

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

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WEEKLY SUMMARY

REPORT ON COMMUNIST AND FASCIST ORGANIZATIONS

AND AGITATION IN CANADA

REPORT

R.C. Calder, K.C., President of the Civil Liberties Union, now touring Canada in an attempt to arouse public opinion against the Quebec Padlock Law, was recently refused the facilities of radio station C.K.C.L. The President of the privately owned broadcasting station refused the privilege because he considered Calder's address was not in the interest of the public. R.L. Calder was also denied the use of the Normal School at Fredericton N.B. recently on similar grounds.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

A. Communism.

1. The Communist Party and the Edmonton East
by-election.

The Communist Party, desirous of a United Front in the forthcoming Edmonton East by-election, seems greatly annoyed over the nomination at a Social Credit Party conference of Orvis Kennedy as Social Credit candidate.

The C.P., following the nomination of the said candidate, issued a statement over the signature of Jan Lakeman which says that the selection of Mr. Kennedy by the “Tory thinkers,” without consulting other groups, has precluded possibility of a United Front of progressive political groups. The statement states that the Party cannot see its way clear to support this “Conservative” Social Credit candidate and “narrow Social Credit Party policies that no doubt will be put forward.” The statement closed with an observation that Nomination Day in East Edmonton “is still a long way off; much can still be done to unite for progressive unity.”

The C.P. expected the nomination of a candidate who has a leaning towards communism, such as [☞deletion:3-4 words] However, the Social Credit Convention nominated a man who is not under the influence of the C.P. and this action has given considerable alarm in C.P. circles. A meeting held on the 18th February at the City Council Chambers by the Civic Progressive Association, which is composed of C.P., Left-Wing, Canadian Labour Party, Social Credit and C.C.F. membership, discussed ways and means of bringing pressure to bear on the Social Credit Party with a view to having O. Kennedy withdrawn in favour of [☞deletion:2-3 words]

[☞deletion:1 1/4 lines] to discuss the Party's policy with regard to the by-election at which [☞deletion:3/4 line] had met the C.C.F., Canadian Labour Party and Social Credit representatives and discussed the issue of the by-election but without arriving at any definite decision. He stated, however, that later, the C.P. was invited by the Social Credit representatives to attend a meeting to further discuss the issue. C.C.F. and Canadian

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Labour Party representatives were there also, he said, and the Party representatives explained the reasons for opposing the nomination of Mr. Kennedy as the official candidate of the Social Credit Party. "Afterwards, I came to the conclusion," he said, "that the by-election platform is more important than the candidate and it was, therefore, agreed to formulate a platform which could be supported by a joint committee of all the organisations involved." He further said that the C.P. will propose the following platform when they meet again:

- (1) Exposure of the Federal Government's foreign policy; demanding collective security within the framework of the League of Nations; sanctions against aggressor nations; embargo against Japan; open trade with China and Loyalist Spain.
- (2) Measures for the safe-guarding of democracy and the disallowance of the Quebec "Padlock Law."
- (3) The right to organize; collective bargaining; tariff adjustments so as to give maximum protection to the West; lower freight rates.
- (4) Enactment of social legislation; old age pensions; widows pensions; unemployed insurance; public works program; protection for youth.
- (5) Constitutional reforms; freedom of speech; organization and press; program for agriculture; higher prices for production and credit without interest.

The above proposals were discussed by the meeting and adopted; the [deletion:2 words] was authorized to propose same as being in the best interests of the C.P. Summing up the discussion, Anderson emphasized that the C.P. should try to cement and extend unity of progressive forces and oppose any split of the progressive vote in the by-election.

2. The Campaign in Aid of China.

The medical unit sent to China by the Communists of Canada, arrived in Hankow, new seat of the Chinese Government, February 7th. Although the mission sailed during the latter part of January, news of their departure and arrival was not released until February 22nd. Officially sponsored by the Chinese Aid Council, the unit is composed of Dr. Norman Bethune, Dr. Charles Parson, formerly of the Notre Dame Memorial Hospital in Newfoundland and Jean Ewen, daughter of

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Tom Ewen, C.P. leader in B.C. The unit carried its own X-ray equipment and surgical implements for both doctors.

