

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

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SECRET

NO. 333
WEEKLY SUMMARY
NOTES REGARDING REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONS
AND AGITATORS IN CANADA
REPORT

(Note. No Summary was issued for the week ending 26th August.)

The Communists are busy in the elections in several constituencies, but to little purpose. Money is short, and in several places their activities seem principally directed to the embarrassing of the campaign of normal Labour candidates.

A ten-page bulletin has been issued on the election, apparently designed to be a sort of speakers' handbook. Beyond noting its definite demand for separation from the British Empire it is unnecessary to attack much weight to it.

The Young Communist League is preparing for an International Youth Day on 5th September.

I.W.W. attempts to influence harvesters seem to have met less than their customary trifling success.[2]

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

1. Election Activities of the Communists.

Timothy Buck is busy in Montreal, instructing them in election operations. This is to help Michael Buhay in his candidacy.

We have a report of a mass party membership meeting held by the Communist Party in Toronto, on 24th August; very few party members attended, though the purpose was to stir up interest in the political campaign. Maurice Spector and John MacDonald were the speakers; the latter stated that if they did not procure \$400 by 4th September one of their

candidates in Toronto must fall out.

William Moriarty has relinquished his project of running as a candidate in North Temiskaming. Until recently the Canadian Labour Party, the Mine Workers' Union of Canada and the Communist Party spent a good deal of time and energy in trying to arrange for Moriarty's candidacy.

The London Labour Party on 13th August expelled L. R. Menzies for his refusal to apologize for his assertion that "the London Labour Party was being run by a bunch of crooks." After describing the circumstances of the expulsion, our report says:-

"Mr. Menzies remained as a visitor and delivered a short speech in which, he said 'he regretted the action of the London Labour Party in expelling him as a cause of possible injury to the cause of the workers in general', and stated that he would ask his local union, the Canadian Brotherhood of Railway Employees not to withdraw their delegates from the party. Said he, 'As Communists, we must always stand for solidarity and the united front, within the party no matter at what cost. Such action as has been taken here tonight we regard as part of the struggle of a young party and it will not affect our work and policy.' Comrade Menzies is the only London member on the executive of the Ontario Section of the Canadian Labour Party."

Despite this Menzies was put forward as a candidate for the nomination to contest the London riding in the approaching election; his [5] opponent, Robert Foxcroft, secured a majority, and Menzies asked that the nomination be unanimous. Our report adds:-

"The intention of the left wing was to nominate A. C. Avery but this was changed at the last minute as Avery is again out of employment and expects to get a job on the C. P. R. and though he would not get this if he was advertised too much as a Communist. Comrade Menzies was therefore urged to stand for nomination and agreed to do so."

Later on Foxcroft withdrew his candidacy, with the result that there is a bitter quarrel in progress between the London Labour Party and the Communist Party.

A. E. Smith, who has received the Labour nomination for the Port Arthur-Thunder Bay constituency, is secretary of the City Central Committee of the Communist Party in Toronto. During his absence in the campaign his wife will carry on his duties in Toronto.

Members of the Finnish Association have declared that Smith's chances for election are excellent.

The Communists of Winnipeg held a general meeting of the Party members on 25th August to consider various things relating to the elections. The first item on the programme was to arrange a collection for the "Agit Prop" Committee funds, and concerning this our report says:-

"In the first point of the agenda, J. Kahanna explained that the National Executive Committee is short of funds, and propaganda, leaflets cannot be printed, also an organizer be sent where there is a need of such. The aim of the Agit Prop is the sum of \$2,000, and the quota for Winnipeg is \$300 which have to be collected immediately."

Arrangements were made to raise this sum.

It was decided to print a leaflet attacking the Independent Labour Party for its stand upon the united front as regards the Canadian Labour Party and the Canadian Labour Defense League, but nevertheless advising the workers to vote for its candidates on the ground that this is the best that could be done at present.[6]

On the following day the City Central Committee after some disagreement ratified the decision to try to form a "united front" with the Independent Labour Party. It is hardly likely that the latter body will take any notice of the request of the Communists, which is little more than an attempt to edge in upon their campaign.

James Lakeman, who has been nominated by the Canadian Labour Party in East Edmonton, is chairman of the Communist Party in that city. The Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association in Edmonton is working hard to assist him; and the work is being prosecuted in trade unions and by the Canadian Labour Party. Nevertheless, Lakeman in an address to the Canadian Labour Party at Edmonton, on 24th August, complained that his campaign was going too slowly, and that they had no money; he urged that "they start to do something." It was decided to make an house to house collection for funds.

