

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

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SECRETNO. 896WEEKLY SUMMARY

REPORT ON COMMUNIST AND FASCIST ORGANIZATIONS
AND AGITATION IN CANADA

Refusal on the part of the Federal Government to disallow Quebec's "Padlock" Law has been met with an orgy of protest and counter propaganda in the Communist press of Canada. Agitation continues to centre around the demand for the abolition of this law. The following extract from an editorial appearing in the current issue of "The People's Advocate" (Vancouver) expresses the contentious point of this propaganda:

"The federal government's attitude can and must be changed. The Quebec padlock law, a flagrant violation of the elementary rights of free Canadians, can be swept away just as was Section 98 of the Criminal Code.

What is needed is more expression of public opinion than ever before.....

Every organization and group of people, every individual, should let the minister of justice know that he must take steps at once to use federal powers to end this attack on the liberties of the people of Canada."

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B. Fascism.

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 - New Emblem replaces Swastika;
 - Mass meeting in Toronto attracts crowd of 1,200;
 - Communists stage counter-demonstrations.

APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

A. Communism.

1. Communists seek aid for disabled veterans of Spanish Civil War returning to Canada.

[~~deletion: 1 word~~] formerly Political Commissar of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion in Spain, addressing the Labour Festival sponsored by the Communist Party of Canada at the Finnish Summer Camp (Tyon Puisto) at Trout Lake, near Sudbury, Ont., on July 1st, stated that those members of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion who became disabled while fighting in Spain, would be receiving a pension from the Government of Spain amounting to 25 pesetas per day. "This amount, about 25¢ according to the present rate of exchange, would only be sufficient to buy them cigarettes and every effort must be made to make the necessary provisions for these men upon their return to Canada" [~~deletion: 1 word~~] declared. He said that the C.P. has set aside

one month, July 15th to August 15th, to raise \$3,000 of the \$10,000 needed to re-establish these men in Canada. He also stated that an attempt will be made to force the Canadian Government into giving these veterans a pension of some sort. He added that if this attempt is staged in the right manner the Government will have no other alternative but to give these veterans a pension. He further informed the gathering that there are at present thirty Canadians prisoners in General Franco's camp and that an effort will be made to force the Canadian Government to intercede with Franco for their immediate release. [deletion:1 word] also spoke of the 500 orphans and homeless in Spain that the party is supporting, emphasizing that money must be raised to continue this support.

[deletion:1 word], upon his return to Canada, some few months ago, became attached to the National Office of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion in Toronto, and has since been touring Ontario addressing numerous meetings in the interests of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion and the Spanish cause in general.

2. The Communist Party and the Trade Unions in Montreal.

On July 6th the Communist Party at Montreal held a special meeting of section organizers and members of the party holding leading positions in Trade Unions. Thirty-five delegates attended, as well as J.B. Salsberg of Toronto, who came to Montreal for the express purpose

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of attending this meeting.

[deletion:2 words] gave the opening report in which he discussed the achievements of the party in the Trade Union Field. "Since the formation of the first trade union commission about a year ago," he said, "we can note quite a few achievements; we were instrumental in forming many new unions and branching out in fields that were as yet never organized." He claimed that the party had organized the seamen, the grain handlers, the meat packers, steel workers, truck drivers and helpers, the milk drivers, the linoleum workers, the hospital workers, and had also helped to organize other small unions. The party, he said, had also consolidated its position in the needled trades industry, where it had succeeded in forming a united front. "As a result of forming these unions," he said, "we became a major factor in the Trades and Labour Council and because of our large number of delegates to the Council we have been able to force the latter to adopt a progressive line."

[deletion:1 word] also dealt extensively with the question of political action now advocated by the Trades and Labour Council — L'Action De-

mocratique. He said that until quite recently the matter of independent political action in the T. & L.C. was moving forward quite smoothly, an executive committee was formed and a programme of action was adopted. When the time arrived, however, to place this programme before the T. & L.C. for acceptance a new situation developed, he said, which demanded, for the time being, a relaxing of this movement aiming at political action. This, he said, was due to the "reactionary" elements within the Council who were quietly at work in an endeavour to sabotage the whole movement and were prepared to split the Trades and Labour Council if necessary in order to stop the growth of the movement for political action." "In this," he said, "we can easily see the hand of Duplessis; he has succeeded in buying up the reactionary elements and has gone to the extent of providing good positions for them in order to win them over to his side." "We are now," he continued, "forced to admit that Duplessis is a jump ahead of us and has succeeded in stopping our movement for political action for the time being." The Executive Committee of the Trades and Labour Council, therefore,

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[~~deletion:1 word~~] declared, decided that for the sake of unity in the Trade Union movement it would be best not to present this matter to the general council, and, for the time being, devote all energy in securing individual affiliations to the Committee for Political Action.

