

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

A. Communism.

1. Communists stage "Peace Rallies" throughout Country.

With the hope of capitalizing on the commemoration of the 24th Anniversary of Great Britain's declaration of war by endeavouring to direct the significance of the day towards the Party's pseudo struggle against war and Fascism, the Communist Party held so-called Peace Rallies at many points in the Dominion on August 4th in continuation of its new attempt to hoodwink the public into believing that the defence of Democracy is its purpose.

(i) Toronto, Ont.

To encourage further interest in its meeting at Toronto, the Communist Party at that point followed it with a torchlight parade. A.A. McLeod acted as chairman at the meeting, held in Queen's Park, and was supported by the Reverend R.H. Thomas, William Dennison, and Howard Rapson, [~~deletion:2-3 words~~] of the National Executive of the Canadian League for Peace and Democracy. The speeches were mainly concerned with the need for unity among the working people if peace were to be preserved, but much time was devoted to denouncing the action of Chief Constable Draper in forbidding the League to demonstrate at the Cenotaph. Approximately one thousand people were present when the meeting opened, but before the speeches ended, a total of four thousand had been attracted. Little interested by the speeches, a greater portion of the crowd had been drawn by the novelty of the scheduled torchlight parade and, although the chairman repeatedly called the crowd to order and pleaded for quietness, it was with difficulty that the speeches could be heard

at a distance of thirty feet from the loud-speakers. The speeches concluded, the torchlight parade was formed and carrying lighted kerosene-soaked bulrushes, which had been offered for sale by single unemployed circulating amongst the crowd, a column of about eighteen hundred persons marched from the Park to Bloor and Albert Streets. At Elm Street, where a cordon of City Police was drawn up to prevent any move to march on the Cenotaph, a clear attempt to provoke the Police into action was made when those leading the parade marched straight ahead into the Police. Standing firm, however, the Police avoided any disturbance

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and managed to direct the parade west on Albert Street. In connection with this demonstration at Toronto, it is of interest to note that the Captain of the Salvation Army Band (Dovercourt Citadel) had been asked to bring his Band by the Canadian League for Peace and Democracy, but being doubtful of the bona fides of the League, he had telephoned the Toronto Daily Star and had been informed that the League was a reliable organization and worthy of support. Notwithstanding this, however, many members of the Band, when they arrived at Queen's Park and saw the nature of the crowd assembled, were reluctant to take part in the proceedings; but they did so when it was pointed out to them that besides being present as supporters of Peace and Democracy, they were being paid the sum of \$50.00 for their services. Marching at the head of the Band were two war veterans wearing berets, one of whom was carrying the Union Jack and the other the Stars and Stripes. The presence of these two veterans occasioned no small amount of adverse comment from the crowd and in one instance another veteran left the sidewalk to point out to the flag-bearers the falsity and disloyalty of their position. The attendance at this demonstration in Toronto was far below the expectations of the promoters, and it is known that the League for Peace and Democracy was greatly disappointed at the lack of true enthusiasm and interest.

(ii) Winnipeg, Man.

At Winnipeg, a meeting was held in the Market Square, under the chairmanship of M. Sago; the speakers being J. Litterick, M.L.A., Hip Wong, President of the Chinese Nationalist Society, Sergeant Sam Brown, of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion, who has recently returned from Spain, and Mrs. Florence Gunn. Over five hundred people were present, mainly attracted by the idea of hearing a sensational account of Brown's experiences in Spain. His first public meeting since his return from attending the Communist National School at Toronto, M. Sago was too eager to demonstrate his newly

acquired proficiency in public speaking, and made opportunities to do so where none was provided. He indulged in this urge to speak to such an extent that finally he was checked by someone when he was interrupting the speech of Mrs. Florence Gunn and the meeting abruptly at 9.30 P.M.

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(iii) Vancouver, B.C.

