

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

OTTAWA, March 15th, 1938.

SECRETNO. 886WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON COMMUNIST AND FASCIST ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATION IN CANADAREPORT[~~deletion: 1/4 page~~]

—

Phil Luck, well known Communist Party functionary, running on a Labour Progressive ticket in the recent Hamilton Centre Provincial by-election, polled 1,976 votes. Stewart Woods, Socialist Labour, received only 454 votes.

APPENDICES.TABLE OF CONTENTSAPPENDIX NO. I: GENERALA. CommunismPara. No. 1. [~~deletion: 3 lines~~]

- “ ” 2. The campaign in Aid of Loyalist Spain.
C.P. stops recruiting volunteers for military service in Spain.
Well attended meeting in Toronto celebrates anniversary of International Brigade.
John Boychuk addresses large meeting in Winnipeg.
- “ ” 3. The campaign against Quebec's Padlock Law.
(i) Winnipeg.
(ii) Edmonton.
(iii) Calgary.
- “ ” 4. Strikes and Industrial Unrest throughout Canada.
(i) March to Ottawa proposed at Calgary.

- (ii) Disturbance in Woodstock Textile strike.
-

B. Fascism.

- (i) Fascist organ confirms fusion of three principal Fascist bodies.
- (ii) [~~deletion: 1 word~~] following in Winnipeg small.
- (iii) Canadian Union of Fascists at Regina opposed to affiliation with Arcand and Whittaker groups.
- (iv) The National Christian Socialist Party of Canada.
-

- “ ” 5. British Columbia.
Dr. Anna Louise Strong in Vancouver.
- “ ” 6. Alberta.
Alberta Section of League for Peace and Democracy hold Convention.
- “ ” 7. Manitoba.
Communist Party at Winnipeg celebrates 16th Anniversary.
-

[~~deletion: 2 pages~~]

[3]

2. The Campaign in Aid of Loyalist Spain.

Recruiting volunteers for Military service in Spain has come to a complete standstill in Canada, according to [~~deletion: 2 words~~] of the C.P. of C. who is in charge of this work in this country. To an intimate he stated that he does not know the exact reasons except that the “people down there (New York) notified him to stop recruiting.” No funds have been received by [~~deletion: 2 words~~] since the order was issued.

Approximately 2,500 people attended a meeting under the auspices of the Friends of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion in Massey Hall, Toronto, on Sunday evening, February 27th. The stage was decorated with a large mural, bearing the portraits of MacKenzie and Papineau and numerous slogans, such

as: "Spirit of 1837 still lives;" "In Fighting for Spain, they defend Canada;" "They fight to defend Democracy." About 60 guests sat on the platform, including officials of the Friends of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion and relatives of the "Boys in Spain." Fred Collins, noted Communist who is particularly active in the Trade Union movement, acted as Chairman and in his opening remarks stated that the meeting was held to commemorate the first anniversary of the Fifteenth (International) Brigade.

Captain Hans Amalie, Lt. Colonel Steve Nelson and Sam Carr were the main speakers. The former, a brother of an American Congressman, gave an outline of the political history of Spain prior to the rebellion, stressing the "miserable conditions" under which the poor people of Spain had to live. "The fight in Spain," he declared, "was clearly between the haves and the have-nots." He said that Russia was not helping as much as formerly simply because the Spanish Government now had an army and an efficient industrial machine for turning out war munitions. He maintained Russia would be justified in supporting the Spanish Government. He appealed to all to "take up the torch and carry on the fight against Fascism."

Sam Carr, Organizational secretary of the C.P. of C., assailed the British Prime Minister, accusing him of having sold out democracy and Spain. "There is a crisis in the Spanish situation," he declared, "and we must make this meeting the beginning of a renewed

[4]

effort to wipe Fascism off the earth." He also attacked the Prime Minister of Canada, ridiculing his statement that Canada's attitude is what it had been previously. "This," said Carr, "is a meaningless and evasive statement; we must ask King what he means; we must ask him if the situation has not changed since he made the statement." In concluding, he pledged the support of the C.P. in further efforts to help Spain.

