

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

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WEEKLY SUMMARY

REPORT ON COMMUNIST AND FASCIST ORGANIZATIONS
AND AGITATION IN CANADA

The XIIIth Plenum of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Canada opened at the Don Hall, 957 Broadview Avenue, Toronto, on June 2nd with fifty official delegates and several hundred guests (leading party members and trade union officials) in attendance. Foreign delegates present included Earl Browder, General Secretary of the Communist Party of the U.S.A. and Blas Roca, Secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

A. Communism.

I. Communist Party to renew recruiting Volunteers
for Spanish Loyalist Army.

It is reliably reported that recruiting for Spain will be resumed in Canada immediately after the Communist Party Plenum which opened in Toronto on June 2nd. Recruiting will be restricted to single men of good physique with previous military training, and who are proven anti-Fascists of a reliable type. [deletion:2 words] is to be in charge.

At a meeting of the National Committee of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion held at Toronto, May 25th, it was resolved to intensify agitation with a view to raising \$1,500 per month in cash for comforts for the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion in Spain; five hundred dollars of this amount to be used for "rehabilitation" work for volunteers returning to Canada who are in need of aid. The meeting was informed that over 100 wounded and crippled

Canadians will be returning to Canada from Spain during the next three months.

It was decided to place [~~3~~deletion:1 word] former Political Commissar of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion in Spain, in charge of the rehabilitation work, and grade the returning men as follows:

Grade A — Fit for work — Will be given \$25 and railroad fare to their homes.

Grade B — Sick or partially disabled — Will be given \$25 plus medical care and two weeks rest in a Toronto Labour Summer Camp.

Grade C — Including those who lost a limb, an eye or received internal injuries, will be given \$6 weekly plus medical care until able to find work that they can do.

Grade D — Permanently disabled — Will be given medical attention plus \$6 weekly as long as needed.

The meeting also decided to start a campaign to have the Canadian Government accept responsibility for the care of these men.

2. Lithuanian Communists conclude successful membership campaign.

The Canadian Executive Committee [~~3-4~~deletion:3-4 words] American Lithuanian Workers' Literary Association recently concluded a drive for new members throughout Canada with the following results:

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<u>BRANCH</u>		<u>QUOTA</u>	<u>NEW MEMBERS ENROLLED</u>
<u>No.</u>	<u>Location</u>		
95	Kapuskasing, Ont.	4	9
217	Winnipeg, Man.	13	22
130	Weston, Ont.	4	6
47	Montreal, P.Q.	30	40
137	Montreal, P.Q.	30	39
45	Vancouver, B.C.	4	5
15	Fort William, Ont.	8	9
152	Red Lake, Ont.	4	4
21	Windsor, Ont.	3	4
137	Nanaimo, B.C.	2	2
69	Lethbridge, Alta.	4	4
100	Timmins, Ont.	5	2

96	Sudbury, Ont.	6	3
18	Edmonton, Alta.	5	21
162	Toronto, Ont.	25	7
113	Hamilton, Ont.	4	
139	Colman, Alta. (New branch)		12
120	Hillcrest-Bellevue, Alta. (New branch)		16
	Total —	<u>150</u>	<u>205</u>

Liaudes Balsas (Peoples' Voice), official organ of the above named society, published at Toronto, is now appearing twice weekly. This is further evidence of the steady growth of the Communist movement in this country.

3. Communist Agitation among Doukhobours.

The Communists, through Kanadsky Gudok (Canadian Whistle), are at present carrying on a campaign among the Doukhobours with a view to persuading them to collect money and finance a delegation to the U.S.S.R. This agitation is particularly strong in the Blaine Lake, Saskatchewan, District. A general conference is to be held on June 30th, the day after the usual St. Peter's Day celebration, when the question of sending a delegation of Doukhobours to Russia will be settled.

4. Croatian Communists from U.S.A. active in Canada.

The Hrvatska Bratska Zajednica (Croatian Fraternal Association), ostensibly a mutual benefit society and one of the principal [deletion:3-4 words] mass organizations of Croatians operating in North America, is at present engaged in a campaign for new members throughout Canada. Petrak, a high official of the H.B.Z. and editor of Zajednicar, official organ of the said organization, published at Pittsburgh, Pa., speaking at a mass meeting at Toronto on May 26th,

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stated that the organization in Canada has now 2,270 adult members and 1,408 young people organized in the junior section. He claimed that it was within the real of possibility to organize 20,000 Croatians in Canada.

