

SECRET

**INTELLIGENCE
BULLETIN**

**ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE
HEADQUARTERS, OTTAWA**

**WEEKLY SUMMARY
OCTOBER 23, 1939**

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FASCISM

ITALIAN SECRET SOCIETIES PREPARED TO SABOTAGE

Italian Consuls continue to be the centre for all Fascist activities among the Italian people throughout the Dominion, and it should be noted that it is no mere coincidence that practically all these Consuls have visited Italy and returned to Canada within a few weeks of war being declared. The Italian Consul General, Marquis A. Rosso-Longhi, has returned to his position in Ottawa since the declaration of war, and there is much expectation among the Italian population as to the nature of the instructions which he will send out to his staff and, in turn, the Italian organizations throughout the Dominion. The Italian secret societies, which are not Communist, continue to be very anti-British in their attitude, in spite of the fact that Italy is neutral. These Italian secret organizations are definitely prepared to carry out sabotage, more particularly on the railways and harbours. At this stage, it appears to be more likely that the Italian Anarchists and Black Hand Organizations in Canada of both Communist and Fascist leanings are definitely committed to acts of sabotage. Such professions of loyalty from Italian groups as have been forwarded to the Government are from Communist controlled organizations and are to be treated with

suspicion, since the Communist Party is supporting the policy and action of Russia in the present conflict, and to this end is prepared to engage in a campaign of sabotage.

SABOTAGE

No definite acts of organized sabotage have been committed so far. It can hardly be expected that such will take place until the movement of troops and war material overseas are well under way. We have knowledge of instructions, [~~3~~ giving details of methods to be employed in the sabotage of rolling stock on railroads and the transportation system as a whole; likewise sabotage in industry. It may not be out of place here to mention that instructions have gone out to members of the Communist Party to join the Defence Forces in preparation for the Revolution which they anticipate will follow at the conclusion of hostilities. We are of the opinion that there is more to fear from acts of espionage and sabotage on the part of the Communist Party than from Nazi or Fascist organizations and adherents, for the reason that the Communist Party is much better organized and has cells in practically every industry.[2]

INTERMENT OF ENEMY ALIENS

Of 335 enemy aliens (German) listed by this Force for internment prior to the outbreak of war, 300 have been interned, which includes some that have been interned since the declaration of war. A number left the country shortly before war was declared. There is a noted tendency on the part of mining companies and others who have been employing Germans for years to endeavour to have the Police intern these men, in order to relieve them of the responsibility of discharging them. Evidently they fear acts of retaliation.

REGISTRATION OF ALIENS

Registration is well under way, and actual figures will be given in the next bulletin. Registration is being conducted by members of all Police Forces, with the exception of the Ontario Provincial Police, and with the co-operation of Postmasters in remote districts. There has been no indication of any exodus of enemy aliens.[3]

COMMUNISM

POLISH CANADIAN SITUATION

The destruction of Poland as a national entity and its dismemberment by Hitler and Stalin have had the effect of widening the breach in Canada between the Polish patriotic groups and the Polish Communists. Previous to Russia's invasion all classes of Poles were united in rescuing their fatherland from the Nazis by loyal co-operation with Canada's war efforts. Today the Marxists are acclaiming the "salvation" of half of Poland by the Red Army and are eagerly anticipating the day when the whole

country will become a "New Socialist Poland" under the protection of Soviet Russia.

While, fortunately, the great majority of our Polish-Canadian citizens are unswervingly loyal to their adopted country, the revolutionary minority is bitterly antagonistic and must be segregated and rendered harmless. This can be accomplished by, first, encouraging and supporting the loyal majority in their own "house-cleaning"; second, by keeping close surveillance of Communist leaders and, when necessary, putting them under restraint.

The Polish radical offensive is lead and inspired by the POLSKE TOWARZYSTWO LUDOWE (Polish Section of the Communist Party of Canada) and their political organ the "Glos Pracy." The invasion of the German Army had first inspired the radical Poles here to vehement anti-Fascist slogans, and it seemed that they would discard political dogmas for patriotic sentiments. Thus, when a Polish Legion was proposed by the P.T.L., the Dabrowsky Legion members who had returned from the Spanish War hurried to join in another anti-Fascist war. (The idea was killed by patriotic Poles who were mistrustful of the good intentions of their compatriots.) They also flooded the Canadian Government with their resolutions of loyalty and offers of support against Hitler Germany. But when it became clear that behind the mask lurked the ulterior ends of the Communist Party of Canada the semblance of patriotism was dropped for more subtle methods of campaigning.