Lt. Colonel Steve Nelson, formerly of the International Brigade, eulogized the Canadians in Spain and the Friends of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion. He told how Italians and Germans were helping the rebels and praised the Soviet Union for the help it extended to the Loyalists. "We used to hear about help coming from Mexico, but we knew it was Moxicovsky," he said. He further stated that the Soviet Union had sent 300 shiploads of supplies to Spain and had taken 1,000 boys to Russia and six months later sent them back as qualified aeroplane pilots. He pleaded with the people not to be discouraged because of temporary reverses in Spain.

After an appeal for financial support by the Chairman the audience donated \$2,009 in cash and cheques. Between speeches the Ukrainian Band played the Worker's (Russian) Funeral March while six Spanish War veterans and some

members of the Progressive Veterans marched slowly to a placque containing the *Roll of Honour of the Canadians killed in action while fighting with the Loyalist forces*. During the ceremony the lights were dimmed and a bugler sounded "Taps."

A resolution was passed condemning the policy of the British Government, a copy of which was ordered to be sent to the Prime Minister of Canada.

Approximately 1,100 people gathered at the Ukrainian Labour Temple, Corner of Pritchard and McGregor Streets, Winnipeg, on March 6th to hear John Boychuk tell his story about his trip to, and his experiences in Spain. Informing the audience that he left Canada on December 3rd to deliver Christmas presents to the boys fighting with the Loyalists in Spain, he said, "These little things we donate here for them are no comparison with the sacrifice our boys are making to

[5]

save democracy. Our boys are doing exceedingly well; they are writing the history of the world's struggle for democracy against the menace of Fascism." In conclusion, he called for additional sacrifices on the part of the Canadian supporters, saying that another consignment of articles for the boys would be leaving Canada soon. He mentioned cigarettes, socks and soap as the most essential and most valued articles that may be sent.

3. The Campaign against Quebec's Padlock Law.

(i) Winnipeg.

The Canadian League for Peace and Democracy at Winnipeg, sponsored a public meeting at the First Baptist Church on February 25th with R.L. Calder, K.C. and M.M. Ross as the speakers. There were about 375 people present, representing a cross section of Winnipeg's population. Malcolm M. Ross, General Secretary for the Canadian League for Peace and Democracy, referred to the growth of Fascism in Quebec and charged that drilling was carried on among the Fascist Organizations. He also dealt extensively on conditions in Sudbury where he could not obtain a hall for a meeting within the City limits and where the International Nickel Company "had spies in every organization." R.L. Calder dealt exclusively with the "Padlock Law." He charged that the said Law was passed for the express purpose of defeating labour organizations. An appeal was made for funds but the amount realized was not announced.

(ii) Edmonton.

Approximately 1,000 people attended a public meeting under the auspices of the Canadian League for Peace and Democracy in the Empire Theatre in Edmonton on March 4th. Malcolm M. Ross, National Secretary of the League, Jack King, Provincial leader and R.L. Calder, K.C., of the Montreal Civil Liberties Union, were the speakers. Jack King pointed out that the Canadian League for Peace and Democracy was an organization pledged to stop Fascism and prevent any further growth of the reactionary movement. R.L. Calder devoted his time to the Quebec "Padlock Law" and explained that it was impossible to fight this Law in the Province of Quebec due to the fact that the "right of free speech on this question has been taken from the people."

[6]

"The 'Padlock Law'", he said, "does not defeat Communism." "After all," he asserted, "if people in the U.S.S.R. are able to put it over I do not think that we will be fools in accepting it." The usual protest resolution was put to the meeting and passed.

(iii) Calgary.

Approximately 800 people attended a public meeting under the auspices of the Calgary local of the Canadian League for Peace and Democracy in the Al Azhar Temple on March 6th and listened to Mr. Calder of Montreal speak on the Quebec Padlock Law. M. MacKenzie Ross, General Secretary of the League also spoke and a resolution was passed urging the Dominion Government to disallow the Quebec Padlock Law. The resolution stated that the said law was a gross violation of British liberty and a weapon for the suppression of free speech.

