

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

OTTAWA, Feb. 17th, 1938.

SECRETNO. 884WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON COMMUNIST AND FASCIST ORGANISATIONAND AGITATION IN CANADAREPORT

Phil Luck, prominent Communist Party functionary, has been chosen to contest the provincial by-election at Hamilton, slated for March 2nd, as a "people's" candidate.

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On 11th February, employees in the napping room of the Canada Mill at Cornwall, Ont., refused to operate their machines in protest against the "speed-up" system which they alleged was being forced upon them by the company. As a result the entire plant as well as the Dundas Mill operated by the same company became idle affecting over 1,000 workers. Tentative settlement of the dispute was announced on the 14th February.

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Ministry of War in Spain now to appoint political Commissars; [Xdeletion: 1 word] Commissar of the McKenzie-Papineau Battalion to return to Canada; [Xdeletion: 1 word] sent to Spain to replace [Xdeletion: 1 word] is to remain there as representative of Canadian organisation.

No one is to be repatriated except those disabled.

Volunteers upon joining will be told they will

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

I. Canadian Fascist Organisations.

Canadian Fascist Organisations in the dominion viewed on a comparative basis with Communist organisations are in their infancy. Only one at present, in fact, may be regarded as possessing any significance at all, viz, the National Socialist Christian Union of Quebec. Even this organisation, which has recently received a good deal of publicity in the press, cannot be regarded as anything but a nucleus of Fascist activity and newspaper reports that its adherents number 15,000 members are manifestly absurd. One major difference, however, between the N.S.C.P. and other organisations of similar nature in the Dominion is that it possesses potentialities of comparatively rapid

growth in view of certain general symptoms which have manifested themselves recently in the Province of Quebec favourable to propagation of the Fascist seed. Based also on the general realisation of the people of Quebec of the menace of Communism, Fascism, its natural corollary — it is safe to infer — will undoubtedly grow in strength as the class struggle advances. No signs exist at present, however, of any such movement showing similar propensities for popularity in other parts of the Dominion although such organisations as the Canadian Union of Fascists (Toronto and Regina) and the Canadian Nationalist Party (Winnipeg) apply themselves in amateurish manner (always judged from the standard of Communist technique) to disseminating their gospel and eulogising their respective forms of Fascist ideology. Another possible exception, however, is a branch of the Nationalist Party — at present in process of formation at Toronto — which appears to be meeting with some little response from the public.

A. The National Socialist Christian Union.

This organisation came into being and to our attention at the commencement of 1934 under the leadership of Adrien Arcand of Montreal. Three years later its membership is reported as being approximately 100 individuals; a recent estimate places the present strength in the neighbourhood of 500 members in the Province of

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Quebec. Apart, however, from the question of actual membership the organisation undoubtedly has a considerable sympathetic following which, as time progresses, will make it a factor worthy of consideration. Communist tactics, however, do much to publicise its alleged strength and importance with a view to turning public sympathy against any such evidence of counter activity on the part of the bourgeoisie which may constitute a threat to the hoped for domination of the proletariat by the Communist autarchy of Soviet Canada — as anticipated by the revolutionary element.

The National Socialist Christian Union of Montreal is generally Fascist in character, the rabid anti-Semitic platform of the organisation, however, being closely similar to the form of Nazi doctrine and ideology now popular in Germany. The Party publishes a monthly paper "Le Fasciste Canadien" and apparently has access to funds to enable it to do so. A 32-page anti-Semitic pamphlet entitled "The Key to the Mystery" was also recently issued in the French and English languages — 500,000 copies have allegedly been contracted for — by the Women's Anti-Communist League of Montreal, a subsidiary of the N.S.C.U.; this pamphlet has made its appearance in parts of Western Canada. There are no indications, however, at present that the

N.S.C.P. is subsidized from foreign sources and the organisation would appear to be autonomous although affiliated with parallel bodies in other parts of the British Empire.

B. The Canadian Union of Fascists.

Previously known as the National State Party of Canada, the Canadian Union of Fascists maintains its head office at Toronto with [3<deletion:2-3 words] as National Secretary and Director of Publication, but its membership is reported to be less than one hundred persons and that it is "fighting for existence" at the present juncture. The Organisation, however, publishes a monthly organ entitled "The Thunderbolt", this being its sole activity. Recently this branch (viz, Eastern) has become affiliated with the National Socialist Christian Union of Montreal.

