
 ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

 OTTAWA, Ont.,
 June 21st, 1938.
SECRET

NO. 894

WEEKLY SUMMARY
REPORT ON COMMUNIST AND FASCIST ORGANIZATIONS
 AND AGITATION IN CANADA

[deletion: 1/3 page]

APPENDICES
APPENDIX NO. I: GENERALA. Communism.

Par. No. 1. Committee to aid Loyalist Spain opens special ten-day campaign.

Objective: \$10,000

" " 2. The C.I.O. in Canada.

Canada to be autonomous district of S.W.O.C. with regional office in Toronto.

Toronto Artists affiliate to C.I.O.

" " 3. Communists disappointed in results of Saskatchewan Provincial election.

" " 4. Strikes and Unrest Throughout Canada.

(i) Unemployment situation at Vancouver.

"Sit-downers" ejected from public buildings. Many receive injuries in clash between police and demonstrators. Many windows broken by rioters; 22 arrested; large demonstration at pier in support of delegation to Victoria; Workers' Alliance at Vancouver active organizing Provincial Federation of Unemployed.

(ii) Sawmill Workers strike at Blubber Bay, B.C.

(iii) New Relief Regulations attacked at Winnipeg Conference.

B. Fascism.

- “ ” 5. The National Social Christian Party.
 Expulsion of Dr. Lambert et al shows effect on membership.
 Smuggling of arms denied by expelled leader.
 Italian element form distinct section of party.
 Alderman Stewart Smith addressed open-air rally in
 Toronto accusing Arcand of smuggling arms.
- “ ” 6. The Canadian Nationalist Party — Toronto.
 Hold meeting attended by five militia men who
 claim membership in party.
 Farr is becoming more arrogant and as a result disliked
 by some members of party — party suffers from shortage
 of funds.

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES.

- “ ” 7. Manitoba
 Winnipeg Single Unemployed Men form new union.
- “ ” 8. Ontario.
 Tim Buck speaks at London, Ont., mass meeting.
 Clash between Ukrainian Nationalists and Communists at
 Sudbury.
- “ ” 9. Quebec.
 C.P. to open provincial school.
 Meeting of C.P. Trade Union Commission at Montreal.

APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL.

A. Communism.

1. Committee to aid Loyalist Spain opens special
ten-day campaign.

A Dominion-wide ten-day campaign, initiated by the Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy, to raise \$10,000 for Loyalist Spain, opened on June 10th. Local committees throughout the country have been requested to make every effort to raise funds through special appeals to the churches, labour unions and other organizations sympathetic to the cause. According to the campaign literature, released by the National Committee at Toronto, the money will be

used to purchase 50,000 quarts of milk and 20,000 meals for the orphans of Spain.

The local committee at Edmonton, through influential people connected with league work, directly or indirectly, will approach the City Commissioners and ask for permission to hold a tag-day in aid of the Spanish people. The tag-day is to be held as soon as possible.

At Brandon, Man., the Mayor of the City is reported to have granted the local committee permission to hold a tag-day.

The National Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy at Toronto is aiming to utilize the members of the Canadian delegation, at present in Spain, upon their return to Canada. It is planned to arrange an all-Canada-tour for them, the main purpose of which will be to raise funds for the committee. It is said that an Anglican Minister is included in the delegation headed by Professor Vlastoff of Queen's University.

2. The C.I.O. in Canada.

The Ontario Steel Workers' Organizing Committee held a conference at Toronto on June 12th with 60 delegates in attendance. Silby Barrett, Canadian director of the S.W.O.C. announced that Canada has been established as a distinct regional district of the S.W.O.C with its own autonomy. A Dominion regional office will be opened on July 1st at Toronto from which date full power will be vested in the Canadian officers to be elected to shape the union's course in meeting organizational requirements in Canada.