Speaking at a local membership meeting at Edmonton on May 29th, John D. Butkovich, of Pittsburgh, Pa., President of the H.B.Z., now touring Canada, asserted that the Association has now approximately 100,000 members in

good standing and possession of a \$10,000,000. organization fund. He appealed to all immigrants from Jugo-Slavia to become members of the association and extend the "great tradition and work of the association." Following an outline of the history of the association, he condemned the present government of Jugo-Slavia and Fascism in general. The usual resolution, protesting "police terror and suppression of the common people in Jugo-Slavia," was adopted by the meeting and ordered to be sent to the Jugo-Slav Government.

5. The Communist Party and the Office Workers' Union.

[~~deletion:1 3/4 lines~~], stated that he, together with four others from Canada attended the convention of Office and Professional Workers' International Union (C.I.O.), held at Washington, D.C. recently. The convention, he said, was attended by 300 delegates, represented 18,000 organized workers. Among those attending from Canada were himself [~~deletion:3/4 line~~] Communist member of the Public School Board at Toronto. He alleged that the Canadian situation was fully discussed by the C.P. "fraction" operating within the International Union and it was decided that the Canadian Office and Professional Workers' Unions affiliate to the International as soon as it could possibly be done and that once this affiliation is accomplished a conference of all unions affected should be held. The unions affected are: Office Workers' Union of Montreal; Artists' Union of Montreal; Artists' Union of Ottawa; Artists' Union of Toronto; Office and Store Employees' Union of Toronto and the Industrial Insurance Agents' Union

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of Montreal. The conference then will map out plans for a national campaign which will be financed by the International Office, he said. [~~deletion:1 word~~] further stated that the Toronto and Ottawa locals of the said unions will discuss affiliation within a few days. He urged the local Trade Union Commission to permit the local Office Workers' Union to affiliate immediately (the local Industrial Insurance Agents are already affiliated and are in possession of an International Charter).

After a lengthy discussion on [~~deletion:1 word~~] report, the Commission agreed that it would be very good for the unions affected if they were to affiliate but for the sake of unity within the local Trades and Labour Council it was not deemed advisable to bring about this affiliation at the present time. [~~deletion:1 word~~] was instructed to get in touch with leading union officials in Montreal and sound them out as to their opinion on the question of the office workers breaking away from the A.F. of L. and affiliate to the C.I.O. Should the response be favourable the affiliation will be carried through, otherwise

things must remain as they are for the present. In the discussion [§deletion:1 word] stated that Brophy, General Organizer of the C.I.O., will be in Montreal shortly to discuss Trade Union conditions with the local leaders and urged that they attempt, through Brophy, to bring the aforesaid affiliation about as quickly as possible.

Discussing the local trade union situation, [§deletion:1 word] declared that the Steel Workers' Union (C.I.O.) at Montreal, has completely fallen to pieces, the majority of contracts lost and the office closed for the time being. This union, he said, had at one time a membership of over 1,000 and blamed the C.P. for allowing the union to fall to pieces in so short a time. He asserted that no attempt can be made to re-organize this union for the time being, every effort must be made to build shop groups of the C.P. in each plant where there are C.P. members employed. He mentioned the Pecks Rolling Mills, the Warden King, the Canada Car and the Canadian Tube plants as places of concentration. The meeting generally agreed with the report submitted by [§deletion:1 word]

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6. Strikes and Unrest throughout Canada.

(i) The unemployed single men at Vancouver.

The unemployed situation in Vancouver remains unchanged with the single unemployed still in possession of the Post Office lobby and the Vancouver Art Gallery. Leaders of the demonstrators continue to state that they have no intention of vacating these two buildings.

On May 31st a mass meeting of various women's organizations was held to which Mayor Miller and some of the Aldermen were invited, the result of which was the formation of a Women's Emergency Committee to keep contact with the "sit-down" strikers and ensure continued food supply in order that they may hold out indefinitely.

On June 1st, following a meeting held on the night before, over 100 single men resumed "tin-canning" on the streets in the downtown area, regardless of the fact that City Police had threatened to confiscate cans and contents instead of merely arresting individuals so engaged. City Police patrols immediately removed them to the City Police Station where the tin-cans were taken from them, their names and addresses recorded and, after having been informed that they would probably be summoned to appear in Court, released. John Matts had previously boasted that he would continue to send out men as fast as they were removed from the streets.

