

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

Ottawa,

September 15, 1938.

SECRETNO. 900WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON COMMUNIST AND FASCIST ORGANIZATIONSAND AGITATION IN CANADA

Tim Buck, General Secretary of the Communist Party of Canada, recently made a tour of the Maritime Provinces addressing a series of meetings on "Labour and Canadian Democracy". It is said his tour was not a success. Buck also attended the District Convention of the Communist Party at Sydney at which he attempted to reconcile the opposing factions within the Party in the Cape Breton area.

APPENDICESTABLE OF CONTENTSAPPENDIX NO. I: GENERALA. Communism.

- Para. No. 1. Croatian Communists conclude successful "Press Campaign."
- " " 2. C.I.O. invades Estevan coal fields.
Union firmly established.
- " " 3. Lithuanian Communists hold Congress at Montreal.
- " " 4. Maritime District of C.P. holds convention at Sydney, N.S.
Tim Buck in attendance.
- " " 5. [~~deletion:1 line~~]
- " " 6. Strikes and Unrest throughout Canada.
- (i) The unemployed at Vancouver.
 - (ii) Alberta Government to close relief kitchens at Edmonton and Calgary.
 - (iii) Communists start anti-disfranchisement campaign in Winnipeg.

Winnipeg relief recipients are voting on strike question.

- (iv) Agitation among unemployed at Toronto shows little result.

B. Fascism.

- " " 7. The National Unity Party.

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES.

- " " 8. Alberta.
Leslie Morris addresses C.P. meeting at Edmonton.
- " " 9. Manitoba.
C.P. at Winnipeg launch Clarion campaign.
Sam Carr to supervise campaign in Western Canada.
- " " 10. Quebec.
The C.P. at Montreal.
\$1,200 raised in recent campaign.
Party membership lower than last March, also circulation of party organs.
Civil Liberties Union holds meeting.

APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

A. Communism.

1. Croatian Communists conclude successful "Press Campaign."

Slobodna Misao, Croatian communist organ published at Toronto thrice weekly, recently concluded a campaign for new subscribers and donations for its sustaining fund; the objective being \$2,000 for the sustaining fund and 500 subscriptions, new or renewals. The final results are given in the August 30th edition of the paper as follows:

Grand Total for Sustaining Fund	—	\$2,073.12
New Subscriptions		
Yearly	Half-Yearly	
321	34	
Renewals		
464		

In announcing the results the paper boasts that the campaign was conducted in thirty-five cities and towns of Canada with Kirkland Lake and Hamilton leading in cash donations and new subscribers, respectively. At Kirkland Lake \$251. was obtained for the sustaining fund. Schumacher is given second place having collected \$214., while Timmins raised \$204. and Hamilton \$147. The latter, however, obtained the largest number of subscribers. It is said that 41 yearly and 11 half-yearly new subscriptions and 21 renewals were obtained there. Vancouver is credited with having obtained 19 new subscribers and 69 renewals.

2. C.I.O. invades Estevan Coal Fields.

John Stokaluk, [deletion:2-3 words] general organizer of the United Mine Workers of America, District No. 18, recently spent considerable time in the Estevan — Bienfait area in an endeavour to organize the coal miners there into the U.M.W. of A. He is reported to have succeeded in establishing a permanent organization embracing approximately 90% of the miners employed in that area. On September 11th, at a membership meeting of the newly formed union, a set of temporary officers and committees were elected. It is said that over 500 miners have joined the union. Permanent officers of the local will be elected by ballot at a later date. From all accounts it would

[2]

appear that this affiliate of the Committee for Industrial Organization is now firmly established in this coal mining district.

3. Lithuanian Communists hold Congress at Montreal.

The second Lithuanian Congress took place at Montreal, P.Q., from September 3rd to 4th. It was originally planned to hold it in the Lithuanian Grand Duke Vytautas Independent Hall, but the Montreal Police, allegedly at the request of the Lithuan Nationalists, banned the meeting. It is alleged by the communists that two Lithuanian Nationalists — Treciokas and Jurgela — of Brooklyn, N. Y., visited Montreal prior to the Congress and informed the police that the gathering would be attended by representatives of communist organizations. It is said that the complaint made to the police was based upon articles appearing in the "Naujifnos," Lithuanian Daily published at Chicago, Ill., charging that the Congress was inspired by the Communist Party. The Grand Duke Vytautas Hall having been closed to them the Communists made arrangements to hold the Congress in the Mount Royal Hotel.

