

rights. For our authority on this we can most conveniently refer again to Mr. Dabrowski in the *Glos Szczecinski*:

I would like to tell you about the allegedly democratic elections and methods of ruling the country, he says. In the elections to municipal councils only those can vote who have their 'office', i.e. enterprises or landed estates. Because factory workers and farm hands have no enterprises, they have no right to vote and they cannot be members of municipal councils and decide on communal matters.

The Indians, the indigenous Canadian population, are similarly deprived of any rights. There are also elections to the Parliament, but since as a rule those who manage the municipal councils are the only candidates, it is obvious how bourgeois the Parliament is. The Premier appoints the Senators and nobody has the right to recall a Senator, though he may be the greatest oppressor of the nation. You must wait till he dies. The whole Parliament and Senate is ruled by the British Governor, and he in turn by the multi-millionaires in New York. This shows what supposedly democratic government is like. Briefly speaking, it is the rule of the dollar.

The Polish press is not however always consistent in its comments on the subject of political freedom in Canada. The *Trybuna Ludu*, at least, must believe that the Canadian people enjoy some civil rights for a report it printed in October 1951 described how Canadians were organizing themselves in defence of these rights. Police terrorism against progressive organizations was increasing, it was stated. Pro-fascist elements had found asylum in Canada and their increasing scope of activity frequently included murders. An "All-Canadian Conference in Defence of Civil Rights" therefore had brought together 250 delegates from all over the country to discuss the government's attack on civil rights.

Canada's relations with the United States and Great Britain are examined from time to time. The analysis never presents Canada in any more flattering light than that of a satellite of either country, depending on the argument of the moment, or of a pawn which the two larger countries occasionally bring in to play in their dealings with each other. "Canada", according to the *Dziennik Baltycki* of Gdansk, "for quite a long time has been under the rule of the dollar, and the American Government has nominated Canada as a military region of the United States to serve as a base of aggression for American Imperialism". Canada's rearmament programme, its adherence to NATO, and measures such as the Emergency Powers Act of March 1951 are all regarded as having their origin in the orders issued by Wall Street and Washington. After this it causes no surprise to learn that the following impression of Canadian manners and culture, found also in *Dziennik Baltycki*, stresses the United States influence:

Wearing of shorts on playing fields is prohibited in Canada whereas a woman daring to ride a bicycle in trousers is risking loss of freedom or a beating by the passers-by. Canada is a country where there is not a single theatre. On the other hand, the Canadian Government is weekly accepting the export of American gangster films and is slavishly disseminating the art of boogie woogie dancing among Canadian youths!

(*Dziennik Baltycki* did not discuss the strange persistence of boogie woogie in the best dancing places in Poland.)

Canada's ties with Britain and the Commonwealth show up much less firmly in the picture conveyed by the Polish press. The Canadian Government, it is said, has to give heed to the dictates of both the United States and the United Kingdom governments. Where there is any conflict of loyalties it is assumed that obedience to the United States would come first. The Commonwealth Conference of January 1951 was described by the *Trybuna Ludu* at the time as an attempt at "strengthening the tottering unity of the Empire as well as the improvement of the piteous situation of Great Britain by transferring a portion of the burdens of war preparations to the Dominions". The *Tribuna Ludu* went on to declare that all the Conference did was