

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

OTTAWA, Ont.,
May 3rd, 1938.

SECRET

NO. 890

WEEKLY SUMMARY

REPORT ON COMMUNIST AND FASCIST ORGANIZATIONS
AND AGITATION IN CANADA

REPORT

This year's May Day was observed by the Communist element throughout Canada in the customary manner. With the exception of minor disturbances at Toronto and Montreal the various demonstrations staged throughout the country, although in some instances somewhat more enthusiastic and boisterous than in former years, were rather peaceful affairs. Denunciation of Quebec's padlock law; Japanese aggression in China; the policy of non-intervention in the Spanish Civil War pursued by Great Britain; the menace of Fascism and unemployment in Canada, formed the chief topics of most of the May Day speeches.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

A. Communism.

- 1. Tim Buck informs leaders of C.P. of C. Soviet Union will be at war with Germany and Japan before end of 1938.

[deletion: 1 line] stated that the Soviet Union will be involved in a war with Germany and Japan before the end of 1938. In spite of her vast resources, he said, the U.S.S.R. was unprepared for war because of consistent sabotage and treason. However, the entire economy of the Soviet Union was being mobilized on a war basis, and the more time she is allowed the greater her

ability will be to repel the combined attack of Germany and Japan, Buck declared.

Dealing with the task of the Canadian C.P. in shaping opinion for a bloc of non-fascist nations to halt "fascists aggression," Buck was convinced that the British Dominions could bring great pressure to bear upon the Government of Great Britain with a view to forcing it to line up with the non-fascist countries. In this respect, the Canadian C.P. was proceeding much too slowly, he declared. The tendency manifest in certain quarters of the Canadian Party to de-politicize its agitation and propaganda in trade unions, peace societies, etc., must be remedied immediately, Buck said, and the present Canadian Government must be criticized for supporting the Chamberlain Government. This, however, Buck declared, should not be over done for fear of creating support for "Canadian reactions" attacks on the Government. In this connection, he informed the meeting that Stewart Smith and himself were working on the speech which Smith was to deliver on Sunday, April 24th, over the C.B.C. network and that this speech would contain a public statement of the C.P.'s internal policy. Buck insisted that the C.P. must redouble its efforts for "governmental" and "people" action against the fascists in Canada, particularly in the Province of Quebec; further that the Party must intensify its work and propaganda for the preservation of democracy in Canada.

Buck also dealt at some length with the situation in the Communist Party of France. He said that more clarity was needed among communists in Canada on the tactical line pursued by the French Party. The French Party, he said, was in a difficult position. It had to

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consider the unity of the French people against foreign aggression and therefore could not divide the radical forces by trying to advocate concessions in the form of wages and hours for the radical working masses of France. If, he said, France were to be drawn into the orbit of a western European four power agreement, it would spell the end of the Franco-Soviet Pact of mutual assistance. This the French C.P. had to prevent at all costs.

The present international situation made it necessary for the C.P. of C. to be prepared for any eventualities, Buck declared. He urged that the policy of withdrawing leading Party members from industry for full time work in an organization be stopped immediately. "Communists employed in industry, he said, would increase in importance as time goes on."

Buck also touched upon the growth of the C.P. and emphasized the need of making the internal life of the C.P. more "Canadian" in order that the Party may succeed in retaining new members.

2. C.P. in Sydney launch new paper in opposition to the Steelworker.

Utilizing the facilities of Lodge 1064 (Amalgamated Iron, Tin and Steel Workers' Union) of the Steel Workers Organizing Committee at Sydney, N.S., the C.P. is now publishing a new paper entitled Union News in opposition to the Steelworker, published by M.A. MacKenzie, who is now considered a Trozkite and an enemy of the Party. The Union News appears as the official organ of organized steelworkers of Sydney, and is calculated to put MacKenzie's weekly out of business. The first issue of Union News appeared on April 9th; it was printed by D.N. Brodie of Glace Bay, and, although not all of the 1,500 copies were sold, the advertisements, which occupied approximately one third of the space, helped to meet the expenses of the initial issue. The paper is edited and managed by George MacEachern and John Johnson, [~~3/4 line~~].

