

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

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SECRET

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WEEKLY SUMMARY

REPORT ON COMMUNIST AND FASCIST ORGANIZATIONS

AND AGITATION IN CANADA

The North American Committee to Aid Spanish Democracy is planning to send a "Relief Food Ship" to Spain in September and with that end in view has enlisted the co-operation of the Canadian Committee. A representative of the American Committee is now in Toronto to assist in organising the campaign in Canada. It is proposed to solicit three types of donations:—

1. Grain from the Canadian farmers, and the use of the Wheat Pool facilities for transporting the grain to Montreal.
2. Clothing and food, etc., from manufacturers and wholesalers.
3. Money from organisations to defray the expenses in connection with the shipment.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

A. COMMUNISM

1. The Communist Party and the Trade Unions

(i) C.P. Influence Grows in Vancouver District T. & L.C.

The Communists gained considerably in the recent election of officers in the Vancouver and New Westminster District Trades and Labour Council. [✂deletion:3-4 words] for Vice-President and although [✂deletion:1 word] is not a member of the Communist Party, his election is hailed with great satisfaction by the Party leaders; he is looked upon as being very “progressive” and very close to the Communist Party, always ready to fall in line with any

suggestions made by the Party leadership. The vote, which was 106 for [deletion:1 word] and 94 for [deletion:1 word] indicates the strength of the Left-wingers in the Trades and Labour Council under the leadership of the Communist Party. [deletion:2 words] running for President and [deletion:2 words] for Secretary, were not opposed by the Communists. However, had [deletion:2 words] a [deletion:2-3 words] and active in the Street Railway Men's Union, opposed [deletion:2 words], the vote would have been in favour of [deletion:1 word] but the removal of [deletion:1 word] from office does not fit in with the present policy of the Communist Party. [deletion:1 word] is a well known figure in B.C. labour and his opinions are respected by the general public. For that reason he is more or less acceptable to the Party, whereas [deletion:1 word] is not known to the general public except as a good trade unionist and a member of the Communist Party. [deletion:2 words] a member of the Provincial Committee of the Canadian Trades and Labour Congress, was elected Chairman of the Organisation Committee of the Trades and Labour Council and another party member, [deletion:2 words] of the Cooks' and Waiters' Union, was elected Statistician.

(ii) [deletion:1 line]

Boatmen's Union

[deletion:2-3 words] of the Inland Boatmen's Union (C.I.O.), is reported to have resigned his office and [deletion:1 3/4 lines] which was the position formerly filled by [deletion:1 word] The latter, though a member of the Com-

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munist Party of Canada, has consistently fought against the Communists taking complete control of the union.

The new Secretary, in a recent interview, stated that organization work is proceeding very satisfactorily and that they hope to be in a position to demand and be granted every consideration by Canadian Pacific and Canadian National coastal boats by next spring.

(iii) Pat Sullivan Reports Progress in Canadian Seamen's Union

Pat Sullivan, leader of the Canadian Seamen's Union and a prominent member of the Communist Party of Canada, is reported to have stated in conversation recently that the Seamen's Union is making rapid strides and that if an agreement can be successfully negotiated with the Canadian Steamship Lines, it will further strengthen the union. He asserted that the union has now over 5,000 dues-paying members and it is gradually getting out of debt. It is the intention to create a fund of at least \$10,000 to be used in strikes if necessary. In order to raise this amount it is planned to assess each member \$5 the moment the agreement with the C.S.L. is signed. Sullivan further asserted that the tug boats, as well as the C.N.R. boats, are now 70% organised, including many boats plying between Canada and the West Indies. He further said that the Clarke Steamship Lines are approximately 40% organised. Sullivan added that an organiser named [redacted] is being sent to Halifax in an attempt to set up a seamen's local there. While there, [redacted] is to carefully look into the possibility of organising the fishermen of Halifax and Lunenburg.

2. The Campaign in Aid of Loyalist Spain

Recruiting for the Spanish Loyalist forces by the Communist Party in Canada continues but with great secrecy. Only unattached (single men with no family ties) are being recruited and only men with previous military experience who are physically fit are accepted.

[redacted], returned from Spain on 16th July and reported on his arrival at Toronto that he had met two or three Canadians in Paris who were en route to Spain. [redacted] appears to be very dissatisfied with the treatment meted out to the sick and wounded men in Spain. He stated that he would not wish to go through the same

[3]

experiences again. He claimed that he was forced to go to the front line suffering from kidney trouble. [redacted] formerly an active member of the Young Communist League at Sudbury, also arrived in Toronto on 16th July. Eight Canadians, wounded or sick, arrived in Montreal on 21st July. It is said that arrangements have been made for the return from Spain of 150 men within the next two or three months.