The main drawing card of the Communist Party's Peace Rally at Vancouver was Fred Rose of Montreal, who was advertised as the "Nationally known anti-Fascist, and author of 'Fascism over Canada.'" This meeting was held on Friday, August 5th, at the Powell Street Grounds, with about seven hundred people in attendance. On the platform were A.M. Stephen, of the Canadian League for Peace and Democracy; Maurice Rush, of the Young Communist League; Fred Rose, of the Communist Party; Charlie Stewart, of the Street Railwaymen's Union; and Colonel H.E. Lyons of Vancouver. A.M. Stephen criticized the City Council for refusing permission to the local Chinese to hold a "Dragon" parade to raise funds for their compatriots in China, while at the same time the Council had permitted a certain individual to speak over local radio stations against the Canadian League for Peace and Democracy and the Communist Party. This, obviously, was in reference to Tom McInnes, who frequently broadcasts over CJOR denouncing the C.P. and those individuals who, although not actually members of that Party, aid it at every opportunity. Fred Rose devoted most of his speech to criticism of the Quebec Padlock Law and to ridiculing the Government for spending money on Pacific Coast defences when, he said, "the only potential enemy we have is Japan — and we are at present supplying that Country with war materials." Maurice Rush demanded arms for the Spanish people, a boycott on Japanese goods, and action against the Padlock Law in Quebec. He urged the youth of the Country to unite against the menace of Fascism. Col. H.E. Lyons gave a vapid, unbalanced speech in personal criticism of some of the present day political leaders in Canada. The conditions in Canada, the Colonel insisted, will not change until "we do the same as they did in Russia." No particular interest was displayed by the audience and the meeting was not marked by any demonstration of enthusiasm or support.

2. Communist Party Position in relation to Social Credit Government and C.C.F. in Alberta outlined in circular issued by Provincial Committee.

An instructional circular memorandum issued by the Communist Party, Alberta Provincial Executive Committee, to its branches throughout the province contains much information of interest. Headed Alberta

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Provincial Committee, Communist Party of Canada, 21 Jackson Bldg., Edmonton, Alta., 1st August 1938, the memorandum begins:—

“Dear Comrades”

“The following three statements were adopted at our provincial executive meeting on July 30th and are intended for information and as a guide for our Party branch and membership. It is our intention that these statements, issued in bulletin form, should be the first of a monthly series leading up to our Alberta Convention on 12th and 13th November. This should be taken up for a thorough discussion and study at all branch meetings.”

The memorandum is then divided under titles into three sections. The first section headed “On our relations with the Social Credit Government” begins with an affirmation of the Communist Party’s sympathy with the Social Credit Government but then continues by criticising the Government’s programme and actions since going into office. It declares: “while the estimation by our Party of the Alberta Government remains essentially the same, it is clear that the absence of a concrete social and economic programme on such things as unemployment, natural resources, is resulting in a decline in the prestige of the Government — with the result that there is a growing danger that greater numbers of the people who supported the Social Credit Government, will become disillusioned and provide material for the Liberal Party and the Unity Council. To correct this state of affairs the memorandum recommends that the Alberta Government formulate and put into operation acts regarding natural resources, taxation of the Alberta industrial corporations, public ownership of oil and coal and packing industries, higher minimum wages, public works, and higher relief scales. Such a programme would “help to defeat reactionaries in Alberta and other provinces as well as make easier the improving of friendly relations between the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation, Communist Party, and Social Credit Parties.”

The memorandum then instructs that it is the duty of the C.P. to assist the development of a joint demand of all progressive groups that the Government at once replace its inaction with practical measures “by increasing Party work, improving relations with the C.C.F. and Social Credit Clubs and by sharpening the criticism of those leaders of the Alberta Government who remain inactive.”

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Under the second heading "On our Relations with the C.C.F.," the memorandum declares that "since many of the planks in the provincial C.C.F. platform on which that Party would go to the people in the next provincial election are those which can be supported by ourselves," the C.P. welcomes the endeavour of the C.C.F. to extend its organisation in preparation for the next provincial election as a means of strengthening the Farmer Labour Movement. While fully aware of the C.C.F.'s declaration of political independence, the memorandum urges that "this must not mean a cessation of the fight for co-operation between the C.C.F., Social Credit, unions and others" and also urges members of the C.P. "to at once more energetically than ever before, approach and work with the C.C.F. clubs, to seek out those things such as many of the election planks with which we can agree, strive more energetically to gather together the C.C.F., S.C., and C.P. people in joint meetings and conferences, to prevent the reactionaries from gaining control in Alberta which may come about in the next election if increasing co-operation between the C.C.F., C.P. and S.C. groups is not achieved in the coming year."

The third section is headed "On Independent Party Work which is all important at this time." The C.P. Provincial Committee emphasizes that the most important task is the independent work of the Party "which must be accomplished in the broadest popular way" and the immediate centering of all efforts on becoming "the initiators and leaders of activities on the above questions in each locality." The memorandum gives six main tasks which must be accomplished prior to the Provincial Convention of the Party to be held on 12th and 13th November. Condensed in form, these tasks are:

- (1) The improvement and development of branch life to develop broad, genuine community activities.
- (2) The systematic reading and study of literature by Party members and the mass selling of Party literature to the people in the branch localities.
- (3) An increased interest in the Clarion weekly and a greater effort to extend the circulation of that newspaper.
- (4) Properly planned, and systematic recruiting, combined with mass activities to increase the membership of the Party.

