

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE HEADQUARTERS

OTTAWA, Ont.

November 30th, 1938.

SECRETNO. 906WEEKLY SUMMARYREPORT ON COMMUNIST AND FASCIST ORGANIZATIONS
AND AGITATION IN CANADA

The Communist Party registered considerable gains in the recent municipal elections throughout the Prairie Provinces.

For the first time in history, Calgary elected a communist to the City Council in the person of Pat Lenihan, local communist leader, who, running as a "People's Party" candidate, received 3,782 votes.

At Winnipeg the Communist Party re-elected Alderman M.J. Forkin in Ward three with 5,439 votes, and elected a new alderman, Andrew Bilecki, with 6,657 votes; thus bringing the communist representation on Council to three. Bill Ross, School Trustee, was re-elected in Ward three with 7,213 votes. John (Jock) McNeil, Communist aldermanic candidate in Ward two obtained 3,035 votes, 1,000 over last year and missed election by a few votes. The large vote polled by McNeil is significant as Ward two is predominantly English speaking.

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APPENDIX NO. I: GENERAL

A. Communism.

1. Comintern Manifesto calls upon International
Working Class to fight Fascism.

On the 21st anniversary of the Russian (October) Revolution celebrated on November 7th, the Communist International at Moscow issued a manifesto

calling for an intensification of the struggle for the united front on the part of the proletariat of all countries in an effort to bring about the defeat of Fascism and reaction.

Exhorting the world proletariat to stand firmly united and to sharpen the struggle for the people's front, the manifesto, widely published in the Communist Press throughout the world, strongly attacks the signatories of the Munich settlement who it describes as conspirators against the smaller nations of Europe in favour of German and Italian Fascism.

Referring to the Munich settlement, the manifesto says:—

"In their mortal hatred of Socialism, of the international working class, of every democratic movement, the imperialist cliques of Britain and France concluded a counter-revolutionary alliance with German and Italian Fascism. The Munich agreement WAS NOT ONLY A BLOW TO CZECHOSLOVAKIA. It is a far wider imperialist conspiracy. It is a conspiracy against the small nations which Britain and France are betraying to the fascist plunderers. It is a conspiracy against the Spanish republic, whose heroic people they wish to place in bondage to the German and Italian violators.

It is an onslaught on the French people around whose neck German and Italian fascism are drawing the noose ever tighter. It is an onslaught on the British people against whom war is being prepared by its age-old enemy — German imperialism. It is a treacherous blow against the German people, whose enslavement becomes more severe the greater the concessions made to the hangmen of the working people of Germany.

MUNICH WAS A BLOW AT WORLD PEACE.

It is against the People's Front movement, against the international proletariat that the Munich conspiracy is directed. It is against WORLD PEACE that the blow is directed by the Munich conspirators, who come forward hypocritically in the role of 'saviors of peace.'

Not peace was saved by the British and French reactionaries; what they did was to save German fascism from collapse. They strengthened Hitler's position for the conduct of a major war."

The manifesto then continues with an appeal to the masses to struggle to replace the present governments of so-called reactionary countries in the following words:—

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"A successful fight for peace cannot be conducted unless ruthless blows are dealt at those who betray their country and their people. The fascist aggressors, who have cast off all restraint, cannot be curbed unless a

resolute struggle is undertaken against the capitulators in one's own country.

The people cannot entrust the fate of their countries to governments which conspire with foreign fascism against their own people. They cannot entrust either the defense of the country, or armaments to such governments. It is against the working class, against all laboring people, against the liberation struggle of other peoples that these reactionary governments will direct their guns.

The condition for a successful struggle to strengthen the cause of peace is to replace the governments of national treachery and shame in the countries menaced by fascist blows from without, by governments that are ready to repulse the fascist aggressors.

A government of real national salvation cannot pursue the ruinous path of capitulation. It will conduct a ruthless struggle against capitulators and agents of foreign fascism. It will ruthlessly crush the fascist machinations of reaction at home. It will purge the army of the fascist enemies of its own people. It will establish real control by the working class over the defense of the country. It will disarm the fascist leagues and make the working class organizations the mainstay of the country's defense. It will conduct a consistent policy of collective security and will not shrink from employing sanctions against the aggressor.

With the aid of such governments that are ready to use armed force in defense of liberty and the independence of their peoples, it will be possible for a firm front of the peoples to arise which will compel the fascist aggressors to respect frontiers and keep the peace....."