The Congress is said to have represented 3,728 organized Lithuanians in Canada. There were 72 delegates in attendance, also a fraternal delegate, R. Mizara, from Brooklyn, N.Y., representing the Lithuanian Workers' Alliance.

The Congress was opened by Petras Suplevicius, chairman of the "Canadian Lithuanian Committee to Defend the People of Lithuania," who, following his opening remarks, introduced Comrade M.M. Masnickas, the oldest member of the committee, to the gathering, who then spoke on the tasks of the Congress. Following the latter's address, the various committees were appointed as well as the chairmen for the various sessions. Then followed greetings and donations from the various delegates in attendance. J. Yla of Toronto extended greetings on behalf of the Lithuanian Central Bureau of the Communist Party of Canada. R. Mizara greeted the gathering in the name of the Lithuanian Workers' Alliance; J. Urbanavicius on behalf of the Canadian Executive Committee of the Lithuanian Workers' Literary Association; K. Kerbelis, Montreal, on behalf of the St. Casimir and St. John Benefit Society; M.M. Masnickas, Montreal, Lithuanian Grand Duke Vytautas Independent Club; J. Petravicius, Canada Lithuanian Sons and Daughters Mutual

[3]

Aid Society; Janauskas, Toronto, in the name of the Liaudes Balsas staff, and other delegates representing various branches of the fore-said organizations.

J. Yla presented a lengthy report on the defence of Lithuania's Independence which supplied the basis for a resolution on the "Restoration of Democracy in Lithuania and the Defence of its Independence." In this resolution it is decreed that only free people can successfully defend Lithuania, therefore, "the Fascist Government of Lithuania must free all political prisoners, particularly the anti-fascists, thus restore democracy and join with France and Russia." In another resolution the Congress pledged itself to commemorate important events in the struggles of the Lithuanians, such as the insurrections against Czarism in 1794, 1831 and 1864.

The Congress elected a Central Executive Committee consisting of: Comrades J. Lesevicius, P. Matulaityte, M.M. Masnickas, K. Kilikevicius, J. Bunkus, Kerbelis and Sipelis. A mass meeting and concert attended by approximately 600, with R. Mizara as principal speaker, marked the official termination of the gathering. It is said that the collection taken at this concert meeting amounted to \$129. Collections or donations received from various delegates at the Congress amounted to \$203.40.

The gathering has been hailed by the communist element as a great success and a vindication of their united front policy. There is evidence to show that the anti-communists among the Lithuanians are now making every effort to counteract the advances made by the communists here in Canada and in the

United States. It must be admitted that the charges made by "Naujifnos"
 [§deletion:3 lines]

4. Maritime District of C.P. holds Convention at Sydney, N.S.

The Communist Party, [§deletion:1 word], covering the Maritime Provinces, held a District Convention of the Ukrainian Labour Temple at Sydney, N.S., on September 4th and 5th. A general membership meeting held on the evening of the 3rd at which the aims and objects of

[4]

the party were discussed, preceded the convention proper.

The pre-convention meeting was attended by about forty members, including the delegates to the convention. Tim Buck, General Secretary of the party, the only speaker, outlined generally the aims and objects of the party in the Maritimes as well as in other parts of Canada. These could be summarized as follows:

- (1) Immediate organization of the masses to combat reaction and preserve democracy by organizing a people's front throughout Canada.
- (2) Mobilization of public opinion in support of Spain and China.
- (3) *Intensification of Communist Party activity in the labour movement in Nova Scotia.*

The convention proper was attended by 32 delegates, 18 of whom were from Cape Breton alone. The report of the District Bureau was presented by Bill Findlay. It disclosed that although the party has made some progress during the past year it had many shortcomings. The report suggested the formation of a political party which would embrace trade unions and other organizations of the working class. Some of the resolutions brought before the convention by the various commissions and which were adopted stressed:

- (a) Active participation in the Trade Unions and the shaping and control of their policy.
- (b) Formation of a united front with all progressive trade unionists.
- (c) Organization of the unorganized workers in N.S.
- (d) Organization of trades councils in all communities, the Steel Workers' Union at Sydney to take the lead. These councils to be formed into a N.S. Federation of Labour.
- (e) To press for affiliation to the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada of all organized trade unions and trades councils.
- (f) Organization of a political party embracing the trade unions.
- (g) Formation of a united front with the Canadian Commonwealth Federation and all "progressive people."

