

Lipton, Charles (1967) Rise of a Central Labour Movement 1867 – 1880, The Trade Union Movement in Canada. Toronto: New Canada Publications, 1967.

1871, John A. MacDonald introduced legislation modelled on the British Act of 1871. The mere fact of combining to increase wages or lower hours was not a conspiracy and did not violate common law.

Working People

Morton, Desmond with Copp, Terry (1980) Industrial Unionism, Working People. Ottawa: Deneau and Greenberg Publishers Ltd.

Pg. 157 1935 was the worst year for trade union movement in Canada. Membership at its lowest point since 1914 – 280,174 workers.

BC new Liberal government watched US New Deal with pressures from new CCF opposition. RB Bennett package in 1935 revealed on radio. (belated reforms, Bennett had been extremely repressive, authored the relief camps, and sympathetic to Germany).

By end of 1936 322,473, Most gains in internationally linked craft unions. Skilled craftsmen renewed membership as employment picked up. Breakup of Workers' Unity League. Communist unions had initially focused on A.R. Mosher's All Canadian Congress of Labour – "with such effect that two of his colleagues, W.T. Burford and R.N. Russell promptly broke away to form a tiny Canadian Federation of Labour in protest against the influx of "anarcho-communists." Pg.158. Moscow ordered Communists to transfer loyalty back to TLC. In USA Communists barred from AFL but not CIO, organization push. Organizing drives in auto industry in Ontario led by CIO supporters in Canada. UAW. In Ontario Mosher's ACCL denounced CIO organizers who were organizing the mines and collaborated with Premier Hepburn to try to keep CIO out. Many defeats of CIO led strikes – IWA almost destroyed at Blubber Bay, ILGWU gains unravelled after employer dissident assaults, CCF vs CPC. "After only a couple of years, the CIO in Canada appeared to be stillborn, and most of the corpse was owned by the Communists."

Abella, Irving (1973) The International Woodworkers of America, in Nationalism, Communism, and Canadian Labour. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.

"The BC Labour movement was, at least until 1948, almost a personal fiefdom of the Communist Party. The province's three largest unions – the IWA, Mine-Mill, and the Shipyard Workers- were all controlled by the party; their leaders were all party members or supporters...Because of the party's total dominance of the union movement, there was little chance for the province to produce, as did Ontario, a Millard, whose major task would be to clean out the Communists. Indeed not until 1948. And then only with the help of the Congress and Millard's right-hand man, Bill Mahoney, did the native unions in the province successfully repulse the Communist tide, and even then, only a grievous miscalculation by the party made this success possible". Pg 111."

Harold Pritchett WUL organizer (WUL disbanded in 1935) first Canadian elected to be president international union. Led Lumber and Sawmill Workers in 1935 into the AFL. AFL gave the Carpenters jurisdiction. Craft union would not accept lumber workers and gave them non-beneficiary status. Resistance led to Federation of Woodworkers in 1936 in Portland, Pritchett as

president. Moved to CIO in 1937 with financial support and a \$50k organizing fund. July 20, 1937 reconvened as IWA. Bitter labour struggle, IWA survived Carpenters attacks from without and divisions within. Carpenters picketed IWA plants and would not handle their lumber, legal action vs IWA locals. US Northwest at standstill until Governor of Oregon forced a truce between the unions. Communists elected to leadership because of organizing skills, but rank and file not Communist so pressures from within vs CP. 1940 John L. Lewis (CIO) appointed director of organization to investigate, Michael Widman who supported the anti-Communist rank and file. Pritchett could not attend vote – immigration issues- Communists almost defeated. Resolution by left condemning CIO. Pritchett turned role over to Orton, USA Communist.

1941 terminated organizing agreement with CIO. 1941 rightwing in USA overtook Communist control – ended in USA. No impact of IWA in Canada. IWA did not support war until 1941 invasion of Russia (Communists were not pro war until that point in Canada despite Holocaust).

With approval of Congress (CCL) on September 30, 1944, BC Federation of Labour, consisting of most CCL unions in province was created. Danny O'Brien was president. He was pro LPP (Communist). Federation "an embarrassment to the CCL". Contradictory positions to the CCL. CCF was weak in BC and did not assist in "rooting out" the Communists.

CCL sent Congress representatives to BC to oust the Communists from Congress organizations. Eileen Tallman of the Steelworkers and Pen Baskin, Steelworkers representative in BC bombarded Conroy and Millard to requests for appointments. Bill Mahoney sent out, "Western Director of Organization", officially, unofficially coordinated all anti-Communist forces. In the IWA major anti Communist activists had been Trotskyist. Park noted, Mahoney, "would be compelled to start almost from scratch [because] the anti-commie leadership...had been basically Trotskyite". Pg. 117 Anti-communist campaign launched, denounced by IWA, Pritchett was forced to apologize. Attached red-baiting.

