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VANCOUVER, B. C., APRIL 1, 1925.

CONSTITUTIONAL ILLS.

**A**PPARENTLY the Canadian Labor Party in British Columbia is suffering from itch and irritation. Already it has found a way to violate its own constitution, the same having been formed last May. At first glance the trouble seems to be that, constitutionally, the C. L. P. comprises a central organization made up of working class groups composed of political parties and trade unions, to one of which latter an individual must belong—there being no direct individual membership in the C.L.P. It now appears that, in face of quite constitutional opposition from the F. L. P.—an affiliated group—the C. L. P. has troubled to organize ward groups in and around Vancouver and district and seeks to pursue a similar course elsewhere in B. C.

There is really nothing about this that is of very serious moment as we see it, because constitutions are made of flimsy material when they deny a proven need and will be thrown down or at any time adjusted to suit that need. But there appears already evident within the C. L. P. an unhappy antagonism existing among the careerists who dabble in trade union politics and the genuinely earnest people who are interested in maintaining an existence in politics independent of the influence of the orthodox parties and of what they have to offer. It is no secret that the careerists have already registered worry over the failure of the labor M's. L. A. to sacrifice enough of their independence to bring the plums low enough down to be within reach. Such matters as these lie behind the troubles over group organizing by the C.L.P., besides some others that are more serious. These latter concern the difficulties experienced by propaganda groups such as the F.L.P. in recruiting enough workers to cover the ground and to convince the C. L. P. itself that a policy of education and propaganda should not be neglected for what is called political organizing, useful though the latter may be.

Concerning those constitutional adjustments required by the C. L. P. to permit the doing of what has been done already, namely, the organizing directly by the C. L. P. of groups, "The Labor Statesman (Vancouver) March 27/25 has this to say editorially:—

The Alberta Section of the C. L. P. has its constitution so arranged that it can, and has, organized branches. The same thing should be done in B. C. The B. C. Section of the C. L. P. could then put an organizer in the field and help organize the rest of the province. As the situation now stands there is only about two constituencies organized politically. It is imperative that the Canadian Labor Party should extend its activities to all parts of the province, especially among the farmers. Several years before the war this province was well organized by the Socialist Party and a large vote was rolled up at election time. Candidates were run in dozens of farming constituencies and the returns were encouraging. Since that time the Socialist Party has fallen from grace. It has lost the confidence of the workers and become apathetic. There is now a splendid opportunity for the Canadian Labor Party to swing the province into the premier labor position it once held. Let the C. L. P. constitution be changed and the province organized.

Now we are not going to hotly defend ourselves and register our title to success. Besides, often enough this column in the "Statesman" has a quite enviable tinge of "You know me Al" which should not be harried. The last sentence in our quotation attracts us, however, "Let the C. L. P. constitution be changed and the Province organized."  
 Just a little thing like that and it's done.  
 We'd say, "Change that constitution at once."

CIVIL LIBERTIES.

**T**OWARD the close of 1918 Count Michael Karolyi became prime minister of Hungary. Later he became first President of the Hungarian Republic. Still later his administration fell before the upsurge of the populace and the Communists had a brief innings. Karolyi fled to Switzerland and has since been exiled by the Horthy regime.

A month or more ago this man sought entry into the United States, apparently to see his wife, who lay ill in New York. As the price of his admission to the U. S. the Department of State imposed the condition that he must not speak or write on political matters while in the country, invoking as authority one of the many handy, moth-eaten statutes useful for such purposes. Quite irrespective of the personal history or political affiliations of Count Karolyi the American liberals have taken the opportunity to protest the ruling of the Department of State on this matter and others of a like kind, and at a meeting convened by the Civil Liberties Union in New York, March 7th, Professor Charles A. Beard comprehensively voiced his protest, saying (in part):—

The present case is but one straw showing the winds of tendency. During the past decade, officers of the government of the United States have bullied and beaten citizens and aliens beyond the limits of decency. They have arrested persons without warrant, on gossip and suspicion. They have inflicted cruel and unusual punishment on them. They have entered houses and searched premises and documents without any shadow of justification or authority. They have destroyed and carried off private property. They have coerced and terrorized prisoners, innocent and guilty alike. They have held citizens in prison without granting them the right of immediate communication with friends and counsel. They have made wholesale raids worthy of Huns and Cossacks. They have let loose thousands of irresponsible spies to hound and persecute innocent citizens engaged in attending to their own business. They have employed provocative agents to stir up some of the crimes they are charged to prevent. They have admitted favorites to the files of the department in search for evidence to employ in satisfying hatreds. They have engaged agents to compile memoranda designed to brand loyal citizens with the horrid taint of treason. They have allowed their lower minions to blazon on the first pages of the newspapers as outlaws and moral lepers citizens whose sole offense has been the exercise of lawful rights in a manner not pleasing to the powers and potentates in Washington. The present occupant of the White House has set his name and his sanction to an article filled with false and outrageous insinuations against American citizens as loyal and devoted to our country as he is himself. He has allowed the spokesmen of the War Department to harry American women engaged in the lawful—if unwise—business of appealing to the humane sentiments of the American people.