2. Communist Election Propaganda.

John MacDonald has issued as propaganda reading matter for the present election what is described as a monthly bulletin. It is a mimeographed pamphlet of ten pages, dealing wholly with the general election. In the opening portion the Central Executive Committee defines the party attitude thus:-

"The party is anti-parliamentary in the sense that fundamentally we believe parliament can never be used for the abolition of the Capitalists' system. Parliament is essentially a part of the apparatus of capitalist Government and will be replaced in the course of the Social Revolution by the Council form of government. Nevertheless, during the period that the workers are still mobilising their forces to challenge the parliamentary system, we must avail oursel-

ves of every platform, every forum and every tribunal to declare our views to the masses and also by practical legislative proposals in the House itself, show up the limitations of Parliamentary Democracy. For that reason, the Communist Party considers parliamentary activity as of great importance at the present time, although we do not judge the strength and possibilities of the Workers' movement purely or even chiefly, by the number of representatives it has in the House." [7]

Passing on to its relations with the Canadian Labour Party, the bulletin says:-

"The Party is everywhere supporting the common candidates chosen by the convention of the Canadian Labour Party. There is an instance however, in Montreal, where the party is running a straight Communist candidate. This is due, not to our desire, so much as to the force of circumstances. Our party has been expelled from the Quebec section of the Labour Party. On that account however, we cannot allow the standpatters to wipe their feet on us. If the party is to be treated in this way, we must fight back. For that reason, we have decided to put up a candidate of our own, but throughout the rest of the country our Party candidates are running on the Labour ticket."

Dealing with the extent to which the Communists support the programme of the Labour Party, the bulletin says:-

"Our support of the Labour Party is intended to develop independent political action. At the same time, the Communist candidates have it as their duty in the campaign not only to represent the minimum programme of the Labour Party but also to interpret that programme in the light of the Communist programme as a whole. Thus, for example, after a heated debate, the Ontario section of the Labour Party agreed to raise the constitutional issue in the election to the extent of demanding the complete self-determination and sovereignty of Canada. Reformists like James Simpson have declared that they will interpret this demand as realizable within the framework of the Empire. The Communists can only interpret this demand as implying specifically the abolition of the British North America Act, and separation of Canada from the Empire and complete independence.

A large proportion of the document is taken up with the denunciation of the constitutional issue. An early passage says:-

"From our viewpoint the Constitutional issue is of great importance to the working class. It is a very narrow-minded viewpoint that the Reformists take in separating the political from the social issues. This is not so much a Socialist way of looking at things in the light of a class struggle as a desire to evade the class struggle

and particularly the struggle against capitalist-imperialism. In the last analysis men of the type of Simpson are afraid to rouse the strong imperialist prejudices against themselves and are desirous of maintaining the present fabric of the British Empire which they are pleased to call the British Commonwealth."

After some words expressing the writer's dislike of the British Empire the bulletin continues:-

"We follow the Leninist policy of demanding the complete self-determination and independence of the Colonial and semi-Colonial peoples within the British Empire. Only when people are [8] free from foreign and capitalist domination can we hope to achieve a true and greater federation of all people on a basis of fraternity and equality. These are the matters which actuate the party in emphasizing the constitutional issue which we interpret as something more than the mere prerogatives of the Governor-General. Canada at the present time is one of the weak links in the chain of the Empire. Both in the interests of our fight against imperialism and our struggle against capitalism, it is necessary that we take a clear-cut stand in favour of the independence of this country."

The details of the constitutional issue occupy six closely typewritten pages, which call for little comment. A rather brief section of the bulletin is devoted to social legislation and the Senate, this including a denunciation of the rejection of the Old Age Pensions Bill, a demand for the legalization of picketing, etc. It demands the abolition of the Senate.

Another section is headed "The Workers' and Farmers' Government." It includes the following:-

"As a measure although a partial one, in this direction of partial socialization, the party demands the nationalization of the mines and railways without compensation."

A further passage in this may be of interest:-

"During the life of the last Parliament Mr. Woodsworth often talked and wrote about so-called 'Co-operative Government' as the alternative to the present party form of Government. The Communist Party warns against this conception as being simply a veil for coalition Government and class collaboration on the parliamentary field. The concessions for labour must be forced from the capitalist class by parliamentary and extra parliamentary pressure while retaining absolute independence of any co-operative arrangement with the capitalist parties."

3. The Young Communist League.

The "Politcom" of the Young Communist League in Canada has issued from its Toronto headquarters somewhat pretentious instructions about the celebration of International Youth Day, which is to take place on 5th September; the celebration is to begin on 30th August and to continue

throughout the week. Members of the League are urged to make the celebration important as well as enthusiastic, and a number of suggestions are made, the most interesting being as follows:-[9]

“This year Youth Day will be celebrated in Canada during the heat of the Federal Election Campaign, a week before the voters go to the polls. Accordingly, the National Executive Committee has come to the conclusion that we have a most excellent opportunity for combining our Youth Day slogans with the immediate demands of the working-class youth in the elections campaign.”

The methods suggested are the familiar ones of lectures, articles in extremist newspapers, the circulation of leaflets, the holding of open-air meetings, socials, dances, etc. This beating of drums is somewhat discounted by the following passage:-

“Groups have not been very ready to send in donations from the proceeds of summer entertainments. This is very poor policy. The National Executive Committee and Young Worker suffer severely from almost complete lack of funds. Therefore, the groups will have to strictly adhere to the decision that half the proceeds of the Youth Day demonstrations go to the National Office where it will be divided between the National Executive Committee and the new Young Comrade, which is very much in need of funds, being a new paper. Send reports of Youth Day to the National Office promptly.”