(h) Party branches in each community to become active in municipal politics.

(i) Recruiting of new members from progressive trade unions.

A feature of the convention was a public mass meeting in the Strand Theatre at Sydney on September 4th, commencing at 2.00 p.m.

[5]

with approximately 400 people in attendance, and with Tim Buck as the principal speaker. Other speakers were Dan Parker of Halifax, a delegate to the convention and one of the leaders of the fishermen's strike in Halifax last year, and Bill Findlay, District Organizer of the party. Tim Buck delivered a typical anti-fascist speech, calling for a united front of the people against Fascism and in support of Spain and China.

The District Convention adjourned at 8.00 p.m., September 5th, after which a mass meeting was held in New Waterford with Tim Buck as the main speaker.

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

6. Strikes and Unrest Throughout Canada.

(i) The Unemployed at Vancouver.

The Government of British Columbia is said to have agreed to assume responsibility for those single unemployed who have been resident in the Province for the last three years. It is believed that this decision will affect many of the single unemployed organized into the Single Unemployed Organization which has its headquarters at 60 West Cordova St., Vancouver, and which played an important role in the recent demonstrations and disturbances in that City.

[6]

A great deal of dissatisfaction exists in the ranks of the single unemployed over the leadership of John Matts. He and Steve Brodie are openly quarrelling; the latter accuses Matts of employing dictatorial methods. It is anticipated that Matts will be deposed and the actual leadership of the organized unemployed assumed by Steve Brodie.

The Workers' Alliance of British Columbia held a mass meeting at the Powell St. Grounds at Vancouver on September 12th, with approximately 600 individuals in attendance. Approximately 85% of the married relief recipients engaged on work tests in the City "downed tools" to attend this meeting. Speeches by Smith of the Workers' Alliance, Slade and Lealess, urged

representations be made to the public to get a more generous relief allowance, particularly during the winter months. The meeting itself was very orderly but upon breaking up about 200 men marched to the City Hall, seeking an interview with the Mayor. Precautions previously taken by the City Police prevented these men from entering the City Hall, so while waiting for an interview with the Mayor the demonstrators sat down on the grass. By the time they were accorded an interview their number had dwindled until there were only approximately 60 left. A delegation of four was eventually received by the Acting Mayor; the demands presented included: (a) A minimum of ten days work per month for married men with one extra day each month for each dependent, (b) a 50% increase in relief allowances for all those unable to secure employment. It was pointed out to the delegation that the Civic authorities had already taken up this matter many times with the Provincial Government but the Mayor expressed the hope that more equitable arrangements will be made in the future; the City itself being unable to do anything at present. The delegation left shortly thereafter and the small gathering dispersed.

(ii) Alberta Government to close relief kitchens at
Edmonton and Calgary.

The Alberta Provincial Government intends closing the relief kitchens at Calgary and Edmonton due to the small number of unemployed men being fed at these places. Approximately 150 men are still being

[7]

fed at Calgary and 100 in Edmonton. It is the intention of the Government to transfer these men to the rest camps at Pincher Creek and Evansburg where they will be cared for in the usual manner.

It is expected that the Provincial Government will reopen the kitchens when the men commence to return from the harvest fields.

(iii) Communists start anti-disfranchisement campaign
in Winnipeg.

The activities of the Communist Party at Winnipeg have found a focal point in the promotion of agitation against the action of the City Council to disfranchise a certain class of resident.

The City of Winnipeg Charter provides "every occupant of a separate portion of a house shall be deemed a tenant within this act. A border or lodger shall not be deemed a tenant within the act," and to clarify a situation involving

abuses at civic elections, the Assessment Commissioner wrote to the Senior County Court Judge for a legal ruling. In his reply Judge Whitla said in part, as follows:

"The second question as to parties occupying one, two or three rooms in a dwelling house, some claiming light-house keeping privileges ... I would say, generally speaking, that the occupant of a dwelling house, other than the owner or head-tenant, whether they claim house-keeping privileges or not, are lodgers merely and not tenants..."

