

## ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa, 19th August, 1936.

SECRETNO. 820WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON REVOLUTIONARY ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATION IN CANADAReport

The result of the Provincial election in the three Montreal (Que.) ridings contested by the Communist Party of Canada proved thoroughly disappointing to the Communists as the total vote cast for the three Communist Party candidates was only slightly over 1,000. Fred Rose, in St. Louis riding where the electorate is predominantly Jewish, polled 578 votes out of a total of 3,520; J. E. Godin in St. Mary division polled 288 votes, while Evariste Dube in St. James only received 171. The defeat of the Communists at the polls, especially in the St. Louis riding, was due to a large extent to the stand of the Communist International and its sections with regard to the Palestine question. The Zionist-Socialist organizations have condemned this stand in no uncertain manner.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

1. [deletion:2-3 words] of Y.C.L. Discusses Formation of  
“Canadian Negro Youth Association”

[deletion:3 1/4 lines] reported that a meeting of Negro delegates who attended the recent Ottawa Youth Congress was held under the leadership

of [§<deletion:name] of Toronto to consider united action of the Negro youth for the realization of the programme of the Canadian Youth Congress and against racial discrimination of the Negro youth. Negro organizers, he said, were appointed for Montreal, Toronto, London, Windsor, Chatham and Oakville, but so far no permanent committee has been established to lead this movement. Successful gatherings of Negro youth were also held at which it was agreed to proceed with the organization, he stated. He further explained that it was the intention to build clubs on the basis of individual membership having for their purpose the building of a federation of Negro youth to be known as the Canadian Negro Youth Association. He proposed a leadership centering in Toronto and that it be composed of Negro youth with older Negroes acting in an advisory capacity. He added that the movement is receiving cordial support from the Negro Minister and elders of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the B.M.E. Church in Toronto, etc; the churches having volunteered to assist the movement financially. He further informed the [§<deletion:name] that a Negro delegate will be sent to Geneva and recommended that the movement be affiliated to the Canadian Youth Council.

After considerable discussion the [§<deletion:word] decided:—

- (a) That [§<deletion:name] be responsible to the [§<deletion:2-3 words] of the Y.C.L. for the building of the Canadian Negro Youth Association and that he report at least once every month to the [§<deletion:word] on its development.
- (b) That the report and suggestions of [§<deletion:name] be adopted. All suggestions to be considered as motions.
- (c) That [§<deletion:name] immediately commence to concentrate on recruiting Negro youth into the Y.C.L. in order to establish a wider leadership to work here.

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## 2. Communist Party Prepares for Eighth National Convention

In preparation for the eight National Convention of the Communist Party of Canada, which is to take place in Toronto commencing the first week in October of this year, the Central Committee of the Party is publishing a special paper entitled Discussion as a medium for discussion and debate of questions on the agenda of the convention. The first edition, containing eight pages, features a number of articles touching upon the agenda of the convention designed apparently to lead the discussion in conformity with the "line" laid down by the Communist International. The feature article is a hitherto unpub-

lished resolution passed by the Executive Committee of the Communist International in April of this year on the question of Fascism; it is entitled "Defeat The Fascist Instigators of World Slaughter". The resolution, after analysing world conditions, lays down the "peace" policy of the Communist International in the following terms:—

"The fact that Fascism has begun to undertake a military offensive, taking advantage of the lack of co-ordination in the position of the parties and organizations of the working class in various countries; the fact that the reactionary leaders of Social Democracy give support to Fascism under the cover of hypocritical anxiety to 'maintain peace', the fact that they cultivated the disunity of the proletariat, which leads to the interests of international proletarian solidarity being sacrificed to the interests of their national bourgeoisie, all urgently require the working-class movement of all countries to carry out A UNITED INTERNATIONAL POLICY OF THE WORKING CLASS IN THE INTERESTS OF MAINTAINING PEACE. This united international working-class policy demands:—