The Canadian League for Peace and Democracy at Vancouver, held a public meeting in the Orpheum Theatre on Sunday, February 13th, with about 3,000 persons in attendance. Dr. G.G. Sedgewick acted as Chairman and the speakers were A.M. Stephen, President of the League, and Joseph Hope of the Chinese Benevolent Association. In view of the fact that the much advertised picture "China Strikes Back," was now shown, (having been banned by the B.C. Board of Censors), the speaker's remarks were chiefly directed against the Censor Board with Mr. Stephen particularly assailing the "alleged influence of Fascist consuls in Vancouver," whom he accused of having influenced the Board of Censors and the Civic authorities. The highlight of the meeting was the fact that A.M. Stephen usurped the chair from Professor Sedgewick to put over a resolution protesting the influence of Japanese, Italian and German consuls on local authorities. Dr. Sedgewick was taken by surprise but he finally was able to protest the wording of the resolution and placed himself on record as definitely opposed to the resolution. The resolution was passed with only three members of the audience dissenting. Admission tickets brought in approximately \$1,000 while the packed house contributed \$1,032 in cash and \$80 in pledges to the collection. The \$2,100 thus raised was a Godsend to the impoverished League.

A Tag Day held at Edmonton on the 19th of February in "Aid to China," netted the sum of \$520.

3. John Boychuk returns from Europe.

John Boychuk, member of the C.C. of the C.P. of C. and one of the eight communist leaders who were convicted under Section 98 of the Criminal Code at Toronto in 1931, returned to Canada from Europe where he is said to have visited Spain, France and the Soviet Union. While in Spain he delivered the shipment of Christmas gifts sent to the members of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion by the Friends of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion in Canada. He is said to have also

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attended the recent congress of the Communist Party of France. He arrived in Toronto on February 24th enroute to Winnipeg and while there he arranged to have the Friends of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion forward \$60 monthly to [~~deletion:1 word~~] now in Spain representing the Friends of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion, who is said to be encountering financial difficulties in his roll as a "civilian."

4. "Kanadsky Gudok" Press Campaign successful.

Final results of the recent "Press Campaign" conducted on behalf of the Communist Russian Language paper Kanadsky Gudok, (Canadian Whistle), published three times a week, are given in the February 24th issue of this paper. In all \$5,456 was collected; 509 new subscriptions and 1,278 renewals were secured. Among the contributors there were 132 Doukhobors, it is said.

5. Harvey Murphy acquitted.

Harvey Murphy, notorious communist and chairman of the Ontario Federation on Unemployment, was acquitted recently by a Jury on charges of spreading false news under Section 136 of the Criminal Code. The charge arose out of last summer's steel strike at Peterboro, Ont.

6. The Communist Party and the Financial Crisis in Winnipeg.

The C.P. is attempting to exploit the critical financial situation of the City of Winnipeg through the medium of the Trades and Labour Council. Firmly entrenched in the Trades and Labour Council, it has taken the initiative to arouse the people of Winnipeg in protest against the new programme of taxation proposed by the City Council. This programme has been put forward as an alternative to the threat of the possible bankruptcy of the City and the consequent establishment of an Administrator.

The C.P. puts forward its own programme which, in brief, proposes taxation of railway property within the City and a new grading of assessments on the Property Tax, the Wage Tax and the Business Tax. The C.P. maintains that the regrading would abolish,

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or considerably reduce, the taxes of the worker and small business man, while the finances of the City would be placed on a firm basis by a large increase in revenue.

To put this programme into effect the C.P. is agitating for a united movement on the part of the people of Winnipeg to bring demonstrative pressure to bear on the City Council.

On Tuesday night, February 15th, the Trades and Labour Council held a meeting at the James St. Labour Temple to discuss the question of the proposed taxation in preparation for a general conference to be held on February 17th.

About one hundred and twenty delegates, representing various organizations and unions, attended the meeting together with Labour M.L.As., Aldermen, the School Board and a few of the general public, making a total of about two hundred and fifty persons.

The meeting was completely dominated by the C.P. and the deliberations of the evening resulted in a bitter denunciation of the City Council and the Government of Premier Bracken and an enthusiastic adoption of the proposals of the C.P. It was also proposed that a delegation, headed by Mayor Queen and J. Litterick, Communist M.L.A., representing all the affiliate Unions, should go to Premier Bracken with the recommendations of the meeting.

The general conference was held on February 17th, in the University Building. The meeting was advertised as being under the auspices of the Trades and Labour Council but again the C.P. was the driving force.

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The resolutions and recommendations proposed at the previous

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meeting were placed before the general conference and they were adopted with noisy enthusiasm.

It is the outspoken opinion of the C.P. that it has successfully influenced the labour groups to a determination not to rest until the matter is settled to their satisfaction; and that a serious situation may arise.

The C.P. is following up its efforts by making arrangements for a series of radio broadcasts and meetings; and the open statement has been made that, if need be, demonstrations in the City will be instigated.