"I do not think that it ever was the intention of the legislature to allow several voters from a single dwelling house because a party might occupy one or two rooms but is not an owner or a main lessee of the premises."

Taking full advantage of the opportunity provided, the Communist Party secured the advice of ex-Judge L. St. G. Stubbs and drew up a petition protesting the action of the Mayor and Council. Strongly in favour of legal action, Mr. Stubbs denied the justification of Judge Whitla in giving his "extra-judicial interpretation and ex-parte advisory opinion." It is understood that the C.P. will institute proceedings against Judge Whitla. This proposed disfranchisement is of vital importance to the C.P. in Winnipeg as a large number of the party members and sympathizers come under the threatened category. Petition forms are being circulated throughout the City and meetings and demonstrations are being promoted. Although advertised as a "United Front" movement, the agitation is promoted and directed by the communist leaders.

[8]

Considerable agitation is taking place at present among the relief recipients of Greater Winnipeg with a view to stimulating strike action. Approximately 1,600 strike ballots have been distributed by the Manitoba Conference of Unemployed and on September 13th it was reported that about 500 of these ballots had been turned in. A strike committee is to be elected to complete the arrangements and supervise the proposed strike should it come into effect.

(iv) Agitation among Unemployed at Toronto
shows little result.

Organizers of the Single Unemployed Men's Association at Toronto are finding it increasingly difficult to recruit members for their organizations. The Communist Party does not consider the time opportune to take a too active part in this movement and is more or less allowing the unemployed to chart their own course. It is possible, however, that with the influx of single transients from the harvest fields the movement will receive some impetus.

B. Fascism.

7. The National Unity Party

The National Unity Party at Montreal held a public meeting at 903 St. Zotique Street, East., on September 12th with approximately 100 people in attendance, thirty of whom wore shirts bearing the emblem of the party. Prominent among those present were [deletion:2 1/4 lines]. Four orators held forth expounding the aims and objects of the party. The first speaker dwelt at great length upon the origin of the "Flaming Torch," claiming that it originated in Alsace many years ago.

[9]

The second speaker indulged in a tirade against the present day political leaders of Canada, depicting them as men with the "skull of a bull but the brain of a bird." He promised that should the National Unity Party come into power all people guilty of "political graft" will be sent to the quarries to break rocks.

The last speaker, one Bourgoïn, in a very eloquent and fiery speech, condemned the Jews and their domination of "everything that we Canadians call heritage." Dealing with the crisis in Czechoslovakia, the speaker asserted that "we Canadians will not go to defend anything in which we have no interest." "We Canadians will defend only Canada; let the Jews go and fight there if they wish," he asserted. Concluding he said that the National Unity Party "is out to go places." He claimed that at a meeting held in the St. Antoine sur Richelieu district recently, great enthusiasm was shown by farmers attending same. "They too are tired of democracy," he said.

Approximately twenty members of the Party attended the class for training future officers held on the 7th September at 903 St. Zotique Street, East. The class was lead by [deletion:2 words] and supervised by [deletion:2 words]. About twenty other members of the Party were present in the hall but these did not take part in the exercises.

On September 5th an organization meeting of the Party was held at 903 St. Zotique Street., with thirty-one officers from St. Dennis County in attendance. Speeches calculated to create a little more enthusiasm among the officers were given and the officers were cautioned to attend meetings of the Party more regularly.

[10]

APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES.I. Alberta.8. Leslie Morris addresses C.P. meeting at Edmonton.

Leslie Morris who has been recalled from Vancouver to Toronto to fill a position on the Editorial Board of the Daily Clarion, addressed a C.P. meeting at Edmonton September 11th and bitterly assailed the policy of Great Britain and France with regard to the Czecho-Slovakian situation. He urged the people of Canada to take a stand for collective security in place of following "blindly the policy the Governments of Great Britain and France." He had much praise for President Roosevelt of the United States of America.

