

SECRET

**INTELLIGENCE
BULLETIN**

**ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE
HEADQUARTERS, OTTAWA**

**WEEKLY SUMMARY
MARCH 26, 1940**

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**War Series
No. 23**

EDITORIAL

"Clarion" Defies Law

"The Clarion" (describing itself as "Official Organ of the Communist Party of Canada Dedicated to the struggle to end the Imperialist war by united working class action in the interest of all the labouring people") was suppressed on November 21, 1939, by order of the Minister of Justice, under Section 39(a) of the Defence of Canada Regulations. It has been re-issued, under date February 24th, with the same name and editor, and carrying the explanation "Published twice per month, under conditions imposed by the King government in the Service of Reaction."

Unlike "The Canadian Tribune", (the Communist paper which posed as a legal successor to the deceased) this "Clarion" is simply a continuation of the old, bearing the issue number 1850 in chronological sequence to the issue banned, and bent on the replacement of Democracy by a Proletariat Dictatorship.

Its editorial, "The Voice of Our People", proudly boasts of being the voice of Lenin and Red Revolution. To quote in full:

With this issue The Clarion enters a new phase of its service to the working-class movement. The phase of publication and distri-

bution in conditions created by prohibition under Mackenzie King's vicious anti-working-class "War Measures Act". Under these conditions, equally as under the easier conditions which preceded them, The Clarion will speak out frankly and without fear or favor in defence of the interests of the working-class and the struggle for Socialism.

The situation in which the present imperialist war is being waged differs from that in which the war of 1914-18 was fought precisely in the measure that the revolutionary working-class movement is stronger and has a mighty socialist base and capitalism is weaker and unable to conceal, even superficially, the reactionary,[1] predatory, class character of the war.

While we shall continue, of course, to report upon all working-class activities it is obvious that our task now will be to comment upon news already known and give leadership to thought and action rather than to report events. In this task we shall be guided always by the brilliant teachings of Lenin on the relationship between imperialist war and social revolution. We shall strive, unremittingly, to deal with current events and working class problems and perspectives in a truly Leninist way.

The degree to which The Clarion will succeed in filling the role of "Iskra" in Canada will depend in no small measure upon efforts of those thousands of comrades who carry through the arduous and often dangerous task of distributing it and raising funds. To each of those loyal soldiers of the proletarian movement this editorial is a greeting and proud thanks. Between us we shall make our Clarion a mighty power for good in the working-class movement. A power that will outstrip any measures of repression that the capitalist class and its hired police may devise.

We are living in an explosive phase of "the epoch of wars, colonial revolts and proletarian revolutions". In guiding the workers of Canada through the struggles that this phase will bring The Clarion, as the voice of the Communist Party, will play a decisive part.

Labor's Answer

While "The Clarion" presumes to speak for the working man in "truly Leninist way", what does the Canadian Worker say? Another editorial appearing about the same date in "The Canadian Labor Press" ("A union paper published by union men in a union shop in Montreal") contains the following:[2]

Let us not fool ourselves that Communism in Canada is dead because of certain laws; rather has it been driven more underground but nevertheless more active than ever before and potentially more dangerous. It will come to you now in many guises and with the

most friendly and unsuspecting approaches, so that one must ever be on the alert.....

We are all soldiers of Canada for the duration of the war and the first quality of a soldier is his unquestioning belief and loyalty to the Cause. Co-ordination and co-operation are vital; yet the Communists in Canada the enemy at home preach the opposite. They tell us we should overthrow this and we should overthrow that, we should have a revolution, in fact we should do everything but be peaceful, co-operative and understanding. Doesn't their very attitude suggest as to where their interests lie?

Some of the conditions that unions have to accept that are tainted with communism and become affiliated with the Red International of Labor Unions are as follows:-

1. Endorsement of the principle of revolutionary class struggle.
2. Application of these principles in its daily struggle with capitalism and the bourgeois state.
3. Recognition of the overthrow of capitalism through the social revolution and the establishment of the dictatorship of proletariat for the transition period.
4. Recognition and submission to the international proletarian discipline.[3]
5. Recognition and application of the decisions of the constituent congress of the Red International of Labor Unions.
6. United action with all the revolutionary organizations and the Communist Party of the country in all defensive and offensive activities against the bourgeoisie.

A close study of the foregoing should be enough to make a life long bitter enemy out of every red blooded Canadian Worker to anything that savors of Communism. If everyone realized the colossal gall of these unwanted disturbers in our midst, the Canadian Labor Press believes short shift would soon be made of this menace.[4]

GENERAL

ATTEMPTED SABOTAGE OF OIL CARGO

On January 16, 1940, three days after the S. S. "British Officer" had left Halifax in convoy, a fire broke out in the Chief Steward's cabin. The fire started with a whitish red flame of great intensity, but was brought under control in 15 minutes with the aid of a fire extinguisher. Pieces of what was obviously an incendiary bomb were found in the cabin afterwards. The case is being investigated by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the Federal Bureau of Investigation at Washington and the authorities in England.

The S. S. "British Officer", a British tanker, loaded a cargo of oil at Baton Rouge, Louisiana and cleared for London, England, on December

14, 1939. The same day she rammed a barge and grounded 15 miles South of Baton Rouge, resulting in considerable damage to the ship. The following day she was floated to Baton Rouge.

On December 18, the Master of the ship committed suicide by shooting himself at Baton Rouge and the Chief Officer assumed command. The reason for the Master's suicide is not apparent.

On December 19, the ship proceeded from Baton Rouge to New Orleans for repairs, which were effected in the Todd-Johnson Dry Dock, at Algiers, Louisiana, and returned to Baton Rouge to reload.