Criticizing the leaders of the Labour and Socialist International (Second International) for their alleged retreat "in the face of reaction," the C.I. manifesto continues:—

"In the face of the international conspiracy of Fascism, INTERNATIONAL WORKING-CLASS UNITY has become a matter that brooks no delay. The Communist International carries on an unceasing struggle for this unity. It has repeatedly made the proposal to the Labor and Socialist International to establish united action by the international working class. Millions of workers throughout the world demand unity. Unity is desired by many social democratic and trade union organizations.

But this unity is not wanted by the reactionary leaders entrenched in the leadership of the Second International and in a number of Social-Democratic parties and trade unions. They systematically disrupt the formation of a united anti-fascist, working-class fighting front.

It is they who, while retreating step by step before fascism, conduct a shameless, slanderous campaign against the land of Socialism. It is they

who gather up with a solicitous hand from the cesspool of fascism the Trotskyist agents of the Gestapo, whom they allow to do wrecking work in the labor movement with impunity. It is they who by their policy of non-intervention, have helped

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the hangmen who seek to strangle Republican Spain. It is they who, without protest, accepted the Munich ultimatum, hypocritically declaring it to be a supreme victory for the cause of peace. It is they, who, after Munich, continue the same policy of splits and capitulation, the policy of disintegrating the labor movement.

Without a daily and resolute struggle against these enemies of working-class unity, these agents of the bourgeoisie, it is impossible to achieve the cohesion of the ranks of the proletariat. Now it is not enough to declare oneself a supporter of unity; now one must boldly put it into immediate practice on a local scale, as our Spanish brothers have done."

The manifesto appeals for:—

"WORKING-CLASS UNITY — in the name of the peoples who are oppressed by fascism; in the name of the liberation struggle of the Austrian people against alien domination, of the struggle of the peoples of Czechoslovakia against the dismemberment of their country, and against the arbitrary conduct of German imperialism.

"WORKING-CLASS UNITY — in the name of the heroic Spanish people, against whom the conspirators of Munich are preparing the next blow. **ARMS AND FOODSTUFFS FOR THE FIGHTING SPANISH REPUBLIC!** Lift the shameful blockade! Drive the German and Italian interventionists from Spanish territory.

"WORKING-CLASS UNITY — in the name of the heroic Chinese people. **SUPPORT CHINA WITH ARMS AND CREDITS!** Economic sanctions against the Japanese aggressor! No war materials, no credits for the Japanese plunderer!

"WORKING-CLASS UNITY — in the name of the worker's most urgent interests, in the name of all the peoples whose independence is menaced by German fascism, in the name of peace which is at stake!

"PROLETARIANS OF ALL LANDS, UNITE, SO AS TO LAY THE FOUNDATION OF UNITY OF THE PEOPLES AGAINST FASCIST AGGRESSION!"

In conclusion the manifesto hails the U.S.S.R. as the "impregnable fortress of Socialism" and calls upon the working people of all lands to strengthen the "fraternal fighting alliance with the great Soviet people."

"Working people of all countries, strengthen the fraternal fighting alliance with the great Soviet people.

"The U.S.S.R. is the impregnable fortress of Socialism, the guarantee of the oncoming victory of the international working class.

"The U.S.S.R. is a powerful buttress of peace and fraternity between the peoples.

"The land of victorious Socialism is an indestructible bulwark of the peoples through the world in the struggle against fascist enslavement.

"Long live the great Soviet Union, the fortress of Socialism, liberty and the independence of the peoples!

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"Long live international working-class unity!

"Long live the Spanish people, fighting with arms in hand in defense of their liberty!

"Long live the Chinese people, waging a liberation struggle for their independence!

"Long live the people's front against fascism in all countries!

"Long live the world-wide front of the peoples against the fascist aggressors!

"Long live Socialism!

"EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE COMMUNIST
INTERNATIONAL."

2. Jean Perron, former Editor of "Clarte" expelled
from Communist Party of Canada.

Jean Perron, who was recently reported to be enroute to Moscow as representative of the Communist Party of Canada to the Communist International, is said to have "deserted" in France and gone to Switzerland, subsequently returning to Canada. Accusing Perron of disloyalty to the Party, the November 5th issue of Clarte publishes an item describing Perron's expulsion from the Communist Party in the following terms:—

"The Provincial Bureau of the Communist Party of Canada hereby announces that the named Jean Perron has been expelled from the Party for disloyal conduct and double-crossing. The Provincial Bureau hereby appeals to all the honest workers and progressive people to treat this individual as a renegade of the workers' movement."

The leadership of the Party in Canada is considerably incensed at the activities of Perron and, beyond the published reasons for his expulsion,

strongly suspect him of Trotskyite sympathies and also of being a Police Agent.