Stalin's betrayal and the "stab in the back," fully justified by the speeches of Molotov and other Red leaders the world over, were then approved by the Soviet official press and Polish radical opinion. Marxists in Canada fell in line with the Red Army in Poland in an endeavour to exterminate the remaining vestiges of Polish class nationalism or sympathy for the "wretched class government of Poland" expressed by patriotic Poles in Canada. In this [4] onslaught the speech of Lloyd George is profusely used as a maxim for the accepted British opinion.

Thus we see today an unusual spectacle of calumny, contempt, and malevolent indictments heaped upon the heads and regime of the defeated Poland by the Polish radicals in Canada—an attack more vicious and damaging in nature than the propaganda ever aimed at Poland by her Nazi enemy. The Polish ruling class is branded by this propaganda as "rotten, spineless, and traitorous," who betrayed and handed the country over to Hitler (no mention of the Soviet invasion). The whole social system of Poland is indicted. The landed gentry, clergy and reactionary elements are blamed for contributing to the fall of Poland by setting up a semi-Fascist state and perpetuating the rule of aristocracy which oppressed and exploited the workers and 8,000,000 of the landless peasants. This government is again charged with sabotaging Polish defences and fearing the common people's co-operation in defense because "they might upset the

government and then prosecute a 'democratic war' against Hitler along the lines and slogans of republican Spain...defeat the Nazi and establish a Socialist Poland."

This offensive of the Polish Marxist camp in Canada has two definite aims: justification of the Soviet action, as a prerequisite for the existence and growth of the Polish Communist Party in Canada, and support of the movement to establish a Socialist Poland.

The evident purpose of the attacks on the Polish ruling class and its protagonists in Canada is to distract the opinion of the Poles from the actual crime committed against their nation by the Soviet Union and shift the onus of the crime on the victim—the ruling class of Poland—or on Hitler. Like other Canadian Communists, Polish radicals cannot conceive of rebelling against their spiritual fatherland, the Soviet Union, or the mighty Stalin. As a result of this blind faith the criminal is represented as a "saviour," and the invasion of Eastern Poland a blessed act.

Indeed, the Red Army occupation and the subsequent Sovietization of the territory serve as grist for the mills of propaganda in Canada. Within a short period of the first confusion the Polish Communists had succeeded in justifying the Soviet treachery and are now consolidating their position and penetrating the ranks of patriotic organizations with added zeal. The full force of class arguments has again been turned against the "reactionary element" among the Poles in Canada, with the obvious purpose of confusing, demoralizing, and converting them to the Communist Party. They argue that the Polish Communist group is the only anti-Fascist organization which has been warning and struggling against the Nazi plans of aggression. Now that Nazi Germany has justified their early warnings, their appeals sound more plausible.[5]

In recent issues of the "Glos Pracy," notice has been served upon the patriotic camp that the radicals are withdrawing their co-operation from the Polish Defense Committees, set up throughout Canada at the start of the war, and will henceforth conduct an independent action of raising Red Cross funds, etc. They charge the patriotic leaders with a general boycott of their "patriotic" endeavours and for efforts made to dissolve the P.T.L. by secret denunciations to the authorities in Ottawa. But it would seem that the prime purpose of their withdrawal is to build up a new "democratic front" heralding a "new Poland" under a Socialist or Communist regime. As soon as such a regime is established in Poland, it has been stated in the "Glos Pracy," the Soviet Union will withdraw its army from the occupied territory, apparently as a comradely gesture. As for Britain and France, it is suggested that it is not too late for them to make up with the Soviets, in order to break Hitler, so that "Poland may soon arise without the necessity of smashing the Siegfried Line or our people against it."

It appears that the political gulf dividing the patriotic and Marxist camps is gradually widening. The first are displaying at the present a pug-

nacious hatred of their Communist compatriots because of propaganda justifying, on one hand, Stalin's stab in the back, and, on the other, the besmirching of leaders of the old Polish regime. If the Polish Communists get too aggressive in their promotion of Communism and a Marxist Poland among their resentful compatriots, serious friction may result.

