

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 23rd July, 1926.

SECRET

NO. 328

WEEKLY SUMMARY

NOTES REGARDING REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS
AND AGITATORS IN CANADA
REPORT

The most interesting development in the week has been the decision of the Communist Party to take as active a part as possible in the general election now in progress. The line to be taken is to attack His Excellency the Governor General on the ground that he has acted unconstitutionally, and to use that as a ground for demanding severance from the British Empire.

The Maritime Labour Herald has ceased publication. This leaves J. B. MacLachlan at a loose end, and he may move to Northern Ontario to organize for the Mine Workers' Union. He may be a candidate in one of the seats in that region.

The Communists, indefatigable starters of new newspapers, have two fresh journals in process of incubation, the Woman Worker in Toronto and L'Ouvrier Canadien in Montreal. Their Yiddish paper, Der Kamf, momentarily is in financial distress.

According to an Edmonton revolutionist, the recent immigrants who came from the Ukraine are of revolutionary temper.[2]

TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPENDIX NO. 1: GENERAL

- Para. No. 1. Communists and the General Election
" 2. J. B. MacLachlan a Possible Candidate.
Maritime Labour Herald ceases Publication.
" 3. Communist View of the Election Issues.
Worker's attacks on Governor General.
" 4. Communist Newspapers.
Der Kamf in distress.
The Woman Worker started.
" 5. Revolutionist Prophesying a Japanese-American War.
J. A. McDonald (No. 2)
" 6. The Ukrainians.
Proposed visit of youths to Russia
Ukrainian immigrants in revolutionary temper.

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS FROM DISTRICTS

- " 7. ALBERTA: The Communists

- Jean Corbin on the group system.
 A. Wojtyshyn
 Schoeppe, ex-detective
 Ukrainians visit Mundare
 E. R. Fay.
- " 8. Sam Scarlett's New Tack.
- " 9. SASKATCHEWAN: Doukhobors again Being Urged to go to Russia.
- " 10. MANITOBA: Communist Activities
The Railroad Shop Man
 Y.C.L. & Pioneers Inactive
 Conference of Paper Mill Workers.
 D.L. Broadhurst, Brandon.
 Bunda.
- " 11. Proposed German Branch of the Communist Party
- " 12. I.W.W. and O.B.U.
 O.B.U. and railway shopmen
 J.A. McDonald (No. 2)
- " 13. ONTARIO: Notes.
 London Communists
 Ukrainians raise \$1097 in Detroit and Windsor.
- " 14. QUEBEC: Notes
 A.E. Forget
 Society for Cultural Relations with Moscow
L'Ouvrier Canadien
 Mrs. Falken (or Sokolicht)
 Canadian Labour Defence League
 Montreal O.B.U. Collapse
St. Andre short in his accounts.[3]

APPENDIX NO. 1: GENERAL

1. Communists and the General Election

The Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party has issued a circular letter to the various branches, reading as follows:-

"The Central Executive Committee is desirous of gathering as much information as possible of the opportunities that present themselves throughout the country, of having our Comrades as Candidates in either the rural or industrial constituencies.

"Opportunities that fall into three categories may present themselves:-

"(1) Straight Party Candidates. This may be possible where there is no Canadian Labour Party organized; where if organized they do not intend contesting the election, or even where if organized and

contesting the election another constituency might be contested by the Party on an understanding with the Canadian Labour Party.

“(2) Candidates of the Canadian Labour Party where Party members can secure nomination. Every attempt should be made to make this possible.

“(3) In rural constituencies where our Comrades may secure the nomination of Farmers’ Organizations, such as the United Farmers of Alberta, Farmers’ Union of Canada etc., our Comrades should make a thorough convass of the possibilities here and no opportunity should be missed of having our Comrades selected.

“The situation and the possibilities should be reviewed immediately and full details reported to the Central Executive Committee Secretary directly. We must act and act quickly in this matter. We must lose no opportunity of having our Party Comrades chosen as the standard bearers of the Workers and Farmers in this election. The inclusion of a few Communists in the Labour and Farmer Representatives in Parliament would do much to increase the prestige and strength of our party in Canada. Make a full report of this as soon as possible.”[4]

2. J. B. MacLachlan A Possible Candidate

The Maritime Labour Herald has suspended publication, the issue of 10th July being the last.

It will be remembered that sometime ago our informant in the Cape Breton field prophesied that the paper would have a short life, and would be employed to provide an occupation for J.B. MacLachlan and one or two others as long as the money held out.

