

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

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WEEKLY SUMMARY

REPORT ON COMMUNIST AND FASCIST ORGANIZATIONS
AND AGITATION IN CANADA

In a statement issued by the provincial committee over the signature of Stanley Ryerson, the Communist Party declared its intention to contest the coming by-elections in both the federal Cartier (Montreal) and provincial Montreal-St. Louis constituencies. Fred Rose has been mentioned as the party's standard bearer in Cartier and William Kashtan, formerly National Secretary of the Young Communist League and now provincial organizer of the party in Quebec Province, is to contest the Montreal-St. Louis seat in the provincial election.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

A. COMMUNISM.

1. “Daily Clarion” to appear in enlarged form shortly.

The Daily Clarion, central organ of the Communist Party of Canada, is to appear in enlarged form shortly. Announcing this change, an editorial appearing in the 22nd August edition, captioned “Bigger and Better Daily Clarion,” states in part:

“It was good news, on May 1, 1936, when The Clarion began publication as a daily paper.

It was better news when last summer The Clarion launched its national edition, thus providing two papers — one for Toronto readers and another for those in other parts of the country.

It was still better news when the Clarion Weekly, our paper for the Maritimes, the west and rural eastern Canada, last week became a 16-page tabloid with new features and an up-to-the-minute format.

But the best news of all is to come on Monday, Sept. 19. On that day the Toronto edition will become an evening paper, instead of the present morning paper.

In this way a greater reading public will be reached, and the man or woman returning from the shop or office will be able to read the latest news of the day when work is over and one has more time for leisurely reading of the day's events and for more enjoyable attention to the features.

That is not all. For The Clarion — both city and national editions — has a big surprise for its readers:

With the issue of Sept. 19 The Clarion will add two pages to its present six. It will appear as an eight-page paper! Not only for the issue of Sept. 19 but for every issue after that date!

There will be new features and more news, and plans are nearing completion for a new, streamlined make-up which will brighten up every page.

In two and a-half years of publication, The Clarion has built up a wide influence in Canadian life. The loyalty of its readers has made it possible for The Clarion to move from progress to progress."

Several changes in the editorial staff of the paper have been announced. Thomas C. Sims will continue as editor-in-chief with John Weir, member of the Toronto School Board, as assistant editor. Harry Binder, [deletion:1 line] has been transferred to Toronto to become head of the City reporting staff. Mike Fenwick, who now writes the column "Around the Union Halls," will be in charge of news of trade unions and other organized labour events. Other newcomers to the staff will be Clifford

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Peet, formerly active in the youth movement in Saskatchewan who will be in charge of news featuring Western Canada and Beatrice Ferneyhough, formerly of Montreal, will specialize in "labour defence" work.

2. Communists gain footing in Western Division of Canadian Jewish Congress.

Der Kampf (The Struggle) in its 29th July issue devotes considerable space to a conference of the Canadian Jewish Congress held at Saskatoon on July 17th and 18th. In an article captioned "A Step Forward Toward United Action in aid of the Jewish Masses," H. Guralnik, one of the leading members of the Jewish section of the Communist Party of Canada, analyses the results of the conference, which, he states, was arranged by the Manitoba Executive of the Canadian Jewish Congress. Guralnik claims that the main purpose of this conference was to establish a well functioning Western Canadian Division within the organization of the Canadian Jewish Congress and to outline the activities around which such a division could be established. These activities are listed as follows: (a) Propaganda work to counter-act the anti-Jewish propaganda of the Fascists and anti-Semites in Western Canada; (b) encouragement and assistance to Jewish culture and greater attention to Jewish youth problems; (c) work in aid of Jewish refugees who might be allowed to enter Canada; (d) co-operation and united action among the different Jewish organizations and movements which are engaged in similar work in order to eliminate duplication, and "establish friendly relations and understanding."

Guralnik bitterly complains of Rabbi Frank, a delegate to the conference, who fought against these proposals. Rabbi Frank is very much abused by the

writer, principally because of his opposition to a resolution, which was adopted in spite of his opposition. This resolution, as quoted in the article, reads as follows:

"In accordance with the resolutions of our Congress against the Nazi and Fascist forces of the world and in the present events in China and in Spain, we hereby deeply express our sympathy to these nations who fight for their freedom in the face of the brutal and unjustified attacks. We also express our protest against the political forces which conduct these attacks and thus endanger the peace of the world."

Max Freedman of Edmonton, representing the youth at the conference, is greatly praised by Guralnik for playing into the hands

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of the communists. Freedman is said to have criticized the Canadian Jewish Congress for not co-operating with the progressive youth movement. J.H. Cherniak (Winnipeg) is credited with having told the conference:

"My experience with the communists proves that they are the last people in the world to desire to force their opinions and will upon others, but are, rather, prepared to make concessions in order to achieve unity for the benefit of the Jewish masses against anti-Semitism and Fascism."