Dick Steele, Toronto regional secretary, spoke of the achievements of the S.W.O.C. during the two years since its formation and praised the "splendid co-operation received from the S.W.O.C. head-

[2]

office at Pittsburgh." Stressing the need of promoting unity, Steele urged the conference to prepare a good representation to the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada, to insist that the ranks of Canadian labour remain solid. Harry Hunter, assistant regional director for Canada, said the S.W.O.C. had won a prominent place among the steel workers of Hamilton and had made progress "in spite of the spying and repression carried on by employers."

George Watson, President of the Toronto District Trades and Labour Council, congratulated the S.W.O.C. for its success and appealed for maintenance of unity in the trade union movement. "This cleavage must be mended," he declared, referring to the dispute between the A.F. of L. and C.I.O. unions in the United States of America.

The conference passed several resolutions calling for trade union unity, against the use of civic police or provincial special police "as agents for employers," and for Federal legislation guaranteeing the right to bargain collectively. Another resolution called for the disallowance by the Dominion Government of the Quebec Padlock Law.

The Toronto Artists' Union, by secret ballot last week, decided to apply for affiliation to the Committee for Industrial Organization, it was announced by John Weir, prominent Communist and business agent of the union. The artist's Union will apply at once to the United Office and Professional Workers' of America for a charter, he said, and a Canadian conference of artist's locals will be called by the local union some time in July or August in which, it is expected, locals in Montreal, Hamilton and Winnipeg, will participate. He further stated that a proposal has been made that the name of the union be changed to United Canadian Artists.

3. Communists disappointed in results of Saskatchewan Provincial Election.

The result of the balloting in Saskatchewan's Provincial election on June 8th offered little encouragement to the Communist Party of Canada. The party, pursuing a "united front" policy, had no official candidate in the field, and the only Communist entered was T.G. McManus, who ran as a Labour-Progressive along with Rev. Sam East

[3]

in Regina constituency. Out of 33,000 on the voter's list, approximately 28,300 people cast their ballots in Regina. Four thousand voted Labour Progressive; East receiving 4,048 votes and McManus 4,073. The Independent-Labour candidates, Mayor Ellison and Connon, received 5,086 and 1,957 votes respectively, while the Social credit candidate, Crawford, obtained 1,176 votes.

In view of the fact that considerable publicity was given, particularly by Mayor Ellison in his election speeches, to the machinations of the C.P. in the Labour-Progressive Association which has been openly described and referred to as the C.P. in disguise, it may be assumed that the vote cast for the two Labour-Progressive candidates was predominantly communist or communistically inclined — which means that there are approximately 4,000 people in Regina who are Communists or at least sympathetic to the Communist cause.

Discussing the results of the election, the Daily Clarion, central organ of the C.P. of C., editorially remarks: "Saskatchewan's general election on June 8th came at a time when the class relations in Canada are undergoing a process of shifting and realignment." It goes on to say:

(1) "The Liberal Party vote was reduced and the Tory vote of 1935 was cut in half — to the point where for the second successive election not a single Tory candidate was returned.

(2) The votes cast for the C.C.F., Social Credit, Labour-Progressive and unity candidates were numerous enough to elect a slim majority of candidates, if unity had been reached in a majority of constituencies."

Deploring this lack of unity the editorial concludes: "A general election is already on the horizon." "The Progressives of Saskatchewan have a duty to perform for the whole country — to at once come together to discuss the plans for the Federal election so that at the crucial moment in the history of Canada the Saskatchewan people will be given the leadership to achieve the defeat of the Hepburn-Duplessis alliance and the Gardiner machine, and to strike out of national unity and security which the voters of half the electorate asked for last Wednesday."

[4]

4. Strikes and Unrest Throughout Canada.

(i) Unemployed situation at Vancouver, "Sit-downers" ejected from public buildings.

The men occupying the post office and civic art gallery at Vancouver since May 20th, were forcibly ejected from these buildings on the morning of June 19th after having stubbornly refused to leave voluntarily and peacefully. Tear gas was used to clear the buildings.

At the post office, the men, in resisting the action of the police, commenced to break plate glass windows, light fixtures and interior glass screens, causing approximately \$1,500 damage to the property. After ejection, the men ran down Hastings and Cordova Streets, breaking windows in stores for a distance of six blocks.