One June 2nd a number of single unemployed appeared on the streets with tin-cans but instead of begging for money in the usual manner, they offered for sale, at 10¢ each, tickets to a "soft-ball" game, scheduled for June 14th. This, they believed, would be permissible and within the law. The City Police, however, appeared on the scene, confiscated their tin-cans, money and unsold tickets, and removed them from the streets, booking them for future prosecution. Following this incident Matts endeavoured to send out another group to carry on with the campaign but some of the unemployed refused to go out, stating that they saw no reason why they should do so and be arrested.

According to reliable information, considerable dissension has arisen within the ranks of those occupying the two buildings. The group at the Art Gallery held a meeting amongst themselves on

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June 2nd, in the course of which the disposition of the monies collected on their behalf was critically questioned. At a meeting held in the Post Office on the same night, Campbell suggested that they should sell picture post cards of themselves on the streets instead of "tin-canning." This, he said, would be legal and the police, therefore, would not be able to interfere. He told the gathering that the Unemployed Loggers and Waterfront Workers were rapidly organizing to assist them in bringing pressure to bear on the authorities. He also informed the men that he had received communications from points in the Prairie Provinces which indicated that a "sit-down" strike would soon be started in other cities.

Recent reports would indicate that members of the International Woodworkers' and the Lumber and Sawmill Workers' Union who are unemployed at the present time, are being organized along the same lines as the single unemployed, on a platoon system. It is alleged that there are now approximately 1,000 men so organized and that some attempt will be made by the single mens' leaders and the Workers' Alliance to obtain their active assistance in the present sit-down strike at the Post Office and the Art Gallery.

Despite rigorous police action over 100 men went out on the streets again on June 3rd in an attempt to renew "tin-canning." Over 50 were picked up by the City Police and taken to the Police Station after their cans and contents had been confiscated. They were released after having been booked for future prosecution.

Over the week-end the Single Unemployed Men's Organization continued to "tin-can" in the down-town section of the city. The Police, following their policy, arrested over one hundred and took their cans and contents from them. All were released except thirty-nine who were held in custody and are awaiting hearing.

Collections by "tin-canning" and other methods are said to approximate \$100 per day. This sum would seem sufficient to permit the two groups in the public buildings to continue their demonstration for a further indefinite period, especially since the number of single men out on the streets is diminishing day by day. Groups of men are seen to be leaving the city every day, mostly on East bound

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freight trains. There are also indications that many of the demonstrators, having become dissatisfied, have left the buildings during the past few days.

(Newspaper Clipping)

(ii) Lumber Workers Strike at Timmins.

Approximately 175 lumber and sawmill workers came out on strike at Timmins on the morning of May 31st. With their property surrounded by strike pickets, owners of the three lumber mills declared, shortly after the walk-out, that they will close down for an indefinite period. However, a settlement was affected and the strikers returned to work on June 7th.

(iii) Seamen's Union enforces tie-up in Cornwall Canal.

During the morning of June 5th, 1938, a mob of men, numbering about one hundred, led by Pat Sullivan, President of the Canadian Seamen's Union and a member of the Communist Party, forcibly instituted a strike on the steamship "Damia," then proceeding through the Cornwall Canal. Boarding the vessel when it was moored in Lock 15, Sullivan and his gang literally threw off those members of the crew who refused to join the strike. This action resulted in the blocking of the waterway by the "Damia;" the suspension of operations along the canal and the tying up of thirty lake vessels. Claiming discrimination against the C.S.U. in favour of the Brotherhood of Steamship Employees Union by the owners of the "Damia," Inland Lines Limited and two other companies, Sullivan brought the "strongarm" party from Montreal to seize the vessel and enforce his demands. Taking an extremely truculent and high-handed attitude, when in conference with officials, Sullivan eventually agreed to the moving of the vessel to an adjacent basin, which permitted a fifty per cent operation of the canal during the following day. A settlement of all matters in dispute between the C.S.U. and the three companies was made on June 7th and normal operation of the canal was resumed during the afternoon.

Members of the R.C.M.P. and the Ontario Provincial Police were on hand in case of necessity but no police action was required during the dispute.

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B. Fascism.

7. The National Social Christian Party.

Speaking at a meeting of secretaries of the various branches comprising the North West Zone of the National Social Christian Party at Montreal on May 23rd, Gatien, Director of the Committee of Orators, explained the recent expulsion from the Party of Dr. Lambert, Regretting Dr. Lambert's action in organizing a group of supporters around him in an endeavour to make himself Deputy Chief of the Party, Gatien charged that Lambert refused to recognize the authority vested in the Provincial Secretary of the Party — Hugue Clement — and considered himself equal in rank to Adrian Arcand. Gatien alleged that Lambert had actually planned with his group of followers to go to general headquarters of the Party, seize control by throwing out Clement and having done so, go to Arcand and compel him to submit to his conditions. Arcand, however, got wind of his plans and acted immediately by expelling all those interested in the plot, Gatien declared. He urged all members to remain loyal to the cause and carry on with the work of the Party under the leadership of Arcand.

