

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

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NO. 895

WEEKLY SUMMARY

REPORT ON COMMUNIST AND FASCIST ORGANIZATIONS

AND AGITATION IN CANADA

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2. Workers' Benevolent Association issues financial report.

The Executive Committee of the Workers' Benevolent Association, a subsidiary of the [deletion:2-3 words] Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association, has released its financial report for the year ending December 31st, 1937. A review of the statement follows:

Receipts for 1937	\$ 46,939.32
Expenditures	<u>36,100.27</u>
Cash Balance for 1937	10,839.05
Balance of 1936 brought forward....	<u>112,436.00</u>
General Balance of Dec. 31, 1937...	123,275.05
Valued, Land and Buildings	<u>62,319.92</u>
Grand Total of all funds and wealth.....	\$185,594.97

ASSETS:

Buildings, Land and Inventory of Orphanage	\$ 61,619.92
Office equipment and furniture	785.00
Mortgages	64,914.17
Bonds	51,252.50
Cash in Bank and in hands	6,257.78
Minor loans, and uncollected dues for products, etc.	<u>765.60</u>
Entire Wealth	<u>\$185,594.97</u>

The general turnover since its establishment to December 31st, 1937, is given as follows:

Receipts	
Grand Total	\$741,077.82
Expenditures	
Grand Total	617,802.77
Bank Balance Dec. 31, 1937	<u>123,275.05</u>

The report shows that the Association has now 91 functioning branches throughout Canada; further, that the Association has made considerable progress, showing a general turnover of nearly three-quarter million dollars in approximately fifteen years. It has financed co-operative enterprises and many other activities of the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association in various spheres, including communist schools which are conducted by the U.L.F.T.A. throughout the country.

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**3. The League for a Revolutionary Workers' Party holds
its first Convention.**

The League for a Revolutionary Workers' Party held its first convention at Toronto recently. Among the more important resolutions adopted was one on the Soviet Union and the Stalinist Regime. This lengthy document declared in part:

“What exists in the Soviet Union is neither proletarian officialdom nor yet an apparatus devoted to the capitalist class, that is, a capitalist state apparatus. We have before us a Thermidorian bureaucracy characterized by all the traits of personal careerist degeneration ready to serve Stalin to-day, and a large part of which will reveal itself just as eager to serve more advanced forms of the capitalist counter-revolution to-morrow.”

The resolution emphasizes the necessity of the workers in the Soviet Union again seizing political power and to liquidate what is referred to as Thermidorian state cadres, and their replacement by a new officialdom. The resolution accuses the Stalinist Regime of being concerned only with the struggle for the maintenance of power, and of having destroyed the dictatorship of the proletariat in the Soviet Union. The regime, the resolution asserts, must be overthrown by political revolution that will re-establish the proletarian dictatorship. The resolution concludes:

“In the event of war, the overthrow of the Stalin bureaucracy must be placed as a pre-requisite for a victory over the Imperialist aggressor, which would be possible only by transforming the war into a revolutionary class war. The position of Trotsky for the overthrow of the Stalin bureaucracy only when victory is assured must be rejected as leading to capitulation to Stalin. For this is needed a new revolutionary party in the Soviet Union, a section of the new Fourth International: a real organization and not merely unorganized traditions and sympathies.

The task of building the new Bolshevik party in the Soviet Union arises also from the necessity of defending the Russian proletariat against its class enemies and the bureaucracy in the Soviet Union. The task of building the new party will be greatly facilitated by the success of the new revolutionists in capitalist countries in building the new Fourth International, and by successful revolutionary action in a number of advanced capitalist countries. But the new party must also be hammered out in civil war precipitated by counter-revolutionary attempts at its overthrow.

The existence and leadership of the organized revolutionary force will be a decisive factor in the outcome of the crisis which will shortly confront the Soviet Union, which will decide between defeat at the hands of the class enemy within and without, or victory through extending the October revolution into the world revolution.”

