

CIVIL SECURITY
INTELLIGENCE SERVICE

JUNE-SEPTEMBER 1939

ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE
HEADQUARTERS

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CIVIL SECURITY
INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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CONTENTS

	Page
A. COMMUNISM	
(1) The Nazi-Soviet Pact - Consternation in the Communist Party of Canada	1
(2) France Bans Communist Party.	8
(3) The Communist International and the Present War.	9
(4) The Communists and the Canadian Youth Congress	10
B. FASCISM	
(5) Canadian National Socialism in Retreat	13
(6) The Italians in Canada and the War.	16
(7) Members of the N.S.D.A.P., Arbeitsfront and leading functionaries of the Deutscher Bund Kanada interned.	18
C. STRIKES and UNREST	
(8) Labour Unrest in the Nova Scotia Coal Fields.	20
(9) Labour conditions — Estevan-Bienfait Area, Saskatchewan.	22

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THE NAZI-SOVIET PACT -
CONSTERNATION IN THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CANADA

The ten days that elapsed between Berlin's announcement and Moscow's ratification of the German-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact may be regarded as

the most momentous, as well as critical, in the history of the Communist Party of Canada. The first dispatch on August 21st has had the effect of a bomb exploding in the midst of the Communist Party, leaving both the leaders and membership suspended in the clouds, presenting a sorry spectacle, and vainly groping for some explanation of the apparently catastrophic situation.

The Communist camp in Canada, as well as in other countries, had been plunged suddenly into dark consternation and bewilderment. In the immediate chaotic aftermath common fear was felt by the leaders that before any new party line could be formulated, which would harmonize with Moscow's policy and allay the mistrust and disillusionment, the ferment in the membership would bring about serious repercussions if not mass disorganization and desertion. The following excerpts from confidential reports coming from different sections of Canada are characteristic in describing the nature of bewilderment of the Communist executives and the confusion the Pact has created in the Party:

"Great confusion was created among the party members of all ranks, first: as to the meaning of the pact; as to lines to be followed in face of the evident contradictory policy adopted by Stalin in relation to past instructions and utterances by himself and other Comintern Leaders; and third: as to the method to be adopted in justifying Stalin's action and offering a satisfactory explanation to the public." (Toronto)

J. Litterich, M.L.A., the outstanding leader of the Communist Party in Manitoba, speaking at a meeting in Winnipeg, defined the reaction occasioned by the Pact in his province in the following striking manner:

"This act has shaken the very foundations of the Communist Party of Canada and much confusion and despair is to be seen quite prevalent among the members of the Communist Party."

A Vancouver report describes the feeling of the Communist leaders thus:

"When the pact became first known, there was considerable confusion, misgivings, and doubt in the minds of the rank and file of the Communist Party of Canada but at the same time there was an inherent instinct that the Soviet Union can do no wrong and this was an important factor under the circumstances until the opportunity presented itself at the earliest possible moment to clarify the pact from the point of view of the Communist party of Canada."

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Profound confusion and embarrassment was manifest in every language section of the Communist Party of Canada. The force of this event was felt most by the Jewish and Polish sections of the Party. On the day the news reached Canada, groups of Jewish Communists could be seen on the streets

everywhere talking, unable to determine the magnitude of the stunning blow. To a great extent in desperation and at a complete loss to understand the significance of the situation, they added to the confusion by indulging in disruptive arguments. Jewish supporters of the Communist Party rose into loud denunciation and withdrew their support for the time being. They were not able to understand the reason for this betrayal, or for Stalin's joining hands with their most hated foe, Hitler. The foundation for their support of the Communist policies had suddenly caved in.

The patriotic minded Polish section of the Communist Party of Canada received the news with unbelief and despair. If bitterness was felt towards the Communist Party, it was, however, reserved and muffled by a significant silence, as no evidence of open denunciation has been noted in the Polish organ of the Party - "Glos Pracy". Like other language sections of the Communist Party, Polish supporters waited for some rational explanation of the underlying reasons for the Stalin-Hitler rapprochement.

In the case of the Ukrainian, Russian and other Slavic sections of the Communist Party of Canada, the news of the Pact has been received in silent consternation, shared by the general membership of the Party. No doubt, fear was predominant in the hearts of the foreign-speaking Communists for the safety of their organizations and other unsuspected repercussions deriving from this Pact. The reasons for this fear, as well as for the confusion created, may well be understood when we consider the position and the policy of the Communist Party of Canada in force prior to the Non-Aggression Pact:

In conformity with the dictates of the Communist Party of Canada, which controls and directs them, these "language organizations" have been espousing the Soviet foreign policy and all the objectives of the "democratic front" adopted by the Comintern in 1935. They preached "collective security" against Fascist aggression, as ardently as its promulgator, the Foreign Commissar, Litvinov, and the Official Soviet Press. The Fascist dictators, particularly Hitler, have been attacked by them as the greatest enemies of humanity and a menace to world peace. The heads of the Soviet government, on the other hand, have been glorified and spoken of as the champions of peace, the defenders of world democracy against Fascist aggression. For reasons advantageous to Moscow's leaders, they rose in wrathful indignation against the British foreign policy, and Prime Minister Chamberlain has been castigated and branded as one of the "greatest traitors and double-crossers in history". He was held responsible for all the crimes of aggression committed by Hitler, in fact, Mr. Chamberlain has been charged by the Communists as the malevolent instigator of war and held responsible for the rupture of the Anglo-French-Soviet negotiations for a non-aggression pact. Moreover, he was also held responsible

for the rise to power of Hitler and accused of having collaborated with him in his aggressive campaigns.

-2-

Following several days of silence, and having been besieged with questions relating to the Party's position, meetings were hurriedly called all over Canada to discuss the sudden departure from the accepted Soviet foreign policy, and in an endeavour to clarify the situation. Telegrams were dispatched to Moscow and London, requesting material and advice concerning any future action and policy.