Mahoney worked to unseat the Communist leadership at the VLC. Caucuses within anti-communist delegates and slate defined. January 27, 1948 entire anti-Communist slate elected.

1948 IWA Canadian and international relations at breaking point. Taft-Hartley Act required signature of non-communist agreement by individuals. USA delegates were booed by delegates in Canada. Mahoney coordinated New West which was anti-Communist local. 1948 IWA disunity, competing radio programs. Blocked Mine-Mill and Communist union broadcasts. White Bloc candidates defeated.

BCFL Labour Lobby in Vancouver, vs provincial labour legislation. Speeches after drinking and carousing, Harvey Murphy called congress officials floozies and phonies and disparaged their personal lives. Federation meeting Mahoney read statements and demanded apology by Murphy and Pritchett. Murphy refused to retract. Mahoney set apparatus in motion. Murphy barred from meetings. Captured BCFL September 4, 1948. Bill Stewart defeated Pen Baskin of Steel 66 to 65 for a VP position. Next ballot pressured delegate for 2nd VP vote to the right. Home defeated Pritchett 66 to 65. Left had 3 seats, Congress 5. Congress gained control of VLC and BCFL. Then overtook IWA. White Bloc claimed \$9000 unaccounted for. \$150,633.15 paid out without supporting vouchers. September 1948 with exception of Pritchett decided to secede from international. Woodworkers Industrial Unions of Canada. Court action by International, etc.

Morton, Desmond with Copp, Terry (1984) Working People: An Illustrated History of the Canadian Labour Movement. Ottawa: Deneau Publishers.

Vancouver's TLC began its "stormy" history December 5, 1889. TLC was a casual organization. 1898 Platform of Principles: 16 points including free compulsory education, 8 hour day and 6 day week, minimum wage, government inspection, public ownership of infrastructure, tax reform, abolition of Senate, **Exclusion of the Chinese, union label, abolition of child labour by children under fourteen, and of female labour in industrial life such as mines, factories, workshops, etc., compulsory arbitration**, etc. pg. 61

Equal suffrage for men and women added in 1913. "Banning child and female labour was both humanitarian for the time and usefully restrictive of the labour market". (!!!!!)

1918: despair and defeatism. War had brought restrictions to workers. Banned strikes (Sir Robert Borden), through order in council and enacted "Anti-Loafing Bill". Pg. 113

Western labour leaders were militant with tough militant employers, vs craft focused Toronto. Winnipeg.

During 1936 Canadian unionism major comeback.

Palmer, Bryan D. (1983) Working Class Experience. Toronto: Butterworth

Pg 203 Communism – first program 30 April 1919. CPC constituted in 1921. Mathew Popowich and John Navisky Ukrainian Labor Temple, John Ahlqvist, John Latva, of the Canadian Finnish Organization, "Moscow Jack" MacDonald an Irish born lithographer, Tom Bell, Bill Moriarty, English emigrant, SPNA founder and school teacher Florence Custance, Maurice Spector. Machinist and future party leader Tim Buck joined. 4800 members mostly foreign language federations. Active in the TLC in 23-4 won 25% of vote. In Nova Scotia strike leader UMWA Lewis MacDonald incarcerated. BC Federationist paper. Retreat in late 1920s of labour and internalization of ethnic Communists.

Autonomy of CPC in early period – turn to Stalinization in 1923-9, international movement became socialism in one country, immersed in sectarianism, alienated from ethnic past – ascent of Tim Buck, cult of personality. He was not supported by party's Ukrainians, Finns or Jews. Internal strife. CPC over confident that revolution was on its way. Pg. 205

Militancy and Legitimization – class conflict quiet from 1920s to 1933/4, quiet in lull 1935/6 and then arose again in 1937, stifled by slump of 1938. Peak 1943 – stimulated by P.C. 2685 supporting fair wages and conditions for workers and freedom of association. Struggles mostly for union recognition. Pg. 236. Unionization rose to 725,000 doubled number of 1939. War effort, metal and mines, clothing, textile, wood.

WWII full national regulation of labour in force. PC 1003 right to organize and bargain, to curtail strikes, response to many strikes. Disruptions 46/47 when Wartime Powers coming to an end. TLC members rose from 160,378 in 1938 to 360,000 in 1946. CCL tripled, 448 branches to over 1000 and membership from 100,000 to 315,000. CCL concentrated militancy.

