. Unions affiliated with the C.I.O. was deferred until the next Council meeting in April. William Green also announced that he would resign his 48 year membership in the U.M.W. of A.

2. Jewish Communists form organisation in opposition to Canadian Jewish Congress.

The Jewish communists in their effort to counteract the influence of the Canadian Jewish Congress have organised a parallel organisation, known as

the People's Committee. The President of this committee is Dr. S. Gold of Montreal who is being publicized as an independent Jewish people's representative. It is the Dr. Gold who writes a weekly "Health" column in "Der Kampf," Jewish communist organ, in which he lays every sickness and disease at the threshold of the capitalist order. The secretary of the committee is Charles Rosen, [deletion:1/2 line]. The Canadian Jewish Congress has persistently refused all overtures made by the Communists with regard to the formation of a Jewish anti-fascist united front. Having failed to penetrate or permeate the Canadian Jewish Congress, the communists finally decided to form this People's Committee which they now claim

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is composed of representatives of "various societies and organisations." The societies or organisations comprising the committee, however, are all communist or pro-communist in character.

3. "Lenin Day" observed throughout Canada.

Many meetings and concerts marked this year's commemoration in Canada of the death, January 21st, 1924, of Vladimir Ilich Lenin, master mind of the Russian Revolution of 1917 and founder of the Communist International.

A. Toronto

At Toronto a Lenin Memoriam meeting in Massey Hall on January 23rd, staged under the auspices of the city central committee of the Communist Party of Canada constituted the main event of the affair. Approximately 3,000 people attended. Leith McMurray presided and the speakers were Stewart Smith, T.C. Sims, Norman Freed and Peter Hunter. Entertainment was provided by approximately 60 Ukrainian children and a Czecho-Slovakian team in gymnastic performances. The Freiheit Choir (Jewish) of about 50, rendered several vocal selections.

Leith McMurray in his opening remarks emphasized that Lenin was not dead, but lived "amongst us," and asserted that his books exerted a greater influence than ever before. Sims in his speech depicted Lenin as the guiding star of the working class of the world. Norman Freed spoke on the civil war in Spain and appealed to the workers to join the Communist Party of Canada — the Party of Lenin, while Peter Hunter dealt briefly with the problem of winning the youth for the struggle.

Alderman Stewart Smith, the main speaker, was given a tremendous ovation by the audience. He said that since the death of Lenin 14 years ago, the forces of Leninism had grown a hundred-fold. He contended that the

teachings of Lenin are now more necessary than ever before. He bitterly assailed the Quebec Provincial Government for its anti-communist campaign and charged that the leaders of the Christian Socialist Party of Quebec were acting as agents of Italy and Germany. The Communist Party, he said, stretches out the hand of

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friendship to all organisations opposed to fascism; he regretted, however, that the Churches are not as yet playing the roll they should in the struggle against fascism. In conclusion he urged all present to rally to the fight for peace and democracy and for a new social order.

B. Winnipeg.

Communists at Winnipeg commemorated the anniversary with two concert-meetings on January 23rd; one held under the auspices of the Communist Party of Canada at the Walker Theatre was attended by approximately 950 people, while the other, staged by the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association in the Ukrainian Labour Temple witnessed a capacity audience. Alderman J. B. Salsberg of Toronto was the feature speaker at the Walker Theatre while M. Shatulsky acted as main speaker at the meeting in the Ukrainian Labour Temple. Reviewing the life of Lenin and the course of the Russian revolution, Shatulsky declared that Lenin's work and the effects of the revolution serve as the motive power in the present class struggle the world over. "It is because of this," he said, "that we have fascism, the last effort of capitalism to preserve its existence."