- (1) The restoration and consolidation of real international proletarian solidarity, for the defense of the interests of the broad masses of the toilers, the decisive severance of the Social Democratic Parties from the imperialist interests of their bourgeoisie.
- (2) Every possible support for the peace policy of the U.S.S.R., the proletarian state, which is the unswerving guardian of peace between the peoples. This presupposes above all a determined struggle by the workers' parties against counter-revolutionary attempts to represent the foreign policy of the U.S.S.R. as identical with the policy of imperialist countries, the Red Army of the U.S.S.R., the bulwark of peace, as identical with the armies of the imperialist states, attempts which play into the hands of the Fascist war incendiaries.
- (3) At each given moment to direct and concentrate the blows specifically against the Fascist aggressor, which presupposes the exposure of every attempt to obscure the difference between Fascist and non-Fascist states, and requires a different attitude to be taken towards the aggressor on the one hand, and the victims of his attack on the other.

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(4) An independent struggle of the proletariat, irrespective of the capitalist governments or the League of Nations, for the maintenance of peace, which excludes the subordination of the working-class movement to the backstairs intrigue of the imperialist governments which are members of the League of Nations".

The resolution exposes the arguments of the reformists for peace and directs that in developing its campaign against war the Communist Party must call on the toiling people to fight for:—

- (a) The overthrow of the Hitler Government.
- (b) The expulsion of the Japanese from China.
- (c) The expulsion of the Italians from Abyssinia.
- (d) For a world front of workers and peasants against the instigators of war.

In conclusion the resolution instructs:—

“The campaign of the Communists against war must be given the widest international character by the interchange of workers’ delegations and speakers at public meetings. All the international organizations that struggle against Fascism and for the maintenance of peace must work solidly together. The attention of the proletariat must be focused on the question of foreign policy, linking it up with the urgent problems of the internal life of the country and of the working-class movement”.

### 3. Alberta District of C.P. in Convention at Calgary, Alta.

The Alberta District of the Communist Party of Canada met in convention at Calgary on 1st, 2nd and 3rd August with 141 delegates in attendance; it marked the first open Provincial Convention in that province since 1931. Jan Lakeman of Edmonton opened the meeting and in the course of his speech referred to the victory gained in the repeal of Section 98 of the Criminal Code. Andy Hogarth, Provincial Secretary, delivered the main report occupying the better part of the first session. He intimated that the efforts of the Party in Alberta should be directed towards utilizing the radical element within the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation and the Social Credit Party. He pointed to the growth of the radical sentiment in Alberta and stressed the need for the formation of a Farmer-Labour Party with the assistance of the trade unions and the progressive farmers.

Tow Ewen, representative of the National Executive Committee of the Party [deletion: 1 line] greeted the convention on behalf of the National and

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British Columbia Executives of the Party. He spoke for two hours analysing conditions in the province, Particularly with regard to the situation in the Social Credit Party.

The convention seemed representative of the true strength of the Party in the province and among the more important delegates in attendance were Alderman Margaret Crang of Edmonton, William Sidney of Toronto, Jack Cosgrove, marshal of the on-to-Ottawa trek of last year, Mrs. Mason, leading

member of the Mothers' Council in Edmonton, John Stockaluk, active among the miners, John O'Sullivan of Calgary, Enoch Williams of Blairmore, "Red" Oleson of the Single Unemployed Men's Protective Association in Edmonton, Jack Taylor, active in the Co-operative Commonwealth Youth Movement at Calgary, H. Gerry, former Mayor of Beverley and an important member of the Social Credit Party, and others.

Miss Margaret Crang of Edmonton was endorsed as the representative of the Alberta Section of the League Against War and Fascism to the Peace Congress at Geneva. Considerable attention was paid to the question of "unity" and the task of enlarging the membership of the Party in the province. It was contended that it was quite within the realm of possibility to extend its present strength to 10,000 members by the end of this year provided a sincere effort is made in that respect.