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The Western branch of the C.U.F. — which is only very mildly anti-Semitic — is under the leadership of [3<deletion:1/2 line] and held its first official meeting at Regina on October 7th, 1937; its membership may safely be regarded as trivial at present; has no finances; and is reported as being in debt. The question of affiliation with the National Socialist Christian Union has been discussed by officials of the Western branch of the C.U.F. but before this can be brought about the Party must adopt a stronger anti-Semitic platform which, apparently, [3<deletion:1 word] is not desirous of doing. [3<deletion:1 word] is reported as an unsuitable type for leader and much of the organisational activity of the Party would seem to devolve on a individual of German extraction named [3<deletion:3/4 line]. The very small Party membership appears to be predominantly German. There are some indications existent which would give reason to believe that if the Canadian Union of Fascists becomes properly established in Saskatchewan it may come, to greater or less extent, under German control. In this connection it is know that [3<deletion:1 word] has recently been corresponding with a certain F. Kuhn of New York, U.S.A., leader of the German American People's League, and reputedly a prominent functionary of the foreign branch of the National Socialist German Labour Party; at present, however, it is too early to form any definite opinion along these lines. In its present condition and with its existent platform, the Western branch of the C.U.F. is entirely innocuous as a subversive element

C. The Nationalist Party of Canada -Winnipeg.

This organisation was first formed during the summer of 1933 and is psychologically inspired by the Nazi regime in Germany. [3<deletion:2 words] the leader of the group, visited Germany shortly after inception of the move-

ment and was in touch with various Nazi leaders but his activities at Winnipeg have not assumed any degree of significance. When the Party was first organised, for a short period it gained a certain amount of popularity, but, at present, the membership appears to be centered around [§deletion:2-3 words] himself and a few individuals who

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have stayed with the movement, most of whom are reported to be of German origin. [§deletion:1 word] publishes a rabidly anti-Semitic mimeographed pamphlet entitled "The Canadian Nationalist" from time to time in regard to which an injunction was granted against him during February, 1935, by Mr. Justice Montague of the Court of King's Bench at Winnipeg, permanently restraining him from publishing printed matter libelling the Jewish race. This order perpetuated a temporary injunction granted some time previously on the application of a certain [§deletion:1 word] who charged that previous issues of "The Canadian Nationalist" had contained violent anti-Semitic articles. At the commencement of June, 1934, when the Party was stronger than it is at present, it came in conflict with the Communists at Winnipeg and a riot took place at Market Square in that city during the course of which a number of individuals were injured. As far as we are aware, apart from the dissemination of propaganda contained in "The Canadian Nationalist," this party is almost inactive at present and has few followers; it is affiliated, however, with the National Socialist Christian Union of Montreal. An organisation of the same name viz, Nationalist Party of Canada is also operative at Toronto and is said to have a strength of approximately 700 members. This organisation — which is reported as being in process of formation — has, however, held no public meetings to date. The leaders of the movement are said to be [§deletion:1 line].

In considering the question of Fascist organisations in Canada (exclusive of foreign organisations) the only point worth bearing in mind is their potentiality for growth. As the situation exists at present, when viewed on a comparative scale, the total bulk of such organisations must be regarded as being without weight in comparison with the diverse and extensive ramifications of the Communist Party and subsidiary organisations.

While on the one hand the Communist instruments of propaganda and subversive procedure in Canada are highly polished tools wielded by persons fully cognisant with revolutionary tactics and procedure,

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[§deletion:one page]

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transportation can be arranged for him. [deletion: 1 word], on the other hand, is to remain in Spain as a civilian and is to be placed at the disposal of the Spanish Communist Party for work among the members of the International Brigade. He will not have any military status but will act as the official representative of the Friends of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion Committee.