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The League for a Revolutionary Workers' Party has come into prominence recently as a result of the tactics employed in combating Fascism in the City of Toronto. It formed the most aggressive element in all anti-Fascist demonstrations staged in the streets calculated to break up meetings of the Nationalist Party under the leadership of Joseph C. Farr. The League believes in the “boring from within” tactic and is said to have some standing in a number of organizations, including C.C.F. clubs in the City of Toronto. Branches of the League are functioning in Toronto, Hamilton and Montreal. The members are almost exclusively young intellectuals of the revolutionary type. They are

bitterly opposed and fought by the Communist Party, particularly in Jewish labour organizations.

4. The C.I.O. in Canada.

At a conference of delegates from the various Ontario locals of the United Automobile Workers of America, held at Brantford, Ont., on June 25th and 26th, plans were discussed for organizing the Automobile Workers in Canada. The delegates in attendance represented 7,500 organized workers employed in the industry, it was reported. The conference decided to form a Canadian Regional Committee to lead the organization campaign, and passed a resolution opposing importation of automobiles partly assembled and auto parts into Canada from other countries for assembly here.

The Sailors' Union of the Pacific, an organization dominated by Harry Bridges, notorious communist of San Francisco, is said to be gaining strength in Vancouver. The Inland Boatmen's Union, an affiliate, which has been organizing here for many months is also reported to be growing. These advances are being made at the expense of the Canadian Unions.

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6. Strikes and Unrest Throughout Canada.

(i) Campaign against new relief regulations at Winnipeg continues.

The campaign against the new relief regulations, the "Yellow Dog Contract" so called, at Winnipeg, continues with the Trades and Labour Council, the Manitoba Conference of Unemployed and all their affiliated groups of employed and unemployed, taking an active part. On June 17th, six meetings were held almost simultaneously throughout the City, mostly on vacant lots. It is said that the leaders are entertaining the idea of staging a mass demonstration on the grounds before the Legislative Building in the near future.

Sam Sykes, Secretary of the War Disability Pensioners' Association, speaking at a meeting sponsored by the St. James unemployed organization,

urged the unemployed to organize and "do something more than merely sending resolutions to the Federal and Provincial authorities." He spoke in glowing terms of the stand made by the single unemployed in Vancouver. Other speakers addressing the meeting were J. Aitken, M.L.A., Judge Stubbs, both of whom bitterly assailed the "Yellow Dog Contract".

A pamphlet distributed at this meeting by the Canadian War Disability Pensioners' Association, called upon ex-soldiers to organize; it read in part:

SHOT FOR COWARDICE

"1914 to 1918, the above was a standing order of
the day.

1930 to 1938, thousands of ex-service men are not
conscious that it is cowardice to see their Wives
and Families on the border of starvation.

Thousands of Ex-soldiers blind to What?

TO THE TRICKERY, TREACHERY AND CUNNING METHODS NOW
BEING USED TO STILL LOWER THE GENERAL STANDARD
OF LIVING."

—

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(ii) Single Unemployed Demonstrations in B.C.

Following the disturbances at the Post Office and Art Gallery, a large crowd of supporters and sympathizers escorted one hundred of the Single Unemployed to the Victoria Ferry on Sunday Evening, June 19th. Forming a delegation, the men were en route to the Provincial Capital to lay their demands before Premier Pattullo. Incited by speeches of the leaders of the unemployed, the crowd assumed a menacing attitude after the departure of the ferry but the situation did not develop and the disorders of the early morning were not repeated.

On Monday another contingent of 200 men left for Nanaimo to join these in Victoria and the leaders: R.W. Campbell, John Matts, Ernest Cumber, Norman Harris and J. Jamieson, stated their intention of bringing 1,500 single unemployed to Victoria, if necessary, to force the Provincial Government to concede their demands.

The requests of ten delegates of the Vancouver Mother's Council were refused by Premier Pattullo and having organized a Women's Emergency Council to feed the unemployed, they returned to Vancouver.