C. Calgary

A mass meeting attended by approximately 800 people in the Variety Theatre on January 23rd, featured "Lenin Day" at Calgary, Alta. The Russian Workers' Club orchestra provided musical entertainment and speeches were given by Cory Campbell, Terry Levis, William Ainscough and Pat Lenihen. A Russian film was shown at the end of the meeting portraying the new generation of Russia. During the meeting application for membership forms were distributed and an appeal was made to the people to join the Communist Party of Canada.

D. Vancouver.

The Communist Party at Vancouver held the main Lenin Memorial meeting in the Empress Theatre on the evening of January 23rd, with approximately 1,600 people in attendance. Leslie Morris, the feature speaker of the evening,

talked for three-quarters of an hour on the achievements of Lenin. He claimed that if Lenin were in Canada

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today he would be an advocate of the people's front. An unusual feature of this meeting was that it opened with "O Canada" to the accompaniment of a Croatian orchestra. Admission was by tickets, the sale of which netted over \$200. and the collection in the Theatre amounted to \$60.

4. Dr. Heng Chih Tao cancels tour.

Dr. Heng Chih Tao, touring Canada under the auspices of the Canadian League for Peace and Democracy, as part of the campaign in aid of China, following a meeting in Brandon, Man., on January 30th, received a telegram which caused him to cancel all other engagements in Western Canada. Following the receipt of the telegram he informed the local leaders of the Communist Party that he had been instructed to leave immediately for New York "to catch a boat for London, England, to attend a convention." He consequently left Brandon by early train on the 31st for Winnipeg and New York. Miss Margaret Crang of Edmonton, who accompanied Dr. Tao was instructed to carry on and act in his place.

5. "Leikki" increases circulation.

"Leikki," a weekly, published by the [~~2-3 words~~] "Vapaus" Publishing Company at Sudbury, Ont., for the 29th January, announces that the last subscription campaign waged on behalf of this paper has brought it circulation to over 3,000 copies per issue. "Leikki" commenced publication approximately two years ago as a "literary" supplement to the daily paper "Vapaus."

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCESI. British Columbia7. Agitators active in Provincial Work Camps.

Trouble has arisen in some of the British Columbia Provincial Government Work Camps between the men and the officials of those camps. A statement made on February 3rd by J. Matts, secretary of the [deletion:2-3 words] Relief Project Workers' Union, said that the trouble was due to poor management and the incompetent officials in charge. The Honourable G.S. Pearson, Minister of Labour, in reply stated that, unless the trouble at the camps is discontinued he would close the relief camps and cut off all single men from relief. He further stated that it was his opinion that the trouble had been the result of the agitation of a few individuals from Vancouver, and while he made no direct accusations he indicated that these men were members of the Communist Party of Canada. The troubles referred to were occasioned by the dismissal of two men for refusing to work in one of the camps on Vancouver Island.

II. Alberta

8. C.P. plan to recruit 200 new members in Edmonton
by May 1st.

[deletion:3/4 line] is reported to be engaged in a recruiting drive which has for its objective 200 new members by the 1st of May. The Party branches have been instructed to concentrate in the following industries: Railway, mines, packing plants, textile firms, Great West Garment Factory, laundries, furniture stores and dairies.

Reporting to a meeting of the Edmonton Council of the Canadian League for Peace and Democracy recently [deletion:3/4 line] reported that [deletion:1 word] local Chinese, has established connections with the University of Alberta and is receiving good support from the officials and students of that University for his boycott of Japanese goods campaign. [deletion:1 word] stated he [deletion:1 word] had also succeeded in making arrangements, through a sympathizer, to show the new film in the University and to arrange for Dr. Heng Chih Tao to

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speak to the students and to make a broadcast over Station C.K.U.A.

The Unemployed Married Mens' Association at Edmonton on January 29th, held a meeting with approximately 150 in attendance. Several speakers

addressed the meeting, including P. Burke, J. Cochrane, H. Albert, Mrs. Jean Mason, J. Hollopeter, J. MacKenzie and J. Lakeman, condemning the relief system in general. A resolution passed by the meeting asked for the resignation of two relief officials on the grounds that they were "insulting." The meeting also discussed the formation of a central council of city and provincial unemployed organisations.