Fifty-four dollars was donated from the floor and a silver collection was also taken at the door to cover the expenses of the meeting.

4. Strikes and Industrial Unrest throughout Canada.

(i) March to Ottawa proposed at Calgary.

Speaking at a mass meeting of unemployed in St. George's Hall, Calgary, on the night of March 2nd, under the auspices of the East Calgary local of the Calgary Unemployed Union, E.J. Liesemer, former Alderman, stated that ten thousand people were on relief in Calgary. He regretted that the unemployed

in Calgary were behaving in a rather apathetic manner; that there were no demonstrations or parades as would have been the case a few years ago. He suggested that a legalized march-to-Ottawa be organized to impress on the Federal Government of the necessity of doing something about the unemployed situation in Canada. Leisemer charged the Federal Government had failed to solve the problem of unemployment. "All that has been done is to make an effort to see that people do not starve," he said. Support of the City Councils, who in turn would influence the Provincial Governments, should be obtained for a march-to-Ottawa, he declared. Thus, "the march could be organized with strong support, in a legal manner."

C.T. Richardson, a delegate from the Central Council of the Unemployed Union, referring to Leisemer's suggestion, expressed the

[7]

view that if a 100,000 men marched to Ottawa "there would be no Government in Ottawa when they arrived."

Other speakers expressed similar views but the meeting took no definite steps regarding the proposed march-to-Ottawa.

(ii) Disturbance in Woodstock Textile Strike.

Six strikers were arrested at Woodstock, Ont. on 2nd March as a result of a fight between strikers and workers of the La France Textile Plant. The strike called principally for the purpose of having the Textile Union recognized, involves 100 of the 155 employees of this firm.

B. Fascism.

(i) Fascist organ confirms fusion of three
principal Fascist bodies.

Le Fasciste Canadien, published at Montreal in its March issue confirms the recent fusion of the three principal Fascist Parties in Canada, viz. Parti National Social Chretien du Canada, Canadian Nationalist Party, headed by William Whittaker, and the Canadian Nationalist Party, headed by Joseph Ce Farr, Toronto, Ont. These three parties are considered as three branches of the same movement, forming one political party, it is said. Each Party, however, will retain its present form of organization and identity until the National Convention which is scheduled to be held in Kingston, Ont. in the near future.

(ii) [~~deletion:1-2 words~~] following in Winnipeg small.

Recent report from Winnipeg would indicate that [~~deletion:2 words~~] has not more than about 50 members in the Canadian Nationalist Party at Winnipeg. An important member of the Party is reported to have said that [~~deletion:1 word~~] "lost face" after the affair in the Market Square in Winnipeg some years ago when he ran away, leaving his faithful adherents to "face a lot of Jews and Communists." He further asserted that some of the German Canadian members of the Party left it because of the attitude of the Hitler Regime towards the religious question.

(iii) Canadian Union of Fascists at Regina opposed to affiliation with Arcand and Whittaker Groups.

At a meeting of the advisory committee of the Canadian

[8]

Union of Fascists of Regina on the 21st February, it was resolved not to affiliate, for the time being, with the Eastern Fascist groups. [~~deletion:2 words~~] who was responsible for the proposal, declared that he would assume full charge of the Western branches of the Union, replacing [~~deletion:2-3 words~~] who cannot carry on as leader because of his physical disabilities.

(iv) The National Socialist Christian Party of Canada.

The National Socialist Christian Party in the Province of Quebec, under the leadership of Adrian Arcand, continues to hold public meetings, which, in some instances have been well attended. The speeches given thereat, contained the usual tirade against Communism, Semitism and the Federal Government at Ottawa.

A meeting held on March 9th in the Rochon Hall, 5888 Papineau Street, Montreal, offers a typical example.