Reporting on the work of the newly formed Trade Union Commission of the Party, [~~deletion:1 word~~] informed the meeting that it has been decided that the various sections of the party must build industrial commissions, [~~deletion:5 lines~~]

[~~deletion:1 word~~] also dealt with the Convention of the Provincial Federation of Labour, scheduled for July 16th and 17th at St. Hyacinthe. He stated that the "reactionary" elements, headed by [~~deletion:1 word~~] will attempt to dominate the convention and forestall any movement for political action. He urged that all unions should be represented by a maximum number of delegates from the "progressive" camp.

J.B. Salsberg then addressed the meeting, stating that with all its faults the local Trade Union Commission was still the best functioning Trade Commission of the party in the country, having done good work. Dealing with what he described "our most important political task at the present time," he urged that unity within the ranks of labour must be achieved at all costs. He informed the meeting that a split in the Toronto Trades and Labour Council was narrowly averted just recently as a result of definite orders issued by William Green to the effect that the C.I.O. unions must be expelled from the Council. "In line with the present C.P. policy of building a wide democratic front, the

ranks of labour must be consolidated and solidified, as labour is to guide this democratic front into action," he declared. He suggested that the comrades of the party, particularly those active in the trade unions, should mix more freely with the rank and file and win them over to the side of progressive action in the shortest possible time. He said that the C.P. fraction within the trade unions

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must be abolished whenever possible and industrial units set up in their place. "We must learn how to bring up political problems from the floor of meetings and in that way we will raise the political level of the rank and file which will later serve us in good stead; our party members within the trade unions must not be afraid to admit that they are members and must bring in issues as open party members and not from behind as many are prone to do. As far as the Province of Quebec is concerned, the question before the trade unions is political action," Salsberg declared. "Quebec," he said, "must give a lead to the rest of the country in the formation of the democratic front and if we do our work carefully we will succeed in bringing this about." In conclusion he urged all delegates to attend the Provincial Federation of Labour Convention and endeavour to force the convention to adopt a policy leading to political action.

3. Strikes and Unrest throughout Canada.

(i) Unemployed demonstrators withdrawn from Victoria.

With the arrival of 200 men from Vancouver on July 6th, the number of unemployed demonstrators in Victoria was increased to approximately seven hundred. Dissatisfaction with the trend of their affairs and the reaction of Victoria to them, had affected the temper of the men and a clash with the police appeared imminent. The following day all the leaders and the remainder of the demonstrators at Vancouver left that city and proceeded to Victoria. That a clash with the police had been anticipated and planned and that it was intended to prevent any attempt by individuals to leave the ranks, is clearly indicated by the fact that all the return halves of the boat tickets were retained by the leaders and withheld from the men.

A Tag Day was held on July 7th, despite the explicit instructions of the Mayor of Victoria forbidding it and every street corner in the business district and many corners in other parts of the city were occupied by the unemployed. Shortly after the tagging began the police commenced to make arrests and by noon 61 men and one woman were in custody. The arrests had little effect, however, as the vacancies were quickly filled by other men.

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In accordance with the agreement which had been made with the city, the unemployed vacated the four hotels, where they had been billeted, during the morning of July 8th, and marching in a body to Beacon Hill Park, they set up a temporary camp in the open air. Later in the day the Provincial Government made the following proposals:

"All Demonstrators to immediately register with the Employment Service of Canada. Those of them who are found to be transients —that is to say non-residents of British Columbia, would be given food and lodging until August 11th, on which date they would be returned to their homes outside the Province. This class of unemployed would be required to sign an agreement promising to return to their Prairie homes on that date when it was considered employment in the harvest fields could be secured by them.

Those of the demonstrators found to be residents of this Province would be given relief vouchers, the equivalent of \$3.20 per day, for two days, during the next ten days; they would then be given transportation to points in the interior of this Province where work could be secured. In the event of their failing to secure employment within that period, they would be given further assistance if they report to the Employment Service offices at Kamloops, Penticton or Nelson. Arrangements would be made at those three points to absorb these men, if possible, on road work."