Some curious statements were made by the leaders in their endeavour to explain the new situation. The pact was depicted as a "friendly agreement" and its importance minimized in the belief that it would not interfere with the Anglo-French-Soviet negotiations. Some of the leaders even refused to be confused, such as, Alderman Penner of Winnipeg, who exclaimed at a meeting: "The Communist Party of Canada did not become confused over the Pact, for the Party thoroughly knows from long experience the peace policy of the Soviets and, therefore, remains faithful to all its actions...." Implicit faith in the incorruptibility of Stalin and loyalty to his policies prevailed at this meeting.

Alderman Stewart Smith of Toronto came forward with his infamous manifesto, entitled "WHO IS DOUBLE-CROSSING PEACE?", issued by the Communist Party of Canada, August 25, and published by the Communist press throughout the country. In an endeavour to camouflage the Moscow-Berlin Pact, Alderman Smith launched an attack upon Prime Minister Chamberlain, which was calculated to divert the opinion of the membership from the real issue at stake and to shift the primary guilt from Stalin. The sub-titles of this manifesto, quoted hereunder, portray the full force of the Communist wrath:

"Chamberlain is refusing to sign a Pact with the Soviet Union"

"Chamberlain refuses because he plans to betray"

"Soviet peace policy - non-aggression and collective security"

"Chamberlain has double-crossed at every crisis"

"Why Chamberlain is disappointed"

"Chamberlain has gambled all on a German-Soviet war"

"Chamberlain now wants Hitler 'to deliver goods'"

"Why the drawn-out negotiations with the U.S.S.R."

"The double-crossers were double-crossed"

"What does the non-aggression pact mean?"

"The non-aggression pact is a blow to the war-mongers"

"The people of Canada should oppose Chamberlain's betrayal"

-3-

“The world is on the brink of war”

“Collective peace action alone can prevent war”

“Make Chamberlain fly to Moscow and sign”

“Fight for the true cause of peace”

Tim Buck, Malcolm Bruce and other leading Communist leaders followed with declarations, which varied little in their texts from similar official declarations, of the Communist Parties of Great Britain and the United States. It was generally agreed that “the pact was not a surprise...that it proves Soviet consistency rather than change in their policy....that it defeated Chamberlain’s plot against the Soviets....that it was the means of splitting the Fascist Axis....” that etc., ad infinitum. The Communist leaders have blandly admitted, however, that the Pact would jeopardize Poland’s fate, but they prophesied that it would contain an escape clause, and some American Communists even asserted that should Poland be attacked the Soviet Union would come to its aid. But before the Communist leaders had time to hoist their new slogans and the rank and file of the Party to digest properly the official declaration, Germany invaded Poland followed by Britain’s Declaration of War.

The outbreak of hostilities and, later, the invasion of Poland by the Red Army resulted in a new orientation in the Communist camp. Their predictions and explanations all wrong and their new policy obsolete, the leaders commenced expressing fear that their Party would be declared illegal and its functionaries arrested. Many prominent Communists went into hiding and in some instances membership cards, as well as official documents, were destroyed. Nothing happened, however, and the leaders emerged from their hiding places to solve an enigma in finding a proper course of action.

The Central Executive Committee of the party proceeded to discuss the advisability of adopting a policy of isolation and opposition to war. Fearing, however, that this policy would alienate the sympathy of a certain section of the public and may invite prosecution, it was decided to adopt an anti-Fascist and anti-reactionary policy, and, in order to safeguard the legal status of the party, come out in support of the war.

This “war program” was adopted after advice having received from Moscow, explaining the latter’s policy and restoring the “ideological clarity” in the ranks of the Communist Party.

The Official manifestos, as well as the confidential bulletins circulated by the Party expounding the “new program”, make interesting reading. The arguments used differ little from the official policy of the Soviet government, as explained in Molotov’s Speech justifying his government’s reasons for ordering the Red Army to invade the Polish Ukraine and White Russia. They

contended that the policy of the Soviet Government and the Communist Parties

-4-

everywhere remained the same and that the activities should be increased rather than curtailed. Yet, inspite of the fact the Communist Party endeavours to justify the Hitler-Stalin Pact, as well as the invasion of Poland by both the German and Soviet armies, resolutions pledging the Communist Party's support in Democracy's fight against Fascism were urged in these official communications. Their pledge to support Poland against aggression forgotten, discarded along with other pledges and policies, the Communist press began to rejoice at the political death of Poland's "Semi-fascist state". By secret instructions, the members of the Party have been instructed to join the allied forces, police, etc; to take a general advantage of dissatisfaction, presaging revolution, and no opposition to conscription has been urged in Canada.

The following extract from a bulletin issued by the Alberta Provincial Leadership of the Communist Party may serve to illustrate the point:

"THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF CANADA BULLETIN"

"The invasion of the Red Army to cross the Polish border, to give protection and national autonomy to the Ukrainian and Russian minorities in Poland....is not aggressionin the reactionary sense of the word...It is an offensive act by a democratic, socialist government, taking to herself her own peoples and protecting her own country from invasion.

"Britain and France declared war on Nazi Germany because of Hitler's invasion of Poland....to defend her independence....knowing full well of their incapability to render such assistance....Poland's doom was thus sealed, yet nothing was being done. Nothing. Why?

"The Munich-men were hoping to direct fire of Nazi aggression against the Soviet Union, to which they would add their own weight, by the same 'non-intervention' policy pursued in Spain....The Munich-men and war-makers would like to convert the Soviet-German non-aggression pact into an instrument for the stalling off of Soviet resistance to such aggression....

"The Soviet Union says "NO"....knowing that there are pro-fascist and former Czarist generals in both Poland and Rumania, who would sacrifice these countries and their peoples to aid the imperialistic powers to attack the Soviet Union....The Soviet Union....in advancing into Poland, is determined to take over those territories occupied by Ukrainians and Russians, and thereby prevent Hitler's occupying the whole Poland....In taking this action, the Soviet Union will frustrate the plans of the Imperialists, anti-So-

viet Munich-men, who are perpetuating a war against their socialist country. Those peoples in the territory which she will occupy will

-5-

not only be freed in a special way by the only and mighty working class army - the Red Army....The Red Army of our socialist fatherland will also be in a position to preserve liberty and future peace."

