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WEEKLY SUMMARY

REPORT ON COMMUNIST AND FASCIST ORGANIZATIONS

AND AGITATION IN CANADA

REPORT

T.G. McManus, provincial secretary of the Communist Party in Saskatchewan, has been selected as one of the "progressive unity" candidates for Regina riding in the forthcoming provincial election. Alex Commun, a rail-roader and member of the C.C.F. will be his running mate.

The Communist Party has been feverishly preparing for this election and appears to have succeeded in its attempt to create a United Front in a number of constituencies. Tim Buck is expected to proceed to Saskatchewan after his return from Moscow to personally assist and supervise the election campaign.

APPENDICES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

A. Communism

- Para. No. 1. Roman Catholic Youth organizations withdraw from Canadian Youth Congress.
- " " 2. The Communists and the Edmonton East Federal by-election. Communists pleased with results.
- " " 3. The Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association celebrates 20th Anniversary.
Extensive celebrations throughout Canada.
- " " 4. Anti-Fascist Demonstrations.
- (a) Montreal.
Five Communists arrested.
- (b) Toronto.
Parade frustrated by Police.
- " " 5. Strikes and Unrest throughout Canada.
- (i) Textile Strike at Cornwall.

- (ii) Artists Strike in Toronto.
- (iii) Toronto Taxi Drivers contemplate strike action.
- (iv) March to Ottawa proposal under consideration at Vancouver.
- (v) Calgary relief recipients vote for strike action.
- (vi) Regina Unemployed hold protest meeting.
- (vii) Winnipeg "progressive" veterans plan march on Ottawa.

B. Fascism

- " " 6. The National Social Christian Party.
Party in Montreal slowly gaining in strength.
Numerous meetings are being held in Montreal with average attendance of from three to four hundred.
Membership at St. Hyacinthe on decline.
- " " 7. The Canadian Nationalist Party, Ontario.
Some increase in membership recorded; attempt to gain sympathy of foreign elements.

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES.

- " " 8. British Columbia.
Vancouver Branch of C.L.D.L. liquidated.
C.P. in Vancouver feels lack of funds.
- " " 9. Alberta.
Annie Buller in Alberta.
Speaks at Medicine Hat and Calgary.
- " " 10. Saskatchewan.
Sam Carr speaks at Regina.
- " " 11. Ontario.
[~~deletion:2 lines~~]

APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

A. Communism

1. Roman Catholic Youth organizations withdraw from
Canadian Youth Congress.

Roman Catholic youth organizations throughout Canada have been forbidden by their Church to participate in the 3rd Canadian Youth Congress which

is to be held in Toronto during May. Roman Catholics who formerly had a representation of one-third of the whole Congress will hold a gathering of their own next Fall, probably in Montreal. Orders to abandon participation in the Congress came from the Very Rev. Umberto Mozzoni, attache to the Apostolic Delegation at Ottawa, it is said. The reason for the withdrawal has been explained by Leo N. Richard, who had been acting as Montreal agent of the Congress Convention Committee, thus: "There are Communists in the Congress, that is the main reason we left. Then, too, their policies were being spread through the whole organization and our principles did not allow us to continue participation."

2. The Communists and the Edmonton East Federal by-election.

The Communists at Edmonton seem greatly elated over the results of the recent Edmonton East Federal by-election. A circular letter issued by Lawrence Anderson, Provincial Secretary of the Party, following the election, reads in part:

"The results of the election has shown that the labor and progressive people are becoming more politically conscious of the issues involved and we are justified in concluding that political consciousness is closely associated with the political line of our Party. Those people who are close sympathizers and supporters of our Party have a new confidence and knowledge of the policies and role of our Party and without doubt we are in a splendid position to recruit hundreds of new members.

This opportunity cannot be lost, comrades. We must immediately follow up these hundreds of new acquaintances and contacts. We must act quickly while enthusiasm is still high. Let us renew all our efforts to fulfill our task of recruiting 150 new members before May 1st! Let us get hundreds of new readers for the Clarion! Let us consolidate and extend the work of our branches in their area! Let us further weld the unity that was demonstrated at the polls on election day!"

Obviously the Communist Party intends to exploit this co-operation or alliance with the Social Credit Party. Evidence of the extent to which the activities of the two organizations were merged during the election campaign was furnished by Mr. Kennedy at his

[2]

headquarters after the results of the election became known. He thanked the leader of the Communist Party in Edmonton — Jan Lakeman — for his support and called him to the platform from where he (Lakeman) made a speech, in

the course of which he stressed the "overwhelming defeat" that had been administered to "the forces of reaction in the Dominion."

3. The Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association Celebrates 20th Anniversary.

Extensive celebration throughout Canada marked the 20th Anniversary of the founding of the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association, [deletion:1 line] Most of the "Jubilee" functions were held from March 20th to March 27th.