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- (5) The organisation in each locality of public meetings to explain the position of the Party and to

develop greater activity and co-operation of all progressives.

(6) The efforts of all Party branches to advertise and raise funds for a special half hour radio broadcast which is to be given by L. Anderson, Provincial Secretary of the C.P., about the middle of September.

The memorandum is concluded by a note instructing all members to read Stewart Smith's article on the C.C.F. in the 30th July issue of the Clarion weekly.

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4. Strikes and Unrest throughout Canada.

(i) Movement of Transients in British Columbia.

Under the terms of the agreement entered into between the Provincial Government and the transients, following their visit to Victoria some time ago, the grant of \$3.50 a week per man was withdrawn on August 15th when the transients were supposed to proceed to the Prairies for harvesting work.

At a meeting of single unemployed held at 60 West Cordova Street, Vancouver, on August 12th, it was revealed that the total strength of the demonstrators in Vancouver was approximately 275. It was announced at this meeting that the Fraser Valley Hop Growers Association would be approached with a view to securing employment picking hops in the Abbotsford area but it was inferred that unless employment could be secured for these individuals as a group it would not be

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acceptable. An announcement was made by the Hop Growers subsequent to this meeting that they had no jobs to offer.

During a meeting at 60 West Cordova Street on the 15th, which was attended by approximately 100 men, an individual from the floor shouted "Lets have some action," to which Matts, who presided over the meeting, replied "You'll get plenty of action soon." It was brought out at this meeting that an exchange of wires had taken place between those employed in Vancouver and at least one of the groups in the interior of the province and as a result it was expected that the groups now in the interior would soon gather again in Vancouver.

Reports from the interior covering this period indicated that the various groups have been moving from place to place accepting some of the jobs offered to them and behaving in an orderly and disciplined manner.

On August 16th, John Matts, speaking on behalf of the single unemployed at Vancouver and interior points, stated that those groups in the interior have "proved beyond any doubt to the Hon. Mr. Pearson that there are no jobs available in the province for them" and they will, therefore, return to Vancouver in groups. With this news it was announced from Victoria that these single unemployed men will only be able to secure further relief in Vancouver if each individual applying for relief, and stating his own case to relief officials, proves satisfactorily that he is a bona fide destitute case and has conscientiously sought to find work.

It is reported that R.W. Campbell, alias "Doc" Campbell, who played a very important role in the recent "sit-down" affairs at Vancouver, has accepted from the Provincial Government transportation to Glace Bay, N.S., and has left Vancouver. He is said to have remarked that he was through with the unemployed organizations.

Most recent reports would indicate that some of the groups now in the interior are preparing to return to Vancouver.

(ii) Situation in Regina is again normal.

With the opening of the harvest season and the attendant demand for labour, the group of single unemployed men, which caused a certain amount of trouble in Regina during the month of July, has been

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broken up. The leaders and most of the men have obtained employment, and while transients continue to pass through the City in a normal way, there is no concentration and no organization exists in Regina at this time.

(iii) Relief Recipients strike at Melville, Sask.

Objecting to a new scheme of relief work created by R.C. Lane, Administrator of the Town of Melville, Sask., the relief recipients at that point went on strike on 3rd August. Under the new scheme, the men would be required to work on an average of 12 days per month instead of five for an allowance in wages equal in amount to the relief allowance but the unemployed demanded that they be given a better standard of living by being allowed to work for 26 days per month. Entailing as it would, an additional expenditure of

\$10,000 monthly, their demands were refused. During the days immediately prior to the beginning of the strike, T.G. McManus of Regina was in Melville and continually in the company of V.C. Hilworth, the leader of the relief strikers. The strikers are behaving in an orderly manner and no picketing or intimidation is being attempted.

(iv) Single Unemployed leave Winnipeg for harvest fields.

With the departure of many unemployed men for the harvest fields, the situation at Winnipeg has quietened down considerably. Communist Party leaders are said to have postponed further action in regard to the single unemployed until their return to the city. The campaign against the new Relief Regulation has also quietened down and the few meetings held recently were poorly attended.

(v) Toronto Single Unemployed Men difficult to organize.

Reports from Toronto would indicate that the radicals in charge of the single unemployed movement are finding it very difficult to organize the men into Single Unemployed Men's Association and that the latter is not progressing very favourably.

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B. Fascism.

5. The National Unity Party.

Following the recent national convention of the National Unity Party, the leaders predicted a wave of interest and enthusiasm for the movement. Close observation of the movement has shown, however, that their hopes for a substantial increase in membership have not materialized, particularly as far as Toronto is concerned. There, the Party is in a state of disintegration due largely to Farr's leadership, and it is rumoured that the latter is shortly to be relieved of his duties as provincial leader and national organizer of the Party.