The circular also includes what appear to be notes for addresses. These include the following passage:-

“Denunciation of pro-Fascist organizations of youth. Exposure of hypocrisy of the League of Nations. We must point out our position of uncompromising opposition to all capitalist wars. We are not pacifists but anti-militarists. We oppose capitalist wars with the class war. We demand the cessation of all military training in the schools and cessation of further expenditures by the Provincial, Municipal or Federal Governments for military training. The main feature of Youth Day must be our anti-militarist campaign. Especially at this period can we place our position better before the young workers and make an issue of it. The part of Canada in the British Empire reduces her to a position where the young workers of this country must sacrifice their lives in every war of British Imperialism. We must back the labour party and the Communist Party in their election demands for the Independence of Canada and the abolition of military preparations and training.”

Under the heading of “Economic Demands” there is included the following:

“Vocational training for young workers at expense of employer, under trade union management, and ensuring a living minimum wage, for young workers of both sexes.”

International Children's Day also is to be celebrated on 5th September, the programme for that including the following items:-[10]

"Down with reaction in schools, the Boy Scouts, Cadet training, bourgeois children's organizations. Out of these join the Young Pioneers; we must begin our recruiting with children's day and call for members to join up from the platform."

4. Communist Notes.

Moriarty, who has given up hope of being a candidate in Timmins, has left that place for Kirkland Lake, Cobalt, Silver Centre and other places. According to one report, he may ultimately go on to Vancouver to organize.

Timothy Buck is to remain in Montreal, to the end of September according to one report, to the middle of October according to another.

An incidental proof of the closeness with which the Canadian Labour Defence League is dominated by the Communists is given by an occurrence in Winnipeg. Mrs. Sokolicz (Falken) recently organized there a Polish branch of that body. At a meeting of the City Central Committee of the Communist Party held on 26th August the Ukrainian branch of the Communist Party recommended that a Polish branch of the Communist League be formed, to control the Polish branch of the Labour Defence League. It was decided to try to induce the Polish society "New Life" to transform itself into a Communist Party branch.

At the same meeting of the City Central Committee the Young Communist League reported that it proposed to form an auxiliary branch composed of Jewish youths, who have recently arrived from Europe, and who cannot join the Young Communist League because of their ignorance of English; it appears that there are 15 of these youths ready to join. It was decided to sanction this on condition that as soon as these lads are sufficiently acquainted with the English language they are to transfer [11] to the Young Communist League. The Jewish branch of the Communist party concurred in this arrangement.

According to reports given by the Jewish Branch of the Communist Party to the Winnipeg City Central Committee on 26th August, Der Kampf is in a bad financial position.

The Jewish branch of the Communist Party in Montreal recently collected over \$800 for this paper.

An agitator known as Jack Young of the Canadian Labour Defence League in Toronto has spent some time in Montreal. Mrs. Custance may

visit Montreal to help to organize the Canadian Labour Defence League.

5. The Ukrainians

Some differences of opinion seem to be manifesting itself in Edmonton between the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association and the Communist Party with regard to the Youth Section of the Temple. Pressure is being brought to bear to have this body affiliate with the Young Communist League, and the Ukrainians seem disposed to resist this, on the ground that they desire to keep control of their Youth Section. So thorough-going is this opposition that Klybanowsky has taken this stand, and the matter has been referred to the Central Executive Committee at Winnipeg.

A Ukrainian paper named Zhalo, or Sjhalo (Sting) has been observed in circulation in Edmonton and Fort Frances. It is published in New York, and may be a continuation of Smik y Pravada (Humour and Truth) under another name; the latter paper has been forbidden entry to the country.

Ivan Kulik of the Soviet Russian Trade Delegation is contributing a series of articles to the Ukrainian Labour News. [12]

6. The I.W.W. Unprosperous

A report from Winnipeg, dated 27th August, is to the effect that the I.W.W. agitation in Winnipeg is going slowly; there is some talk of discontinuing the office there. The Officer Commanding the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Manitoba makes the following remark in this connection:-

“The class of harvesters who have been passing through Winnipeg have been of a very much superior type than usual and the I.W.W.’s have found it difficult to make any headway with these men, consequently they have been rather discouraged, and now the fact that high wages are being paid there will be nothing left for them to agitate for, all of this accounts for the situation being quiet.”

Other reports from Winnipeg point to a fall in the I.W.W. there.

James Sharp, the man who is carrying on the I.W.W. organization in Saskatoon this autumn, has been unable by reason of lack of money to occupy the premises used by Sam Scarlett last year; and has taken less advantageous quarters.

Sharp’s excuse for not having the money was that one Brady, an upholder of the I.W.W. at Calgary had absconded with \$200.