A number of secretaries spoke, some of them stating that it would take approximately three weeks to find out the effect Arcand's action in expelling Lambert would have on the membership of the Party in their respective localities. All promised to explain to the members to real cause of the trouble and to see that no members will quit the Party!

On May 24th Major Scott, speaking at a meeting of officers of the Legion at 903 St. Zotique St, said that Dr. Lambert "had acted like a perfect fool" Arcand, he declared, had spent 15 years of his life working on the "programme" and forming the Party which was "gaining strength day by day." Scott felt sure that the officers of the Legion would stand by him and pledge their loyalty to Arcand. Scott then had all the officers present pledge, on oath, loyalty to Arcand. Declaring that Arcand is a poor man, but "if he wanted to have riches, he could attain them over-night," Scott asserted that if some day he were to discover that Arcand as "a thief or anything else" he would still stand by him because he was the founder of a great cause, which

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would always be to his credit.

Arcand's action in expelling Lambert was also upheld by a Mr. Papineau who maintained that he had know Dr. Lambert as a good fighter for many

years, "but he was a very stubborn man, always wanting to do things his own way."

On May 23rd the new hall for the North Zone, located at 903 St. Zotique St., was officially opened with approximately 70 members, most of them in uniform, in attendance. It was announced that drilling would be carried on twice weekly. Owing to various difficulties, work in this particular area had been neglected but plans are said to be now underway to recover some of the lost ground. Each ward is being reorganized and new officers elected where necessary.

On June 5th the N.S.C.P. at Montreal held an open-air meeting at St. Gertrude and Boulevard Gouin with approximately 300 people present. Several speakers, including Adrian Arcand, addressed the gathering, extolling the virtues of Fascism. Arcand, in this usual tirade against democratic government, described democracy as the child of free-masonry. "Democracy," he said, "is being condemned by the greatest politicians of today; democracy is a rotten apple and the Fascist people do not want any part of it." "The Fascists," he continued, "desire a form of government owned by the people and not by the big Jewish controlled trusts."

At a meeting of officers and members of the North West Zone of the Party held on June 6th, Gatiem condemned as totally unfounded rumours that he was preparing to leave the Party. He declared that these rumours were being circulated by the Jews in their attempt to "overthrow a force dangerous to their rule." Other speakers dealt with the preparations for the convention to be held at St. Thomas d'Aquin Hall on June 20th.

It has been learned that those who have been expelled from the Party are contemplating forming a separate body. J.E. Lessard, one of the leaders of the unfaithful and who seems very bitter towards Arcand, is reported to have remarked recently that Arcand had mislead them into believing that the Party had a membership of many thousands "Whom it only had in the neighborhood of 1,6000 dues-paying members and

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approximately 1,400 Legionnaires." So far there has been little activity displayed by the opposition groups.

Members of the Italian Fascio cannot hold membership in the N.S.C.P. It has been ascertained that members of the Fascio who had joined the N.S.C.P. were recently refused renewal of their membership in the Fascio.

8. Communists interfere with Fascist meeting in Toronto.

On the evening of June 3rd, approximately 300 communists and anti-fascists gathered in front of Princess Hall, Bloor St., Toronto, determined to break-up a meeting of the Canadian Union of Fascists, scheduled for that evening. John Ross Taylor, one of the leaders of the Union of Fascists and others, upon attempting to enter the hall, were met with a barrage of rotten vegetables and in the melee that ensued several members of the City Police force were slightly injured. The demonstrators were eventually dispersed and several arrests were made.

9. Finances of Canadian Nationalist Party at Toronto at low ebb.

The finances of the Canadian Nationalist Party at Toronto, under the leadership of Joseph C. Farr, appear to be at a very low ebb, and although applications for membership continue to arrive daily, hardly any attempt is being made at anything approaching proper organization or recruiting.

The Party is finding it very difficult to procure a hall for meeting purposes. It is reported that although a deposit had already been made to the manager of a hall situated at Queen Street and Dover Court Road for a meeting to be held June 6th, Farr was advised by the manager that he could not let him have the hall as "he did not want to have the hall wrecked and the furniture broken." The proprietor apparently hinted that the Communist Party intends to prevent Farr from holding the meeting. Meanwhile, attempts to secure some other suitable hall have failed and Farr is said to be in a very distracted condition.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES.