Lawrence Anderson,
Secretary, the Communist Party, Alberta
September 18, 1939.

In his official declaration, published in "The Clarion", September 16th, under the heading "TO DEFEAT HITLER LET US MAKE DEMOCRACY WORK", Tim BUCK said, in part:

"The present war is the 'fruit of appeasement'. The way to invasion of Poland was opened at Munich....A war between imperialist powers, an extension of the second imperialist world war, it is conditioned by the existence of the mighty socialist U.S.S.R. and all that it implies and by the deepening general crisis of capitalism expressed in fascism and the rising democratic and socialist struggles of the masses.

"The working people have nothing in common with the imperialist interests and aims which brought on the conflict. The imperialist character of this conflict of interests was revealed and emphasized by the sabotage of the negotiations for an Anglo-French-Soviet pact."

And then the head of the Communist Party proceeds to propose a struggle on TWO FRONTS in the following manner:

"The Communist Party declares that the present war can be made a genuine war of liberation only if the workers and democratic people who desire the decisive military defeat of Hitler will carry on the struggle on two fronts. To defeat Hitler they must defeat his Tory friends in Canada, Britain and France who have been mainly responsible for the building up of fascist power in Europe....they must demand governments in which labour and democratic elements predominate.

"The Communist Party of Canada defends every immediate interest of the Canadian working class as part of its struggle to develop and strengthen the conscious efforts of the working class to defend democracy, defeat reaction and fascism and fight forward to achieve socialism. The Communist Party stands for defeat of Hitler and welcomes the spontaneous popular determination that the Nazi regime shall be destroyed. But the Communist Party urges that we shall all face facts, draw logical conclusions from them and squarely face the consequences of the political stand that most of our people take."

-6-

Continuing, Tim BUCK sounds the death knell to the "appeasers" and calls for action against the "men who yearn to establish a similar (Nazi) regime at home....they must be swept aside". The working class, he claims, "is dissatisfied with Mackenzie King". A change of government is urged at the next election, with a "progressive anti-fascist" government elected. Summing up the Party's new program, he reiterates the well-known "demands" of the Communist Party, stressing war on profiteering and reaction, and "introduction of democracy in the armed forces so that Canada's army may develop as a strong, anti-fascist force". This manifesto concludes with a call to unity of the progressive parties, of the entire working class, farm and trade-union movements in order to "defeat the imperialist reaction and insure the social progress and the advancement of all mankind".

Ferguson McKean, Secretary of the Communist Party for British Columbia, in a statement published in the *ADVOCATE* under the heading *MCKEAN OUTLINES COMMUNIST STAND*", September 8, says, in part:

"We (Communists) are not pacifists. The world is not safe for pacifists today. It never will be until we have a league of socialist classless society. Only then will all imperialist wars for conquest or revenge become impossible. This was our position hitherto, it has not changed, it will not change."

Tom Lawrence, Secretary, Communist Party Northern Ontario and North-western Quebec District, came forward with the following statement, published in "The Clarion" of September 9th:

"We are convinced that Socialism is the only real solution to our present-day national and international problems, but nevertheless we always have and always will champion and strengthen every movement that fights for a better life for the masses....We backed up this with action regarding Spain....We now take it in defence of Canada and world democracy....The people must stand on guard against reactionary finance capital. Workers of all nationalities....unite strengthen your democratic organizations....unite for peace, freedom and the end of fascist barbarism!"

"War on two fronts" has become the principal slogan of the Communist Party of Canada. A statement of the Provincial Committee of the Party in British Columbia declares:

"The essence of the present situation is that the people must wage a struggle on two fronts, first to secure a military victory over fascism, and second, in order to achieve this, a political victory over Chamberlain and democracy's enemies in this country."

-7-

The Communist Party somewhat regained its equilibrium after a period of confusion, ideological somersaults and policy escapades, after having received the necessary instructions from Moscow. The Communist leaders have again proved to the world that they are and always will be "yes men" of Stalin, the manikins of the Moscow regime. The confusion in the Communist Party camp resulted in a number of desertions and the alienation of certain groups of Left Wing sympathizers, but on the whole the party emerged from this chaotic condition practically intact, and, in some respects, stronger than ever. The cardinal factor, most observers agree, is the survival of the "faith". For two decades the Communist Party throughout the world has often veered sharply in opposing directions, but loyalty to the Soviet Union has remained fixed. Rigid faith in the Soviet Union and hope for the fulfilment of its international pledges have played a great role in overcoming the contradictions involved.

The Communists seem convinced that the present war shall spell the doom of capitalism here and elsewhere. They seem further convinced that the "mighty" hand of the Soviet Union is long enough to extend across the seas and render the necessary aid should imperialistic capitalism go down in the present combat. For the present, the Communist Party will continue its own war on two fronts under cover of false patriotism and misleading slogans. Fear of being suppressed is real in the Communist camp and the necessary preparations have already been made to continue the activities underground should the Party become outlawed.

FRANCE BANS COMMUNIST PARTY

According to a Press despatch emanating from Paris, the Cabinet of Premier Edouard Daladier, on September 26th, decreed the dissolution of the French Communist Party, one of the most powerful sections of the Communist International. Appeals made by various Leftist leaders to the French Communists to save their Party by formally renouncing their allegiance to Moscow went unheeded. Senator Marcel Cachin, veteran chief of the Party, while declaring that the French Communists stood solidly behind the French Government in the prosecution of the war, refused to break with STALIN. He justified his attitude in a letter to Leon Blum, Socialist Party leader by throwing the blame on Poland, arguing that Warsaw's refusal to let the Red Army enter the country to fight the Nazis made it impossible for the Soviet Government to come into the "peace front" with Great Britain and France.