C.I.O. EXPELLED FROM TRADES AND LABOUR CONGRESS

The 55th Annual Convention of the Trades and Labour Congress of Canada was held in the Masonic Temple, London, Ontario, from September 25th to 30th, 1939, with 432 delegates attending. Of these, [deletion: 2 lines]

The main issue before this year's convention was the "outlawing" of the Committee for Industrial Organization Unions, and delegates representing any of its affiliated bodies were barred from participation in the Congress. All delegates attending were warned that voting in favour of the C.I.O. might disbar them from further activity and cause the suspension of their Union Charter. Voting on all questions was done "publicly" as against previous "secret" balloting, in order that every delegate's stand should be known. On the C.I.O. resolution a great many delegates refrained from voting so that their stand, if opposed to the Union which they represented, should not be publicised. Though the vote on the expulsion of the C.I.O. Unions showed a great majority, it apparently did not portray the true feeling of the Congress, as many were "forced" to vote against the C.I.O. who would have voted otherwise had the balloting been secret.[6]

Commenting on the action taken by the Congress, the Communist Party remarks:-

"The Congress failed in its duty, although a strong block of delegates stood firm by their principles, including many who for many reasons could not vote as they believed."

[deletion: 2 lines] is quoted from the "Clarion," Communist weekly published in Toronto, Ont.:-

"A sober analysis of the London gathering leads us to the regretful conclusion that the 55th Annual Convention failed to live up to the historic obligations which the present critical situation placed upon it as the expression of the largest trade union center in Canada. In fact the London Convention adopted certain measures which only the rank and file of the International trade union membership can prevent from having a seriously damaging effect upon their vital needs and conditions.

"The previous three Congress Conventions showed a definite trend towards greater inner union democracy...but this course was changed at the London meeting..... It was a harmful return to the days of machine controlled conventions.....

"Despite the pressure of the international offices to bring along

'safe' delegates, they were by no means sure of the delegates when they arrived.... A shameful orgy of ganging up was immediately launched. The 'heads' herded together their respective delegates and appealed, cajoled, and threatened them with expulsion and removal if they did not 'vote right'

Defeated in the question of the expulsion of the C.I.O. unions, the Communists tried to have elected a "progressive" executive, but were again outmanoeuvred. Referring to this Communist "catastrophe" Salsberg writes:-

[>deletion: 1 paragraph: 6 lines][7]

Because of the extensive lobbying carried out to enlist the support of all delegates in order to elect those sponsored by the American Federation of Labor, the Communists claim that the Congress was controlled by choking discussion. In all the resolutions the Communist Party was over-ridden. Regarding the war resolution, [>deletion: 1 line] states:-

"The war resolution betrayed the leadership's eagerness to please the high and mighty and outdo the worst jingoists in the country who pretend to speak in the name of the trade unionists. As for the masses of workers they will look in vain if they will seek in the adopted resolution any trace of labour independence or sound labour policy to guide them on the war question and during the war period."

Referring to the outcome of the Convention, [>deletion: 1 line] regrets that "progressive" people in Canada have temporarily been checked, but adds "We will down them yet." His article concludes with a denouncement of "imperialist war aims."

"Those who succeeded temporarily to check the flow of progressivism through the Convention channels will either change or they will be washed away. For the Canadian workers in the international unions as well as in all other trade union centers want unity. They want large scale organization drives to win hundreds of thousands of new recruits to their side. They want to defeat fascism but they have no interest in wars of an imperialist character. They desire a just and a lasting peace. They want to achieve a higher standard and want to exercise a decisive influence in the government councils for the welfare of the whole people instead of being used as the hewer of wood and drawers of water. Around these vitally urgent needs of all workers and of all people unity will be forged, joint drives will be undertaken, mutual support will be granted, and learning from the sad experiences of the last war and from the last post-war period Canadian labor will emerge with greater strength and clearer in aim than ever visualized before."

[>deletion: 1 paragraph: 3 lines][8]

CONFUSION AMONG COMMUNISTS

The hatred of Communists for Hitlerism seems, in recent days, to have been counter-balanced by blind trust in Stalinism.

Out of the confusion and welter of almost daily fluctuations in Communist policies there emerges a not undivided front committed to combat the Allies now by every possible means and to be prepared to destroy them utterly after they emerge weakened from the world conflict.

Following Canada's declaration of war, the Party staged a "black-out," issuing orders to destroy all incriminating documents and literature and their leaders going into hiding. This has seriously disrupted their lines of inter-communication, weakening central control over individual members and hampering united action. In fact, so great is the apprehension of many of the leaders, that only the inner circles of the Party know of their whereabouts. Public meetings have been cancelled SINE DIE and all districts have been split up into sections comprising not more than five or six members.