7. Harold L. Pritchett forced to leave U.S.

Harold J. Pritchett, recently re-elected president of the International Woodworkers of America, has been refused a permanent visa and forced to leave U.S. territory. On his arrival in Vancouver, Pritchett charged he had been forced to leave the United States through "machinations of American Federation officials and certain unscrupulous lumber operators."

8. Strikes and Industrial Unrest throughout Canada.

(i) Coal Handlers strike at Toronto.

Violence marked the strike called on February 18th by the Coal Handlers and Truckers Union, Local 83, at Toronto. An estimated 1,500 men answered the strike call and were joined later by 30 members of the International Hoisting Engineers Union. Truckloads of coal were split over the streets and drivers reluctant to join the strike engaged in brief battles with strikers roaming the district in trucks to enforce the strike order. Fifty strikers who beat their way through police lines outside the Roger's Company yards climbed board three trucks attempting to break through the strike barricade and spilled all their loads in the streets. Strikers also clashed with non-strikers on Bathurst and Queen Streets.

(ii) Unemployed invade store in Port Arthur.

Approximately 200 unemployed men occupied the T. Eaton

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Company Groceteria at Port Arthur for two hours on February 15th, to show the public "we need food." They left shortly before closing time when promised a free meal by the operators of the store. The men marched in a body

to the store and entered in single file and stood quietly about the place, refusing to move at the manager's request. They did not interfere with the shoppers, however. The free meal was served at the local labour temple.

(iii) Textile Workers strike at Woodstock, Ont.

Over one hundred employees of the La France Textile Co. at Woodstock, Ont., came out on strike on February 28th, demanding recognition of the Union.

(iv) Calgary relief recipients plan strike action.

The Unemployed Union at Calgary is making every effort to force the Civic authorities to withdraw the recent cut in unemployed relief allowances. No demonstrations have taken place so far but there is considerable talk of strike action among the leaders of the organization and a strike of relief recipients may materialize in the near future.

B. Fascism.

9. The National Socialist Christian Union in P.Q.

Over one thousand persons including approximately 75 male and 25 female party members, attired in their uniforms, attended a public meeting of the National Socialist Christian Union at Dante Hall, Montreal, on February 20th; about one third of the audience being local Italians. Prominent among those present were Adrien Arcand, Dr. A. Lambert, Major Scott, Mr. Lessard, organizer of the Party, Antonio Felli, local Italian Party leader and a man who was introduced as the leader of the Ontario Section of the N.S.C.U. The latter, Arcand and Dr. Lambert were the main speakers of the evening. Short speeches were also given by Chabot, Gastien and one unidentified local party member.

Felli dwelt upon the origin and historic importance of the Italian colony in Canada, and the assistance the Italians have rendered

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to "French Canada" in its struggle against the English. He pledged the whole hearted support of all the Italians in Montreal.

Dr. Lambert called upon the Youth of Canada to rally to the support of his party, thereby helping to save Canada "from the Jews" and disorganization.

He submitted two proposals to the meeting for endorsement, (a) that the Chief of the party request the Prime Minister of Canada to appoint a Royal Commission with a view to establishing from what sources the various political parties are being subsidized, and, (b) that a letter be written to the Prime Minister and Minister of Justice asking for a public exposé of all correspondence, requests and inducements made for a reprieve from the death sentence in the case of the "Jew Abramovitch" convicted of murder; and why the authorities refused to commute the death sentence imposed in the case of the French Canadian, G. Choquette. The meeting voted unanimously in favour of these proposals.

Adrien Arcand indulged in the usual tirade against the Jews and communism. At the conclusion of his speech he introduced the leader of the Ontario Section of the N.S.C.U. but without giving his name. The latter, in a brief speech pledged the support of his organization.

At the conclusion of the meeting the band present played O' Canada, while the audience, standing, right arm extended in the Fascist salute, shouted "Long Live Canada," "Long Live the Party," "Long Live Arcand."

On February 27th the N.S.C.U. held a meeting in the "Reveille-Mascoutain" Hall at St. Hyacinth with approximately 100 people in attendance. The speakers were Dr. Lambert with one Menard. Both speakers attacked the Dominion Government at Ottawa, contending that it was due to the attitude displayed by it that Communism has been allowed to develop and operate in this country. Menard made also the charge that the Government refused to provide work with the object in view of compelling people to resort to politics and communism. Communism was described as the "dechristianization of the world, bringing about unemployment, depression, national conflicts, strikes

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and rebellions." "We have been lambs long enough," he declared, "let us now be rams and since political parties are surging against us let us rise in protest against them." Dr. Lambert remarked that "as long as we do not organize a political party to oppose the Jewish Communist Party, conditions will become steadily worse and eventually we shall all perish as a result."

Adrien Arcand who was to have been the main speaker at this meeting, did not, for some unknown reason put in an appearance.