A number of Communist deputies and journalists are reported to have resigned from the Party and French trade unionists all over the country, members of the C.P. have switched over the Socialist Party. The French Federation of Labor—the C.G.T.—has broken off relations with the Commu-

nists. The French C.P. was the third largest political organization in France, ranking

-8-

after the Socialists and radical Socialists. It was represented by two Senators and 72 Deputies in the French Parliament and polled 1,200,000 votes in the last Parliamentary elections in the Spring of 1936. The paid Party membership was estimated at more than 500,000 and it controlled some 800 municipalities throughout the country. It published hundreds of newspapers and periodicals.

The reaction manifest in the Communist camp in this country is reflected in the following excerpt from a lengthy editorial appearing in the "Daily Worker" (New York) of September 30th, 1939, entitled "Stop The Imperialist War":

"When the Soviet Union with its immense power raises this demand it speaks for the great majority of the world's population.

"As a great state power, the Soviet Union utilizes the contradictions of the imperialist camps in the interest of the peoples of the world. That is a Leninist policy; that is a Stalinist policy; that is a progressive and revolutionary peace policy.

"As a consequence we can expect rapid changes in the imperialist camps, the development of situations wherein the masses can assert themselves, with greater unity and firmer determination than in the last war.

"Undoubtedly, it is with this in mind that the Chamberlain and Daladier cliques reveal their bitter disappointment and fear that they cannot transform the imperialist war into an anti-Soviet war. It is in their rage over the failure of such crafty plans that the French reactionary regime is unleashing fiercer attacks on the workers. This explains their drive against the Communist party of France. Can anything else more drastically show up their hypocrisy about "fighting Hitlerism"? Were they so engaged they would concern themselves with wiping out the French fascists, the Cagoulauds, the de la Rocques, the Doriots and the agents of the Nazis in France who have their nests in the French cabinet itself.

"Actually, by its wild assault on the Communist Party, the Daladier-Bonnet regime is preparing itself for action against the French people which is growing more hostile daily against being dragged into the imperialist war."

THE COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL AND THE PRESENT WAR

Notice that the Communist International was calling on the workers throughout the world to fight against Capitalist "war mongers" was given in a recent speech by V. FLORIN, a member of the Presidium of the

-9-

Executive Committee of the International. He said that the Communists were working against the Capitalists "no matter in what disguise" and that the workers "must conquer in Capitalist countries if war is to be eliminated".

D.Z. MANUILSKY, the new Secretary of the C.I., outlined on September 9th what is considered as the possible "new line" for the International and its sections. MANUILSKY, who is also a member of the Central Committee of the C.P. of the U.S.S.R., wrote in "Pravda":

"The Bourgeoisie is the main enemy of the Communists and of the working classes throughout the world. Communists in all Capitalist countries must be Bolsheviks even under difficulties. Communists must quickly overcome tactical obstacles which have retarded the movement."

Earl BROWDER, General Secretary of the C.P. of the U.S.A., writing in the "Daily Worker", declares:-

"These things have finally made clear beyond all possibility of doubt that what we have to deal with is an imperialist war in which the rulers of both sides are equally guilty; it is not a war waged for the destruction of fascism, but is carried on to extend and perpetuate imperialist control over the world. The character of this war in no principle respect can be said to differ from that of the late World War. This war has nothing to offer the masses of any participating country except death and destruction."

From the above and other indications it would appear that the C.I. is changing its "democratic front" policy adopted in 1935. In this connection it is interesting to note that nothing has been heard now for some time of Gregoire DIMITROFF, hero of the Reichstag fire and prominent figure in the last Congress of the Communist International.

THE COMMUNISTS AND THE CANADIAN YOUTH CONGRESS

After many weeks of activity and preparation on the part of the Young Communist League, spurred on by the Communist Party of Canada, during which they instituted a concerted drive for delegates in all parts of the country, the Forth Annual meeting of the Canadian Youth Congress opened at Winnipeg, in the Royal Alexandria Hotel, on Friday evening, June 30th, 1939, with 362 delegates in attendance. The session lasted four days, with all members taking a very active part, the majority in committees appointed to discuss the various questions before the Congress.

Official delegates, numbering fourteen, from the Young Communist League, had been instructed prior to the session, to endeavour to present a "bolder and more prominent front" than hitherto. Besides the official

delegates, the Young Communist League was represented by 110 other members. They also had the largest representation in the Congress of any single group or party. Other units represented various church organizations, social groups, trade unions, youth councils, student bodies, foreign language groups, dominion and provincial training schools, Jewish organizations, farmers organizations and several delegates from the unemployed, etc.

With the opening of the session on Friday evening, [✂deletion: 2 lines] introduced the speaker, the Deputy Minister of Education for Manitoba. [✂deletion: 1 line] delivered the main report on the work and future tasks of the Youth Congress. Others taking part in the welcoming of the delegates included [✂deletion: 1 1/2 line]

The first official business of the Congress was the segregation of the various platforms to be dealt with, several committees being elected, comprising representatives from each organization or racial group present. The various phases of work included in the agenda were as follows:

- (i) Youth and Peace
- (ii) Youth in Industry
- (iii) Youth in Agriculture
- (iv) Youth Training
- (v) National (Canadian) Unity.

In all the resolutions carried by this Session of the Canadian Youth Congress, the Young Communist League played a decisive role. In every instance the proposals of the latter were an expression of the C.P. policy. This was particularly evident, in the Commission on Peace, where the British Government's Policy of Appeasement was vigorously attacked. The report and the resolutions adopted by this Commission were sponsored by the C.P. of C., through the Y.C.L. Conscription of wealth, preceding the conscription of manpower in the event of war, was one of the findings endorsed. The resolution also bitterly condemned the Canadian Government's Peace Policy. A further resolution, pledging the support of the Congress to China was approved by the Commission, and a telegram embodying the spirit of the resolution was sent to the Chinese Government.