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#### 4. Unemployed Conference in Calgary, Alta.

The Calgary and District Unemployed Association held a conference in Calgary on 4th and 5th August immediately following the District Convention of the Alberta District of the Communist Party of Canada. There were 30 delegates present, 10 of whom were from out-of-town. E. Osterbauer acted as chairman and Murdock Clark as secretary. P. Hopper opened the conference and in his speech reviewed the unemployed situation in Calgary. Delegate Levitt of Edmonton reviewed the situation in Edmonton while delegate Russell of Drumheller gave an outline of the situation at that point. Delegates Lavoy and Whistler spoke on conditions in Medicine Hat and Blairmore, respectively.

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Tom Ewen, recently transferred from Toronto to Vancouver, attended; apparently on behalf of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, supplying the conference with the Communist "perspective" and leadership. He presented a lengthy talk on the general situation throughout Canada affecting the unemployed and complimented the conference on the resolutions and program which it adopted. The program drawn up by the conference included the following demands: (a) work for wages; (b) recognition of all grievance officers elected by the unemployed; (c) unemployed insurance; (d) adequate relief for all unemployed. The conference further decided to elect a Provincial Executive whose chief function will be to negotiate with the Provincial Government on behalf of the unemployed in the province. The following were elected to comprise the Executive Committee: J. O'Sullivan, E. Levisconte, I. Matthews, C. Lees, E. C. Hopper, Mrs. G. Monahan, M. Clark and Mr. Levitt.

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### 5. Miners in Crow's Nest Pass Form U.M.W. of A.

[~~deletion:2-3 words~~] "back to the American Federation of Labor" movement among the miners in the Crow's Nest Pass is making considerable progress. It now appears almost certain that the "home locals" (Independent) of Blairmore, Bellevue, Coleman and Hillcrest have definitely decided to come over to the United Mine Workers of America.

The newly established local of the United Mine Workers of America at Blairmore, formerly the Mine Workers Union of Canada, elected its officers recently. An analysis of the newly elected Executive Board is interesting; it shows that the Communists, former members of the Mine Workers Union of Canada, are completely in control of the organization.

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It is understood that as soon as the new charter is received the Blairmore local of the United Mine Workers of America will open negotiations with the operators with a view to having the "check-off" put into force.

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### 6. William Gallacher in Canada

#### (A) At Montreal, Que.

William Gallacher, British Member of Parliament and member of the Executive Committee of the Communist International, arrived in Montreal on the morning of 8th August and was greeted at the pier by approximately 200 people cheering and singing the "International".

On the following day he was the principal speaker at a Communist Party election meeting in the Mount Royal Arena which was attended by approximately 3,500 people who extended a warm welcome to him. He was introduced by the chairman as a member of the Central Committee of the Communist International and a co-worker of Lenin and Stalin. Speaking on unity and the fight of the working class against Fascism and Capitalism, he referred to the Soviet Union as the outstanding country in the world.

Part of his speech, prompted apparently by the fact that the St. Louis constituency in Montreal is predominantly Jewish, was devoted to the Jewish question and the attitude of the Communist Party in relation thereto. He lashed out at the Zionist leadership for their collaboration with what he termed "British imperialism" and pointed to Russia and Biro-Bidjan as an indication

of how Jewish people would live under working class rules. He stated that the Nationalist Government of Great Britain was not sincere on the semitic question; that while it pretended to protect Jews in Palestine it also supported

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the Fascists in England in their attacks against the Jews. "The Jews", he declared, "must align themselves with the working class and the progressive movement as the solution of the Jewish problem cannot be found under the imperialist control".

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(B) At Toronto, Ont.

A cheering crowd of approximately 1,000 met William Gallacher at the Union Depot at Toronto on his arrival from Montreal on 10th August. He was welcomed by Sam Scarlett in the name of the Communist Party and the people of Toronto.