An extensive drive of "tin-canning" and tag-selling was conducted in Vancouver on June 22nd in defiance of the authorities and more than \$1,000, it was reported, was collected. Twenty-eight arrests were made by the City Police but the men were allowed to go later; the intention being to prosecute them at another time.

Two hundred more men embarked for Nanaimo on June 23rd and at a meeting of the Single Unemployed Men's Executive held in Vancouver on the same day, it was decided to keep at least 200 men in Vancouver to continue the "tin-canning" and the embarrassment of the authorities.

A mass meeting held on the Powell Street Grounds, Vancouver, on Sunday afternoon, June 26th, did not draw as large a crowd as had been anticipated; only 2,000 people attended. Held under the auspices of the Canadian League for Peace and Democracy, A.M. Stephen, President of that organization, acted as Chairman and the speakers were Charles Stewart, Sam Shearer, Harold Winch, Dr. Lyle Telford, Mrs. Stewart Jamieson, Mrs. Lusk, John Stanton, Steve Brodie and Fergus McKean.

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Tenor of all the speeches was condemnation of the Federal and Provincial Governments in not immediately putting a work and wages programme into effect, protest against Police "brutality" in evicting demonstrators from the Post Office and Art Gallery and appeals to the Trade Unions and unemployed to stand together to continue to embarrass the Governments by further demonstrations. This meeting was predominantly C.C.F. in composition.

The announcement on June 27th, made by the Federal Government that provision had been made for employment for all B.C. jobless through the Employment Service of Canada, was viewed by the demonstrators with suspicion. R.W. Campbell said that the men were not interested in free transportation but would register as requested — not for the purpose of being sent to any other part of the country but to prove that most of them were residents of British Columbia. He said that the aim of the demonstrators was "the right to work at any place in Canada."

The strength of the demonstrators in Vancouver was increased to approximately 500 on June 28th when one hundred and eighty members of the Workers' Ex-Service Men's League joined them. On the same day all those who had crossed over to Vancouver Island, congregated in Victoria, bringing the total at that point to about five hundred. Billeted in four old hotels provided by the City and in the homes of C.C.F. sympathizers, the demonstrators are receiving little encouragement from the citizens of Victoria; but while they are able to obtain food and shelter it appears likely that they will be content to

remain indefinitely. Precautions are being taken to prevent the occupation of public buildings and a repetition of the situation which arose in Vancouver.

In Vancouver, 250 demonstrators marched to the offices of the Employment Service of Canada during the afternoon of the 28th and congregated there while John Matts and Steve Brodie interviewed the Superintendent, Mr. J.H. McVety. They asked him to make representations to the Minister of Labour, that the single unemployed men now in British Columbia who are considered as transients be given equal rights with these domiciled in the Province and be granted relief

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until the Government's work programme begins. The delegation said that if the Government refused there would be no alternative but to send the remaining demonstrators to Victoria — or to "resort to some other means" to gain their ends.

Two hundred "tin-canners" solicited donations on the streets of Vancouver on July 2nd and at the end of the day had collected the sum of \$987. Nineteen of them were arrested by the City Police on charges of Obstruction. A meeting, attended by about 800 persons, was held at the Powell Street Grounds during the afternoon and speeches were made by Cumber, Stephen, Brodie, Mrs. Cowse, Peterson, Campbell and Woodhead. Brodie said that his speech must be restricted due to the pending suit being brought on his behalf against the Government by the Civil Liberties Union. R.W. Campbell said that 200 men would leave the same day for Victoria and that it was the intention of the Unemployed Organization to increase the number in that City to one thousand before any definite action would be taken.

Campbell intimated that the failure of the Provincial Government to meet the demands of the unemployed would entail a request for transportation to Ottawa for the men now in British Columbia. This revival of the original proposal to trek to Ottawa is causing interest among the demonstrators and information has been obtained to the effect that considerable discussion has taken place in secret in regard to the subject. Correspondence between the Single Unemployed Organization in Vancouver and similar groups in other cities, indicates that considerable numerical strength and financial assistance would be available to the trekkers after leaving British Columbia.

