

## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

OTTAWA, 22nd Sept., 1933.

SECRETNO. 673WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATORS IN CANADAREPORT

The Officer Commanding in Western Ontario reports a decline in revolutionary activity in Western Ontario.

Simultaneously there has appeared in Windsor, Ont., a rather curious society calling themselves the "Blue Shirts of Canada". It professes to be anti-Communist.

Peter Verigin seems to have embraced Communism. There seems some possibility that he may leave Canada.

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[2]

APPENDICESTable of ContentsAPPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

Paragraph No.	1 -- Communism declining in Ontario?
" "	2 -- The "Blue Shirts of Canada" New society in Windsor Secret source of financing
" "	3 -- Communism and Doukhobors <u>Kanadsky Gudok</u> and Verigin Verigin a Communist? Verigin's movements

" " 4 -- Notes: -

Reds and Clothing Workers' Union  
Patrick Forkin and The Worker

**APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES**

" " 5 -- BRITISH COLUMBIA:-

Notes:-

Japanese "Teddy"  
A.H. Evans convicted and sentenced  
List of "street sheets"  
Food Workers' Unit, Communist Party  
of Canada  
Street Railway Men's Union

" " 6 -- ALBERTA:-

Notes:-

Fascists and Communists in Calgary  
Jews and Fascists  
3,400 C.L.D.L. members in Calgary  
Demonstrations in Calgary  
"Young Friends" of the C.L.D.L.  
Unemployed Married Men's Association  
"Action on Committee" in Edmonton  
F. Lucas  
Communist Units  
Communist candidate  
School near Hairy Hill

" " 7 -- MANITOBA:-

Notes:-

Trouble in Grassmere Ditch  
Krevenchuk  
Activity in Eriksdale  
William Phillips and John Lindal

Paragraph No. 7 -- MANITOBA:- (contd.)

Unemployed Neighbourhood Council, No. 4  
 John Navizowski returns from Poland  
 Central Branch C.L.D.L. quiet  
 W.U.L. in Fort William and Port Arthur  
 School at Broad Valley

" " 8 -- ONTARIO:-

Notes:-

W.E.L. in Toronto  
 Communists in Ottawa  
 Ottawa Ukrainians  
 Hopes about Gatineau Mills

" " 9 -- QUEBEC:-

Notes:-

C.L.D.L. active  
 Joe Wallace at work  
 Work among children  
 Sam Scarlett in Montreal  
 Ronald Stewart

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[4]

#### APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

##### 1. Communism Declining in Ontario?

The Officer Commanding the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Western Ontario, in his confidential monthly report for August, states that reports from all his sub-districts indicate that the revolutionary organizations are losing their hold upon the unemployed masses, and that Communist activities throughout the district are practically at a standstill.

In this connection at a meeting of the Communist Party held in the Don Hall just outside of Toronto, on 2nd August, two prominent Communists -- Harris and Ryecoff -- deplored the poor condition of the Communist Party. There was further talk of the need for reorganization to avert the complete collapse of the Communist Party of Canada.

A Canadian Labour Defence League membership drive meeting was held in Toronto on 18th August. At this meeting "it was asked why the leaders of all organizations hid themselves during parades and demonstrations and did not come out and face the police like the rank and file". A.E. Smith made an evasive reply and our report adds:-

"Apparently the masses are getting wise to the leaders who are never visible during any meeting from which trouble might ensue".

The Officer Commanding remarks:-

"The Swastika movement, which was prevalent in Toronto and district for some weeks, died a natural death and is never heard of any more".

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## 2. The "Blue Shirts of Canada"

A report from Walkerville, dated 14th September, contains a number of statements regarding the new organization of "Blue Shirts of Canada" that has made its appearance in Windsor and the allied towns. At the time of writing this society numbered 700, and recruiting still was going on; it was added that it was particularly attractive to the younger generation.

[5]

One James Elemert of 425 Wyandotte Street, East, Windsor, is stated to be President, and Robert Strachan, of Windsor, is Secretary, the headquarters appear to be at 425 Wyandotte Street, East. According to a member of the society, the organization is not political, but is designed to support the Dominion Government in any measures which it may wish to take to remedy present conditions. Our report contains the following passage:-

"The organization will be conducted on military lines and strict disciplinary measures will be adopted to keep the 'Blue Shirts' in control. Each detachment of 100 men will have a Commander and he in turn will have Sergeants and Corporals".

The "marching dress" is to be steel helmet with blue shirt and dark trousers and shoes, with maple leaf as collar badge. Applicants must take the Oath of Allegiance, be British subjects, and be between the ages of 18 and 60.

A curious feature is that there is no membership fee, and that the "marching dress" is supplied free. There is some mystery as to the source of funds, which must be considerable to supply to large a number of

uniforms. Upon this question of the source of the considerable sum of money involved our report says:-

"It is rumoured that the Retail Merchants' Association and other manufacturing associations are financing the 'Blue Shirt' movement to counteract the Canadian Labour Defence League and other alleged Communist organizations".

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### 3. Communism and Doukhobors

The Officer Commanding the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Saskatchewan, in his confidential monthly report for August, remarks that Kanadsky Gudok, the Russian Communist paper, has the largest circulation of any revolutionary paper in the Blaine Lake District; it is widely read there by the Doukhobors, being favoured by the Sons of Freedom sympathizers as well as a number of Independent Doukhobors. The Officer Commanding further observes:-

[6]

"This paper formerly printed a number of articles against P.P. Verigin, but lately it has refrained from such matters and it was gathered that Verigin recently donated a sum of money to this paper, about \$200, with instructions that copies be forwarded regularly to the Doukhobor libraries".

It is further observed that during the late few months Peter Verigin has completely changed over to Bolshevism, this causing a worried and anxious frame of mind among the Blaine Lake Doukhobors.

During a recent visit to Blaine Lake Verigin openly advocated Bolshevism and prophesied that a revolution would soon take place. His reception in Blaine Lake was cold.

It is further noted that Verigin intended to proceed by way of Langham to Saskatoon, and there to entrain for British Columbia. Further, it was understood in Saskatoon that he intended soon to return with his wife and mother. He has been throwing out hints about a sudden departure to an unknown destination, and the Officer Commanding proceeds:-

"It would not be a great surprise to know he was planning to collect all possible funds this fall and skip out of Canada with his near relatives".

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#### 4. Notes

The Officer Commanding the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in Quebec, in dealing with the end of the strike of Clothing Workers in Montreal says:-

"The recent absorption of the United Clothing Workers of Canada by the Amalgamated Clothing Workers' Union has proved a bitter disappointment to the Communist Party which had succeeded in gaining no small foothold in the former organization. Since the amalgamation Communists have been allowed no say and are now having to confine their activities to the Needle Trades Industrial Union.

"One small strike in the Clothing Trade industry remains unsettled. This is at the Canadian Waist Company and involved about 100 workers who have come out on orders from the Needle Trades Industrial Union.

"The Needle Trades Industrial Union remains under Communist control. Its membership, on paper, is around the 500 mark, but no dues are paid and the influence of this organization is not strong".

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[7]

Patrick Forkin, who recently has been appointed Business Manager of The Worker, recently wrote to a Communist friend in Montreal in the following terms:-

"Although the circulation of The Worker is steadily on the rise, we are sorry to say that the income is not. We are confronted with grave financial difficulties".

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