Although Communism in Canada has been temporarily weakened, it is far from being dead. We know that Party members have been urged to gain admission into "key" industries and Defence Forces, in order to sabotage and cause disruption at an opportune time. The Party is also urging its membership to extend their operations in the various trade unions to influence their policies.

Directives issued from Toronto Headquarters refer Party members to the "line" adopted by the leadership of the Communist Party in England and the United States, as well as Canada. However, there is a great deal of confusion and the Canadian membership are showing more curiosity than belief in the various statements issued by the Party. If, as they seem to think, the Communist Party is declared illegal, the Headquarters of the Canadian Section will be moved to New York, from where they will direct all activity. If this should happen, it is anticipated that many of the Party will sever their connections with the organization. Meanwhile, a great number of erstwhile members, mostly of the Jewish faith, have left the ranks, disclaiming the "good intentions" of Russia in its fight against the Jew-baiting Nazis.

All members of the Communist Party have been warned against making any statements about the Party's stand. "It is in order to discuss these matters within the unit, but they must avoid discussion with outsiders," is the subject of a directive issued from Party headquarters.[9]

Communist Party circles are rather bewildered over [deletion: 1 line] recent statement before the Dies Committee on Un-American Activities in Washington, to the effect that the American Communist Party did not support the war. This was, according to the majority of opinions, very different from statements that had been given out by the Canadian Communist Party Headquarters.

Though there has been no further official announcement of a change in policy here one gathers from the Communist press that again they will be forced to step into line, this time to denounce the war altogether "before it has brought death and destruction to millions of people, before the flower of our youth are slaughtered." In a further declamation of Imperialist aims, the Communist press declares:-

"This is not a war for democracy and against Fascism. This is not a war for the liberties of the small nations. This is not a war in defence of peace against aggression. The war is a fight of imperialist powers over profits, colonies and world domination. It will bring only suffering and misery to millions of working class homes. The immediate issue is cessation of hostilities and the calling of a peace conference."

The reception of this latest effort of the Communist Party to portray the international scene has not, so far, brought any comments from its membership, but they will, on all probability, denounce their previous policy with as much determination as lack of foresight; by placing implicit faith in "Joseph Stalin, inasmuch as he can be relied upon to have taken the best means to further the cause of the workers of the world." [10]

GENERAL

STRIKE IN ESTEVAN COAL FIELDS

The breakdown of efforts of the Saskatchewan Provincial Government to mediate for a settlement in this coal mining area at a conference between company officials, United Mine Workers of America and government officials, prompted the local union to formulate plans for a strike affecting the Western Dominion Coal Mines Limited, Manitoba and Saskatchewan Mine, Eastern Collieries, Baniulis Brothers and the Lignite Coal Company. The strike was called for October 16th.

The main factor involved is the refusal of the above mines to recognize the United Mine Workers of America in preference to the Canadian Federation of Labour with whom they have a "closed shop" agreement. The coal companies allege that the men concerned are perfectly willing to continue working, but are prevented from doing so by the action of the U.M.W. of A. in placing pickets around the various mines.

The mine management concerned are anxious to have a strong police force in the vicinity, and this was stressed at a conference with Provincial officials on October 18th at which the mine operators suggested the use of the troops stationed at Weyburn. Display of force, representatives of the Western Coal Mines Limited contended, would defeat the operation of the strike. It was pointed out to them that such action would in all probability lead to an outbreak of violence. So far there has been no destruction of property and the several assaults that have been reported have been dealt with successfully by members of this Force presently stationed in

that area. Despite the many conflicting reports appearing in the press and from other sources, the strikers appear to be conducting themselves with reasonable regard for the law, and unless the pickets become more aggressive no action will, apparently, be taken by the Provincial Government, who are trying to maintain a neutral stand on this question.[11]

EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR "BETTER CANADIANS"

It is our opinion that a National Educational Campaign might be undertaken to point out the benefits of democracy and responsible government in order to offset the insidious and poisonous teachings spreading throughout our social structure. This campaign should be extended not only to the English-speaking Canadians but to those of foreign extraction, such as Ukrainians, Austrians and those from other central European countries, where recent events have been the means of dividing their opinions and leaving them in a state of mind which makes them easy prey to subversive propaganda.

In these weekly bulletins we hope to be allowed to advance further suggestions and perhaps elaborate definite schemes that may prove helpful in the strengthening of our civil security menaced by the "enemy within."