[deletion: 1 word] also dealt with the question of repatriation. He said that all International Brigade members except those physically disabled, or those who had pressing domestic problems to solve at home, would be repatriated. In future, therefore, repatriation would be difficult and on enlisting for service in Spain each volunteer would be expected to remain until the close of the war. Seven Canadians, however, were being brought back to Canada because of disability or because of being under age, [deletion: 1 word]. These include [deletion: 1 3/4 lines] is to be used for propaganda work in Canada; [deletion: 1 word] is to serve for a while with the recruiting agency in Paris, France, and [deletion: 1 word] will work among the Jugo-Slavs in Canada. [deletion: 1 word] further stated that henceforth all packages addressed to individuals in Spain would be delivered as heretofore but all goods sent in bulk would be given to the government "intendence" for distribution among all military units and not Canadians only. [deletion: 1 word] however, warned that his fact should not be publicized as it might affect the collection of funds and goods in Canada. [deletion: 1 word] in conclusion, said that his trip to Spain was undertaken principally to assist in organising the Canadians into a more compact unit. "This was accomplished," he said.

3. C.I.O. Organiser satisfied with progress on Vancouver's waterfront.

Bill Kraft, C.I.O. organiser, visited Vancouver and New Westminster recently to make a survey of the situation among the longshoremen in those parts. Before leaving for the U.S.A. he said that he was satisfied with his progress and that he intended to return in a few days, principally to continue his activities in New West-

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minister. Jim Maskell of the I.B.U. (Inland Boatmen's Union) is reported to have stated that organisation work for his union had progressed satisfactorily, in fact had reached a point where negotiations for agreements could be taken up with some confidence of success.

While in Vancouver, Kraft gave scant sympathy to Oscar Salonen on the subject of organising the remnants of the waterfront strikers into the John L.

Lewis' army. Kraft apparently intends to concentrate on the longshoremens' situation in New Westminster first. Approached by Salonen on the subject of organisation of the remnants of the old Vancouver District and Waterfront Workers' Association, frankly stated that "the C.I.O. was not out to organise unemployed organisations but bodies of workers which were employed." The present situation at Vancouver, it appears, practically parallels that which led up to the last strike on the waterfront with this difference, that should the working longshoremen be stamped into the C.I.O. then the men who led the last strike will be automatically drawn into the next one and they will bring added experience and bitterness into the strike.

4. Harold Pritchett re-elected President of I.W.A.

Harold J. Pritchett was re-elected president of the International Woodworkers of America, an affiliate of the C.I.O. in the recent vote. It is said that Harold Pritchett's stay in the United States has been extended to February 26th by the U.S. Immigration authorities pending action on his application for a permanent visa. Pritchett at one time active in the C.P. at Vancouver, has worked himself up to the highest position in the I.W.A. and is desirous of establishing permanent residency in the U.S. Efforts to have him expelled from U.S. territory have met with a wave of protests initiated by the communist element throughout the U.S.A.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. British Columbia.

5. Notes.

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The new "Educational Committee" set up by the C.P. at Vancouver consisting of [~~deletion: 3/4 line~~] have been discussing plans for a Party school but nothing definite has been decided. [~~deletion: 2-3 words~~] are said to have visited the various branches of the Party, giving lectures on Party structure and fraction work. According to [~~deletion: 1 word~~] the attendance at the meetings is very poor.

In conformity with instructions from the Centre at Toronto to mobilize the strength of the C.P. to bring pressure on the Federal Government towards the enactment of a bill for Unemployment Insurance [deletion:3/4 line] had sent out invitations to 38 organisations to attend a conference in Vancouver on the 27th January. [deletion:1 1/2 lines]

[deletion:1 word] is reported to have replaced [deletion:1 line] "The Fisherman" published at Vancouver as the official organ of the "Fishermen and Cannery Workers Industrial Union." [deletion:1 word] is said to be popular with the members of the Union and there is no doubt that he is very much in favour of having the "Fishermen's Union" affiliated with the C.I.O. [deletion:1 word] is also said to have visions of a printed paper devoted to the

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fishermen, the longshoremen and seamen with himself as editor. At the present time "The Fisherman" appears in mimeographed form.