At Winnipeg, the centre of the organization, the Jubilee was concluded on March 27th with a concert at the Ukrainian Labour Temple, corner McGregor and Pritchard Streets. The Temple was gaily decorated and the entire affair was filmed by one, Kryskiw, a photographer of the Continental Film Company. The place was crowded and many had to be turned away for lack of accommodation. The best talent was exhibited in vocal and musical performances, choirs and orchestras, but most conspicuous of all was the appearance of about 200 children, all dressed in blue blouses and red shawls, who presented a song of greeting to the U.L.F.T.A. with their fists clenched in the United Front Salute. The entire program has been described by an observer as one "continuous spectacle, presented in the gayest colors to make the celebration impressive." A feature of this particular performance was the complete absence of speeches. Except for a few remarks made at the opening, no speeches were given. The concert, owing to its spectacular aspect, attracted many Ukrainians who were not members of the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association or even sympathizers. Admission was by invitation and the place was filled more than one hour before the time set for the commencement of the affair.

Affairs similar to the one described above were staged at all important centres throughout Canada. In addition to these cele-

[3]

brations, the Communist press devoted considerable space emphasizing the event and the important role played by this organization in the revolutionary movement in Canada since its inception twenty years ago.

4. Anti-Fascist Demonstrations.

(a) Montreal.

Approximately 300 people participated in an anti-Fascist demonstration at Montreal on April 1st. The demonstration was sponsored officially by the [deletion:2-3 words] League for Peace and Democracy in support of a delegation which was to call on the Italian Consul to protest against Italian intervention in Spain. The demonstrators gathered in twos and threes at the corner of St. Catherine and Stanley Streets and at a signal from the leaders, half a dozen banners were produced bearing slogans such as "Hands Off Spain," "Down with Fascist Murderers," etc. Police then interfered and broke up the demonstration. Five men were arrested: Evariste Dube, Quebec organizer of the Communist Party; Edward Dinelle, Y.C.L.; Sol Pomerantz, Y.C.L. organizer; Romeo Duval, C.P. organizer and Ernest Gervais, C.P. member.

(b) Toronto

A mass demonstration sponsored by the C.P. in Toronto on April 2nd against Fascist intervention in Spain, held in defiance of a city "no-parade" order, was frustrated by a squad of city police. Preceding the attempted parade a meeting was held at Queens Park, attended by approximately 500 people with Leith McMurray, Secretary of the C.P. for the City of Toronto, Alderman Stewart Smith, Provincial leader and member of the Central Committee, A.E. Smith and Norman Freed as speakers. The demonstrators planned to parade from Queens Park to the Italian Consulate where the leaders intended to present protest resolutions to the Consul. A few of the marchers, after the parade was broken up, succeeded in reaching the Italian consulate and Leith McMurray handed a resolution to man standing at the entrance who said that he was in charge; the man in charge proved to be a member of the plain clothes staff of the Toronto City Police. One man was arrested on a charge of obstructing the Police.

[4]

5. Strikes and Unrest Throughout Canada.

(i) Textile Strike at Cornwall, Ont.

On March 26th approximately 1,500 textile workers went on strike at the three mills of Canadian Cottons Ltd. at Cornwall, Ont. in protest against the action taken by the Company following the order of the Industry and Labour Board to pay a minimum of 32¢ an hour to adult male workers. The company took the stand that these men were doing "boy's work" and to comply with

the said order would be impossible; that to do so would put the company out of business. The company proposed that the men do additional work to get "adult wages." The strike lasted only two days. An agreement was signed which included recognition of the union and the granting of a "closed shop."

(ii) Artists Strike in Toronto.

The [~~deletion:2-3 words~~] Toronto Artist's Union called a strike at Bridgen's Ltd. on March 29th, involving 23 employees, following the refusal of the firm to negotiate renewal of the union agreement.

On April 4th the Executive Committee of the Union met with leaders of the C.P. of C. and decided to seek agreement with all printing shops in Toronto; the Union to act as the sole bargaining agency for the workers and should the demands be refused the Union will attempt to call a general strike of all artists in Toronto. On this date, 17 employees of the Rapid, Grip and Batten Ltd. were called out on strike as a further step towards forcing commercial art firms to negotiate with the Union.

(iii) Toronto Taxi Drivers contemplate strike action.

Five hundred Toronto taxi drivers voted on April 1st to present a strike ultimatum to the Toronto Taxicab Owners association. The leaders were given until noon, April 2nd, to answer a proposal for both factions to meet with the labour and industry board and establish a working code for the taxicab industry.

(iv) March to Ottawa proposal under consideration at
Vancouver.