It is interesting to note that Guralnik, a well known communist of high standing, represented the B'nai Avrohom Free Loan Society of Winnipeg at this conference. This, apparently, was cited by Cherniak in justification of his claim that the communists are accepted by non-communist societies and are always prepared to co-operate to the fullest extent.

From the article and subsequent information which has come to hand it would appear that the communists made considerable inroads into the Jewish Congress in Western Canada; that they have found a permanent place and voice therein.

3. Communist Party prepares for forthcoming meeting of Canadian Trades and Labour Congress.

Communist Party efforts, for the past month or so, have centered around the problem of maintaining unity in the trade union movement in Canada with the main object in view of preserving the status of the C.I.O. within the C.T. & L.C. Communist Party members in the various trade unions have exerted every effort to put the respective unions on record as being opposed to any split, particularly in the Canadian Trades and Labour Congress.

Alderman J.B. Salsberg, who is one of the men in charge of the activities of the Communist Party in the trade union field, in a leading article appearing

in the Daily Clarion for August 1st, entitled "Unity must be the Keynote of the Fifty-fourth Convention of the Trades and Labour Congress" gives the lead in this agitation against a possible split in the trade union movement. Says Salsberg:

"In our country this tragic development would find expression in a split Trades Congress and subsequent divisions in the trades and labour councils throughout the land. The question of unity will, therefore, over-shadow all else at the Niagara Falls Convention.

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Will the reactionary forces, who take their lead from William Green, succeed in their sinister plans, or will the interest and the deep-rooted desires of the overwhelming majority of the rank and file as well as the leadership of the international trade unions prevail?"

After lamenting the fact that the Canadian Trade Union movement is already sadly divided into five groups, Salsberg, in order to prevent any further split in the unions affiliated to the Canadian Trades and Labour Congress, suggests that mass meetings of trade unionists and others be organized and every union member persuaded to vote for unity in Canada. He further suggests that resolutions calling for unity be adopted by every local union and labour council and forwarded to William Green, to the International offices of the respective unions, and to the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada.

The communists, guided by the Communist Party "line" demanding the preservation of the present status quo, succeeded in placing numerous international unions, as well as ten trades and labour councils throughout Canada and the Quebec Federation of Labour on record as being opposed to any split. The Toronto District Trades and Labour Council, in which communist influence is particularly strong, has adopted five unity resolutions submitted by affiliated organizations and the council's delegates, attending the forthcoming convention of the Canadian Trades and Labour Congress, have been instructed to vote for maintenance of harmony and unity in all ranks. Other trades and labour councils, passing such unity resolutions, are: Victoria, Vancouver, Edmonton, Regina, Winnipeg, Port Arthur, Fort William, London and St. Catharines.

The communists also succeeded in having resolutions passed in various unions and councils protesting the Quebec "Padlock Law," which the Fifty-fourth Convention of the T. & L.C. will be asked to endorse. Other resolutions which have been forwarded to the Congress are asking for an embargo against all Japanese goods and that labour boycott any goods manufactured in whole or in part in Japan.

It is reported that the American Federation, under William Green, has requested its affiliate, the Trade and Labour Congress of Canada to get rid of all C.I.O. members and sympathizers. It is further reported that several of the prominent labour leaders in

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Canada have swung over to the side of William Green and stand instructed to fight for the expulsion of the C.I.O. at the Niagara convention. The request from William Green, it is hinted, amounts to an ultimatum.

Every effort has been made by the Communist Party throughout the country to have reliable members elected as delegates to the forthcoming convention, members who will fight for the maintenance of the present status quo.

4. Communists in Saskatchewan hold Provincial Conference.

The Communist Party in Saskatchewan held a Provincial Conference at Regina from the 5th to 7th of August, with 100 delegates, including 30 women, in attendance. Twenty provincial constituencies were represented.

The main deliberations of the gathering are embodied in two resolutions: One on the "democratic front" in Saskatchewan and the other on "building the Communist Party within the Province." There was also considerable discussion on the reports submitted by the various committees.

The resolution dealing with the question of the "democratic front" in Saskatchewan states that in the opinion of the conference the gathering, together with "all democratic forces in Saskatchewan", in each constituency and on a provincial-wide scale, "can and must be accomplished around two main provincial matters:"

(1) "Action to permit the farmers, and consequently the urban population also, to keep for their own personal use the proceeds of the present crop year.

(2) An understanding among all progressive groups in the constituencies that in the coming federal election only one progressive candidate shall run in each constituency, so that the 'reactionary bloc now seeking federal power can be defeated, and a majority of the progressives elected to clear the road for federal action to rehabilitate the West?'