Again, in the resolutions relating to "Youth in Industry", the Y.C.L. was the guiding hand and influence. As has been the case in the C.P. of C., the Y.C.L. roundly condemned proposed labour camps and sponsored a forty-hour week, minimum wage, old age pensions, and the establishment of a health insurance act. The Congress approved a resolution voicing their disapproval of labour espionage. The delegates were reminded that by patronizing union made goods, they were helping organized labour, and themselves.

Reform of the Agricultural Policy of the Canadian Government was urged by the members of the Commission dealing with this phase of work.

-11-

They lauded the efforts of organized farmers in the East and West to secure Federal control of marketing in Canada and the export trade. "Every facility must be rendered by the Government to develop the co-operative movement in agriculture;" Provincial and Federal authorities should take measures to assist young people to establish and maintain themselves on the land. A further resolution to the effect that the Dominion Government set up a Chamber of Commerce, designed to assist farmers and unite them into a national organization, was formulated.

Regarding the present system of training of Canadian Youth, the Commission set up to look into this matter made several suggestions, which were readily endorsed by the Congress. The present system of education was inadequate under conditions prevalent in Canada today, it was charged. Here again, the Y.C.L. made gains, forcing through the Congress resolutions dealing with social conditions under the heading "Vocational Guidance and Placement." In this respect, it was urged that all trained youth belong to some trade union in order to obtain, en masse, benefits from organization.

The Commission report on "Canadian Unity" passed resolutions respecting the minority groups in Canada, insofar as race, relation and language of these are concerned. A resolution was passed urging youth organizations to strive for the removal of all restrictions on their democratic rights and status in Canada. The commission also strongly urged, in a resolution, that the Canadian Government take immediate steps to eliminate the menace of foreign agents and propaganda in this country. A greater striving towards co-operation and understanding of the different sections of Canada, insofar as sectional interests are bound to exist, was emphasized by the Young Communist League delegates, [~~deletion: 2 words~~] sponsor of this resolution, is quoted as having said: "We must learn the compromise essential to democratic unity".

The Congress was in dissent over a resolution based upon inter-Provincial relationships and amendments to the British North America Act, with the French-Canadian delegates opposing any changes except with the unanimous consent of the Provinces. The Commission summed up the disunity of Canada as a lack of understanding on the part of Canadians of the problems facing the different sections of this country. "Youth can overcome that obstacle with knowledge, sympathy and activity," it was maintained.

As already stated, the Congress was controlled, in the main, by delegates from the Y.C.L. Of all the measures sponsored, the Y.C.L. only failed on the question of the franchise for Oriental born Canadians. This franchise was opposed by the Y.C.L. because of the alleged network of Japanese espionage in British Columbia.

Leaders of the Communist Party of Canada, with a few dissenting voices, are greatly elated over the outcome of the Canadian Youth Congress, because they see, in the resolutions adopted, "a very strong progressive element in the youth of this country which could, in time, be developed for the purpose of weakening presently established parties." No resolutions, for

-12-

or against Communism, were presented to the Congress. Notwithstanding the fact that the Communist delegates succeeded fairly well in expounding the policy of the Communist Party, several prominent functionaries of the latter have expressed their disapproval of the "failure of the Young Communist League to substantiate itself in the eyes of the Congress," and those responsible have been severely reprimanded for not pursuing this "original course of action."

CANADIAN NATIONAL SOCIALISM IN RETREAT

Proponents of National Socialism in Canada found themselves in an embarrassing position when this Dominion declared war on Germany—the nation which had been their fount of inspiration and their main source of propagandist material. With the British Empire in arms against the system which they had endeavoured to establish in Canada and with public feeling strongly opposed to anything savouring of Nazism, the champions of the totalitarian State idea realized that conditions were not favourable for the continued prosecution of their aims. Inefficiently organized and never holding a position of great importance in Canada, the National Unity Party had no voice in Canada's reaction to the Declaration of War and was incapable of demonstrating a stand on the question of the nation's future policy.

At Montreal, the only city in Canada where the strength of the Movement had been sufficient to deserve any degree of attention, a decisive move was made by the Chief of Police when he instructed the National Unity Party to discontinue meetings. Although Toronto was the nominal headquarters of the Party, the majority of the members were residents of Montreal, where Arcand, whose home is there also, exercised a certain amount of personal influence. Consequently, when its activities in Montreal were brought to an end, the Party as a whole virtually ceased to exist. Stating that it had always been the rule of his Party to obey established order, Arcand agreed to the ruling of the Montreal Police without protest and shortly afterwards retired to a secluded spot in the Laurentian Mountains. Instructions to suspend operations were relayed to all members and of interest in this connection is a letter, the contents of which are given below, written [deletion: 2 words] organizer for the National Unity Party in Saskatchewan:

-13-

Parti de
L'Unite Nationale
du Canada

(CREST)

The
National Unity
Party of Canada

Adressez reponse a:
Address reply to:

[deletion: 2 lines]

Montreal

Sept. 4th, 1939.

[deletion: 2 lines]
Saskatoon, Sask.

Dear [deletion: 2 words]

Mr. Arcand has asked me to advise you that until further notice, no public activities or publications such as the Nationalist or Combat National, are to be issued and that during this crisis, which we feel will be of short time, it is advisable not to wear the shirt for a while.

It is the Leader's intention to go to Saskatchewan next month if the situation does change. He had planned to go there by September and arrangements were being made with [deletion: 1 word] who has charge of the Western Provinces since Mr. Joe C. Farr due to ill health, has resigned, and is no more National organizer.

A few words from you will be gladly received. The spirit of the boys here is very high due to the fact that we have no elections this year and that they are going to work harder to perfect the machine as much as possible.