At the art gallery, the men, warned of the coming tear gas attack, wrapped wet cloths across their eyes and withstood the attack for nearly twenty minutes. Then they left peaceably without doing any damage to property.

Six police and thirty-one demonstrators were injured — two city police and two demonstrators rather seriously — and the damage caused to private property has been estimated at more than \$10,000. Twenty-two of the rioters were arrested during the disturbance.

At 2.30 p.m. the same date, some 7,000 people attended a mass meeting on the Powell Street Grounds. Speeches protesting against the action of the police in forcing the men to vacate the buildings were given by A. Webster of the C.C.F.; A.M. Stephen, president of the B.C. branch of the Canadian League for Peace and Democracy; Ernest Cumber, acknowledged head of the Single Unemployed Men's Organization; Alderman Helena Gutteridge; Rev. R.N. Matheson of Collingwood United Church; Mrs. Mildred Lusk of the Vancouver Mother's Council; Fergie McKean, [deletion:4-5 words]; John Stanton of the Youth Council and R.W. Campbell, one of the leaders of the Unemployed Single Men.

Following the meeting some 3,000 under the leadership of Harold Winch, M.L.A. paraded to the police station and on arrival there demanded the release of the twenty-two individuals arrested earlier in the day. After much jeering and cat-calling, during which a number of

[5]

stones were thrown at the building, Winch was permitted to enter the building to talk to the Chief of Police. Following this interview, Winch informed the crowd that those arrested were perfectly content and only desired the demonstrators to support them by carrying on. The demonstrators then slowly dispersed.

Following a secret meeting of the executive to the Single Unemployed Men's Association held at 2.30 p.m., all members of the association were instructed to gather at 60 West Cordova Street at 10.30 p.m. and in the meantime get in touch with as many friends as possible, urging them to assemble at Pier D at boat sailing time to make sure that the delegation to Victoria was not prevented from leaving. At 10.30 p.m. these men gathered at 60 West Cordova Street, some 700 strong. At the same time crowds started to gather at Pier D, lining the sidewalks for several blocks. The Single Unemployed Men very noisily paraded from their headquarters escorting the delegation to Victoria to the boat, and in passing through this crowd of some 8,000, they were mildly cheered. Ninety-nine of the men embarked on the boat for Victoria and from that time until midnight (sailing time) the crowd increased and became extremely noisy. Over 50% of those gathered were women and children. As the boat sailed the crowd broke up, and some 2,000 congregated outside the post office where a noisy demonstration was effected. Stones were thrown, resulting in more windows being broken. At about 1 a.m. the gathering was addressed by Harold Winch who urged the men to disperse. Slowly the demonstrators departed in groups and as they proceeded to their homes more windows were broken.

The situation respecting the Single Unemployed Men remains unsettled.

Organizers of the Workers' Alliance at Vancouver are said to have been successful in lining up all those married men now employed on City Works' Projects, numbering some 3,500, in favour of the proposed Federation of Unemployed. It is reported that approximately two thousand unemployed loggers, organized as an unemployed section of the International Wood Workers of America, have declared their

[6]

intention of actively supporting the Federation. Trade Unions in the district are being canvassed and it is claimed by the Executive of the Workers' Alliance that they would support the conference at which the Federation is to be officially launched.

(ii) Sawmill Workers strike at Blubber Bay, B.C.

Members of the United Wood Workers of Canada, employed at the Pacific Line Company's Sawmill at Blubber Bay, B.C., near Powell River, went on strike on June 1st. Employees who were not members of the union remained at their jobs and the mill continues to operate.

(iii) New Relief Regulations attacked at Winnipeg Conference.