3. Leslie Morris transferred to Vancouver, B.C.

Leslie Morris, who has spent the last year or so in the Province of Alberta, as the special representative of the Central

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Committee of the C.P. of C., lending assistance to the Provincial leadership, is reported to have arrived at Vancouver, accompanied by his wife, on April 14th. Present plans call for a two months stay, during which he is to supervise the activities of the Party in B.C. Tom Ewen, B.C. Provincial leader, has been granted two weeks leave of absence before returning to Toronto. It is intimated that Leslie Morris will take Ewen's place.

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5. More Canadian volunteers return from Spain.

Three more Canadians who were fighting in the ranks of the International Brigade in Spain have returned to Canada recently; [~~2 words~~] of Vancouver, [~~1-2 words~~] of Winnipeg and [~~1-2 words~~] of Toronto. It is expected that 30 more would be returning shortly, including [~~1 word~~] former Political Commissar of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion.

[~~deletion: 1 word~~] of Port Arthur, member of the Y.C.L. of C., is reported to have never reached Spain since leaving Canada in November, 1937. He is said to have been retained in Paris, working with the committee responsible for the movement (smuggling) of volunteers to and from Spain.

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6. Strikes and Unrest Throughout Canada.

(i) Violence marks Relief Strike at Calgary.

Calgary's relief recipients who came out on strike on April 6th clashed with non-strikers on April 19th, when 70 strike pickets invaded Memorial Park and forced eight non-strikers who were at work there to abandon their work. A second disturbance occurred on the 21st April when strike pickets marched from the Labour Temple to St. George's Island Park and there attacked the works' foreman and a bystander, carrying them bodily from the project with the warning "to stay away or be thrown into the river."

The plea of the strikers for a conciliation board to arbitrate the recently imposed reductions in civic relief quarters was rejected by the City Council in session on April 18th. E.C. Hopper, president of the Central Council of the Calgary Unemployed Union, appeared at this meeting as spokesman for a delegation appointed at a mass meeting of unemployed held earlier in the afternoon at the Red Square."

On April 20th, the City Council, in special session assembled, adopted a recommendation, submitted by Mayor Andrew Davison, which calls for deportation proceedings against all non-British strikers, including E.C. Hopper, allegedly a citizen of the United States. The City Council further decided that unless the strike is settled by June 1st, a new relief scale on the basis of \$3. a week lower than the present quota, will be instituted. The Council's recommendations also included discontinuance of relief work and adoption of a program of work for wages. The City Council further decided that relief recipients participating in the strike would be barred from obtaining civic jobs.

On April 22nd relief strikers went on a "shopping tour" in connection with which two of the demonstrators were arrested. The shopping tour followed a disturbance at Island Park earlier in the day when a group of 10 pickets attacked a works' foreman. The shopping tour, it is reliably reported, was planned and organized by C.P. leaders, who also constitute the majority in the leadership of the strike.

Addressing a meeting of approximately 1,200 of April 24th, E.C. Hopper, chairman of the meeting, urged "not a man on the job;

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every relief recipient out on picket line." Speakers at this meeting included S. Corey Campbell, chairman of the strike action committee, who was one of the individuals arrested in connection with the shopping tour and charged with being a member of an unlawful assembly.

On April 27th, E.C. Hopper, recognized leader of the strike, and 12 of his lieutenants were arrested on charges of unlawful assembly and vagrancy. They were arrested when attempting to lead a march through down-town Calgary against orders of the police. "The strike will continue if they arrest all of us, said Hopper adding that "if they had a gaol for all of us it is better than staying outside on starvation wages."

On April 28th, Police dispersed a parade of 200 pickets who were marching to St. George's Island Park where a few non-strikers were at work. Two pickets were arrested, including Ann Lenihan, wife of Pat Lenihan, prominent member of the Communist Party, and charged with unlawful assembly.

On the following day, 116 relief recipients were reported at work at various civic projects.

(ii) Vancouver Unemployed Demonstration.