It will be remembered that [redacted] in the course of an address he gave at Sudbury recently, stated that the Spanish Government provided a

pension of 25 pesetas for those disabled. This does not appear to be correct. It has now been ascertained that the only provision that has been made, conditionally, is that in the event of victory for the Loyalist Government the Internationals who remain in Spain will be granted pensions. The amount, however, has not been made known.

Returns from the recent "Aid to Spain Week" campaign conducted throughout the Dominion by the Canadian Committee are reported to have now exceeded the \$5,000 mark, or half of the objective. A total of \$5,200 has been sent to Spain, it is said.

3. C.P. United Front Proposal Defeated at C.C.F. Convention

A resolution urging co-operation between the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation and the Communist Party to form a united front was defeated at the concluding session of the Alberta C.C.F. Convention held at Edmonton. The resolution was lost by an overwhelming majority after Elmer Roper, Provincial Secretary, had denounced it as unworthy of consideration by the Provincial Convention.

The Fifth Annual (National) Convention of the C.C.F. meeting at Edmonton on 29th July also turned down, without much discussion, any notion of co-operation with any other groups, insisting that the C.C.F. was the sole alternative to all other Parties.

4. Strikes & Unrest Throughout the Dominion

(i) The Unemployed Situation in B.C.

With the departure of the main group of the unemployed demonstrators for the interior of the province the situation in Vancouver

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appears to have quieted down considerably. According to recent reports received from Vancouver, the transients remaining in that city number approximately 250.

During the past week the Provincial Government Relief Office in Vancouver, in an attempt to begin the movement of transient single unemployed to the Prairies, offered transportation to numbers of these men at Vancouver which has been refused in each case. The individual so refusing has been cut off relief.

It appears, according to reliable information, that the transient class will refuse to separate from the resident class; for, by doing so, the organisation of the unemployed would be considerably weakened. The opinion has been expressed that about middle of August, when some of the unemployed now in the interior of the province will have returned to Vancouver, they will either decide to go en masse to the Prairies or none of them will go.

At a meeting of single unemployed held at 60 West Cordova Street on 25th July it was reported that the total collection from all sources received by these men since May amounted to \$9,305.60. Disbursements during that period in the form of expenses for transportation, freight, tobacco, meals in cafes, meals in kitchen and miscellaneous expenditures totalled \$8,694.69, leaving a balance on hand on deposit in the Royal Bank of Canada of \$611.01. It was also brought out at this meeting that Matts, a member of the C.P., has been on the payroll for the past 22 weeks drawing pay at the rate of \$10.00 per week.

There are indications that the Single Unemployed Men's Organisation at Vancouver is putting forth every effort to recruit new members. They are securing quite a number it is said, but on the other hand each evening from 30 to 50 transients are noted leaving town on freight trains. Transients were observed leaving: July 28th — 58, July 29th — 36, July 30th — 68, July 31 — 25.

At the same time as these eastward movements were noted similar numbers of transients were noted entering town and for the days quoted above observers calculated the numbers so arriving to be in the neighbourhood of 150. Most of these are young men between the ages of 18 and 25 and many of them state they are from Toronto, Winnipeg, Regina and Calgary.

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As the first act of the newly formed organisation, the B.C. Federation on Unemployment sent a brief to the Premier of British Columbia entitled "The need for a revision of provincial policy in matters germane to social welfare and unemployed relief" in which criticisms and recommendations in regard to the administration of relief were made.

Seeking to form a powerful and extensive organisation, a circular letter soliciting membership has been sent to all trade unions and to fraternal and cultural organisations, in which the Federation gives as its aim the solution of the unemployment problem.

The Federation is slowly taking shape and a considerable amount of support is being given by certain trade unions; but until it has attained such strength as may be deemed necessary to ensure the success of any programme, it is unlikely that any action will be attempted.

The situation in Vancouver remains quiet. Meetings of single unemployed have dwindled down to one meeting a week, attended by not more than from 130 to 200 people.

(ii) Fifty Transients Arrested and Convicted at
Calgary Under Railway Act

On July 29th, 50 transients were arrested at Calgary, convicted and sentenced to various terms at Lethbridge Jail.