3. Communists demonstrate before German Consulate at Winnipeg.

An anti-nazi demonstration against persecution of the Jewish community in Germany was held at Winnipeg, Man., during noon hour, November 22nd, before the building housing the office of the German Consul. About 200 demonstrators of both sexes paraded, bearing placards which condemned the barbaric treatment meted to the Jews and others subjected to Nazi persecution in Germany.

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Various prominent members of the Communist Party, such as James Litterick, William Ross, P. Lysetts, M. Sago, Sol Simpkin and Anne Buller, participated in the demonstration, some of them carrying placards. Seventy-five percent of the demonstrators were Jews.

4. Canadian Communists celebrate 21st Anniversary of the Russian Revolution.

Mass meetings and concerts marked the annual (21st) celebration of the Russian October Revolution throughout Canada. Although scattered over a wider area, the meetings this year lacked interest, attested by the small turn-out in some places.

(i) Winnipeg, Man.

On Sunday evening, November 6th, approximately 1,200 Communists and sympathizers gathered at the Walker Theatre, Winnipeg, for the purpose of celebrating the 21st anniversary of the Russian Revolution. Prominent on the platform were three large portraits depicting Lenin in the middle with Engels and Karl Marx on each side, a placard with "Hail the Anniversary of the Revolution" being placed immediately above.

The chief speaker of the evening, James Litterick, M.L.A., greeting the audience, remarked that the great revolution of workers and peasants, twenty-one years ago under the leadership of the Bolshevik Party, was successful in bringing about the overthrow of Czarism and the establishment of the present Socialist Government of workers and peasants. Describing the World Proletariat as one great family of various nationalities, Litterick depicted the growth

of the Soviet Union during the twenty-one years since the Revolution of 1917. The speaker continuing, stressed the difficulties and hardships suffered by the people of the U.S.S.R. in the process of reaching their present status and eulogized the achievements which had been made since the overthrow of the previous regime. Heaping invective on the heads of Hitler and Mussolini and upon Premiers Chamberlain and Daladier, Litterick declared that "such dictators and their pro-fascist and pro-nazi cohorts" could do nothing to curtail the progress of the Soviet Union. He was hailed with great applause during certain phases of his address.

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Following Litterick, Alderman J.B. Salsberg of Toronto addressed the audience. Salsberg's speech was a similar panegyric of the progress made in the Soviet Unions since the time of the Revolution.

Dealing with the Munich agreement, Salsberg stated that Fascism is gathering its strength by engulfing small countries preparatory to attacking the U.S.S.R. and inferred that the attack on the Soviet Union from without would take place due to the failure of capitalist regimes to disrupt the country from within. He expressed surprise that the British people should so easily believe, what he termed, "the lies" of Premier Chamberlain, and concluded his speech with an expression of hope that the British and French people would awake in time and establish a strong People's Front to take the place of the present leadership in the countries concerned. The meeting terminated at 11.15 p.m., with the playing of the "International" by a joint orchestra from the Polish and Russian Worker's Clubs.

(ii) Regina, Sask.

At Regina the Communist Party held a meeting on November 7th in the Ukrainian Labour Farmer Temple Association Hall to celebrate the event. Approximately 130 individuals attended with L.G. MacManus, Secretary of the C.P. for Saskatchewan, as the principal speaker. In his address MacManus outlined the achievements of the present regime in the Soviet Union and appealed for united action in Canada against fascism and the "reactionary groups now in power."

(iii) Edmonton, Alta.

At Edmonton approximately 250 people attended a mass meeting, held under the auspices of the City Committee of the C.P., in the Imperial Hall on November 13th, in celebration of the Anniversary. The principal speaker at the meeting was L. Anderson, his address following the usual line of eulogy of achievements in the U.S.S.R. since the inauguration of the present regime.

Two motion pictures were also shown, one of which was entitled "Soviet Youth March On," and the other "Rebuilding the Soviet."

(iv) Hamilton, Ont.

The 21st Anniversary of the Russian Revolution was cele-

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brated on November 7th at a meeting held under Communist Party auspices at the Labour Temple. Leslie Morris, well known communist functionary, was the main speaker of the evening.

Describing the great economic and social advances which have been made in the U.S.S.R. since 1917, Morris emphasized that of all people in the world the Soviet people were most firmly united and were solidly arrayed around a platform of increasing democracy, etc. "I am proud," said Morris, "that my party, the C.P., led the people of the Tzarist Russian Empire to victory, because today the U.S.S.R. stands as an eternal reminder that the simple laws of morals and justice can still prevail over the imperialist jungle." Attacking fascism and criticizing the Munich settlement, Morris' speech was largely of the same tenor as addresses given at other meetings held in celebration of the Russian Revolution.