These terms were accepted by the men and they were allowed to return to the hotels and were given relief pending registration and transportation to Vancouver. Registration proceeded rapidly and the men were returned to Vancouver at the rate of 150 each day until all had been returned. Figures obtained from the Relief Office showed that 767 men had registered, of which number 393 were classified as B.C. residents and 374 as transients from other Provinces.

At a series of meetings held by the unemployed at 60 West Cordova Street subsequent to their return to Vancouver, proposals were advanced as follows: "The organization to be kept intact under the present leadership and 60 West Cordova Street to be retained as headquarters; cash relief vouchers to be accepted but no attempt to find employment to be made — at the expiration of the ten days a mass march

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to be made on either Penticton, Nelson or Kamloops to obtain further relief.

It is known that the single unemployed are planning to strengthen the organization during the Fall months in anticipation of unemployment difficulties to be expected next winter and all have agreed to meet in Vancouver towards the end of the year.

(ii) The Single Unemployed in Saskatchewan.

(a) Regina.

Recent press reports emanating from Regina to the effect that a big influx of single unemployed men is taking place, appear to be grossly exaggerating actual conditions. These press reports maintain that there are 1,760 single transients in Regina at the present time, whereas a survey of the situation established the fact that the actual number is 650; of these only 150 are from outside the Province. While it is true that the influx of transients at Regina appears greater this year than for the corresponding period of last year, it should be borne in mind that many of the transients may have been attracted to that locality by the favourable reports on crop conditions.

During the past few days several meetings and demonstrations were held by the Single Unemployed Protective Association at Regina. One open-air meeting is said to have been attended by approximately 300 of whom only approximately 140 were transients, and the remainder citizens of Regina. Some of the marches or parades arranged by this organization were attended by 40 to 95 people, not all of them transients. Agitation among these transients which is directed by the communist element, centers around the demand for a work and wages programme. Communists also exhort the single unemployed to maintain a more militant front.

Twenty-five transients were arrested on July 13th as they solicited money on the streets in down-town area. Following the arrest of these men 65 other transients paraded to the police station demanding the release of the arrested men. No disturbance occurred; the men dispersed after having been told to send a delegation to present any requests they wished to submit.

On July 19th, about 125 single men invaded the local Post Office with the intention of remaining there until their demands were

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met. Having been promised relief for a limited period by the Acting Mayor, S.B. East, the men vacated the building after having occupied it for about an hour.

(b) Saskatoon.

On July 6th the transients at Saskatoon resolved to march in a body to Regina. The hour set for the commencement of the march was 1.30 p.m. Approximately 70 of these transients were expected to take part in the march

but when the appointed hour arrived only 11 men appeared on the scene. These were advised by Jimmy Wilson, local unemployed leader, that inasmuch as the majority did not seem to desire action he was "through with the organization" (The Single Workers' Union) and same could be considered disbanded. Some of the men present expressed themselves to the effect that they may start for Regina independently.

(iii) Shoe Workers' Strike at Galt, Ont., Settled.

The sixteen day old strike at the Scott Shoe Company plant at Galt, Ont., was settled on July 8th when an agreement was reached between the 120 strikers and the management of the company. The strike was caused when two women who had been doing hand work protested when transferred to machine jobs. The dispute extended to the whole plant.

(iv) Shoe Workers' Strike at Port Colborne, Ont.

Four hundred employees of the Humberstone Shoe Company Limited, at Port Colborne, Ont., went on strike on July 11th in protest against company officials taking soles and uppers made by union labour to a non-union labour plant nearby.

(v) Textile Strikers at St. Gregoire assault plant officials.

On July 14th a mob of strikers attacked and painfully injured Mr. Blair Gordon, Managing Director of the Dominion Textile Company mill at St. Gregoire de Montmorency, Que., and Mr. E. Fisher, Assistant Superintendent of the mill. The strikers, representing only 100 of the mill's normal 1,800 employees, had demanded an increase of wages and broke into the offices when five of their delegates were interviewing the officials. The workers involved in the riot and their actions have been disowned by the Catholic Syndicate of the Textile Workers.