On 12th August he addressed a mass meeting attended by approximately 2,500 people in the Massey Hall under the auspices of the Ontario Provincial Committee of the Communist Party of Canada. Fred Collins acted as chairman and short speeches were also given by Stewart Smith, Sam Carr and the Reverend B. Spence. Not a member of the audience stood when a few bars of the "National Anthem" were played on a gramophone but the 2,500 men and women, mostly members of the Communist Party of Canada, arose at the suggestion of William Gallacher and gave three cheers for the Left Wingers of Spain fighting the Fascist forces.

Speaking of the Soviet Union and the Popular Front Government of France, William Gallacher maintained that the people in those countries desire nothing more than peace. He condemned the Fascist movement generally charging that the police in England are protecting the Fascists to whom he referred as "Mosley's black shirts". He was also rather outspoken in his condemnation of the National Government of Great Britain which he accused of preparing the nation for another war. A great portion of his speech was devoted to the anti-Semitic movement. He concluded with an appeal to the workers and progressive forces in Canada "to join those in Europe who were travelling a new road leading to a world where the genius of man would be devoted to the preservation and advancement of life".

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The chairman, in his introductory remarks, declared that "this meeting must mark the beginning in Canada of a militant campaign against war and Fascism". Mention was also made by the speakers, particularly the Reverend Ben



Spence, of the 29 men facing various charges arising out of the relief disturbances in Etobicoke and York Townships, and a resolution was unanimously passed condemning the action of the Provincial Government with respect to the arrest of these workers. Mr. Spence spoke as a representative of the Citizens Defence Committee and was greeted with prolonged applause. "Power of the law courts could be overthrown by the power of the public aroused by injustice", said Mr. Spence, and maintained that the only crime these men committed was that they did right regardless of the consequences.

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## APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

### I. ALBERTA

#### 7. Edmonton League Against War & Fascism Hold Mass Meeting

The Edmonton Council of the Canadian League Against War and Fascism held a mass meeting in the Market Square on 4th August with approximately 650 people in attendance. H. Gerry acted as chairman and the speakers included A. M. Herd, J. Lakeman, Elmer Roper, S.A.G. Barnes and W. H. Miller. The speeches generally dealt with the imminent danger of another war and urged the audience to join in the movement against war and fascism.

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### II. SASKATCHEWAN

#### 8. Ukrainian Nationalists in Saskatchewan Reject United Front Proposal of U.L.F.T.A.

Recent attempts on the part of the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association to form a United Front with Ukrainian Nationalist organizations in Saskatchewan met with failure. It appears that although no effort was spared by the Communists, members of the Ukrainian Nationalist organizations have refused to co-operate with the Communist element.

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[~~3~~deletion: 1/2 line] is said to have spent a week in Regina recently in an endeavour to organize a Chinese unit of the Communist Party of Canada in that city. His efforts proved unsuccessful and he left Regina for Winnipeg where he is to engage in a similar task.

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### III. MANITOBA

#### 9. Manitoba Conference of Unemployed to Hold Picnic

The Manitoba Conference of Unemployed is making preparations for a monster picnic at River Park on 19th August. The Winnipeg City Council has made a grant of \$500 for the affair and the public is being invited to make donations of various kinds. A number of women's organizations in Winnipeg have declared their willingness to assist.

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[~~3/4 line~~] of the Manitoba Conference of Unemployed, is in charge of the arrangements. Commenting on the affair recently she stated that she was not getting the assistance that she anticipated from the members of the organization. The Executive Committee of the Manitoba Conference of Unemployed, [~~3/4 line~~] will utilize the picnic for propaganda purposes; it is to help to advance the cause of the organization.

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### IV. ONTARIO

#### 10. Ontario District of C.P. Preparing for Campaign in Aid of Spanish Government

The Communist Party in Ontario is reported to be making preparations for a series of meetings in aid of the Left Wing Government of Spain at which appeals will be made for funds to aid that Government in its fight against the Fascist rebels. The Communist Party has sent letters to the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation and to bodies of organized labour asking for support and to send speakers to the meetings. It is further reported that the Central Committee of the Communist Party jointly with the Ontario Committee are drafting a manifesto explaining the Spanish situation and calling for co-operation of all interested and sympathetic bodies in order to give substantial aid to the Spanish Government.

