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CONTENTS

Communism:

Sabotaging War Industry by Strikes

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No Communism in Cape Breton Strikes

Annie Buller Sent To Gaol

Youth Congress Shows "Red" Control

Steel Workers Urge Strike Action

"The Practitioners" (Editorial)

General:

Young Doukhobours Refuse War Services

War Series
No. 44

COMMUNISM

SABOTAGING WAR INDUSTRY BY STRIKES

Factory Labour is considered at this time of national emergency to provide the one really vulnerable point of attack in our political structure. The Defence of Canada Regulations and the thorough manner on which they are being enforced have made revolutionary propaganda by the usual channels of mass meetings, printed matter, new "front" organizations, extremely dangerous. On the other hand, infiltration into legitimate labour unions affiliated with the Trades and Labour Congress, the Canadian Congress of Labour or the Congress of Industrial Organization, where influence can be directed toward stirring up grievances to the striking point, is a comparatively easy matter.

With the factories full and working overtime, conditions for organization could scarcely be better. Workers and Management alike realize that war production must proceed at all cost, and Communists (working in the name of Labour Organization and "fair demands") intend to force up these costs so high that Management will refuse to pay them and the Workers will walk out thus sabotaging our defence of democracy both here and abroad.

It should be borne in mind that such strikes represent minority rule. There are only a few Communist agitators in any factory, but these

workers who will take possession of a mass meeting and by threats, promises and misrepresentation sway the majority to militant action. The fact that such action has been largely successful in recent months has had the effect of inflating the influence and the demands of the agitators and the Communist Party as a whole.

Monthly reports from our R.C.M. Police Divisions disclose many instances of these Communist-inspired strikes and preparations for strikes.

"O" Division (Western Ontario) reports eight strikes in Ontario during April, most of which could be traced directly or indirectly to illegal sources. To quote:-

Communist Party of Canada

C.P. of C. activities during April have been directed mostly to activity in the Trade Union field. Insofar as unit [1] work and organization work of the Party are concerned, it appears to be almost at a standstill. This is accounted for by the lack of direct contact between the centre and the rank and file. The Party leadership apparently realizes the danger of allowing members who have been even moderately prominent as functionaries of the Provincial and City Committees to make direct contact with the Units. As a consequence, the rank and file members are dependent for direction and instruction on their Unit Secretary and Organizer....

C.P. Activity in Trade Unions

As referred to briefly above, the C.P. is concentrating its efforts in the Trade Union field. During the month of April eight strikes were reported in this Divisional area and while the majority may be characterized as of minor individual importance, it should be borne in mind that the C.P. is exerting its efforts to make the industrial population of Canada strike-conscious, and indications are that these strikes are the precursors of an epidemic to which the C.P. will bend every effort to exploit to the full advantage. In these activities the C.I.O. Unions, which are now affiliated with the Canadian Congress of Labour, afford the best scope.

Strikes during the month of April:

Exolon Abrasives Plant, Thorold, Ont.—One hundred men went on strike on March 26th as a result of a demand for increase of pay. The plant is a non-Union one and by noon of April 1st work was resumed after an agreement had been reached.

Schofield Knitting Mills, Oshawa, Ont.—Eighty employees engaged at these mills struck work for a wage increase and recognition of the Textile Workers' Union on April 7th. The strike was declared illegal by the Federal Government on April 8th, but despite this the workers did not return to work until April 16th when negotiations were entered upon. Alex. Welch, Ontario representative of the Textile Workers' Union, and [deletion: 1 line]

took a prominent part in the negotiations, which are still proceeding.[2]

Canadian Seamen's Union—As the result of five Steamship Companies' failure to comply with the suggestion put forward by the Arbitration Board that the C.S.U. be recognized as the sole bargaining agency between the employees and employers, approximately 750 seamen were reported to have struck work on April 11th. The five dissenting Companies did not appear to experience much difficulty in raising crews and many of the strikers have returned to work in defiance of Union orders. This partial strike of seamen is still in progress insofar as the five Shipping Companies are concerned. Dewar Ferguson, acting President of the C.S.U., [~~deletion: 1 line~~] Fruit and Produce Drivers' and Helpers' Union, Toronto—On April 9th about 156 members of this Union went on strike for better conditions and higher wages. This is an A.F. of L. Union and during the progress of the strike the Brotherhood of Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Stablemen and Helpers endeavoured to negotiate with the employers. Their efforts were not attended with any success and although no agreement between the Fruit Produce Drivers' Union and the employers has been reached to date, the men returned to work on April 11th. M.H. Nichols, [~~deletion: 1 line~~] acted on behalf of the Teamsters, Chauffeurs, Stablemen and Helpers.