Through the joint efforts of the Manitoba Conference of Unemployed and the Winnipeg Trades and Labour Council, a meeting was held in the University Building, Theatre A, on the 9th June, at which forty-eight organizations were represented. Grant McLeod of the Trades and Labour Council, acted as chairman. The speakers were J.S. Farmer, M.L.A., L. St. G. Stubbs, M.L.A., Aldermen James Simpkin and Jacob Penner, all of whom attacked the new relief regulations, branding same as the "Yellow Dog Contract." A general discussion followed in which many of the delegates took part. Many resolutions were presented and passed unanimously which bitterly condemned the "Yellow Dog Contract." A committee of action, composed of fifteen, was elected to further the struggle for abolition of the new regulations. Demands were also advanced aiming at the abolition of the Relief Advisory Board.

The unemployed from Ward 3 at Winnipeg held a mass meeting at the old Exhibition Grounds on the 12th June. There were 500 people present and the speeches delivered by C.W. Foster, S. Sawula and Grant McLeod were directed against the new relief regulations. The speakers explained that these

regulations would tend to lower the living standard generally, thus helping the "boss class" to reduce wages.

On the same evening the women's section of the U.L.F.T.A., Point Douglas Branch, held a meeting in Norquay Park, also in protest against the new relief regulations. Approximately 300 women were present.

[7]

B. Fascism.

5. The National Social Christian Party.

Despite all efforts on the part of the principal leaders of the National Social Christian Party at Montreal to minimize the damage caused by the expulsion of Dr. Lambert, Lessard and others, it is becoming increasingly evident that considerable harm has been done to the morale of the party membership. Many members are said to have left the party and the attendance at meetings has been falling off considerably. It is also said that some of the officials of the party have become somewhat apathetic and are not giving their fullest co-operation to the movement.

[~~deletion: 1/3 page~~]

Mr. Lessard, one of the prominent officials of the N.S.C.P., who was expelled from the party together with Dr. Lambert, in a recent interview centering round the question of smuggling of arms, said:

"We had no arms; we had no intention to secure any; we had no intention to do anything illegal and give the powers that be grounds to declare the N.S.C.P. an illegal organization; we stood for law and order; if the time ever came when arms were required we knew that the various Police Agencies had sufficient arms to fulfill our requirements as we would have thrown in our lot with the constituted authorities."

Commenting on the publicity given the matter in the press, Lessard declared that the whole matter was instigated by the communists; that

[8]

it was mere Communist propaganda. "These Communists are very treacherous and by accusing the Fascists of breaking the law of the country, they hope to divert public attention from their subversive activities," he declared.

The Italian element of the N.S.C.P. is reported to have been segregated from the general membership and organized into a distinct Italian section of the party, under the leadership of a young Italian named [~~deletion: 1 word~~] who is directly responsible to [~~deletion: 1 word~~] and Adrian Arcand. The Italian members of the party are said to have requested this re-organization as

a number of them do not understand French which appears to be the only language spoken at the regular membership meetings. The Italians, henceforth, are to have their own assemblies which will be conducted in the Italian language.

Alderman Stewart Smith, addressing an "anti-fascist" open-air rally at Queen's Park, Toronto, on the afternoon of June 11th, charged that Adrian Arcand and his "Fascist cohorts" have smuggled more than four hundred pieces of arms in to the Province of Quebec. The meeting, sponsored by the City Committee of the Communist Party of Canada, was also addressed by Alderman J.B. Salsberg, Tom Ewen, member of the Central Committee of the C.P., and Peter Hunter, [~~deletion:3-4 words~~] of the Young Communist League. Leith McMurray acted as chairman.

The sole issue confronting the people of Toronto, Smith declared, was: "Fascism — to be either for or against it." He denounced the actions of the Fascists in holding meetings, particularly in his War (Ward 4) which he represents on the City Council, which is made up of many difference nationalities, prominent among which are the Jews.

Tom Ewen declared that British Columbia was inundated with Fascist propaganda of every variety and urged all democrats to co-operate with the C.P. in staving off the "bloody crucifixion" of liberty that Fascism would bring it not checked immediately. He charged that Werner Haag, representative of the German State Railway in Toronto, is a Nazi espionage agent and that Lorimer is the man

[9]

behind the "little Fascist Party" in the City.