B. Fascism.4. The Fascist National Convention.

Canadian Fascists held their first national convention from the 1st to 4th of July. The convention was to have been held at Kingston, Ont., according to the original plans of the fascist chieftains, but owing to considerable resentment and protests voiced by influential people in Kingston, including the city council, Adrian Arcand and his aides found it expedient to transfer the affair to a safer place. Thus, with the exception of a surreptitious visit to Kingston by the leading convention delegates on July 2nd, the main proceedings took place in Toronto.

The following is a complete list of delegates who attended the convention:—

Quebec

<u>Montreal:</u>	Adrian Arcand. [deletion:6 lines]
<u>Valleyfield:</u>	[deletion:name]
<u>Lachine:</u>	[deletion:name]

Ontario

<u>Toronto:</u>	Joseph C. Farr, [deletion:2 lines]
<u>New Brunswick:</u>	[deletion:name]
<u>Nova Scotia:</u>	[deletion:name]
<u>Manitoba:</u>	[deletion:2-3 names]
<u>Saskatchewan:</u>	[deletion:2-3 names]
<u>British Columbia:</u>	[deletion:name]

The convention proper opened at noon, July 1st, at the hall of the Ukrainian Nationalist Organization "Sitch," situated at 1087 Queen Street, W. It was during this first session that the important business of the convention was transacted which included the following decisions:

1. Formation of a new party under the name of "National Unity Party."
2. Election of Adrian Arcand as its national leader.

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3. Adoption of a new emblem, the flaming torch on a white background surrounded by a circle of maple leaves and surmounted by a beaver with the inscription or motto "Serviam" below.
4. Election of a National Council, National Organizer, and Provincial Organizers.
5. Adoption of a National programme.

The various proposals before the convention had been carefully prepared beforehand and the discussion on same was brief. It is interesting to note, however, that the nomination of Adrian Arcand for the National leadership

was opposed by the delegation from Manitoba on the grounds that Arcand, being a French Canadian and a Roman Catholic, may not be acceptable to the English speaking and protestant followers particularly in the West.

The session adjourned at 7.15 p.m. and the delegates returned to the Isabella Hotel, the convention headquarters.

On the following day, July 2nd, travelling in two automobiles, Adrian Arcand and the chief delegates from each province, including [deletion:2-3 words] Farr, [deletion:1 line] left for Kingston for the sole purpose of signing the various resolutions already passed by the convention at Toronto. Thus they were able to designate Kingston as the birthplace of this new party and proclaim that the convention, at least part of it, had actually taken place in that city. What actually took place at Kingston was that the delegates met in the private room of a member of the party at the La Salle Hotel and there affixed their signatures to the various documents drawn up at Toronto previously. Having accomplished this task the delegates made their presence known and obliged the press with the following prepared statement:

“On July 1st, a new political party was born in this country, the National Unity Party of Canada.

Delegates from all parts of Canada assembled at Kingston, have today brought to an end a national convention of several provincial movements and groups identical in aims and ideals which have been melted into one national unit.

Adrian Arcand of Montreal was unanimously elected national leader of the National Unity Party and the voting delegates of the various provinces were appointed members of the national party council.

The flaming torch was adopted as the party emblem.

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Joseph C. Farr of Toronto was appointed as national organizer of the party. Provincial organizers were also appointed for every province.

The aims and objects of the new party are purely nationalistic and the battle cry of the N.U.P. will be “Canada for Canadians.” Gentile citizens only are admitted in the party as decided at the convention.

The platform approved by the convention delegates calls for a national citizenship; a more intimate co-operation with the British Empire upon the basis of equal partnership; official recognition and defence of Christianity; many reforms based on the axiom that the common weal supercedes private interests; financial and credit reforms; elimination of class struggle to make way for class co-operation; abolition of the party system and patronage; establishment of a corporate state system under which party representatives will be replaced by representatives of trades and professions; obligation to

vote for all those enjoying the right to vote; work to be a social obligation all fit persons and state seeing to it that through the corporations of employers' associations and employees' unions every citizen be guaranteed his right to earn his living; decentralization and distribution of wealth through the multiplication in initiative; family and property to be put under the state's protection; drastic and swift eradication of subversity in all its forms, political graft, profiteering, vicious speculation; undivided state authority; all citizens to be in and with the Canadian state, none to be without or against; swift settlement of the neglected veterans' problem and the railway problem; elimination of exterior influences in the vital organs of the national organic body; and other urgent national reforms."