Defence Industries Limited, Nobel, Ont.—Thirty-eight men struck work on April 10th at this plant, but a settlement was reached on April 11th. The strike was not the result of Union activities but of a spontaneous nature.

Ontario Sand Company, Brougham, Ontario—On April 23rd 103 truck drivers employed by this Company struck work for an increase of pay. The strike lasted until April 30th when an agreement was reached. This was a partial strike as half of the men involved continued working throughout its duration.

National Steel Car Corporation, Hamilton, Ont.—On April 27th about 2,500 employees of this firm went on strike demanding Union recognition, and the reinstatement of the President of this Branch of the S.W.O.C. who had been dismissed by the management. The management refused to [3] reinstate Tanner (the man referred to) after the recommendation of the Conciliation Board, as a result of which the Federal Government installed a Controller in the plant on April 30th. Tanner was then reinstated. On that date the men returned to work and negotiations are still proceeding.

Goderich Salt Company, Goderich, Ont.—Thirty-five employees of this firm struck work on April 5th demanding better conditions. A settlement was reached and the men returned to work on April 10th.

During May the number of strikes in Ontario had increased to 14, while June's strikes have already started.[4]

NO COMMUNISM IN CAPE BRETON STRIKES

When so many strikes throughout Canada can be traced directly to Communist manipulation it is gratifying to know that the recent strikes in the Cape Breton coal fields were the result of only the usual maladjustments as between management and labour and have been, or are being, settled without "red" influence of any sort.

Following a strike in one colliery the men have returned to work on a "curtailment" basis as a protest against their officers accepting the findings of the Government Conciliation Board without first referring them back to the workers. The political loyalty of the miners (United Mine Workers of America), can not be questioned.

Now that the coal mining industry has been declared an "essential service" within the provisions of the Defence of Canada Regulations, conditions generally should improve.[6]

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MASS LANGUAGE ORGANIZATIONS

The activity of the these organizations has followed the Party line and it has been reported that small Unit meetings of the members continue to be held in private house.

The Independent Mutual Benefit Federation (I.M.B.F.) is quite obviously being used by the Mass Language Organizations for absorbing membership and for raising money by means of socials, dances, picnics etc. There is no indication that the money raised is for requirements or needs of the I.M.B.F. and it is presumed that at least a portion of that money is used for Communist Party purposes.[7]

ANNIE BULLER CONVICTED ON THREE CHARGES (Winnipeg)

Annie S. Buller, a leading Communist of Manitoba and publisher of the "Mid-West Clarion", appeared for trial in Winnipeg City Police Court on May 20, 1941 and was convicted on three charges under the Defence of Canada Regulations and sent to gaol for two years.

The first charge was that she "did unlawfully make, print, publish, issue, circulate or distribute a certain edition of a newspaper, periodical or publication known as Mid-West Clarion bearing date the 17th day of February A.D. 1940, containing material, reports or statements intended or likely to be prejudicial to the efficient prosecution of the war, contrary to regulation 39A of the Defence of Canada Regulations."

At the conclusion of the evidence for the prosecution, the Court ruled that a prima facie case had been established and the accused took the wit-

ness stand. Under cross examination she admitted that she was Business and Circulation Manager of the Mid-West Clarion and had come from Toronto to Winnipeg to organize the paper in 1937. She denied having written any of the material contained in the issue of the Mid-West Clarion dated February 17th, 1940 as she was away from the city at that time on business which she later admitted was for the purpose of collecting funds for the Mid-West Clarion to enable it to carry on. However, she stated that she did not disassociate herself from anything which that issue contained and did not consider anything in it subversive. She stated that after reading it and in the light of later events, that if she had been writing the articles referred to by the prosecution as being subversive, she would have enlarged upon them and made them stronger and that she agreed with everything it contained.

A further charge against Annie Buller in connection with the issue of the Mid-West Clarion of February 24th, 1941 was heard at this time.

Accused was found guilty on the second charge and sentenced to 12 months concurrent.

A total of 12 charges in connection with the Mid-West Clarion had been laid against this accused together with John Vievirsky alias Wyworski alias Weir, William Arnold Tuomi, and John Magnus Clark. Following the verdict of Guilty having been rendered on the first two counts and sentence being passed, Mr. Moffat, Crown Attorney, entered a Stay of Proceedings in each of the other ten charges against Miss Buller.

A further charge against Annie Buller of continuing to be a member of an illegal organization, of which she was found guilty and sentenced to 12 months consecutive with the first 12 months, was disposed of the same day.

On May 30 Jock McNeil, [deletion: 1 line] was convicted and sentenced to twelve months. This conviction is being appealed and he is at present at liberty on bail.[9]

YOUTH CONGRESS SHOWS "RED" CONTROL (Toronto)

Over 200 members of Youth Councils of Ontario and Quebec met in Toronto May 24-25 to register their grievances against present social conditions.