II. Alberta

6. Canadian League for Peace and Democracy at Edmonton hold successful anti-Japanese meeting.

The Canadian League for Peace and Democracy held a mass meeting in the McDougall United Church at Edmonton on February 3rd with approximately 1,000 people in attendance. Dr. F.C. McCall, Principal of Alberta College, acted as Chairman and seated with him on the platform were Mayor J.W. Fry, Arnold Robertson, Joseph McKenzie, A.M. Herd, Rabbi Eisen, S.A.G. Barnes, M.L.A., Eddie Wing, Jack King, and Sgt. Frank Ho Lem. The latter acted as the official representative of Dr. Heng Chih Tao who was to have been the guest speaker. Dr. Tao, it was announced, had received last minute instructions from the Chinese Government to proceed to Washington and thence to London, England, to attend a conference there. Frank Ho Lem read a speech prepared by Dr. Tao in which the latter launched out at the "fallacious excuses" advanced by Japan for her part in the Sino-Japanese War. Dealing with the claims that China had been backward in culture and that it is their mission to stamp out communism in China to prevent it from spreading to other countries, the speaker said "If Japan is justified in helping China get rid of her communists, then she is equally at liberty to aid Canada in getting rid of the Communist Party here, by the same means." The speaker declared that "if a

similar argument were used Great Britain would have been justified in taking action similar to that taken by Japan because Karl Marx lived in London and wrote his material there." Speeches were also given by Eddie Wing, A. Robertson and Mayor J.W. Fry. Robertson appealed for financial assistance which resulted in the collection of \$338.38. Following the speeches a film was shown entitled "China Strikes Back".

A tag day for "Aid to China" called for February 5th was postponed owing to the cold weather.

United Front proposals advanced by the C.P. at Edmonton for the Federal by-election in the Edmonton East Riding on March 21st are

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said to have been declined by the Canadian Commonwealth Federation. The Communists proposed that the C.C.F., Social Credit and labour parties unite with the Communists in naming a candidate for the election. The C.C.F. intend, according to a nomination conference, to enter one of their own candidates.

The local committee of the Canadian League for Peace and Democracy at Lethbridge, Alta. sponsored a public meeting in the Majestic Theatre on February 7th which was attended by more than 650 people who contributed \$235. to the medical relief fund for China. Frank Ho Lem representing Dr. Heng Chih Tao, Rabbi Eisen of Edmonton and Arnold Robertson, President of the Calgary branch of the League, were the speakers. The latter explained the three point policy of the League with regard to China.

III. Quebec.

7. Dr. Gabriel Lambert, Fascist leader at Montreal to face trial on "Inciting to Riot" charges.

R.L. Calder, K.C., acting for the Civil Liberties' Union at Montreal, succeeded in his efforts to have Dr. Gabriel Lambert, one of the leaders of the National Socialist Christian Union of Quebec, tried by a jury in Court of King's Bench on charges of "Inciting to Riot." Judge Tetreau, on February 7th, ordered A. Samuels, complainant in the case, placed under bond of \$950. to insure his appearance before that Court. Mr. Calder will now appear before the Court of King's Bench at the opening of its next session and seek a

preferred indictment and to have Dr. Lambert face trial. Previously Judge Tetreau had dismissed, after preliminary hearing, charges against Dr. Lambert over the objections of Mr. Calder.

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[~~deletion:3 1/4 lines~~] active among the steel-workers, reported that the men in Peck's Rolling Mills are completely disillusioned and have lost confidence in the union.

At a meeting of the organisational committee of the [~~deletion:1 line~~] reported that although no panic exists among the members of the various language mass organisations whose halls have been padlocked by the provincial authorities, the situation is quite bad as these organisations have now no place wherein to hold their meetings. He reported that the Ukrainian section has already split its membership into small groups functioning under the captain system which enables them to meet in private houses. Since the closing of the halls, he said, no classes for children had been held. He complained that the C.P. in Quebec has not yet done sufficient work to counteract the padlock law; he added that all legal work has been placed in the hands of the Civil Liberties' Union, whose lawyers have not yet taken any action on the question of their halls. He said that the lawyers intend to "wait and see just what the Minister of Justice at Ottawa intends to do about the matter." He anticipated that it will be some time before some legal action can be taken and therefore, suggested that the mass organisations immediately split up into smaller groups in order to keep their membership intact.

[~~deletion:3/4 line~~] who attended the meeting, reported that the [~~deletion:2 words~~] at Montreal will now be under the control of a bureau of 5 C.P. members who will guide the organisation in future. He also stated that no plans had been made as to what is to be done about the children's school which had approximately 60 pupils. After a lengthy discussion it was agreed that in order to keep the organisations intact, membership meetings must be held regularly, if possible in the Labour Temple Hall.