On December 27, the "British Officer" cleared Baton Rouge for London via Halifax. She arrived at Halifax on January 6, 1940, awaited convoy until January 14, and sailed the latter date for London.

Investigation shows that a fire pencil was placed aboard the ship before she arrived in Canadian waters, most likely at Baton Rouge.[5]

SERIOUS SPLIT IN DOUKHOBOUR RANKS (British Columbia)

Less than a year after the demise of the Doukhobour leader, Peter P. Veregin, a Pretender has arisen to lay claim to the vacant "throne". Intimidation, forgery, bribery and corruption are preying upon ignorance and superstition to split the peace-loving Douks into two hostile camps. [6][?<blank][Page 7 is missing.]

COMMUNISM

"L'ECLAIREURE" RAVES AGAINST CONSCRIPTION (Montreal)

The national executive of the Young Communist League of Canada have printed and are distributing a special issue of their official organ "L'Eclairure". This special edition was published with a view to instructing French-Canadian youth in the Communist Party attitude towards the Federal elections.

In its entirety, it is an appeal to the youth of this country to take a firm stand against conscription. A leading article appearing on the front page and written by Evariste Dube, [?<deletion: 2 lines] Federal elections riding reads, in part, as follows:

The youth of 1914 has sacrificed its life to enrich a gang of war profiteers. Our youth of 1940 must take advantage of this election campaign to show to the Government of warmongers that it does not want to participate in any manner at this slaughter, that it wants this war to stop and that our brothers who are already on the other side, be brought back.

Youth of Ste. Marie Country, be the example of the French-Canadian youth in this election. Prove to the imperialist class that the French-Canadians are not ready to go and save the skin of these individuals and that if the imperialists want to fight, they can take the

arms and do so. As far as we are concerned, we have nothing to win in this imperialist war, war brings about misery, suffering and privations. Youth, prove that you are ready to united and claim the best conditions of life and work.

Embodied in an article headed "The Young Communist League Manifesto", a passage under sub-title "The Truth of the War" concludes as follows:[8]

The Canadian youth wishes to build up Canada and not to feed the foreign soil with its blood. It wants security and happiness, not monuments and cenotaphs. The young ones do not want to return to the country in onerous conditions such as cripples at the mercy of society and facing an unemployed life of hunger and misery.

The youth of the other countries are not the enemies of the Canadian youth. We have only one common enemy: the imperialist war mongers. Our enemy is in Canada, not in Europe. It is the multi-millionaire class and it is against this class that the Canadian youth must fight ardently.

The paragraph concluding the Manifesto reads:

Strengthen your fight against the conscription, for the civil liberties, against the profiteering, against the imperialist war. Ask for your superiors that they act in your interests and not in those of the war mongers. Build up your ranks, your committees and your management.

[>deletion: 1 line]

[>deletion: 1 paragraph: 9 lines][9]

THEY DOMINATE THE YOUTH CONGRESS (Toronto)

A leaflet has made its appearance in Toronto concerning the forthcoming Youth Congress which will be held in July of this year. Distributed by the Young Communist League, the pamphlet outlines the purpose of the Youth Movement and urges the support of the various Youth groups. Paragraph seven headed "Does any Political Group Dominate the Congress or Councils?" is of particular interest:

No. The Congress and the National Continuations Committee are planned so as to be thoroughly representative of all types. Any bona fide organization has the right to two delegates and two votes and no more the Continuation Committee reflects this. A political group such as the Young Communist League which sends delegates from many districts is easily balanced by the Church and "Y" groups from all over the Dominion. Thus no single group can force its policy on the whole congress or on a local council.

The fact that the Y.C.L. is only allowed two delegates and two votes does not offer any hindrance to the Y.C.L. having as many delegates and

votes as it can put in the field at the Congress, and being elected to the Congress as the representatives of other organizations or Youth groups. The contention that "no single group can force its policy on the whole congress or on a local council" is therefore absolutely incorrect, as past experience in the conduct of the Congress has proved.

COAL MINERS STRIKE

Coal miners at Mountain Park, Alberta struck on March 19. There are 375 men involved. Unpopularity of the pit boss is reported as the cause of the strike. Trouble may ensue when the hotel commences charging the miners cash for meals and beds.[10]

"MID-WEST CLARION" REAPPEARS

(Winnipeg)

With the arrest of John Weir, editor, [~~2 lines~~] the "Mid-West Clarion" did not publish for the week ending March 9. However, the issue for Saturday March 16 embodies the previous week's issue and comes out as Volume 5, numbers 202 and 203. In the main the paper appeals to its former readers and "Democratic Canadians" to come to its aid.

Of particular interest is an item which appears on the first page regarding the arrested "Clarion" employees. (A reference is made to the seizure of the mailing list of the Russian language paper, "Kanadsky Gudok". This is a deliberate fabrication and it has been learned from a confidential source that some trepidation is being felt amongst those responsible for the publication thereof.)

[~~1 paragraph: 3 lines~~]

JOINING DEFENCE LEAGUE

The Central Bureau of the Communist Party of Canada has issued instructions that each Party unit select one member to join a Canadian Labor Defence League branch. This would effectively link up the Party and the C.L.D.L. and at the same time prevent a wholesale influx of Party members into the said League. Great care is being taken to avoid giving the C.L.D.L. branches a "party face".[11]

ENEMY ALIENS

REGISTRATIONS, INTERNMENTS, RELEASES

Registrations:

Total registrations to March 20, 1940	16,092
Given exemption certificates.....	3,555
Exeats granted to date	199

Internments:

Total interned or detained since Sept. 4.....	405
Released at once	3
Released after appeal.....	93
At present interned or detained	309

(The last figure includes one woman interned at Kingston Penitentiary and two men serving two years' sentences in Saskatchewan Penitentiary for escape from Kananaskis.)[12]