(v) Niagara Falls, Ont.

At Niagara Falls, Ont., a meeting to celebrate the 21st Anniversary of the Russian Revolution took place in the local Hungarian Hall, under Communist Party auspices, on the evening of the 6th of November. Approximately 100 persons were present.

The first speaker was Miss. E. Carter, Secretary of the Communist Party at Niagara Falls. In her address to the audience she criticized the policy of Mr. Chamberlain, stating that the granting of the demands of Germany appeared to be an alliance of the democratic powers and fascism, as opposed to communism; in this growing strength of fascism lay the danger to the peace policy of the Soviet Union, according to the speaker.

The meeting was also addressed by Mr. Peterson of Buffalo, N. Y., who had been a recent visitor to the Soviet Union. In describing his visit of twelve days to Moscow, Mr. Peterson described the progress which had been made in the U.S.S.R. since the Revolution, the excellent type of buildings which had been erected, etc. His address was mainly a eulogy of present conditions in the U.S.S.R. A speech by N. Lynd of Niagara Falls, brought the meeting to a conclusion.

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(vi) Montreal, Que.

In view of the impossibility of obtaining a hall in Montreal in which to hold a meeting in celebration of the 21st Anniversary of the Russian Revolution, no mass meeting was held openly under Communist Party auspices this year. A private meeting was, however, held at the Queen's Hotel on the evening of November 6th under the name of the fictitious "Current History Group."

5. Strikes and Unrest throughout Canada.

(i) The Single Unemployed men at Vancouver, B.C.

The situation at Vancouver, B.C., in regard to single unemployed individuals remains quiet; large numbers of transient persons having been dispatched to relief camps in the Province. Single unemployed men who took part in the occupation of the Vancouver Post Office and the City Art Gallery during the summer period are continuing their attempts to organize transients in the relief camps, and are reported to be collecting membership dues from them so as to be prepared for action in the spring of next year when the camps are closed. It is said that through the efforts of these persons agitation, with a view to protesting against physical training, has commenced in the camps on the grounds that this form of exercise may develop into "military training."

(ii) Edmonton Single Unemployed invade local Hotel.

On November 12th, at a meeting of the Unemployed Commission of the Communist Party at Edmonton, Alta., after some considerable discussion it was decided, among other things, that an unemployed single men's mass meeting be called as soon as possible. If not immediate action is taken by the Provincial Government to meet the demands of the unemployed, the whole assembly from the mass meeting would enter and occupy some important public building, the C.P. immediately mobilizing labour forces and progressive organizations to insure that public sentiment uphold the action taken by the unemployed single men.

On Friday, November 18th, a mass meeting of the single unemployed took place on the Market Square at Edmonton, at which approximately 100 persons attended, the majority of whom, after

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listening to H. Johnston, left the Market Square two abreast and finally entered the lobby of the Corona Hotel. The parade, which numbered fifty persons, at this juncture was led by J.A. McPherson, Harry Johnston and Jack Nicholson. Later, on the arrival of the City Police, the unemployed left the Hotel

peacefully, and returned to the Market Square where Johnston invited those present to a further meeting to be held in the near future to decide on the necessary action to be taken to force the hand of the Alberta Government to grant immediate cash relief.

(iii) Communist Agitators active among Unemployed at Regina.

Communist Party organizers have been particularly active among the Regina City Unemployed recently and have been urging all unemployed that they should demand an increase in relief allowances. It is anticipated in this manner to stage demonstrations, etc., and in so doing, embarrass the civic authorities and the Provincial Government. These efforts have, however, been considerably handicapped by the adverse weather conditions which have hampered the holding of meetings in the open-air.

(iv) Coal Miners strike at Canmore, Alberta.

Dissatisfaction which has been brewing for sometime at the Canmore Coal Mines, Canmore, Alta., culminated in a strike affecting 233 men on the 14th of November. Forced to close one of the tunnels, the mine operators found it necessary to lay-off 26 men, and at a meeting called by Robert Hall, President of the local union, the men voted for a strike. The strike is being conducted in an orderly fashion and the full complement of engineers and maintenance men is continuing at the mines.

(v) Bakers and Bakery Drivers strike at Lakehead.

Asking for union recognition, union hours of work and union wagers, about eighty employees of bakery firms at Fort William and Port Arthur went on strike on the 27th of November.

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B. Fascism.

6. The National Unity Party.

In view of the recent anti-Semitic activities in Germany, the policy of the National Unity Party during the past few weeks has been to withdraw from the attention of the public, and few open meetings have been held. Party meetings are held frequently in Montreal, but the attendance is poor and usually no more than twenty-five to thirty members are present. Instruction in organization, oratory, discipline and formation drill is given, and speeches calculated to maintain enthusiasm in the Cause are made.