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Approximately 250 people, mostly unemployed, gathered on the evening of 7th August in Minnesota Park at Fort William, Ont., and listened to Garfield Boulter, Harry Barrett and Dave Ryback expound the principles of the United Front Movement. Garfield Boulter spoke on behalf of the people in the district; Dave Ryback, the main speaker, on behalf of the Communist Party of Canada; whereas Harry Barrett intimated that he was speaking on behalf of the farmers of the Fort William district. They all stressed the necessity of the working class

and the trade unions getting together so that they may be strong enough to combat the Capitalists more effectively and to resist another war which, they claimed, was imminent.

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## V. QUEBEC

### 11. Notes on Communist Party Election Campaign

Approximately 3,500 people attended an election mass meeting held in the Mount Royal Arena on the evening of 9th August held in the interests of the Communist Party's standard bearers in this Quebec Provincial election. The speakers included, in addition to the three Communist Party candidates — E. Dube, Fred Rose and Emil Godin — Stanley Ryerson, [deletion: 1/2 line] Joe Gershman, [deletion: 3/4 line] who arrived in Montreal recently to assist in the election campaign; Jean Perron and William Gallacher, prominent British Communist; the latter being the chief speaker. The meeting was a spirited one but not a success from a financial point of view, as the collection only netted \$213 whereas the expenses in connection with the affair amounted to approximately \$300. The speeches were in English, French and Jewish and judging from the amount of applause received by Joe Gershman, who spoke in Jewish, it was evident that the majority of those present were Jews.

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An election meeting held on behalf of Fred Rose, Communist Party candidate in the St. Louis division, Montreal, held on the evening of 12th August at the Prince Arthur Hall was attended by approximately 700 people, all foreigners. The speakers were Joe Gershman, Fred Rose and Jim Litterick of Winnipeg, recently elected to the Manitoba Legislature. The speeches were mainly directed against the standard political parties and the candidates representing same in the St. Louis constituency. Mr. Bercovitch, Liberal candidate opposing Fred Rose, was described as a Fascist and as "a member of the Jewish race who had done nothing to combat anti-semitism in the Province of Quebec".

James Litterick devoted a great portion of his time to eulogizing Fred Rose, describing him as a "real representative of the working class" in the Province of Quebec. Part of his speech referred to scandals and graft which, he alleged, were rampant in the Manitoba Provincial Government in the past. Speaking of the Spanish situation Litterick prophesied that the people of Quebec Province would soon be

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divided into two camps — Fascist and Communist — and that before many years would pass a situation similar to what prevails in Spain today would develop in the Province of Quebec.

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The Communist Election Committee for St. Louis division at Montreal has issued a four-page newspaper called the St. Louis Voter. It is printed both in Yiddish and English and brings forward the program of Fred Rose. Being a Jewish ward, the paper is principally concerned with matters relating to the Jewish question.

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At a special meeting of representatives from the various Canadian Labour Defence League branches in Montreal held on 9th August it was revealed that the Popular Front Movement has commenced to set up Defence Committees around which a defence movement will be organized should the need for such movement arise. It was further revealed that until an issue of sufficient political importance develops the Canadian Labour Defence League will function as the recognized local defence movement. The meeting also discussed the Spanish situation and it was disclosed that nothing had yet been done in relation thereto either by the Canadian Labour Defence League or any other organization. Another item under discussion was the deportation of a number of Jugo Slavs convicted as a result of the *Noranda Mine* disturbances. It was agreed to interview the local Jugo Slav Consul and to write to Toronto suggesting that a delegation go to Ottawa and interview the Minister of Immigration in an endeavour to prevent the deportation of these individuals.

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