A parade of over 2,000 unemployed men marched through Vancouver's main street on April 24th and wound their way to Powel St. grounds where speakers told them "that only by mass demonstrations, such as this, can we get action from the government." The crowd cheered R.W. Campbell when he said "let us pledge ourselves to fight for work and wages and not sit around and talk about it." Campbell, of the Relief Project Workers' Union, declared that every single unemployed man should send a telegram to Ottawa and demand action. E. Cumber, another member of the R.P.U. said the single unemployed will parade again to show the government that we have the right to the necessities of life." "We may possibly have to resort to other means and tactics which will compel the government to act," he declared.

(iii) Abolition of Relief Kitchens demanded at meeting of Edmonton Unemployed.

Abolition of community relief kitchens was demanded by

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speakers who addressed several hundred unemployed men at a meeting in the Market Square in Edmonton on April 17th. The meeting, held under the

auspices of the Northern Alberta Federation of Unemployed, was addressed by J. Cochrane, vice-president of the Unemployed Married Mens' Association, Jack Nicholson, Mrs. J. McPherson, on behalf of the Unemployed women in the city, and Jack Corrigan, spokesman of the Provincial Unemployed Married Men's Association.

(iv) Communist Alderman at Winnipeg urges
Unemployed to organize.

Addressing a meeting of the Single Mens' Unemployed Association in the Market Square at Winnipeg on April 24th, Alderman J. Penner urged the men to organize and demand .40¢ per hour and a 44 hour week on all road building projects.

It is reported that with the abolition of the farm placement scheme several hundred single men have returned to the city and are now waiting for work on the highways.

(v) Lakeview relief strikers arrested in
Legislative Building at Toronto.

Four members of a delegation of relief strikers who had marched from Lakeview district to Toronto threatening to camp in Queen's Park until relief grants were increased, were arrested in the Assembly Chamber of the Legislative Building on April 29th on orders from Premier Hepburn.

(vi) Toronto Taxi Drivers Strike ended.

An agreement between members of the Toronto Auto Livery Owners' Association and representatives of the Taxi Drivers' Union was signed on April 25th, thus terminating the strike which commenced on April 7th. The agreement is to remain in force for one year.

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B. Fascism.

7. The National Social Christian Party.

Although the numerical strength of the N.S.C.P. and its position in the attention of the general public appears to change but little, the enthusiasm of

the leaders and their assumption of importance continues unabated. The drive for new members is being energetically carried forward and intention of the Party to seek representation in the next general election is consistently affirmed by speakers at Party meetings which are held regularly.

Three public meetings have been held during the past three weeks and also several private or membership meetings. At the largest of the public meetings, held at the Dante Hall on April 24th, there were about seven hundred persons present. At each of the other two meetings the attendance numbered about one hundred and fifty persons. A public meeting scheduled to be held on April 28th had to be abandoned when the Town Council of Mount Royal cancelled a previously given permit.

There has been no disturbances at any of the meetings lately; but advantage has been taken by the uniformed Legionnaires of every incident or interruption to test the technique of their police or "protective" organization.

It was reported in the press that Arcand had interviewed a Crown Prosecutor seeking to interest the Attorney General's Department in the prosecution of a local newspaper under the Quebec Padlock Law. Later Arcand stated that the publication in question would be the first to be closed "the very night we are in power."

A report concerning the smuggling of arms into Canada from the U.S.A. by the N.S.C.P. has been given considerable prominence in the press of late. A full investigation has shown, however, that the allegation has no basis of fact. The origin of the rumour has been attributed to the Communist Party by the N.S.C.P.; the Fascists claiming that it is evidence of the Communist plan to discredit the N.S.C.P. in every possible way.

It has been reliably reported that the Valleyfield Branch

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of the Party is planning a "concentration" or meeting at Toronto, where it is intended to establish a camp for a period of three weeks.

8. The Canadian Union of Fascists, Western Branch —
Regina, Sask.

Activities of the Western Branch of the Canadian Union of Fascists at Regina are practically at a standstill owing to lack of finances. Some of the members are said to have expressed themselves in favour of a fusion with Arcand's organization but Kratzer, leader of the group, has consistently opposed such a move.

[~~3~~deletion:2-3 words] of Toronto who is described as the General Secretary of the C.U.F., is said to have insisted that if at all possible a candidate

should be entered in the forthcoming Saskatchewan Provincial election in Wilkie Constituency, where, it is claimed the Party has gained some footing. Nothing definite has been done, however, respecting the nomination of a C.U.F. candidate and it is generally expected that [~~deletion: 1 word~~] scheme will have to be abandoned because of lack of financial assistance.