We have received from Toronto the following report regarding MacLachlan:-

“The above person, who was editor of the Maritime Labour Herald, is out of a position now, that publication being extinct.

“He will be leaving Nova Scotia in a short time and will go to Northern Ontario to become Organizer of The Mine Workers’ Union of Canada.

“There is also a possibility that he may participate in the Federal Election and become the Labour Candidate in the North if J. MacDonald does not accept the nomination.”

3. Communist View of the Election Issues

The Toronto Worker in its issue of 24th July attacks His Excellency the Governor General for his action in the recent political events. One article, signed M.L.J., contains the following passages:-

"Just as Sir John McDonald is known as the father of Confederation, so Lord Byng will be known as the Father-in-Law of Independence. MacKenzie King will of course dispute the title, but the question now agitating the minds of the voters is a question of law, of Constitution and Byng's the boy who made that agitation [5] possible. In fact he's one of the last of the line of British Governors-General in Canada. He listened sympathetically to Meighen, and because he was a sympathetic listener, his place is assured in Canadian as well as Empire history."

"We stand for independence of Canada. We will work for it. It belongs to our programme. We are Canadians. All right, then, we must be something more. We must be internationalists, united with workers, in every country of the world for the overthrow of our common enemy, capitalism. We must learn to understand the world movement of labour and the world movement of anti-labour. That knowledge will enable us to see through the moves of finance imperialism, and not be blinded as to our class interests by any capitalist politician that ever came down the pike waving the Union Jack or the Maple Leaf."

An editorial in the same issue headed "Whither Canada?" also demands independence of Canada. One passage is:-

"The legal and constitutional relations of the Dominion are out of step with the forces shaping her real destinies. Byng's action has simply brought these into high relief. The struggle is now on to give public and constitutional expression to these forms. What are they? What is the destiny of the Dominion in the next few years? Why has Byng, representing the home government, decided by a stroke of the pen to combat these forces? There was no longer room for phrases. It is a part of the dissolution of one Empire and the ascendancy of another. It is the turning point in a great struggle between England and the United States."

4. Communist Newspapers

At a meeting of the Winnipeg City Central Committee held on 15th July, a report from the Jewish Branch contained the remark the Der Kamf is in a bad condition financially.[6]

A report from Toronto says:-

"Under the auspices of the Federation of Women's Labour Leagues a newspaper has been published in magazine form known as 'The Woman Worker.'

"The first issue was published one week ago and it is intended to publish it every month.

"Mrs. F. Custance is the Editor."

5. Revolutionist Prophesying a Japanese-American War.

J. A. MacDonald (No. 2) the I.W.W. orator who suddenly has appeared in Winnipeg, addressed an open air meeting at the market place there on the evening of 14th July, dealing principally with unemployment. Our report says:-

"Alluding to wars and the class war in particular, the speaker drew the audience's attention to the fact that war may break out at any time now between the U.S.A. and Japan. The Federal Secret Service of the U.S.A. a month ago succeeded in obtaining possession of the full war plans of the Japanese Government for an offensive against the U.S.A. At present the United States Government was putting into operation the means whereby the population of the U.S.A. could be placed on a war footing mobilization of the whole of the populace, rationing etc. He also said that Canada, with the connivance of the Imperial authorities, would give consent to the passage of American troops across the imaginary boundary line, and he warned his audience not to be misled by the 'Yellow Peril' slogan that the Capitalist class would raise. There was only one war that the workers must recognize and that was the Class War."

This wild talk is an unusually livid example of the manner in which these agitators are perpetually trying to keep the lower elements of the population in a ferment of expectation. With it may be compared Sam Scarlett's assertion at Calgary (mentioned in Appendix No. 11) that the British General Strike had been on the point of success when the labour leaders hastily ordered its cessation.[7]

6. The Ukrainians

The Ukrainian Labour News of 10th July publishes an appeal, signed by the Central Committee of the Leningrad Young Communist League of Soviet Russia, addressed to the Young Workers of Canada, asking them to visit the Soviet Republics. It is suggested that the delegation consist of young people working in different organizations or in chops and factories. It may be expected that the matter will be taken up seriously by the Ukrainian and Finnish groups of the Communist Party and by the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association.

At a meeting of the Edmonton branch of the Communist Party held on 11th July, John Klybanowsky, who had just returned from a propaganda trip to smoky Lake, said:-

"I have talked to many of the immigrants as to whether they like this country. The immigrants that have come from Galicia are Czecho Slovakiens. They said that this country is much better, but

the immigrants that have come from the Soviet Republic they are more for the proletariat movement.”