Peter Hunter spoke along similar lines, emphasizing the fact that the 3rd Canadian Youth Congress, held in Toronto recently, went on record as being determinedly opposed to Fascism. Every speaker demanded that immediate action be taken to prevent the Fascists from holding their National meeting in the City and that all their activities be stopped.

6. The Canadian Nationalist Party — Toronto.

The Canadian Nationalist Party held a meeting at the Forester's Hall, corner of Queen Street and Dovercourt Road, Toronto, on June 6th, with approximately 320 persons in attendance. Before the meeting opened about 250 anti-fascist demonstrators congregated on Dovercourt Road in front of the hall and held a meeting of their own in protest against what was termed by the

speakers the "Police Protection for the Fascists." Several placards were displayed with inscriptions such as "Police Protect the Fascists," "Fascists against Trade Unions" and other such slogans. An attempt to picket the hall was frustrated by the police and a number of the banners were confiscated amidst much booing. No disorder took place, however.

The meeting was opened by Joseph Farr about 8.45 p.m. with Adrian Arcand and Major Scott, both of Montreal, seated on the platform. The speaker's table was draped with the Union Jack and blue banners with a red Swastika in a white circle decorated the wall behind the platform. Arcand, Farr, Scott and a few of the ushers wore blue shirts bearing the Swastika emblem on the left arm.

Farr, in the course of a 45 minute talk of a most uninteresting and unimpressive nature, presented a long list of figures showing the percentage of business and commerce in Toronto, which, he said, had already passed into the hands of the Jews.

Arcand was greeted with much applause by the audience when he rose to speak. His speech centered around the alleged Jewish control of finance, commerce and industry. He appealed to the audience to develop a true Canadian spirit.

At about 10 o'clock five members of the Royal Canadian

[10]

Artillery, in full uniform, marched into the hall and occupied seats at the front of the hall which apparently had been reserved for them. They were greeted enthusiastically by the audience and Arcand, Farr and Major Scott gave the Nazi salute which was returned by the militia men. The leader of the group, Sergeant A.C. Miller, is reported to have told a reporter, following the meeting, that the five militia men were members of the Nationalist Party and that having thoroughly investigated the organization, its aims, objects and studied its platform, it was found to be 100% patriotic British and Canadian, loyal to its King and Country and with no affiliation to foreign politics, whatsoever.

The meeting closed with the National Anthem. The streets in the vicinity of the hall were lined with anti-fascists when the audience left the hall. No disturbance occurred, however.

The incident of the militia men appearing at this meeting in uniform has been widely publicized in the press to the delight of the Nationalist Party leaders. Farr's manner is said to be coming more arrogant and objectionable, so much so, that several important members of the party in Toronto have complained to Arcand about it. There is general dissatisfaction in the ranks of the party as a result of the manner in which Farr is conducting the business of the organization. At a recent meeting of members with Farr, it was suggested

that a proper system of book-keeping be adopted and that a secretary-treasurer be appointed. Farr's reply was that he was running the organization and that he would not be dictated to by any one.

Certain rumours to the effect that several prominent people, including Lorimer of Toronto, are secretly financing the C.N.P., appear to be without foundation, as it is fairly well established that the party is suffering from a profound lack of funds. It is known that Farr is experiencing considerable difficulty in raising the rent for Massey Hall for July 4th. Apparently Farr, who appears to be treasurer, secretary, president and general factotum of the party, is said to have submitted no statements so far indicative of the financial standing of his party.

[11]

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES.

I. Manitoba.

7. Winnipeg Single Unemployed Men form new Union.

Approximately 130 single unemployed men attended a meeting at the Labour Temple, James Street, Winnipeg, on June 6th, and after listening to a series of speakers who stressed the necessity of organization, resolved to form a new union, to be known as the Manitoba Unemployed Single Men's Union. T. Tierson was elected chairman, J. Allan, secretary treasurer and S. Doyle, provincial organizer. A number of committees, such as Constitutional Committee, Grievance Committee, Finance and Publicity Committee, Defence Committee and Social Committee, were elected with communists filling the most important positions.