The conference took the form of a Trial, in which the prisoner at the bar (presumably the Government) had no defendants and all witnesses (including the jury) were accusers. Several members of the General Steel Workers' Union (C.I.O.) were there to give evidence against, while Miss Helen Simon, International Fellowship Secretary of the American Youth Congress, was present on Sunday to show how the same "injustices" were in operation across the border.

In short, this conference disclosed again that Youth Councils exist for one specific purpose; namely, the spread of Communist doctrines among

Canadian youth. All the familiar Communist charges against the war, capitalism, conscription, taxation and internments were voiced by the delegates, while the need of organizing young workers in every industry for the "ultimate triumph of the Canadian people" was particularly stressed.

The following preamble, a typical Communistic proclamation, reflects the tone of the conference:-

"At this time of crisis when the attention of Canadians is drawn to the fight for freedom and justice in the international sphere, we call upon all Canadian Youth to stand as a bulwark for a democratic way of life for all peoples and to protect Canada against threats from abroad and the menace of Hitlerism within.

"Who are the Canadian Hitlers against whom Canada's youth must defend their country? They are those who are engaged in piling up profits for themselves, in keeping most of the people poor with low wages and high taxes, in fighting against trade unionism and in denying the liberties of a free people. They cry against 'subversive elements' among the people in order to turn the spotlight of public indignation away from themselves. They pose as fighters against Hitlerism, as 'patriots' while they crucify democracy in Canada. [10]

"It is they who raise loudest the cry for conscription for overseas service and conscription of labour in the factories and it is in their interests to force conscription on the Canadian people. They hope by this regimentation to raise the profits and trade the lives of our Youth for war contracts. In the name of Democracy, these traitors seek every means of regimenting and goose-stepping the Canadian people. Theirs is no loyalty to Canada, but only to their private profits. On the other hand we believe that the vast majority of the Canadian people are not primarily interested in private profits, but are truly concerned with the immediate and future welfare of the Canadian people. We as young people take our stand with them.

"As young Canadians, we say that our fight for democracy and justice begins in the country that we love most of all, in our own Canada.

"We will not rest until all the enemies within and without—the enemies that preserve poverty, insecurity, and violation of liberty, have been destroyed.

"We declare our unshakable faith in the ultimate triumph of the Canadian people, in their struggle for freedom and economic and political justice. This is our loyalty to and our faith in Canada!"

Dewar Ferguson (C.S.U.) presented Mr. Bowers (same union) who described how first the ship owners and then the Conciliation Board had tried to break up the Seamen's Union by discrimination and intimidation, and had finally succeeded in having four of their leaders interned.

Ferguson continued the story of how the "Conciliation Board had held us up nine months" and how "although the Board were unanimously agreed that we had the right to organize, two companies resisted and took in scab labour. And they have police protection so get away with it."

Ferguson contended that Regulation 21 (D.O.C.R.) should be repealed and claimed that Pat Sullivan could not secure a trial or his release under Habeas Corpus. Further, that the appeal judge had said that undoubtedly many innocent people in Canada were interned upon representations made by informers who were unreliable.

Ferguson expressed the opinion that Parliament could not overrule Habeas Corpus, adding that at the present time Canada was being ruled by a [11] military class, saying, "This is how democracy is taken from us, like in Germany." The speaker maintained that if (Pat) Sullivan had only been a seaman he would not have been interned but that this was done because he was head of a union. He urged that protests be entered against such proceedings and criticized Order-in-Council, P.C. 2385 of April 4th entitled "The Merchant Seamen Order of 1941", mentioning that it listed 268 Committees of Investigation who had the power of taking off a ship and interning anyone who is accused of being an agitator. He mentioned that 200 of the 268 Committees of Investigation were members of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and that Youth should see that this legislation was wiped off the statute books.

Councils representing school and university students, religious bodies, farms, factories, civil liberties, education and training, Y.W.C.A., Y.M.C.A., etc. voiced complaints of working conditions and prescribed remedies.

Robert Ward and Red. Taylor of Steel Workers' Union contrasted conditions in their plants before organization with those after and urged greater efforts toward organizing in other shops. Ward said, "We are snooping 'round here and there and making them organize as much as possible... We are trying to put this across among young people— Only by voicing their opinions are they able to combat conditions prevalent at this time."

Miss Wright (General Steel Workers' Organizer) also told of great advances made in wages, working conditions and treatment by bosses since they had become a strong union.

It was unanimously decided that Youth Councils should co-operate with the youth in trade unions in the extension of organization, and assist unions to obtain all their demands.

Miss Geraldine Shuster (Students' Council) advocated students' government in secondary schools. The students would appoint representatives to co-operate with teachers on arranging suitable study courses, methods of teaching and all other school problems. Other girls enlarged upon the subject.