9. The Canadian Nationalist Party — Winnipeg.

The Canadian Nationalist Party at Winnipeg is reported to be making little, if any, progress. A meeting held at 212 St. Mary's Ave. on April 26th, is said to have been attended by 35 people as compared with an attendance of 25 at the previous meeting. There is talk of a new man assuming the leadership of the party owing to Whittaker's absence from the movement on account of illness. No name has been mentioned so far and there does not appear to be anyone available who is outstanding enough to take his place.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. Ontario.

10. Toronto Communists acclaim Tim Buck on his return from Europe.

Approximately 3,000 persons attended a Communist Party mass rally in Massey Hall, Toronto, on 19th April to welcome Tim Buck on his return from Europe.

Greetings were presented by a number of speakers on behalf of the various communist controlled organizations, and Sam Carr, Chairman of the meetings, gave a great eulogy of the communist leader, depicting him as the most outstanding and "wise leader of the working class in the history of Canada.

When Tim Buck moved to the speaker's table, the audience stood up and greeted him with prolonged applause and the customary communist salute. Buck commenced his speech by greeting the 2,000 members of the C.P. in Toronto. He then went on to describe the impression he had gathered in the course of his four months tour of Europe, during which he visited Spain, France, U.S.S.R. and England, the sum and substance of which was "general preparedness for war." He condemned the foreign policy of the British Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain; he charged that through his agreement with Italy the Prime Minister had completed his systematic betrayal of Spain." Buck gave a glowing account of what

he saw in, and the leaders of the U.S.S.R. He spoke of the most magnificent display of mechanized armed force which he had witnessed in the Soviet Union, remarking, "in the midst of all the war-fever and treacherous betrayals only one great power stands firm and unwavering in defence of peace, the socialistic fatherland of the working class."

Two resolutions were presented to the meeting and passed unanimously. One, in the form of a cable to Michael Kalinin, President of the U.S.S.R., approved of the policy of the Soviet Union with regard to the trial of the Bukharin-Rykov group and approving of the sentences passed by the Court. The cable, containing over 500 words, read in part;

"We, 3,500 citizens of democratic Canada.....hail the stubborn struggle that the Soviet Union is putting up for peace, and heartily agree with the sentences imposed on Bukharin and his fellow criminals....The way your people and courts have

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dealt with these Fascist agents is an object lesson to all Canadian progressives in the fight to save Canadian democracy. We ask you to convey our best wishes to Comrade Joseph Stalin. Long may he live to lead the Soviet people to ever greater victories. Long may he live to bring confusion and dismay to the Fascists and reactionaries all over the world."

The other resolution was addressed to President Negrin of Spain and pledged on behalf of the Canadian labour movement and all progressive opinions "to increase one-hundred-fold our work to compel the King-Government to lift the embargo to Spain, to supply arms to aid you in your fight and to break from the pro-Fascist policy of Chamberlain."

The communists seem greatly perturbed at the decision of the Toronto Public School Board in refusing the Canadian Youth Congress permission to use the facilities of a Toronto school for its annual congress, scheduled to take place during the latter party of May. Because of recent exposure of communist control and tactics within the congress the C.P. does not desire a discussion on this question. They plan, however, to redouble their efforts to use influential connections to gain other facilities and thus avoid any public issue on the matter of Communism in the Youth Congress.

II. Quebec.

11. Montreal Communists prepare for local Youth Congress.

Dave Kashtan reporting to a recent meeting of the Trade Union Commission of the Communist Party at Montreal stressed the importance of having a large representation from the trade unions present at the Quebec Youth Congress. He urged the commission to send out a special call to all C.P. members who are members of trade unions and urge upon them the importance of taking the matter up with their respective unions in order to insure their affiliation to the Youth Congress. He further stated that a special meeting of all C.P. members who are members of the Youth Congress would be held at the youth centre hall, 4093 St. Lawrence Blvd., on May 5th, at which the necessary resolutions would be prepared for submission to the Youth Congress.