At Montreal, the Party held only one really important meeting since the convention. This took place at the Maisonneuve Market Hall on August 17th with a capacity audience in attendance. Every one of the 2,800 available chairs was filled, with many standing at the back of the hall and over 500 were refused admission. The Legionnaires in attendance numbered 237 and members of the Women's Auxiliary 75. There were also members present from St. Hyacinthe,

Valleyfield and Sorel and the chairman was M. Robillard, a Tramway conductor.

The principal speakers were Joseph C. Farr of Toronto and Adrian Arcand. The former reported as national organizer, giving a rather exaggerated and misleading account of the Party's strength throughout the Dominion, while the latter, in his usual tirade against democracy and jewry, made the extravagant promise that the Party would be in power in Canada in June 1940, following a "March on Ottawa." Arcand also attacked the Canadian Broadcasting Commission for allegedly refusing to broadcast his address, a privilege, he alleged, accorded Tim Buck, Communist leader. Arcand outlined a plan to circumvent the alleged refusal to broadcast his speech by which squads of Legionnaires would travel from village to village holding meetings and spreading the gospel of Fascism. "It will mark the end of the old regime. We will wreck the party system. — The people stand at the crossroads and events will take a serious and greivous turn — We are in action — We fear no one but God and we follow in His footsteps," Arcand declared.

The meeting proved quiet and orderly; only two men who caused minor interruptions were told to leave the hall.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES.

I. Manitoba

6. The Communist Party at Winnipeg, Man.

When the problem of non-attendance of members at branch meetings was discussed at a recent meeting of the Communist Party at Winnipeg, [§deletion:3/4 line] stated that many of the single unemployed had left the City for work in harvest fields. It is good discipline for the men, he said, and when they return they will be better fitted for their tasks and in a position to pay their Party dues.

With the forthcoming civic election in mind, meetings are being organized and held by the Communist Party in Winnipeg. The C.P. is at present very active in the attempt to extend their influence in the trade unions. [§deletion:1/2 line] are making every effort to unionize commission salesmen and school caretakers; [§deletion:2 words] is endeavouring to form a union of female clerks, stenographers and typists, while [§deletion:3/4 line], are working to form an organization of housewives.

II. Ontario.[~~deletion:1/3 page~~]

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[~~deletion:1/2 page~~]III. Quebec.8. Communists hold Picnic at Montreal. Que.

The communists at Montreal held a picnic at the Cartierville Picnic Grounds on August 7th with approximately 2,000 people in attendance. The picnic was a joint arrangement between the [~~deletion:2 words~~] German Worker's Association and [~~deletion:2 words~~] the Communist Party. Professor Baer of McGill University addressed the gathering during the afternoon, dealing mainly with the question of civil liberties. He urged the people to put up a real fight against the Quebec Padlock Law.

Both the City and Provincial Police were present and attempted to stop Professor Baer's address. He however, refused to be intimidated and continued to speak, even going to the extent of urging the police to do what they liked about the matter. He was allowed to complete his speech. Two arrests were made in connection with this affair. Pothier, [~~deletion:2 words~~], was arrested for running a 'bingo' game and Omer Perrault was arrested for disturbing the peace when he started to protest the arrest of Pothier.

On August 4th, at the regular meeting of the Montreal Trades and Labour Council the question of the election of three delegates to

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the Annual Convention of the Trades and Labour Congress came up. The Communist Party, at a caucus of leading trade union members, held previously, had decided that the Communist Party delegates to the Trades and Labour Council would support [~~deletion:3-4 words~~] When nominations were called for at the Council meeting, [~~deletion:1 word~~], leading communist, at the last minute decided to stand for nomination. His action came as a complete surprise as all C.P. delegates and "progressives" under the influence of the Party had already been given instructions regarding this matter, and as a result both [~~deletion:2 words~~] were defeated and an "anti-unity" candidate named [~~deletion:1 word~~] was elected, together with [~~deletion:2-3 words~~]. [~~deletion:1 word~~] received 11 votes and [~~deletion:1 word~~] 36, the major-

ity of the C.P. delegates voting for [redacted] which accounted for the small support received by [redacted]. After the meeting a heated argument took place between the progressive elements and the C.P. delegates, the progressives accusing the C.P. members of double-crossing them by running [redacted] and blamed [redacted] for the defeat of [redacted]. This affair has now placed [redacted] in a very bad position and it will now be a difficult matter for the C.P. delegates to develop any further united front actions within the Council. The C.P. members on the Council agreed that [redacted] made a major mistake and it is expected that he will be severely reprimanded by the District Bureau of the Party for his actions.