The resolution asserts that the vast majority of Saskatchewan people favour such steps. It further emphasizes the need for an improvement in the relations between the C.C.F. and the C.P.

In the second resolution the conference registers a "continuing weakness in the party organization and a very slow growth of the party membership." It

places emphasizes on the need for an improvement on three main points: "Branch, Party Education and Recruiting."

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Declaring that the branch is the basis of the party organization, the resolution emphasizes that unless the branch is a well functioning body the party will not become what it should be. It then instructs the Provincial Executive to take the following measures to improve "branch life:"

- (1) "So organize the work of its members that they spend a larger amount of time in personal leadership of the sections and branches and less in inner routine work.
- (2) Insist that the city and constituency leaders of the party go into the branches to develop an active political life, and that special meetings of branch secretaries, executives and those in special fields of work be called from time to time for thorough political discussions.
- (3) Pay attention to the selection of branch leaders, by becoming intimately acquainted with the personnel of the branches and striving to promote to branch leadership those members who show they possess the qualities for public work in the community as well as leadership of the branch."

Regarding recruiting, the resolution states that the Dominion committee has set Saskatchewan the aim of bringing the membership to 2,000 by the end of 1938. It declares that the conference accepts this responsibility of "recruiting and retaining the 500 new members necessary to achieve our aim."

The resolution further instructs the Provincial Executive to:

- (1) Supervise more closely the "provision of written and personal educational leadership for our party."
- (2) Supervise closely the preparation of district and constituency schools and carefully prepare members for the national school.
- (3) Supervise and lead the distribution and sale within the party of current party literature.

The conference elected a new Provincial Committee, consisting of:

[deletion: 1/4 page]

[7]

5. [deletion: 1 word] and others return from Spain; some
disillusioned.

[deletion: 3-4 words] who represented the Communist Party in Spain following [deletion: 1 word] withdrawal, returned to Toronto on August 15th. [deletion: 1 word] has been withdrawn because his work has not been satisfactory. He is said to have been greatly disliked by the Canadian volun-

teers in Spain because he maintained a civil status and failed to properly care for the gifts sent by the Friends of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion Committee in Canada [deletion: 1 word] will be used for a while for aid to Spain propagandist purposes [deletion: 1 line].

According to [deletion: 1 word], recently returned from Spain where he saw service in the Spanish Loyalist Army, there is considerable dissatisfaction and demoralization in the ranks of the International Volunteers in Spain. He is reported to have said that the Government has instituted rigid discipline in the Army, and that Russian officers lead and supervise the policing of the troops. Incidentally, this information was corroborated by one, [deletion: 1 1/4 lines] claims that a number of Canadians have been sent to concentration camps for insubordination and retreating without orders during the fighting at Gandesa. He further remarked that a Canadian named [deletion: 2-3 words] is being held in a Barcelona Gaol to face charges of sabotage and cowardice. [deletion: 2-3 words] will be executed as an American named Vincent Asera was shot after a trial on a similar charge. [deletion: 1 word] also volunteered the information that [deletion: 2 words], at present Commander of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion, is tired of the war and desires to return to Canada.

[deletion: 1 word] returned a very demoralized man. He feels that his battle scars for Spanish Democracy were futile. He blames the Canadian (Communist) Party for adopting a too placid attitude in caring for the men who were in Spain. He declares that many wounded Canadians were removed from the hospitals into convalescent camps and from there into camps for physically unfit men. The latter are in reality concentration camps, he asserts.

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Another very disgruntled member of the MacKenzie-Papineau Battalion recently returned is [deletion: 2-3 words]. He is said to be seething with hatred against the C.P. leadership. [deletion: 1 word] upon receiving word of his wife's illness at home, applied for leave to return to Canada. This was denied him and after he was wounded he was kept in Spain and, as he describes it, "allowed to rot" for one year.

[deletion: 2-3 words] is another returned member of the Mac-Pap Battalion who is very bitter against the leaders of the C.P.

The principal grievance, and one shared nearly by all returned men, is the selection of [deletion: 1 word] for re-habilitation work in Canada. They feel his work in Spain did not warrant his appointment to this job.

6. Strikes and Unrest throughout Canada.

(i) The Transients in Vancouver.

Contending that they have proved to Premier Pattullo that there is no work to be obtained in the interior of British Columbia, many of the single unemployed who left Vancouver early in the summer to seek jobs at inland points have returned to Vancouver. With those who had remained in the city, the total of single unemployed now gathered in Vancouver is approximately 650.