Sincerely yours,
[deletion: 2 words]

-14-

For some time prior to the outbreak of war, it had been clearly seen that National Socialism had no place in this country and that it was making little or no headway in Canada. During the past summer, the National Unity Party steadily declined in membership and importance; its activities were curtailed; fewer meetings were held, and at points throughout Canada, where at one time abortive attempts had been made to form branches, the organization disappeared entirely. It appears certain that unless it had suddenly attracted the sympathy and support of the Canadian public in some remarkable manner, the organization, such as it was, would eventually have disintegrated.

In July 1937, the remains of the Canadian Union of Fascists, lead by one [deletion: 2 words] an anaemic imitation of the Mosely organization in

England, merged with the National Unity Party and there was some indication that a reasonably solid party would result. The union was never complete, however, and recently [~~deletion: 2 words~~] dissatisfied with his position in the alliance, resurrected his former party and began the redistribution of literature under its name. Although a few of his erstwhile followers repledged their allegiance to him, [~~deletion: 2 words~~] organization remained a nonentity and the split worked only to the disadvantage of the Fascist movement in Canada as a whole.

In Saskatchewan only, of the Western Provinces, had there ever been any degree of support for the movement, but there as in other parts of Canada, capable, intelligent organizers were lacking. In consequence, the organization never attained substantial proportions and furthermore, it was much disrupted recently by the dissention between followers of the National Unity Party and those of the Canadian Union of Fascists. On the outbreak of war, several of the agitators of German origin were interned and the others, as was the case throughout Canada, were too impressed by the far reaching powers of the War Measures Act and too apprehensive of public opinion, to continue their activities.

Although Arcand consistently claimed his Party to be purely national in origin and scope and denied that it had any affiliation with Germany, there is evidence which reveals his admiration for the Nazi regime and his connection with the N.S.D.A.P. As did [~~deletion: 2 words~~] Arcand received a considerable amount of propaganda literature, printed in English, French and German from various propaganda bureaus in Germany. This he distributed throughout the Dominion in lieu of propaganda which the National Unity Party had neither the ability nor facilities to produce.

In the mind of the average citizen, therefore, this association with Germany, which had been accentuated by the National Unity Party's former use of the Swastika and its insignia, developed a conviction that the Fascists in Canada were working to extend the influence of European totalitarian ideologies in this country, and the taint of Nazism is so pronounced that public opinion will no longer countenance the open existence of any Fascist organization.

-15-

THE ITALIANS IN CANADA AND THE WAR

The momentous turn of events in Europe and the uncertainty of the path Italy would take in the upheaval, inspired a feeling of anxiety and nervousness among the Italians resident in Canada. Despite the general consternation, however, there were indications that the Fascio had considered in advance its line of action in the light of any eventuality and were prepared for an emergency. It was observed that at some points in the Dominion, documents

and records were transferred to the safety of the Italian Consulate from the Casa d'Italia, the club-houses erected by various Italian communities. In some cases panic developed and many individuals, harbouring an exaggerated idea that they were being closely watched by the authorities, were apprehensive of immediate arrest should Italy declare war against the Allies.

Throughout Canada, observers noted that many Italians not only expected their homeland to align itself with Germany, but undoubtedly were in favour of Italy taking that course of action. A somewhat surprising effect of the reaction to the European situation which attracted attention was the friendly relations which appeared to spring up overnight between Italians who previously had bitterly opposed each other from their respective Fascist and Communist Camps. It appears, however, that such fraternization resulted only from the contemplation of the danger which beset their common homeland and that the differences of opinion on the question of mankind's economic destiny had not been forgotten was forcibly revealed by "La Voce"—the organ of the Italian Communists in Canada. In its issue of the 10th September, "La Voce" clearly outlines its policy in the following words:

"In past issues we have shown how the Italian Fascists in this country are strengthening their campaign of provocations against Canada. We have shown also how their aim is the formation of a 'fifth colum'.

"As if all we have already said were not enough, we believe the recent statement which appeared in certain sections of the Italian fascist press would suffice to prove our contention. The "Corriere Padano", spokesman for Marshal Italo Balbo, Governor of Libya, a few weeks ago wrote as follows:

"It would be a grave error to hasten the exodus of Italians living in Tunis because their presence there constitutes the best excuse for Italian demands in that region."
It adds, further, that "the day in which Italy will settle accounts is not far away."

-16-

"Provocations of this kind are also carried out in Canada. Italian fascists in this country are conspiring to create a movement which will weaken national resistance to aggression and diminish the assistance which Canada could give to England and France. That is why we are in full agreement with Prime Minister King's declaration to the effect that all necessary precautions must be taken to prevent sabotage of the institutions and of the economic resources of Canada in this national emergency.

"Let us not forget that the hand of the German and Italian fascist governments was discovered behind the activities of the spies recently arrested in France. Here in Canada there is a whole network of agents charged with fanning hatred against Canada and with creating obstacles to the functioning its government in case of war.

"The Fascist vice-consul Ducci, together with the leaders of the Order Sons of Italy, recently completed a tour of inspection of Italian centres in Ontario. Such a tour is certainly not reassuring. The leaders of the Order Sons of Italy, invited by us to state their position with respect to Canada, are silent. Why?

"There is not a single honest Italian who will declare his solidarity with those who make war on the weak and defenceless and threaten the freedom of the nations of the world.

"If the leaders of the Order Sons of Italy are really as free of guilt as they would have us believe, why do they not allow their lodges to sign declarations of loyalty to the institutions of this country, as suggested by our paper?

"The silence of the Sons of Italy and other fascist organizations would tend to show that the activities of the O.V.R.A., Italian secret police, and of the Gestapo, its Nazi counterpart, are conducted on fertile ground.

"We repeat our demand for the disbandment of the fascist organizations in Canada and the closing of the so-called "Houses of Italy" "Casa D'Italia" in this country on the ground that they are centres of espionage for the O.V.R.A. agents."