From Kingston the "convention also dispatched a telegram to the Mayor of Kingston which read:

"The National Unity Party of Canada, made up of loyal subjects of King and Country, law abiding and orderly, wish to thank your City Council for courtesy extended to the national convention, and have adjourned to Kingston again next year in eagerness to come back."

The convention also wired to the Governor-General of Canada a message of loyalty to King and Country.

The delegates, having accomplished their purpose, returned to Toronto, arriving at the Isabella Hotel later in the evening.

On Sunday, July 3rd, at noon, the following committees were appointed: Propaganda, Organization, Legions, Assemblies, Membership, and the entire afternoon was devoted to meetings of these committees.

During the evening, a meeting was held at the "Sitch" Hall. It was attended by approximately 70 people, including the convention delegates, and which was addressed by George Deatherage of West Virginia, Robert Edward Edmundson of New York and Chief Arcand.

Deatherage and Edmundson spoke on the Jewish question in the U.S.A., charging that President Roosevelt is completely dominated by

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his Jewish advisors and that he (the President) favours communism. Arcand declared this convention would make history in Canada. "There is a mighty battle before us," he said. He did not believe though that Canadian Fascists would ever require the assistance of the fascists from across the border; on the contrary he felt quite sure that the time was not far off when Canadians would be giving a helping hand to their brothers in the U.S.A. He was willing to lay down his life for the party if it became necessary and felt sure he would get the backing of every youth in the party.

The convention met again at 3 p.m. on the following day, July 4th, receiving and accepting the reports of the various committees.

[~~deletion:1 word~~] reported on Propaganda, recommending that two papers be published, one in French and the other in English; the latter be named "Canadian Nationalist," and the former "Le Combat National."

[~~deletion:1 word~~] submitted a lengthy report on behalf of the Committee of Legions, outlining a plan for organization which included the formation of legions throughout the country with a national leader in command. The plan also included the formation of a secret service at a later date.

A mass rally, open to the public, in Massey Hall, held during the evening, brought the convention officially to a close. All delegates, except those who appeared on the platform, were detailed to act as ushers at the meeting. Admission was by ticket only and those who did not possess a ticket were refused entry by the blue-shirted members in attendance at the entrance.

The back of the stage was decorated with a large plaque depicting the new emblem of the party. Above the emblem the words "God Save the King" were printed, while a banner below the plaque bore the slogan "Canada for Canadians." The speakers table was covered by the Union Jack. Although the newspaper accounts placed the attendance at 2,500, no more than 1,200 were actually present. On the platform, along with Farr and Arcand, were [~~deletion:1 line~~] five others. The meeting opened with the singing of "God Save the King," following which Farr attempted to

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dramatize the new name under which the party is to be known in future, with Arcand as Dominion leader and himself as national organizer. Farr, generally speaking, made a very poor showing. [~~deletion:1 word~~] was the next speaker, presenting a very carefully prepared speech in which he appealed to all young men to join the N.U.P., which he said, was the only agency that could make Canada a prosperous country again. [~~deletion:2 words~~], apparently a natural orator, made a most impassionate appeal to the audience for support for the N.U.P. and its aims and objects, while [~~deletion:1 word~~] of Winnipeg, also described as a good speaker, appealed to the audience to forget differences of religion and race, excepting of course, the Asiatic Race. He ventured to say that the Jewish question in Winnipeg was more acute than in Toronto. Arcand, the last speaker, was greeted with loud and prolonged cheers. The greatest part of his speech was devoted to a violent denunciation of the Jews in which he received considerable support from the audience as much cheering and applause punctuated his address.

During the meeting application forms for membership in the N.U.P. were given out to the audience. It has since been learned that over 1,000 of these

forms were handed out, of which 850 applications were returned requesting membership in the party.

While the fascists held forth in Massey Hall, three anti-fascist demonstrations took place simultaneously throughout the City. At Maple Leaf Gardens, approximately 10,000 people met under the auspices of the Communist controlled Canadian League for Peace and Democracy and listened to Dr. Wm. E. Dodd, former U.S. Ambassador to Germany, R.L. Calder, and others denounce Fascism, while an anti-fascist rally, staged by the C.C.F. in Queen's Park, drew a crowd of 500. The League for a Revolutionary Workers' Party staged an open air demonstration near Massey Hall and attracted about 500 spectators. Fearing the two factions would clash, police ordered the latter to disperse and when the crowd refused to move, the two speakers and two others were arrested and the portable platform removed.