Other speakers included Lakeman and L. Anderson. The latter spoke on the situation in Spain and later introduced James Wilson, whom he described as "one of the 1,200 Canadians who had proceeded to Spain to fight for world democracy," and to whom he presented, on behalf of the C.P., a new membership card welcoming him back to the ranks of the Party. James Wilson, following this presentation, briefly outlined his experiences in Spain.

II. Manitoba.9. C.P. at Winnipeg launch Clarion campaign.

The Communist Party at Winnipeg has started a campaign on behalf of the Clarion, the object of which is to raise \$1,800 in the Province of Manitoba. The quota allotted to Ward (3) Winnipeg, is \$1,000; Ward (2) is being asked to raise \$235, while the quota set for Ward (1) is \$65, leaving \$500 for the rest of Manitoba. Sam Carr, National Organizer of the C.P. of C., has been detailed by the political buro of the party to supervise the campaign in Manitoba and Western Canada. The local party leaders have been instructed to devote their major attention to this campaign. A special conference to discuss the campaign is scheduled for the 18th of September, to be held in the Trades and Labour Temple on James Street. Among those expected to attend are L.St.G. Stubbs and L. Morris, who is enroute to Toronto. In addition to the \$1,800 for the sustaining fund the Manitoba District is expected to solicit five hundred new subscriptions for the paper.

III. Quebec.10. The Communist Party at Montreal.

[~~deletion:2 lines~~], it was reported that the sum of more than \$1,200 was realized during the recent campaign the purpose of which was to raise \$1,000 for organizational work in the Province. It was reported that owing to members having been transferred to other provinces and due to the fact that recruiting had been at a standstill during the summer months, the membership of the C.P. of Quebec is now lower than it was at the end of May last. It was further reported that a re-grouping of members is to take place which will leave [~~deletion:1/2 line~~]

At a recent membership meeting of [~~deletion:1/2 line~~] of the C.P. at Montreal, it was revealed that the circulation of the Daily Clarion, which stood at 700 last March, now stands at 400 in the Province of Quebec. A subscription drive for this paper will be started on October 1st of this year. The circulation of Clarite, the French organ of the C.P. in Quebec Province, is now 3,000 as compared with 4,000 in March of this year.

The meeting was told that the Provincial Committee of the C.P. in Quebec had pledged \$1,000 to the Civil Liberties Union. This pledge was given by Stanley Ryerson, Secretary of the Provincial Committee, at a conference of the Civil Liberties Union, held in the Central Y.M.C.A. recently. It was further reported that a committee of seventeen members has been appointed to organize the election campaign of Fred Rose in the Cartier federal constituency.

The opinion held by members of the C.P. is that the Quebec Provincial authorities will make it impossible for Fred Rose to speak at mass meetings. For this reason the leaders of the party are now proposing a united front with the C.C.F. and the Social Credit for the purpose of entering a "unity" candidate. Fred Rose, of course is to be this "unity" candidate. In the event of Fred Rose not being supported by the other groups, the C.P. intends to run Rose on a straight Communist Party ticket.

[12]

Approximately 800 people, mostly French Canadians, attended a meeting of the Civil Liberties Union in the Longshoremen's Hall, Montreal, on September 2nd. The meeting was really arranged by the Central Labour Forum, a Communist Party institution. Its purpose was to explain and protest the Padlock Law, so-called, and the speakers were Professor F.W. Baer, J.A. (Pat) Sullivan, of the C.P. and member of the Montreal Labour Council and President of Seamen's Union, R.L. Calder, K.C., Vice-President of the Civil

Liberties Union and Paul Fournier, member of the Montreal Trades and Labour Council.

Professor Baer contended that no danger threatens Canada from without but "tyranny" threatens from within, citing the Padlock Law in support of his claim. J.A. Sullivan dealt at great length with the action of the Provincial Police in padlocking the Artistic Printing Shop which printed some of his Union's literature. He suggested that a united labour movement would be the best medium through which to fight and defeat "reaction."

R.L. Calder advanced the usual argument against the Padlock Law, contending that if the French Canadians had not been as active in the campaign for the repeal of this law as was expected, it was because they were ignorant of the real purpose of the law and failed to realize the extent to which this law can be used to deprive them of the "most elementary democratic rights." In conclusion he appealed to all manual workers, the office workers, the small merchant and middle man to form a party, a people's party, to "sweep Duplessis and those behind him out of power."