III. Saskatchewan

9. C.P. in Provincial Conference at Regina.

The Communist Party in Saskatchewan held a Provincial Conference at Regina on the 29th and 30th of January. A mass meeting attended by approximately 1,100 people in the City Hall Auditorium was held on the eve of the gathering. This meeting was presided over by Walter Wiggin and the speakers were T.G. McManus, Provincial leader and Leslie Morris of the Central Committee of the Party. Both speakers severely criticized the report presented by the Honourable T.C. Davis to the Rowell Commission. The Dominion Government came in for considerable criticism for trading with countries such as Italy, Germany and Japan. Leslie Morris, explaining the function of the United Front in Alberta, said that the Social Credit Party and the Communist Party of Canada were now working in harmony in that province. He intimated that the activities of the Party in Saskatchewan would be intensified and prophesized that a united front of C.C.F., Social Credit and C.P. would come into being before the next Saskatchewan election.

The proceedings of the conference proper were held in the Labour Temple and are said to have been well attended. Leslie Morris brought instruction from the Centre at Toronto to the effect that the C.P. in Saskatchewan must co-operate at all costs with the C.C.F. and the Social Credit Party and George Williams, Provincial leader of the C.C.F., is to be backed to the limit.

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Discussing the political situation in the province the conference saw the possibilities of electing a number of candidates to the legislature in the next election. This estimate was based upon the fact that a number of C.P. members have recently been elected to municipal administrations. A feature worthy of note was the presence of Charley Bing, a Chinese from Saskatoon who extended greetings to the conference on behalf of the Chinese of Saskatchewan. His message was to the effect that the Chinese would help the communists in their campaign and would support generally any move that the C.P. would make. He stated that in view of the help the C.P. had given to the

Chinese, they (the Chinese) are prepared to co-operate with the communists to the fullest extent.

Percy Lewis, [deletion:3/4 line] in the General Motors Plant, reported that it had been decided to start organising the General Motors employees into the U.A.W. of A. on the question of union wages, conditions, etc. Jack Chambers, secretary of the Regina Trades and Labour Council, reported on the rapid strides made in the Trades and Labour Council and the "brilliant possibilities" in gaining control of the council before the next provincial election.

Annie Buller who was present at the conference lead the discussion on the question of the "Clarion." It was decided to concentrate on the problem of enlarging the circulation of the "Clarion" as one of the principal tasks confronting the Party in the Province. In conclusion the conference resolved to recruit 500 new members before May 1st.

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IV. Manitoba

10. Youth Centre at Winnipeg scene of activity.

The recently organized Community Youth Centre at 382 Mountain Avenue, Winnipeg is said to be a "very busy place." The building, a common dwelling house, contains 7 rooms, each of which is occupied every hour during the day. Those frequenting the place are mostly members of [deletion:2-3 words] youth organisations such as the Young Communist League, Universal Athletic Club, Ukrainian Youth Section, etc. The place has been described by an observer as the "Young Communist League Fishing Net," because it has been created primarily to serve as a medium of contact with non-communist youth. It is not likely, however, that the attempt will meet with any great success because the camouflage is not sufficient to cover the designs of the Communists.

Approximately 600 people attended a meeting under the auspices of the League for Peace and Democracy at the Walker Theatre at Winnipeg on January 27th and listened to an address by Dr. Heng Chih Tao on a united China. Admission was by silver collection and on the platform were seated the local leading members of the league. The Musicians Union orchestra

rendered some selections, opening the meeting with "The Maple Leaf Forever." The Chairman appealed for funds in support of the "Aid for China" movement.

Instructions have been issued by the C.P. in Brandon, to the effect that all those Party members not yet citizens of Canada should immediately apply for Naturalization. This is in keeping with the general policy of the C.P. laid down some few years ago.