(iii) Single Unemployed Stage Brief "Sit-Down" Strike
at Edmonton

Eleven single unemployed men on provincial relief started a "sit-down" strike at Edmonton's Fair Grounds at noon on 23rd July and declared they would resist police efforts to eject them from the grounds. The men, however, concluded their strike peaceably in less than an hour and left the grounds escorted by two policemen.

(iv) Transients Occupy Buildings in Regina

On 27th July approximately 130 transients gathered in the Eastern end of the City of Regina and, having been denied the use of the Stadium after 26th July, paraded towards the centre of the city where the entire party entered the Western Trust Building on Eleventh

[6]

Avenue. They remained in the corridors of this building for the rest of the night vacating early on the following morning leaving a party of five behind to clean up the corridor. Following this demonstration the city undertook to supply meals for two days.

On 31st July some 76 transients are reported to have spent the night in the Sawyer Massey Hall on North Broad Street. These men are described as federal transients but some are believed to be from points within the province. A number of these transients have been fed by the Salvation Army.

Subsequent reports indicate that not more than 20 of the original members of the Single Unemployed Protective Association who were accommodated in the Stadium now remain in the city, indicating that the organisation is fairly well broken up.

(v) Agitation Against New Relief Regulations at Winnipeg
Continues

Agitation among the relief recipients at Winnipeg continues to centre around the question of what is usually referred to by the agitators as the "Yellow Dog Contract". At a meeting held by the Relief Project Union in the Market Square on 25th July it was announced that a demonstration will be held before the Parliament Buildings during the second week in August and everybody was urged to participate. The demonstration is to be brought about through the combined efforts of the Trades and Labour Council, the Conference of Unemployed and the Relief Project Union.

(vi) Unemployed Occupy Bandstand in Queens Park,
Toronto

On 2nd August the Toronto City Police evacuated some 50 unemployed single men who had taken possession of the Bandstand at Queens Park. The unemployed had collected extensive living equipment including stoves, beds and paraphernalia for washing their clothes. The equipment was removed by the Police.

(vii) Restaurant Workers' Strike in Toronto Continues

The strike of approximately 70 restaurant employees of Childs at Toronto, now in progress for over six weeks, continues. Although

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only a small number of workers are involved, the strike has attracted considerable attention and is receiving the support of organised trade unionism at Toronto.

(viii) Strike at Knitting Mill, St. Catharines,
Ont.

Approximately 50 men and women workers in the Monarch Knitting Mills at St. Catharines came out on strike on 30th July demanding an increase in wages and declaring they are determined to remain out.

B. FASCISM

5. The National Unity Party

Recent reports would indicate that there is much dissatisfaction among the members of the Toronto group of the Party. Joseph Farr, who was appointed National Organiser of the Party at its recent Convention, appears to be in a very depressed state of mind and he is expected to be replaced shortly as National Organiser by some one more competent.

Steps are being taken to raise the necessary funds for the financing of a series of talks in the interest of the Party which it is proposed to give over the radio in Quebec and Ontario. It is also proposed to hold meetings at various points throughout Ontario in the near future.

[deletion: 1 word], having been appointed National Director of Legions at the Toronto Convention has been replaced as Director of Legions for the Province of Quebec by [deletion: 1 word] The latter, speaking at a meeting of officers of the Legion at Montreal recently, intimated the Legions would undergo complete re-organisation at the beginning of September.

[deletion: 1 word] one of the directors of the National Unity Party elected at the Toronto Convention, recently stated in a conversation with an intimate at Winnipeg that the Canadian Nationalist, organ of the Canadian Nationalist Party at Winnipeg, would cease publication and that it has been proposed to issue a new paper in the English language, similar to that published in French — L'Combat National — in Montreal. The last issue of the Canadian Nationalist appeared during the latter part of May last.

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6. Western Branch of C.U.F. Inactive

The Canadian Union of Fascists at Regina has shown little, if any, activity lately. An executive meeting is planned for the near future to decide on matters concerning the eventuality of affiliation of the Western Branch of the Canadian Union of Fascists with the recently formed National Unity Party. [deletion: 1 word] is said to have communicated with Joseph Farr of Toronto, expressing himself in favour of coming to an early understanding with Farr and Arcand. [deletion: 1 word] informed Farr that he deems it advisable to retain the Thunderbolt as the official organ of the C.U.F. with Crate-Brandel acting in an editorial capacity. Kratzer warned Farr that [deletion: 1 1/4 lines] was not to be trusted as he is known to have intimate connections with anti-Fascists.