Under the leadership of Steve Brodie and one Red McMillan, the single unemployed classified as "transient" have broken away from the Single Unemployed Organization and have identified themselves apart from single unemployed classified as "resident" unemployed. Believing that the organization has directed its efforts to assisting the resident jobless and has neglected their interests, the group of transients intend, should they gain enough influence, to take control of the situation and to force out such recognized leaders as Matts, Harris and Gumber. A contributing cause for this dissention in the ranks of the single unemployed is the reluctance of the resident class to engage in demonstrations or "tin-canning" as they realise that such action on their part will result in their being cut off relief. Much argument and strife marks the meetings but the men have decided that while organized "tin-canning" should continue, no other demonstrations are to take place for the present.

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The return to the "tin-canning" activities, which re-commenced about the middle of August, has resulted in the arrest of the City Police of many of the men and 64 are now in custody awaiting trial on charges of obstruction. The primary object of the tin-canners is said to be the raising of sufficient funds to take them back to Victoria to place their demands before the Provincial Government, but a secondary purpose appears to be the over-crowding of the jail accommodation and the consequent embarrassment of the City Police.

(ii) The situation at Regina.

Recent reports from Saskatchewan describe the movement of transients as being normal. There is no indication of any concentration which might point to a revival of the on-to-Ottawa trek and no action in that direction is expected this year.

[iii] Recent Press Reports about March on Ottawa by
Toronto Unemployed unfounded.

A recent press report concerning a proposed march on Ottawa by the single unemployed of Toronto gave the number of those who might participate as 5,000. The absurdity of this statement will be understood when it is realized that the number of men registered in the membership book of the S.U.M.A. at Toronto is 600 and of these only 80 are active members. The membership of the association has been bolstered up by the registration of transients who have visited Toronto from time to time and have, in many cases, moved away again.

It is known that the Communist Party will not support a march on Ottawa and it is not in favour of a sit-down strike or any such demonstrative action at present.

The present intention of the C.P. is to plan a concentration of single unemployed in Toronto next October for the purpose of making the care of the single unemployed an issue in the forthcoming civic elections. For this purpose members of the party have been sent out into the country to agitate amongst the men who are at present employed with the tobacco harvest and other seasonal work with a view to persuading them to congregate in Toronto.

Not only is it realized that the organization of the single unemployed is so weak that it would be impossible to organize an

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effective demonstration, but in encouraging and supporting such a demonstration the C.P. considers that it would be playing into the hands of the Provincial Government. The party does not deem it expedient to embarrass the Federal Government at this time, believing that more effective propaganda will result by confining agitation to a provincial basis for the present.

(iv) Relief workers strike at Verdun, Que.

Demanding a 44-hour week at 40¢ per hour, 700 relief recipients went on strike at Verdun, Que., on Friday, August 26th. Carried in an orderly manner without picketing or violence of any kind, the strike continued until Sunday night when a meeting was held and the men decided to return to work. Although 200 persons were present at the meeting and another thousand gathered in the street outside, only 80 strikers voted and of these 43 voted to return to work. Convinced that the disturbance was caused by only a small clique interested in making trouble and causing disorder, the Mayor of Verdun refused to consider the demands of the strikers and was of the opinion that work would continue without further trouble.

(v) Miners strike in Drumheller, Alta., area.

While Drumheller coalfield operators and United Mine Workers of America delegates were conferring in Calgary on a proposed new wage agreement, 150 miners of the Cambrian Mine, Rosedale, near Drumheller, started a strike on August 25th, demanding wage adjustments.

(vi) Strike of Steel Workers at New Glasgow, N.S.

About 200 men employed in the steel-track construction department at the Eastern Car Company's plant at New Glasgow, N.S., walked out on August 18th, because of demands for increased production without corresponding wage increases.

Full approval of the action taken by the executive of the Steel and Tin Workers Union in calling this strike was contained in a telegram from Silby Barrett, regional director of the C.I.O. read at a meeting of the Union on August 28th.

[11]

B. Fascism.

7. The National Unity Party.

The plan of organization of the newly formed National Unity Party has been published in the form of a mimeographed booklet and copies have been distributed to all officers of the party. Drawn up by [deletion:1 word], who was chosen for the task at the recent party convention held in Toronto, the plan differs from that of the National Socialist Christian Party in minor details only.

With the controversy concerning Joseph Farr one of the main issues, the rift between the Protestant elements in the National Unity Party at Toronto and the Roman Catholics had widened, and the organization in that City appears to be in a process of disintegration. A visit by Arcand to bring affairs under control has been proposed, but it is not considered that the presence of the party leader will assist materially in strengthening the organization. It is known that [deletion:2 words] has endeavoured to enlist the support of the Germans in Toronto for the Party but so far he has met with no success. He is reported to have interviewed [deletion:2 words], a leader of the Germans, but was told not to return as [deletion:1 word] was not in the least interested in the N.U.P. and would in no way lend his support to it.

The National Unity Party at Winnipeg has been quite inactive, only a few meetings have been held and these in private houses attended by only a few of the members. There is talk of inaugurating a campaign for membership later in the fall.