A proposal to stage a trek on Ottawa is being considered by single unemployed in Vancouver. It appears that those interested

[5]

are individuals who have been released from project camps and who have been definitely cut off relief. Leading C.P. members and the executives of the Workers' Alliance at Vancouver are not supporting this proposal; they are in fact, much opposed to it. The proposal is favoured by the younger and more irresponsible element but it is very doubtful if a trek will actually materialize.

(v) Calgary relief recipients vote for strike action.

[~~deletion:1 line~~] to discuss the unemployed situation in that City. William Ainscough reported that a strike seemed certain. It was agreed to organize "shop parades" of unemployed during the strike, concentrating mainly on the Hudson's Bay Co. and T. Eaton Co. stores.

At a mass meeting of the unemployed held on the Red Square on March 27th, attended by approximately 600 people, several speakers contended that the Federal Government should be held responsible for the relief problem. E.C. Hopper stated that over 1,000 members of the Calgary Unemployed Union had voted for a strike; he also put the question of a strike to the meeting; the meeting voting unanimously in favour of strike action, the strike to commence April 1st.

Permission to bring action for an injunction to halt the City of Calgary from establishing a lower rate for the relief recipients, said to number 1,000, was sought by the Calgary Unemployed Union on April 1st. The Union, through its solicitor, has applied to the Provincial Minister of Trade and Industry for permission to start injunction proceedings in the courts; it also asked for establishment of a conciliation board to hear the dispute between the city and the unemployed. The solicitor for the Unemployed Union also stated that a mandamus will be sought to compel the city to continue the present relief quotas until a board of conciliation could hear and rule on the case of the unemployed.

(vi) Regina Unemployed hold Protest Meeting.

The Regina Union of Unemployed held a public meeting in the City Hall Auditorium on March 18th. Attended by about 1,400 people, it was held in protest against the registration of all unemployed and the proposed agreement between the Government and the municipal

[6]

authorities which is to come into force on March 31st. The speakers included Peter Mikkelson, Mayor A.C. Ellison, Alderman J.M. Toothill, J. McArdie, Mrs. F. Theodor and William Brown. Mikkelson stated that "we, as the organized unemployed, shall take a firm stand in this matter and support the City Council of the City of Regina to the limit." He termed the relief agreement of the Dominion Government "a bluff and should be called by the Union of Unemployed." Mayor Ellison, in a brief speech, remarked that the Unemployed situation was not quite as bad in Europe as it is in Regina and other points in Canada. He declared he would support any Party who will try to find a solution to unemployment. Alderman J.M. Toothill spoke along similar lines and suggested that the labour associations of the city of Regina present a resolution to the Government and in the event of having same ignored "we will be forced to take drastic action to support our demands."

The Regina Union of Unemployed and Saskatchewan Union of Unemployed are reported to be planning demonstrations protesting against the registration of relief recipients and proposed relief agreement.

(vii) Winnipeg "progressive" veterans plan March on Ottawa.

Plans for a march to Ottawa were discussed at a conference on March 29th, representative of the Veterans Security League, the Veterans Bonus League and the Coronation Branch of the Imperial Veterans. The proposal, apparently emanating from the Veterans Security League which was originally formed as a returned men's branch of the C.P., calls for a march to Ottawa early in the Summer. Demands which are to be submitted to the Federal Government are: Complete recognition by the Federal Government of all problems relating to Canadian Veterans; establishment of security for veterans who may be employed at present but may be thrown out of work in the near future; an allowance of \$1.00 a day for single Canadian Veterans and \$50 per month for married Canadian veterans plus allowance for children; legislation to provide that no veterans be classified as transients.

It was stated that veterans from other points would join in the march.

[7]

B. Fascism.

6. The National Social Christian Party

Observation of the activities of the National Social Christian Party in the Montreal area during the past month, indicates that, although no rapid strides are being made, the Party is steadily gaining in strength. Many meetings have been held during the period and the audiences, consistently numbering between three and four hundred people, have shown marked attention to the speakers and a high degree of enthusiasm. At each meeting the speakers and about forty members of the Party, appeared in the Fascist uniform. The speeches, at all the meetings, covered much the same ground in their condemnation of the present Canadian political system, communism, and Jews; and in their appeal for new members and funds for the Party.

At a meeting held at the St. Thomas D'Aquin Hall, St. Antoine St., on March 28th, the platform was occupied by Mr. Adrien Arcand, Mr. Gatien, Mr. Robillard, Dr. Lambert, Dr. Gosselin, Mr. Brunet and six speakers from St. Henri. In his opening remarks the zone secretary, Mr. Robillard, stressed the fact that the speakers for the evening were all residents of St. Henri to enlarge on the theme that the Party was of national origin, with no foreign background, and to compare it with the Russian inspired Communist Party and its practice of bringing in foreigners to speak at its meetings.