Subsequently an office was opened at 209 Chambers of Commerce Building at a rental of \$12.50 per month.

The first open-air meeting, sponsored by this meeting, was held in the Market Square on the evening of June 8th with over 400 people in attendance. Stanley Doyle, George Hayes and William Black were the speakers. William Black, principal speaker, reviewed the unemployment conditions and urged the people to organize, to be able to "make the Government do the proper thing."

Another open-air meeting was held on the 13th June with approximately 90 men present. At this meeting J. Allan, secretary of the union, read a letter received from John Matts, secretary of the Relief Project Workers' Union at Vancouver, in which it was stated that the B.C. men were pleased with the organizational efforts made in Winnipeg; that it meant "so much support to

their fight in B.C." The letter also stated that 1,500 men from Vancouver were planning to go to Victoria to visit the Legislative Buildings. It advised the Winnipeg men to do likewise; to proceed to the Provincial authorities and place their demands before them.

No action was taken by the meeting with regard to the letter from Vancouver. S. Doyle, addressing the meeting, urged the men to take a more active part in their organization.

[12]

It is said that very little has been done by way of enrolling new members into this newly formed union; the organization having no funds available for printing membership cards.

II. Ontario.

8. Tim Buck speaks at London mass meeting.

Tim Buck was the principal speaker at a mass meeting held under the auspices of the Communist Party in the Technical School Auditorium at London on June 10th. Over 500 people are said to have attended with Arthur Mould of London, acting as chairman. Tim Buck urged united Labour-progressive action to maintain democracy in Canada and peace in the world. He urged the people to build up their municipal labour representation movement on the political field and to prepare for joint political action in the Dominion elections which he said may take place before next Fall. He also vigorously attacked the proposed railway amalgamation scheme and showed how this was calculated to place new burdens on the shoulders of the tax-payers for the benefit of the owners of the C.P.R.

On Sunday night, June 12th, a minor riot took place in Sudbury between Ukrainian Nationalists and Ukrainian Communists at a meeting held in the Ukrainian Labour Temple, which was to have been addressed by John Boychuk, communist leader from Toronto, on the subject of the recent assassination at Rotterdam of Eugene Konowalec. The riot developed following an announcement by a woman on the platform as to why Boychuk wasn't present. "He's afraid to come; that's why he's not here," a man shouted and chairs began to fly with the result that considerable damage was done to the property. No one, however, was seriously hurt.

III. Quebec.

9. C.P. to open Provincial School.

The Communist Party will open a school on June 22nd for functionaries and leaders of the party in Quebec. Classes will be held every night at different addresses in order to prevent police interference.

[13]

[~~deletion: 1 1/2 lines~~], that the Hospital Employees Union, [~~deletion: 2-3 words~~], would be falling to pieces unless something is done very soon by way of instilling new life into the union. About six months ago this union had a membership of 600, of whom over 50% were fully paid up, today there are only 40 dues paying members left, he said. [~~deletion: 1 word~~] also dealt with the forthcoming election of officers of this union, stating that he may be re-elected [~~deletion: 2-3 words~~] After a short discussion it was suggested that [~~deletion: 1 word~~] build up a group of sympathizers around him in order to assure his re-election.

[~~deletion: 1 word~~] dealt with the affairs of the Insurance Agent's Union. He said that the London Life Insurance Company met certain demands that were made by dismissing 33 agents. The men, he said, are quite infuriated about the matter and those remaining in their positions are not satisfied as it now means much more work, even though they have been granted a substantial increase in pay. [~~deletion: 1 word~~] stated that it is planned to threaten the company with much adverse publicity unless the agents are reinstated, further, to take the matter up with the Minister of Labour in an endeavour to have a board inquire into the whole matter. He said that the company was in no position to stand any sort of adverse publicity and thought that the possibility exists that the men will be reinstated. He further stated that the union has not suffered in any way as a result of the action of the said company and that all the men are staying with the union.