Apprehensive of drawing upon themselves the attention of the authorities which might precipitate suppressive action, branches of the Fascio either ceased activities entirely or greatly modified them, while at the same time heed was given to the instructions of the official representatives of the Italian Government. Speaking at the Montreal Casa d'Italia on 20th September, the Italian Consul, Paolo de Simone, said that the expected war had come and added, somewhat significantly, that it was not confined to Europe. Continuing the Italian Consul said:-

-17-

"The European conflict which was for quite a long time held back is now a fact, despite the generous and honest efforts of il Duce, who, up to the very last moment has tried to prevent the catastrophe. His efforts were in perfect accordance with the principles of justice in international affairs which for years he has attempted in words of mouth, in notes and in acts to impress upon the world."

Colonel de Simone emphasized the pride all Italians should feel in the world recognition of il Duce's importance and of the position Italy occupies and continued:

"But this pride imposed upon us higher duties and a higher sense of responsibility ever growing sharper. Italy, steeled with four wars and a revolution, armed from the tip of the feet to the top of the head, keeps a watchful eye on the situation. The people of Italy, fully, entirely and completely devoted to il Duce, work and keep quiet. And I am giving you, Italians of Montreal, the same watchword: "Lavorare e tacere" - "Work and keep quiet!"

In the event of Mussolini leading his country to the support of Germany, the Italian element in Canada would present a problem somewhat different from that already encountered in the case of Germans, but, perhaps, one having potentialities even more dangerous. The Italians as a race are more fanatical than the Germans and could be more easily persuaded to commit acts of violence, and the possibility that sabotage would be committed by misguided patriots is one of major importance. Although in Canada there are considerable more Germans than Italians, it must be remembered that the Italian Government has maintained greater supervision and control of its emigrants, and, in consequence, the Italians in Canada give stronger allegiance to their national leader and are more amenable to the dictates of their homeland than is the case with the Germans.

MEMBERS OF THE N.S.D.A.P., ARBEITSFRONT AND LEADING FUNCTIONARIES OF THE DEUTSCHER BUND KANADA INTERNED.

When it became apparent that war was imminent and inevitable, a rush circular letter was sent out by the Landeskreisverwaltung, Canada. (Administration for Canada) of the Deutsche Arbeitsfront, Auslands Organization, instructing district executives to cease all functions and transfer official documents such as membership lists, accounts, etc., to the German Consulates for safekeeping. A paragraph of this communication read:-

"The training (educational) material on hand must be made secure before being seized by a third party (by the Government); in case this is not possible, it must be destroyed by fire."

-18-

The circular further instructed that all correspondence pertaining to the "Dienstverkehr" (Service Communication) shall remain suspended until counter orders from Landeskreisverwaltung. It concluded as follows:

"I request all district administrators to report at once regarding the immediate execution of these orders.

Heil Hitler"

Fearing that members of the N.S.D.A.P., the Deutsche Arbeitsfront and certain prominent functionaries of the Deutscher Bund Kanada would act in a manner prejudicial to the public safety or the safety of the State, representation was made to the Right Honourable the Minister of Justice and Attorney General for Canada with a view to having these people isolated immediately after the outbreak of hostilities. An inter-Departmental Committee was formed, composed of a representative of the Department of External Affairs, a member of the law branch of the Department of Justice and a representative of this Force, for the purpose of having the whole subject examined and a report submitted. The Committee, having examined the records of the organization named above and the persons active therein, recommended the arrest under the power given to the Minister of Justice in Section 21 of the Defence of Canada Regulations of a total of three hundred and ninety persons who where grouped as follows:

(1) Male German nationals resident in Canada known to be members of the N.S.D.A.P.....	44
(2) Male German nationals resident in Canada known to be members of the Deutsche Arbeitsfront.....	276
(3) German nationals believed to be engaged in espionage activities.....	10
(4) Naturalized citizens of German birth or racial origin who by reason of their active identification with National Socialist propaganda in Canada, who in the interests of the safety of the State should not be allowed to remain at large during time of war.....	<u>60</u>
Total....	<u>390</u>

With regard to the fourth group consisting of a number of naturalized Canadians of German birth or racial origin, the Committee felt that they could not be regarded as loyal citizens of Canada; that, in singling out for immediate arrest, these leaders of the Deutscher Bund (Canadian Society for German Culture) who have been most conspicuous and effective in their attempts to undermine the loyalties of Canadians of German origin, it would be possible to cripple the work of their organization and safeguard the position, in war time, of the loyal majority.

Included in this category were such important Nazi agitators as Bernard Bott, district leader of the Bund for Manitoba and managing editor of the

Deutsche Zeitung for Canada. His arrest resulted in the immediate liquidation of the said paper, chief Nazi organ in Canada.

Round-up of these people commenced on the morning of the 4th of September. Some could not be apprehended as it was found that they had returned to Germany during the three weeks prior to the Declaration of War.

In addition to those whose arrest had been ordered by the Minister of Justice, about forty enemy aliens have been apprehended and interned under the provisions of Section 24 of the Defence of Canada Regulations.

LABOUR UNREST IN THE NOVA SCOTIA COAL FIELDS

Nova Scotia coal miners caused a series of tie-ups during the months of August and September. With the demands of one coal miner for a higher rate of pay and a contract being refused by company officials, Number 4 Colliery at Glace Bay, N.S., suspended operations on the 21st of August, 1939. The grievance was immediately taken up with the District Executive of the United Mine Workers of America who advised the miners to return to work, pending negotiations with the Mine Management. This they refused to do, declaring that they feared that their demands would not receive consideration without a demonstration, and it was decided to continue the strike, with the result that the District Executive of the Union declared the strike illegal. The whole matter was decidedly "petty" according to both Company Officials and Executives of the United Mine Workers of America.