[§deletion:1 word] has not issued a financial statement to the Council since January, 1938, and little is known about the affairs of the Western Branch of the Canadian Union of Fascists. It is said that [§deletion:1 word] intends to organise a lending library and that about 100 Fascist books and several hundred pamphlets are available for such a library.

According to reliable information, [§deletion:1 word] who came into prominence as an active exponent of Fascism during the last Saskatchewan Provincial election in the Northern part of the province, has abandoned all activities on behalf of the Canadian Union of Fascists under pressure brought to bear upon him by the German Consul at Winnipeg. [§deletion:1 word] is still a German subject and according to his own statement desires to be deported to Germany.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES

I. BRITISH COLUMBIA

7. The Communist Party at Vancouver

The Communist Party at Vancouver has been very active recently holding house parties to raise funds in response to an emergency call for help for the Clarion. In the very near future, cards are to be issued to sympathisers' friends or supporters who are not actually under Party discipline and who would be embarrassed in their jobs as Party members. The object of the card is to lay a "moral" obligation on the holder of the card to contribute an amount regularly each month. Individuals carrying these cards need not necessarily be known to the Party leaders at large. This idea is said to have originated among the Jewry and it is anticipated that quite a number of Orthodox Jews will contribute regularly to the Party funds as they have been propagandised to look upon the Communists as the only people politically fit to defend the democratic rights of the Jews.

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II. ALBERTA

8. C.P. at Edmonton Elects New Officers

The newly elected City Committee of the Communist Party at Edmonton held a meeting on 16th July and elected the various officers for the ensuing year:—

Chairman _____	[✂deletion:name]
General Secretary _____	[✂deletion:name]
Secretary Treasurer _____	[✂deletion:name]
“Clarion” Agent _____	[✂deletion:name]
Chairman of Education, Publicity and Literature _____	[✂deletion:name]
Youth Work _____	[✂deletion:name]
Trade Union Commission _____	[✂deletion:name]
Chairman of Political Work Among Mass Organisations _____	[✂deletion:name]
Chairman of City Finance Committee _____	[✂deletion:name]
Women’s Committee _____	[✂deletion:name]

[✂deletion:2 words] Provincial Secretary of the Party, outlined the tasks and responsibilities of the new City Committee along the lines laid down in the resolutions adopted at the last Party Delegate Conference held at Edmonton. He urged the City Committee to endeavour to improve the ideological level of the Party and the inner Party life

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in general. It was decided that every member of the City Committee become an organiser in his or her Party branch and from time to time to attend other branch meetings when called upon to do so.

The Political Bureau of the City Committee is composed of the following:
[✂deletion:1 line]

The Civic Programme Commission elected at this meeting consists of:
[✂deletion:1/2 line]

III. ONTARIO

9. C.P. at Toronto Holds Successful “Labour Festival”

The recent “International Labour Festival” held by the Toronto City organisation of the Communist Party of Canada at the Finnish Camp Grounds near Woodbridge, Ont., is said to have been a great success, particularly from a financial standpoint. Over 10,000 people are said to have attended.

In a message to the gathering Sam Carr, National Organiser of the Communist Party, said in part:—

“In the year that has passed since we last gathered to renew mass acquaintances under the summer skies, many things have happened. The progressive people of our city have scored a great victory in the municipal

elections, by piling up a magnificent vote for our leader Tim Buck, re-electing Alderman Smith and Trustee Weir and adding to the progressive representatives in the city government men like J.B. Salsberg, William Dennison and James McArthur Connor. Great sections of our fellow Torontonians of all political opinions will agree that the city administration was the better for the participation of these men, for whose support and election we mobilised thousands of citizens.

“The municipal election results were only one of the many indications of the growth of the forces of progress in our city and district. The magnificent campaign against the Padlock Law, the great peoples’ demonstration against fascism on July 4th, the aid to Spain, the growth of trade unionism and last but not least, the growth of our Party all indicate that reaction no longer reigns supreme in what some people once called ‘Tory Toront’.

“Toronto is a proud city, it has a proud role to play in the leadership of the peoples’ struggles for a democratic front in Canada, for a front of peace, security and democracy.

“Great tasks face us. The capitulation of the King government to reaction is once again demonstrated in the refusal to deal with the Padlock Law in a way the people of our country want it dealt with. The mobilisation against the Padlock Law is but entering a new stage; the fight will continue until this law is buried — as the progressive people have buried section 98.

“To face the struggles ahead, let us resolve to redouble our efforts to build the progressive movement in all its branches. Let us resolve to build a mightier Communist Party in our city and district”.