The hall was packed to capacity with approximately 300 people in attendance. Six uniformed men were on the speakers stand which was decorated with large swastikas and about 20 uniformed members were scattered throughout the audience. At the beginning the usual pledge of loyalty to the Party, accompanied by the Fascist salute, was given. The names of the speakers, as is customary now were withheld. The first speaker attributed the present "pitiful conditions" to the present form of government. The second speaker dealt principally with what he termed the "Jewish control" throughout the world, while the third speaker, also un-named, touched upon the defects of the present system and advocated a national policy of economy which would

guarantee a fair and just status for all. The fourth speaker explained the significance of the swastika and "why are we anti-Jewish?" The fifth speaker explained why interruptions from the audience were not allowed at any of the meetings. He explained that the regulations of the Party were those of a well disciplined Fascist group and nothing is permitted which would upset the adopted procedure of the meeting. This speaker maintained that Jewry must disappear "if we ever hope to become united." The meeting concluded with the Fascist Salute.

The Party has now opened a head-office at 517 St. Lawrence St. which is said to be open for business 24 hours a day.

[9]

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. British Columbia.

5. Dr. Anna Louise Strong in Vancouver, B.C.

The Canadian League for Peace and Democracy at Vancouver held a public meeting in the Oak Room, Hotel Vancouver, February 27th with Dr. Anna Louise Strong, noted Communist lecturer and co-editor of the Moscow Daily News as the principal speaker. The object of the meeting was primarily to promote medical aid to China. Dr. Strong, just returned from a trip to the Orient, described conditions in the war zone, stressing the following main points:

1. The fact that China, through this struggle, is becoming a unified nation.
2. The Japanese nation will be unable to stand, financially or morally, the strain of this war, which will prove lengthy.
3. That though the Japanese were supplied by certain countries with war material it was no use boycotting local Japanese as this merely was a matter of "Fascist feelings."

II. Alberta.

6. Alberta Section of League for Peace and Democracy hold Convention.

On March 3rd the Alberta section of the League for Peace and Democracy held its 4th Annual convention in the MacDonald Hotel at Edmonton with A.M. Herd in the Chair and Jack King acting as Secretary. Forty delegates representing thirty organizations and fourteen visitors were in attendance. The Chairman, in presenting the annual report, urged the section to build up its membership, to create more branches, to intensify its activity, to render more assistance to Spain and China. R.L. Calder, K.C., of Montreal, addressed the

meeting on the structure and functions of the Montreal Civil Liberties Union. He charged that the policy pursued by Premier Duplessis and Premier Hepburn was similar to that adopted by Hitler and Mussolini. M.M. Ross, National secretary of the League, spoke on the "danger of Fascism in Canada and severely criticized the Federal Government's interference with Alberta legislation in the interest of democracy." He praised the Alberta people and their activity in combating Fascism.

The Convention appointed a new Council which is to function during the ensuing year.

[10]

III. Manitoba.

7. C.P. at Winnipeg celebrates 16th Anniversary.

The Communist Party at Winnipeg celebrated the 16th Anniversary of the founding of the C.P. of C. by way of an International Concert meeting at the Ukrainian Labour Temple on Sunday evening, February 27th. Sol Simpkin, Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the Party, conducted the meeting and James Litterick, M.L.A. and Alderman Forkin were the main speakers. It was an overcrowded affair and many people were unable to gain admittance owing to lack of space. The meeting opened and adjourned with the "International."

Sixty new members were initiated into [deletion:2 words] of the C.P. at Winnipeg on February 27th, thus bringing the membership of this branch of the Party to 700. [deletion:1 word] has increased its membership by 2 members, bringing it up to 150.

The Universal Bookstore and the Information Bureau of the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association at Winnipeg, formerly situated on Selkirk Avenue, has been moved to 850 Main Street under the management of [deletion:1 word] With the change in the location, business is said to have expanded considerably. The store has added musical instruments, radios, electric washers, ranges and other appliances to its stock which amounts to many thousands of dollars. The patronage is said to be steadily increasing and [deletion:2 words] a graduate from Manitoba University and an expert engineer, has been added to the staff with three mechanics to help him. In addition, a financial and information bureau is maintained, issuing express money orders, steamship tickets, etc.