The two hundred men embarked for Nanaimo en route to Victoria during the evening of July 2nd and it is estimated that with their departure the organization in Vancouver numbers not more than one hundred and fifty while the total in Victoria will approximate eight hundred

B. Fascism.

7. Activities of National Social Christian Party on decline at Montreal.

The latter part of June witnessed a steady decline in the activities of the N.S.C.P. at Montreal. The few meetings held during the period in question were poorly attended, and listless affairs.

The meeting held at 903 St. Zotique Street, on June 22nd, furnishes a typical example. Although a large number of leaflets announcing this meeting had been distributed, only 125 people turned up plus 35 members of the party in uniform. There were only two speakers, one of these being Adrian Arcand himself. The latter indulged in the usual tirade against the Jews and the present government. Following the meeting one of the officers of the party before leaving the hall is reported to have remarked: "The Chief is in poor health owing to the bad co-operation he gets from his officers."

On June 27th only six people turned up for a meeting of the Italian Section of the party. No meeting was held.

A public meeting held by the party at the Le Moine Hall (Masson and 7th Ave.) on June 29th, attracted an audience of about fifty people, in addition to the twenty-five men and five young girls in uniform who were in attendance. Another meeting, held on the same evening at Ville St. Laurent, attracted only fifteen people.

Much importance is being attached to the "National Fascist Convention" held at Kingston, Ont., on July 1st. It is known that about a dozen of the chief officers of the party left Montreal by motor car allegedly for Kingston on June 30th. The matter will be fully dealt with in the next issue of this summary

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. British Columbia.

8. Federation of Unemployed launched in British Columbia.

At a conference of various organizations held in the Moose Hall, Vancouver, on June 19th, a new organization came into being called the British Columbia Federation on Unemployment. The conference, which was sponsored by the Workers' Alliance, was attended by 64 delegates representing 40 organizations with an alleged total membership of 14,545. Among the organizations represented were the Communist Party of Canada, Canadian Commonwealth Federation, Parent-Teachers' Association, Young Communist

League, various trade unions, Rate Payers' Association, the various Communist controlled language mass organizations and a number of fraternal organizations.

A constitution was adopted which provides for a general council of 25 and an executive committee of 9. Membership fees were set at 50¢ per month for organizations with a membership of fifty or under, and \$1 for affiliates with a membership of fifty or over. In order to give the Federation and its policy as wide a publicity as possible, it was decided to set up a Publicity Committee consisting of [deletion: 1/4 line].

The main speakers at this conference were [deletion: 1 word], Single Unemployed leader, [deletion: 1/2 line] of the Communist Party of Canada, [deletion: 1 word], leader of the radical section of the ex-service men and a prominent figure in the Workers' Alliance, and [deletion: 1/2 line] of the Street Railway Mens' Union. The latter pledged the support of his organization to the policy of the Federation. Referring to [deletion: 1 word] remarks that the unemployed must stand together, [deletion: 1 word] remarked that this was also the policy of the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada. Ernest Winch, M.L.A., spoke very briefly, pledging the support of the C.C.F.

The executive elected was as follows:

President —————	[deletion:name]
Vice-Pres. ————	[deletion:name]
Secretary —————	[deletion:name]
Members —————	[deletion:6 lines]

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The Executive Committee is predominantly communist. [deletion:2 words] although not a C.P. member, is looked upon by the party leaders as a strong communist sympathizer.

Headquarters of the Federation have been established at 47 West Broadway and a drive for affiliation of organizations will commence immediately.

Although no definite policy was formulated it would appear that it is the intention of the Federation to force government action in respect to bringing into being a long-term work and wage programme by threats of creating a general tie-up in Vancouver's industry.