On the 23rd of August, miners of Number 11 Colliery came out on a strike over a difference of opinion concerning the employment of one of two individuals in the mine, when the Mine Management refused to change their decision regarding the employment of a particular individual. Soliciting the support of all mines in the district, and several of the local Unions of the United Mine Workers of America, a general strike was called for the 28th, unless the Company agreed to negotiate. This the Company refused to do unless the miners returned to work. The strike was called, effecting 6,500 men, and all the mines in the district came out in a general tie-up. On the 31st of August, Union Executives and Company Officials agreed to negotiate, and the miners returned to work, with the General Strike being postponed for two weeks pending the outcome of negotiations.

At Springhill, N.S. on September 4th, the miners refused to enter the mines unless aliens of German Nationality were discharged. It appears that the men were apprehensive of four Germans in particular, whom they thought might cause damage to the Mine, thus endangering the lives of those employed. Though the Mine Management agreed to discharge these men, this was not considered

satisfactory by the miners. It was contended that they might still do damage while permitted their liberty. Investigation by this Force failed to disclose any action or speech on the part of these individuals which would have warranted their being apprehended under Section 24 of the Defence of Canada Regulations. The Mine Management were advised of the findings of this investigation and called a meeting of the miners, who then decided to return to work.

Though the trouble respecting "aliens" originated in the Springhill area, the main source of discontent centered in the Cape Breton Coal Fields, and especially at New Waterford, where local miners took great offence at the presence of aliens, not only of German nationality, but those of foreign extraction. On several occasions fighting developed, and the Mine Management were greatly perturbed, and requested the Nova Scotia Government to lend their assistance and settle the matter.

This general dissatisfaction resulted in all mines in that locality being tied-up and the Company was forced to discharge all those individuals of German nationality. On the 11th of September, the District Headquarters of the United Mine Workers of America issued a letter under the signatures of the President and Secretary respectively, asking the miners to continue working, and to co-operate with the Government in this matter. Part of this letter is quoted hereunder:

"The Board Members from each Sub-District reported on this matter, and it was finally decided that the Officers send out letters to the Local Unions requesting the membership to be loyal to their country and their organization, and, if there should be anyone around the collieries liable to cause any disturbance, they should be immediately reported to the Mounted Police in that district, as they have authority from the Government to look after all these matters.

"You are hereby earnestly requested to carry out these instructions, and in the interests of the country and organization there should be no tie-ups at any mine."

Notwithstanding the action taken by the Union and Government officials, the miners were still prepared to accept the opinions of "irresponsible" persons, whose motives were purely those of "trouble-makers." Under these circumstances, the miners were ready to accept any excuse to discontinue work, and nearly all mines in the Cape Breton area were idle for several days. It seemed that the situation would become serious when the miners adopted an "anti-foreign complex", and refused to work with other than native born Canadians.

Public meetings of the miners were held in an endeavour to explain the law, as laid down in the Defence of Canada Regulations. These meetings, apparently had the desired effect, and several of the mines resumed work on the

17th of September, with others following suit a few days later. It is gratifying to learn that the situation has so clarified as to permit the return to work of Naturalized Germans and Austrians, against whom the first objection was raised,

-21-

as well as foreigners of other nationalities.

It is noted that a Convention is to be held by the U.M.W. of A. on the 30th of September, at which the whole question of "labour trouble" is to be aired. However, the question of foreign-born individuals is not included on the agenda, and it is hoped that this question is now settled, and no further disturbances will result in this connection.

LABOUR CONDITIONS — ESTEVAN-BIENFAIT AREA, SASKATCHEWAN.

Throughout the past few months representatives of the United Mine Workers of America have been holding numerous meetings in the Estevan-Bienfait Lignite Area in an effort to consolidate their position and place the Union on a firmer basis. No outside agitators were brought in, other than field agents of the U.M.W. of A. Local representatives, some of whom are active in Communist circles appeared on the various platforms advocating membership in the Union. During this period another Union, an affiliate of the Canadian Federation of Labour, appeared in the District and the largest mining concerns, The Dominion and the Wilson Coal Mines Limited, signed a "closed shop" agreement with them, refusing to deal with the United Mine Workers, who thereupon threatened trouble. The majority of the smaller mines signed agreements with the U.M.W.A. in order to avert a conflict. At this stage the Dominion and Wilson Mine Managements appealed to the Provincial Government for help, which was declined until some definite breach of the peace occurred.

On the 22nd of August, U.M.W. of A. officials wired the Dominion Government that trouble was imminent unless the differences were immediately settled. Their idea, apparently, was to force the Mine Managements concerned to break their contract with the Canadian Federation of Labour Union and sign agreements with the U.M.W. of A. This the Company refused to do, and claimed "they would fight against the U.M.W. of A. if the need arose.

Efforts of the United Mine Workers to recruit members in the District were successful, and many of the men employed in the Dominion and Wilson Mines joined that Union.

With the outbreak of war in Europe, the U.M.W. of A. agreed to co-operate in every respect with the Government in an effort to avert any trouble, but they

stressed the necessity of the situation being settled immediately. In other words, the Companies not already recognizing the Union were called upon to do so at once.

Conditions at an impasse until September 18th, when an overwhelming majority of the miners in the district belonging to the United Mine Workers of America voted to call a "strike", no date, however, being set for the strike. Previously to this, it was reported that Mr. Morrison,

-22-

Secretary of the Union. was in Ottawa urging the Federal authorities to take over the control of the whole mining area for the duration of the war.

Tension increased when appeals of four miners against eviction were dismissed by the Court of the King's Bench at Regina on the 18th. However, their actual eviction on the 29th caused no trouble whatsoever. The Companies at this time decided to place guards around the mine in order to prevent any damage to property, which it was feared might occur in the event of the mines being "tied-up", and a conference was called for the 25th attended by representatives of the miners, operators and Provincial Government officials, who stressed the fact that it would be in the interests of all concerned to have the question settled immediately. Union officials felt confident that the Company would eventually recognize the U.M.W. of A., and that "they would not take unfair advantage of this recognition."

With the outcome of the conference still in doubt, the question of further disturbances remains unsettled. It is hoped though that the obstacles that have confronted labour in this area will eventually be removed.

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