

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

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SECRET

WEEKLY SUMMARY

NOTES RESPECTING REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS

AND AGITATORS IN CANADA.

Report

The most interesting development this week is the appearance at Edmonton of a disgusted Communist — a Ukrainian who went to Russia as a member of a "Commune" and had made his way back to Canada penniless and vociferous in his dislike for life under the Bolsheviks.

Additional reports of May Day demonstrations show them to have been tame. In several places our observers, however, are impressed with the growth of sympathy with the revolutionists among foreigners.

Further instances, rather slight in themselves, but not devoid of significance, have been observed of meddling with agitation in Canada by members of the Soviet Russia Trade Delegation.

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Drumheller

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- “ 6. “Polikushka” Disappointing to the Communists  
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- “ 10. BRITISH COLUMBIA: The I.W.W.  
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 [☞deletion:1 line]  
 The Ukrainians at Edmonton.  
 [☞deletion:3 pages]

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establish new branches among farmers and to strengthen the existing ones; this organiser apparently will be [☞deletion:1 word] of Saskatoon, who begins his travels on 1st June.

The Ontario Provincial Committee of the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association has elected a new Provincial Committee; the new address is “Provincial Committee, Turfdim, Post Office Box 523, Toronto.”

175/4740] At a meeting of the Toronto branch of the Ukrainian Section of the Communist Party held on 10th May [☞deletion:1-2 words] spoke about the Ukrainian Nationalist organization in Toronto. The Communist branches, he said,

"must take strong steps against development of this National organization and endeavour to crush same as otherwise it would grow to such strength as to dominate the Communist Party.

Our informant adds:—

"The National Organization urged the Ukrainian, Russian and Polish people not to give their money to the Communist Party and not to assist Communists in building homes in Toronto.

"After a long discussion it was agreed by all Communists present that they must own their own homes in this city.

#### 4. The Canadian Labour Party in Vancouver.

[175/6155] The Vancouver Communists have not been as successful as their comrades elsewhere in getting in control of the Canadian Labour Party. The British Columbia Convention of that body was held on 2nd May, with about fifty delegates; the I.W.W. and the Socialist Party of Canada held aloof; the Federated Labour Party was represented, but apparently exercised little influence; the Communists formed the Left Wing, but were in the minority, and received little support.

*In one respect the convention came to a decision agreeable to the Communists; it decided for group as against individual membership in the Canadian Labour Party. The Communists urged that an effort be made to enlist* [deletion: 1 word]

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this was not carried — largely because funds were short.

The officers elected belong to the non-revolutionary element in the labour movement.

Among the resolutions passed were some which were put forward by the Communists — objecting to immigration at present, supporting the Nova Scotia miners, demanding non-contributory national unemployed insurance, opposing "the domination of native peoples by British capitalists", and opposing all wars. Before passing these the convention eliminated some of the more violent portions, including a demand for "the withdrawal of British troops from colonial soil" and an expression of approval of wars "for the liberation of the working class."

#### 5. The May Day Demonstration.

Additional reports of May Day celebrations in various parts of the Dominion have come to hand. The first impression, that the day passed off uneventfully, is fully confirmed. As these demonstrations constitute a sort of ceremonial parade of the revolutionary forces, it may be worth while to

assemble these reports. Speaking generally, it may be observed that the affairs are more important as regards hints of underlying sympathy than in the actual performances.

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175/6144] A May Day meeting was held by the Communists in Hamilton at which J.L. Counsell, K.C. presided and Mr. A.E. Smith was the principal speaker. The meeting place was the Labour Temple and the audience numbered about 200, the larger number foreigners. Mr. Counsell eulogized Mr. Smith for having shown the courage of this convictions by resigning from the Methodist Church.

Mr. Smith's address seems to have been bitter and thoroughly revolutionary. An earlier passage is thus expressed

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"A.E. Smith in opening his address spoke on the persecution and slaughter of their Communist comrades all over Europe, where free speech or thought was not allowed but that here in Canada they were allowed a certain amount of freedom and free speech at the present time, but that when the capitalists come to realize that our party is growing and that we are a real force and power, they will wake up to the fact that we are a menace to their interests, and will try to crush us. The police are their spies, and there will no doubt be some here to night, but Communism is rapidly growing all over the world and nothing can stop us when the day comes for united action, when the wage-earners will drive out the capitalists in rivers of blood if need be and take hold of the industries and of this Dominion of Canada and will run it for themselves for the good of all and not to make millionaires of a few."

"When that day comes if there are 20,000 Communists and 10,000 of them have to pour out their blood and give up their lives in the cause, as much as it will be regretted, yet the day will have been won, and there will still be 10,000 communists left to go on and to live in the freedom of the life won."

He assailed profit sharing plans, the Baltimore and Ohio plan, and similar schemes as devices to stop the march of the workers towards Communism. The meeting was very enthusiastic, Smith being loudly cheered. There were two secondary speakers, Flatt, a local Communist who gave a vehement tirade against capitalism, and a Ukrainian.

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The N.C.O. in charge of the detachment at Hamilton makes the following comment:—

“There is every evidence here in Hamilton where the foreign population is large, that Communism is taking hold of them rapidly, and although meetings such as these are not well attended it does not mean that no interest is taken in the movement. There is a distinct underlying current among the foreign workers and a great proportion of them would join any concerted uprising, should such take place.”

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Mr. J.L. Counsell who presided at this meeting, is the most interesting example of the “well-to-do revolutionist” now in Canada. He is a lawyer of ample means and good social position; in his younger days he was widely known as a football player; and for some years he has been a warm sympathizer with the Communists. It is rumoured that he intends to retire from

[~~rest of weekly summary~~]