I. British Columbia.

10. Communist Aid not wanted by C.C.F.

Assistance proffered by the Communists in the Dewdney bye-election, was courteously but firmly refused by the C.C.F. in British Columbia. There are elements, it is said, in practically all C.C.F. groups who are opposed to unity with the C.P., except on the question of unemployment.

The manoeuver of Leslie Morris to have a photo taken with Alderman Helena Gutteridge, each with a tin-can, on unemployed tag-day, May 14th, is the subject of much adverse criticism inside the C.C.F., the general opinion being that there were enough unemployed to do their own collecting. The picture was apparently taken to illustrate the harmony or unity existing between the C.P. and the C.C.F.

[~~deletion:2 words~~] a prominent Ukrainian Communist, returned to Vancouver on May 19th, after an organizational tour in the interior of the Province amongst foreign-born miners. To an intimate he stated that he did not have a very successful trip and was forced to return before he had planned.

II. Saskatchewan.

11. C.P. leaders at Regina assisting in Provincial election campaign.

The Communist Party has concentrated a number of prominent Party leaders at Regina for the purpose of lending support in the present Provincial election campaign. Among those sent there are P. Prokopchak, Assistant Editor of the Narodna Gazeta (People's Gazette), Party organ published at Winnipeg in the Ukrainian language, who has been very active among the Ukrainians in Regina addressing meetings, and Leslie Morris, member of the Central Committee of the Party. The latter has also addressed numerous meetings.

III. Ontario.

12. Todowymazu Conference at Toronto.

The Toronto District of the Todowymazu (Society for Assisting the Liberation Movement in West Ukraine), a subsidiary of the

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Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association, held a conference on May 28th and 29th at 143 Berkeley Street, Toronto, with about 40 delegates and approximately 50 members representing the various sections of the organization in attendance. The conference decided to divide the organization into three branches, viz., Society for Assisting Political Prisoners in the Bukovina-Bessarabia; Society for Assisting Political Prisoners in Poland and other Slav countries and Society for Assisting the Liberation Movement in Western Ukraine. The latter is to act as the parent body and will direct the activities of the other two branches. It was generally agreed that it will be easier to organize foreigners in one of these branches and by a gradual spread of propaganda to eventually persuade them to join the C.P. proper or its subsidiary, the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association. It was further decided to raise \$1,000 during the next six months, twenty-five per cent of which is to be sent to the

political prisoners in Slav countries of Europe and the other Seventy-five per cent to be used for communist propaganda among foreigners in Canada, particularly among textile workers of foreign origin in Ontario. It was also decided to form a youth section of Todowymazu in order to interest the younger element.

Strong opposition was voiced to the Ukrainian War Veterans' Association, an affiliate of the Ukrainian Nationalist Federation, which recently acquired a building at Queen St., and Dover Court Rd., Toronto. It was claimed that this particular organization is being financed by German money and directed by German Government agents in Toronto. In this regard the conference passed a resolution addressed to the Dominion Government demanding a full investigation into the activities of the War Veterans' Association. A committee was also formed by the conference to assist men returning from Spain. The usual resolutions, such as protesting the Quebec Padlock Law, etc., were passed by this conference.

IV. Quebec.

13. C.P. Conference at Montreal told membership of Province in Quebec increased.

[~~deletion:1 line~~]

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[~~deletion:1 1/2 lines~~] The hall for this meeting was booked in the name of a fictitious organization called "Current Events Club." Stanley Ryerson, Provincial Secretary, presented the Clarion Drive Trophy to the Section for having obtained the highest mark in the recent Clarion Sustaining Fund Drive. [~~deletion:2 lines~~] reported that the membership of the section has increased by 32 and that the Party in Quebec Province has acquired 300 new members, the bulk of whom are French Canadians. "We no longer speak of the Party's membership in Montreal, but as that of the Province of Quebec," she said. "We have begun with encouraging success to branch out into other sections of the Province." [~~deletion:7 1/4 lines~~] Speaking of the task of the section, she stated that its main task is to strengthen the trade unions and the Party's influence therein. "Our approach to the Catholic French Canadians should be made on the basis of their needs and religious aspirations," she declared, "and we must forever get it out of our heads that the Catholics are reactionary." Speaking of recruiting, she declared that it was the permanent duty of each and every member of the Party. In conclusion, she emphasized the necessity for vigilance, both within and without the Party.