It was decided in caucus that the Youth Congress and Councils should investigate the Schofield Woollen strike conditions; also that congratulations be sent to the workers of Acme Screw and Gear Company on their splendid victory. Conscription for over-seas service was condemned at every opportunity.[12]

A young girl, Christine Smith, spoke nearly 15 minutes against conscription. She urged that the public are being fooled by the four months' training plan, that after four months the soldiers in training never come out unless they are unfit and stated that it apparently takes a lot of the unfit business to return them to civilian life. She said that it's "Forced Conscription" and stated that our poor young people are all going to the slaughter house and that we stand by doing nothing to stop it.

Among those present were Ken Woodsworth, (Secretary C.Y. Congress), Bob Ward (Chairman), Bernard Muller (Editor "New Advance") and Dewar Ferguson, (Canadian Seamen's Union).[13]

STEEL WORKERS URGE STRIKE ACTION

Communist concentration on Trade Unions as effective channels for sabotaging our war industry is revealed again in the second issue of "The Young Steel Worker". This Communist-inspired paper carries the familiar attacks on increased taxes, war loans and war savings plans, and urges all youths to resist such measures by joining Trade Unions and instigating unauthorized and even illegal strikes.

To quote:

"Through unity and STRIKE ACTIONS, over the head of the Millard Clique, you can carry on a successful fight for HIGHER WAGES and to MAKE THE RICH PAY FOR THEIR WAR!"

(By "Millard Clique" the writer refers to C.H. Millard and the Steel Workers' Organizing Committee.)

"THE PRACTITIONERS"

(An Editorial in Winnipeg Free Press reviews the Communist technique in operation in Great Britain and points out that similar methods are functioning here despite the illegality of the Communist Party).

To quote in part:-

Innocent Canadians learning of these facts for the first time would be likely to express their astonishment that these conditions are permitted to exist, and then go on to rejoice that we order these things better in Canada where the Communist party has been outlawed. But the grounds for self-satisfaction on this score are not as firm as some may think. It is true that the Communist party is outlawed in Canada and that membership in it is denied except in the case of the odd person here and there who courts a holiday in jail. But though the Communists have gone into retreat, we still have with us the

Communist technique and its practitioners.[14]

These practitioners follow their British exemplars at a discreet distance, it is true. Like them, they have no time or willingness to discuss the issue of the war or to place the responsibility for it where it belongs. One might infer from listening to their bleatings that the Government of Canada, in collusion with the Government of Great Britain, had brought on the war in the interests of "privileged classes"—in order to get power further to oppress, enslave and rob the down-trodden poor. Millionaires are popping up in the world of business like dandelions on the average Winnipeg lawn after a warm spring rain. All our public men, who are in positions of authority and responsibility, are the stooges of scheming scoundrels who are trying to steal the world and hide it in their pockets. And this drivel goes on endlessly, whiningly, or truculently. It can be heard openly in Parliament and upon election hustings; it can be read in publications that sail as near as they dare to the wind; it finds expression, as in England, in subversive activities under thin disguises such as "People's Convention," "People's Movement," and so forth. These are the tactics and the methods which we have described as "the Communist technique". Of course, it is not being operated in Canada by Communists. But a dunghill by any other name would smell as vile.[15]

GENERAL

YOUNG DOUKHOBOURS REFUSE WAR SERVICES

(Regina, Sask.)

Large meetings have been held by Doukhobours in the Blaine Lake, Verigin, Pelly and Kamsack districts at different times during the month for the purpose of deciding whether those Doukhobours subject to the National War Services Regulations should accept a proposal made by the Board at Blaine Lake on April 24th, 1941 that they should work on public projects in lieu of military training.

Prior to the conference held at Calgary, Alberta on May 7, 1941 delegates were appointed at the various meetings held in the districts mentioned in the preceding paragraph. However, it is very significant that all the delegates elected were opposed to the young Doukhobours accepting work or training. From the reports available apparently no progress was made at the conference in the way of definitely deciding whether or not the proposals of the Board should be accepted.

To date the majority of the Doukhobours are against accepting the Board's proposals, but are awaiting the decision of the Doukhobours in British Columbia before expressing any definite intentions.

[&deletion: 1 paragraph: 3 lines]

The matter was discussed with the Attorney-General of Saskatchewan,

who was satisfied that the situation was serious and expressed the opinion that no leniency should be shown to those Doukhobours who endeavour by any means to defy the rulings and requests of the National War Services Board. It has since been decided that those in the 21-year-old class would be subject to call for work on public projects.

As a result of statements made by Nick Shukin and Nick Dergousoff, Doukhobours of the Buchanan district, Saskatchewan, on May 13th and 23rd respectively, these men have been convicted under the Defence of Canada Regulations.[16]