II. Alberta.

9. C.P. Conference at Calgary.

The Communist Party of Canada at Calgary, Alta., held what is referred to as a City Conference on June 19th with 49 delegates in attendance, including

some from other points in Southern Alberta. [deletion: 1/2 line] of the Party, gave a report on the 13th Plenum of the Party held in Toronto recently. In Eastern Canada, he said, the main fight is directed against the "Duplessis-Hepburn Axis," under the slogan "For National Unification — Democracy vs. Re-action." Speaking of the inner life of the Party in Alberta, [deletion: 1 word] urged the destruction of all sectarianism within the Party. He placed the membership of the Party in Alberta at 3,000, including the 400 new members recruited since the first of January. He spoke of the great fluctuation in the membership which, he said, was due mainly to sectarianism prevalent in the Party. Speaking of the situation in Edmonton [deletion: 1 word] boasted that Social Credit Members of Parliament often ask the advice of the C.P. leaders on certain issues.

[deletion: 1 word] gave a lengthy report centering mainly on conditions in the City of Calgary and Southern Alberta. He asserted that in the recent Edmonton East by-election the platform on which the S.C. candidate was elected was drawn up by the C.P. leaders. In Drumheller, he said, the Communist Party holds its meetings in the Social Credit Hall and recently, when he addressed a meeting of Social

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Credit people there, they endorsed the C.P. platform 100%. He added that the Bishop of the Mormon Church who was present at that meeting, advised the Social Credit group to work in close co-operation with the C.P. He urged the conference to engage more actively in the task of recruiting new members and to build up the peace movement in the Province. At the conclusion of his speech he presented a resolution against the amalgamation of the railways in Canada.

Outside delegates taking part in the discussion were: [deletion: 3-4 words] who spoke on the unemployed problem in his district, [deletion: 3/4 line]

[deletion: 2 words] presented the organizational report which disclosed that although 70 new members had joined the Party since the first of January, the dues-paying membership remained the same. He informed the conference that in future the youth work will be directed [deletion: 3-4 words] due to arrive in Calgary on July 1st.

[deletion: 2 words] presented the report on education. He stated that a school of training members in Leninism will be opened before the end of June to last until about the middle of August. This school, he said, will be for the most advanced Party members who would be excused from other Party work whilst attending this school. These students, fifteen in number, will be selected by the new City Committee. He pointed out that education must become the

main issue in all branches under the guidance of a Director of Education. He also stated that a "labour college" would be opened in Calgary this Fall, similar to the one that has been in operation in Toronto. He urged more mass meetings be held, also more radio broadcasts. He suggested that [§deletion:2 words] who speaks every second Friday at 9 p.m. over Station C.J.C.J. should give a broadcast weekly. Speaking of the attendance at meetings, he said that 75% of the membership are attending regularly. He also said that 28 of the members of the Party from Calgary are now in Spain fighting in the ranks of the Loyalist Army. He informed the conference that that Party would soon open a Lenin Library which will make it possible to provide the unemployed with books at a very low cost.

[§deletion:1 word] spoke on the financial problems of the Party, stating that it has been suffering from a profound shortage of funds

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with many unpaid bills on its hands.

A new City Committee was elected as follows: [§deletion:4 1/2 lines]

III. Manitoba.

10. Winnipeg Communists hear report on 13th Plenum.

Reporting to a meeting of [§deletion:1 word] the Communist Party of Canada at Winnipeg on June 30th, on the recent Plenum of the Central Committee of the C.P. which he attended as a delegate from Winnipeg, Alderman Penner stated that, although 2,500 new members had been recruited into the Party since the 8th Convention, the membership still stood at 15,000. This, he said, means that many had dropped out of the Party. Penner, in dealing with the problem of recruiting, stressed the need for agitating among the Roman Catholics. In this connection, he remarked that Tim Buck, in his report to the Plenum, exploded the idea, commonly held among Party members, that Roman Catholics were not eligible to become members. Penner said that 300 Catholics in Quebec have recently been recruited into the Party.

Annie Buller reported on the Clarion, stating that Winnipeg was now the distributing centre for the four Western Provinces and that out of 13,000 readers of the Weekly Clarion, 12,000 are situated in Western Canada.

IV. Quebec.

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