Little or no progress is being made by the National Unity Party in Western Canada. In Saskatchewan the Party is divided and its interests are being seriously impaired by a personal feud now in progress between J.F. Kratzer, the Provincial Secretary, and J. Schio, the Provincial Organizer. Schio has announced that he has expelled Kratzer from the Party, while Kratzer has reported to Arcand and has requested the removal from office of Schio. Each protagonist has his supporters and it is considered that if action is taken by Arcand, resulting in the removal of either of them, the Party in Saskatchewan will disintegrate.

At Winnipeg John E. Cole has been officially appointed Provincial Organizer for Manitoba, and directs the business of the Party in that Province from Provincial Headquarters at Winnipeg. This Provincial Headquarters is housed in a lean-to shed, furnished with a table and a few chairs, and is indicative of the weakness and insignificance of the Party in Manitoba.

Faced with the undeniable facts which show that the National Unity Party, rather than thriving and expanding, is retrograding both in membership and financial strength, the leaders, in apology, assert that the present organization is a nucleus only, and that its purpose is the provision of a trained skeleton administration to direct the thousands of members who will one day sweep the Party to power.

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APPENDIX NO. II: REPORTS BY PROVINCES.

I. Ontario.

7. Communist Party hold Provincial Convention.

The Provincial Convention of the Communist Party of Canada, held at Toronto recently, was attended by 127 accredited delegates, of which number approximately forty-five were foreign born, another forty being Canadian born of foreign descent.

The Convention resolved that the Party throw its full weight into the fight against the Quebec "Padlock Law" and to support unemployment insurance against attempts to remove able bodied men from relief without providing work. The embargo against Republican Spain and the shipment of goods from Canada to Japan were condemned as policies of the "reactionary ruling financial circles" against which all "peace forces" must be united.

Combating alleged efforts of the Hepburn-Duplessis Bloc to prevent the growth of trade unionism and to promote a split between the American Federation of Labour and the Committee for Industrial Organization, was

another provision of the same resolution which also advocated that steps be taken against the adoption of anti-labour legislation. Stressing the necessity for a strong organizational drive, the resolution also recommended action so as to assist in promoting strong trade unions, the building of women's auxiliaries side by side with the unions; and the development of an active educational campaign for a united Canadian Trades and Labour Congress.

A lengthy and detailed resolution passed at the meeting dealt with the subject of trade union problems and the necessity for complete unity between the A.F. of L. and the C.I.O.; organization of the unorganized; full support for legislative and political programmes of the Trades and Labour Congress. It welcomes the confidence which the trade unions are placing in the C.P. by electing an ever growing number of members of the Party to responsible full-time positions of leadership in the unions. Doubling the Party membership in the unions of the Province in the next six months is one of the specific tasks set out by the resolution.

Another resolution deals with the Party's work among the

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youth, declaring that the number of young people in trade unions, particularly in the mass industries in St. Catherines, Windsor, Oshawa, Kitchener, etc., has gradually increased, notwithstanding the decline in membership in the Young Communist League. The latter, the resolution asserts, has been due to an incorrect policy of the Y.C.L. in divorcing itself from activity connected with economic questions as well as a lack of capable leadership.

Emphasizing the importance of promoting women to leadership in the Party, another resolution pointed out that there is every possibility of organizing thousands of women against the high cost of living as a means of interesting them in Communism. This resolution proposes to set up sections under the direction of a capable communist leader to draw women into Communistic activities from trade unions, auxiliaries and language groups, and to embark on November 1st on a Party building campaign to recruit wives and daughters of Party members, women in trade unions and auxiliaries, women in progressive movements such as the Housewives' Association, unemployed auxiliaries, peace groups, etc.

The various resolutions passed at this Provincial Convention of the C.P. covered an extremely wide field and followed the usual policy of proposing activities to be carried out under the auspices of one or more suggested "front" organizations, rather than under the auspices of the Communist Party proper.

II. Quebec.9. Quebec Communists defying "Padlock Law" found guilty.

Charged with "Conspiring to Obstruct Police in the Performance of their Duty," Francois Xavier Lessard, who broke into his home at Quebec in defiance of the Provincial "Padlock Law" on July 22nd last, was found guilty at the Criminal Assizes on November 12th and sentenced to two year's imprisonment. Joseph Drouin, Lessard's associate, was sentenced to a term of one year's imprisonment for impeding police guards on duty outside the padlocked home while Lessard broke in.