Approximately 400 people attended a meeting of the National Socialist Christian Union in the St. Thomas D'Aquin Hall, 404 St. Antoine St., West, Montreal, on February 28th. Four speakers took the platform, all of whom

spoke in French. At 8.45 P.M. the whole audience was brought to the position of attention and the meeting was officially opened with the Prayer, "Our Father," following which everybody held the right hand extended in the Fascist salute while the chairman recited the formula of loyalty to the Fascist Union. At this juncture it was announced that "Chief," Mr. Arcand, was confined to bed on account of illness.

The first speaker, whose name was not given, apparently a student from the University, outlined the program of the Party and spoke of the destruction caused by the communistic "Jewish Autocracy" of today. He spoke of the "guilty tolerance" of the present government and described the Canadian armament plan as a "crooked scheme organized by the Jews for their own future protection and interests." Government officials, he described as traitors, crooks and misappropriators of funds.

The second speaker, also a student, gave general support of the utterances of the speaker preceding him. Calling certain members of the Dominion Government by name, he referred to them as a bunch of "lousy crooks." The third speaker, a Mr. Robert,

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devoted his time to the operations of municipal, provincial and federal relief commissions. He charged that the misappropriation of funds had been hushed up for fear that the "strong Jewish control" might interfere.

Dr. Lambert, the last speaker, practically endorsed all the other speakers had said and in turn attacked government officials and the local newspaper La Press. He had much praise for the work of Hitler and Mussolini. He prophesied that in a few weeks "we will organize the Fascist press which will occupy a building which will face La Press Building with swastikas displayed in every window." "In two years from now, when we come into power we will throw out all the Jews and traitors of today and will send them to a concentration camp on Madagascar." The meeting concluded with a Prayer for the quick recovery of "Our Chief;" the final words were "Long Live the Country, Long Live the Fascist Arcand."

10. "The Canadian Nationalist" appears in new form.

The anti-semitic and fascist sheet The Canadian Nationalist, published monthly as the official organ of the Canadian Nationalist Party by William Whittaker at Winnipeg, Man., is now appearing in printed form. Published for the past few years in mimeographed form the paper started to appear in this new and improve form in January of this year.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. British Columbia.

11. Communists occupy leading positions in newly formed "B.C. Guard."

Six organizations met in a joint conference at Vancouver recently and formed an association to be known as the "Congress of Canadian Organizations to combat the penetration of Orientals in B.C." The new organization will be known also as the "B.C. Guard."

The following Executive Board was elected from representatives of the various organizations:

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An interesting feature of the composition of this board is that four or half of the number of it are known radicals. [deletion:2 words] is active in the Worker's Alliance, [deletion:2-3 words] organization; [deletion:1 word] member of the C.P. of C. [deletion:1 word] active in the Waterfront movement and [deletion:1 word] who has been mentioned prominently in connection with the relief and unemployed movement. These individuals, no doubt, will voice the C.P. in its newly formed

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II. Manitoba.

12. Winnipeg Communists celebrate first Anniversary of I.B.

The Winnipeg local of the friends of the MacKenzie-Papineau

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Battalion celebrated the 1st Anniversary of the founding of the International Brigade with a concert meeting in the Labour Temple, James Street, on February 20th. The Chairman, Grant McLeod, President of the Trades and Labour Council, declared that the best way to pay homage to the "Boys in Spain" was to raise funds to supply comforts for them and to help build up the Rehabilitation Fund of \$10,000 which the organization is trying to build up to transport the wounded and unfit soldiers back to Canada and rehabilitate them. The principal speaker was L. St. G. Stubbs, M.L.A., who bitterly assailed and denounced capitalism, the church and the Dominion Government. He referred to the time when he was a student at Cambridge University and enlisted for

service in the South African War and told of how, after 18 months, on his return, he took off the "lousy uniform," resolved that no man would again put a uniform on him. This episode, he said, made it possible for him to explain why the Canadians are fighting in Spain. These men, he said, at least know that they are fighting to save democracy.

On February 26th, the Russian Workers' Club at Winnipeg staged a play in the Ukrainian Labour Temple, entitled "In the Enemy's Rear." The cast included some 40 persons and the play portrayed the struggle of the Red Army against the White Guards in the years immediately following the October Revolution in Russia. It has been described by an observer as one of the most realistic plays ever witnessed on any stage. Many of the spectators present screamed when a young woman, the only female in the cast, shoots her own brother in revenge for his ruthlessness while being an officer in the White Guards Army, thus showing that the revolutionary struggle has no consideration for blood relationship when class interests are at stake. The attendance numbered approximately 600 persons.