And where have been the pillars of society—the bishops, the clergy, the college presidents, and the self-constituted guardians of American institutions? Where have been the great lawyers—the Erskines of America—ready to dare the wrath of kings and the stones of men and write immortal pages in the history of the Anglo-Saxon jurisprudence? Where have been the judges of the high courts? Echo answers "Where?"

Quotation from "The New Student," (N. Y.)

Where, indeed? Those of them who don't feel like risking it have been sitting tight and earning their bread and butter, thereby establishing a jurisprudence that suits the times. Actually, Count Karolyi landed on easier ground than the average conscientious Wobbly who never heard of Erskine but who has experienced the actual workings of the civil law and knows it very well thereby. Incidentally, Erskine in his day talked law and civil liberty in defence of Thomas Paine for many hours, yet Paine was plainly adjudged guilty before Erskine had done. Liberty and law go together, if liberty can manage it.

Nevertheless, we suspect Dr. Beard knows all

about that. It is a matter for congratulation that he is willing to uphold traditional rights and to express his convictions in so able a manner.

DOPE.

**E**VERY day we read in the press harrowing details of the effects opium has on its addicts and always there is great rejoicing when some poor wretch, operating generally in the lower reaches of the traffic, goes to jail. The cities are full of social workers and moral crusaders who will never be out of employment so long as there is profit realized through the production of opium at its source.

For just such people, "Freedom," from which paper we have reproduced in this issue "Why the Opium Conference Failed," has reproduced a little detail in past and present history. The Vancouver police are forever catching a Chinaman and jailing him for selling drugs, and the Vancouver patriots are forever howling the Asiatic exclusion refrain. Keeping the Oriental "out" is the popular cry among the little business men now-a-days, but really, serious effort to exclude "dope" is decidedly unpatriotic and detrimental to British "industry."

HERE AND NOW.

Our cash returns show no very great increase over what has become normal, but we are in hope that they will increase in time to come. It's a long time since it was a popular pastime to rustle Clarion subs. Try it again and see it revive. A little increase is better than none and it won't take much effort to beat this record:—

Following \$1 each: C. Luff, W. K. Bryce, W. B. Bird, P. Wallgren, T. Shaw, F. Donohue, L. T. Morgan, Miss Williamson (per Miss Bell), J. Schulthers, R. Watt, C. Lestor, P. Mytton, A. Osterberg, L. Sickle, H. Wilmer, A. MacInnes, F. W. Parsons, John Anderson, C. Crooks, R. Marshall.

Following \$2 each: E. W. Bacchus, R. C. Twist, C. E. Scharff, W. Balderstone, G. Beagrie.

D. R. Lloyd \$3.52; Gust Varga \$1.50; A. Mathieson \$3.

Above, Clarion subs. received from 1st to 30th March, inclusive, total \$38.02.

IMPENDING 'ATTACKS ON LABOUR

Great Britain (I. F. T. U.)

A private member will shortly introduce a bill into parliament to reverse the existing procedure of the trade union levy for political purposes. If such a law is passed, members of trade unions would be compelled to intimate in writing their willingness to pay a political levy, instead of, as now, merely sending in a notification when they prefer not to pay it. The intention, as "The Labour Press Service" points out, is to "drive a wedge between the trade unions and the Labour Party, in order to injure both." All the weight of Big Business is said to be behind this move. Moreover, a branch of the National Union of Manufacturers will press the government to repeal provisions in the Trade Disputes Act of 1906 which legalises peaceful picketing. There are also indications of intentions to attack the co-operative movement, by making the surpluses of Co-operative Societies subject to taxation. Attempts are being made by the capitalist press to create an atmosphere favorable to these changes. There is some danger that the government may give facilities for the bill to proceed, and that it may win support from the Liberal Party.

Note: The bill referred to above proved unsuccessful and was voted out.—Ed.

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