Mr. Arcand, speaking towards the end of the evening, stated that Mr. Anthony Eden is the brother-in-law of Litvinoff and a cousin of William

Wiseman, and is under the control of the Jews. A suggestion was made by Arcand that there is some connection between Teddy Bouchard, the Freemasons, and the burning of the Seminary at St. Hyacinthe, where forty-seven lives were lost.

Mr. Arcand had pleasure in announcing the successful fusion of the three great Fascist parties in Canada, and informed his audience that there was now one powerful, unified movement in the Dominion, with Mr. W. Whittaker as leader in the Western Provinces, and Mr. Joseph C. Farr in Toronto.

A comparison of the present condition of Germany and Italy, with the state of affairs which obtained previous to the rise to

[8]

power of Hitler and Mussolini, was made by Mr. Arcand, and he glorified the increasing prosperity and happiness of those two countries.

A meeting held at 2207 Mount Royal St. E. on April 3rd, was interrupted by a small number of persons, reputed to be Communists, and a slight fracas occurred; the situation was handled in a quiet and efficient manner by uniformed members of the N.S.C.P. When order was restored the speakers made much capital of the incident which, it was stated, had been planned at a meeting of the C.P., as was also the disturbance which had occurred at the corner of St. Catherine and Stanley Street, a few days previously. It was pointed out that such tactics were followed only by the C.P., and that the Fascists did not attempt to disrupt C.P. meetings but always followed the policy of the maintenance of law and order, the avoidance of trouble, and the following of peaceful methods.

Two uniformed members of the City Police were present at the next meeting, held at 5888 Papineau St., on April 4th. They were welcomed by Mr. Arcand, who said that the Party had no fear of conducting its affairs before police officials; but, he said, their presence was unnecessary as the Fascists could handle any troublemakers, and had a police organization of their own for that purpose.

Although the Party as a whole appears to be gaining in strength it is noted that the membership at St. Hyacinthe has decreased from eighty to forty, and that the movement is meeting with little sympathy in that district.

7. The Canadian Nationalist Party — Ontario.

Some success has been attained by this party in its recent membership campaign. Coupled with this campaign, attempts were made to enlist the sympathy of certain foreign elements and it is reported that a body of Ukrainian Nationalists will join the Party.

A public meeting is scheduled to take place in Toronto on April 11th, at which a number of party members will appear in blue shirts. It is understood that 300 such shirts have been distributed so far.

[9]

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES.

I. British Columbia.

8. Vancouver Branch of Canadian Labour Defence League liquidated.

The Canadian Labour Defence League at Vancouver has been liquidated and replaced by an organization similar to the Civil Liberties Union at Montreal. The property of the C.L.D.L., such as piano, chairs, desks and office furnishings was sold and the proceeds turned into C.P. funds, on the instructions of Tom Ewen. This action of Ewen will not go unchallenged, it is said, as a man named [deletion:1 word], a non-party member, had loaned a considerable amount of money to the C.L.D.L. before it was liquidated. [deletion:1 word] is said to have protested winding up the affairs of the C.L.D.L. on the grounds that it will be a necessary organization to fight possible legal battles for the relief camp men when they are cut off relief and stage demonstrations in the streets.

The C.P. in Vancouver is reported to be very short of funds. During the last two weeks leading functionaries have been able to draw only \$5. each.

II. Alberta.

9. Annie Buller in Alberta.

Annie Buller, Western Canadian representative of the Clarion, addressed approximately 300 people in the Park Hall, Medicine Hat, on March 22nd, on the subject of the Padlock Law in Quebec. At the conclusion of the meeting the anti-padlock law resolution was passed.

On March 27th, she was the principal speaker at a mass meeting of the C.P. of C. in the Variety Theatre at Calgary. On this occasion she spoke on the situation of Europe, charging that Great Britain was openly supporting Fascist dictators; she urged the formation of a strong united front against Fascism in Canada. She also accused Great Britain of sending spies into Russia, "paying millions of dollars every year, while children are going hungry in England." Others to address the meeting were Pat Lennihan and William Griffin, the

latter acting as Chairman. The attendance numbered approximately 600 people.

[10]

III. Saskatchewan.

10. Sam Carr speaks at Regina.

Sam Carr, National Organizational Secretary of the C.P. of C., addressed a C.P. mass meeting in the Regina City Hall Auditorium on March 22nd; his subject being "The European Crisis and what shall Canada do." Approximately 1,400 people attended. T.G. McManus acted as Chairman and Walter Wiggins, Ivan Birchard and Matt Shaw were seated on the platform. After presenting the usual Communist analysis of the world situation, Carr posed the question "What Shall Canada Do." "We have in Canada a Prime Minister," he declared, "who uses the same methods in International Affairs as Mr. Chamberlain." He charged that the Canadian Government is not co-operating with the Canadian people but is supporting the "die-hard" policy of the British Government.

IV. Ontario.

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