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**THE BRITISH COLUMBIA**  
**MONTHLY**  
The Magazine of The Canadian West  
Devoted to COMMUNITY SERVICE FEARLESS FAIR & FREE

**D. A. CHALMERS**  
Managing Editor and Publisher  
With an Advisory Editorial  
Committee of Literary  
Men and Women

THE TWENTIETH CENTURY SPECTATOR OF BRITAIN'S FARTHEST WEST  
For Community Service—Social, Educational, Literary and Religious; but Independent of Party, Sect or Faction.  
"BE BRITISH," COLUMBIANS!

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## Editorial Notes

FOR VANCOUVER CITY IMPROVEMENTS in these days, observers need only be referred to Victory Square. If the principal proprietors of VANCOUVER DAILY PROVINCE never did anything else for Vancouver City, Victory Square, as now almost finished, would be a lasting testimonial to their public spirit. The attractiveness of the design and the beauty of the arrangement of flower plots, must appeal all the more to those who formerly took note of the eyesore the Old Court House site had become. We say again—may Messrs. Southam's example inspire others!

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CRITICISM IS SELDOM WELCOME unless the criticised recognise that it is prompted by a spirit of helpfulness. Citizens will listen patiently to the remarks or suggestions of strangers—just as wiser visitors will give more time to observation than to criticism. Among numerous things in Vancouver in which it must be admitted that criticism is warranted is the system—or lack of system—in the marking of street names. To this defect, and the kindred one of insufficient lighting of many blocks—especially in the west end of the city—we have referred before. It is not surprising to find the subject a cause for letters by visitors to the daily press. Like the thinning of trees and attention to walkways, the matter is such a comparatively small one that it is surprising that any wide awake city council does not see that the improvement is made. In this connection the question may be raised as to whether electrically-lighted street-name plates could not be erected at least at the more important cross-sections? As for the thinning out of trees, that—and the introduction of fuller lighting—ought to be seen to before the season returns in which present conditions are an incentive to "hold-up" crimes.

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WHILE NOT WISHING TO CRITICISE PERSONS, we heartily wish that the powers-that-be—no matter in what "little brief authority" they may be "dressed"—who sanction or tolerate the conditions leading to the prolongation of the fever of gambling, would either get fuller light on the folly of it, or be made to give place to others with more regard for the good of the community.

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THE GAMBLING HABIT, no matter where or how it is encouraged, is an unhealthy one. It is alleged, with truth we suppose, that horse racing need not in itself be harmful; but if it be true that "by their fruits ye shall know them," it is equally true that some things cannot be fairly considered without regard to their associations, and also their effect on social and economic conditions.

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"TO TAKE A CHANCE" may be a common human disposition, and there may be times and ways in which most folk feel they may do that. But to create and develop an attitude of mind that constantly and often feverishly seeks "something for nothing" is detrimental to healthy mental growth—to say nothing of other results bearing on the business or economic welfare of the individual and community.

WHETHER IT BE AT HORSE-RACING, at a "Potlatch" or on an Exhibition "Skidroad" then, it is well to vote against this public gambling; and we are among those who should be glad to be of service in helping to eliminate it. So far as Exhibitions and other Functions or Enterprises with worthy objects are concerned, some folk may be tempted to suggest that "the end justifies the means"; but surely there is no need to reason on that statement in this year of grace!

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HOW FAR THE ACTIVE INTEREST of the daily press can help to advertise—freely!—men or movements was well illustrated by the references to the recent visit to Canada of several Old Country editors. From a Vancouver point of view this was the more notable because of the very limited time which was assigned—or somehow happened to be "left"—on the programme for the city and environs. Of course there may have been some imperative or unavoidable causes for the shortness of the days—or hours?—available here, but we would be neglecting a plain duty if we did not point out and emphasize for those "whom it may concern" that in future it would be well to see that journalists, and all others coming to Canada for first hand information about the country, have a reasonable portion of time allowed to get acquainted with the Pacific Coast province of British Columbia, and not only Vancouver city but Victoria the capital, and Vancouver Island as well.

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VANCOUVER JOURNALISTS' INSTITUTE is to be congratulated on their arrangement for making the most of the short stay of their brethren from the Homeland, and especially for having been able to couple with the entertainment, an address by that doughty expounder and director of railway management, Sir Henry Thornton. The speech made by Sir Henry at the press function may have been somewhat shorter than the one made later before the Board of Trade and Canadian Club at the Hotel Vancouver, but it was in no way secondary in the impression it left of the masterly personality of the National Railway's chief. It may seem easy to write complimentary words of men in big positions, but there is a double satisfaction in recognizing that big positions are occupied by men really "big" in the best sense of the word.

Like President E. W. Beatty of the C.P.R., Sir Henry Thornton of the Canadian National gives the impression that he is a man who thinks more of his duty and task in relation to his Organization and his fellow-workers, and service to the nation, than he does of the PLACE of President or even of the "President" himself. In short he is a man and a loyal public servant first, and an official afterwards.

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"Forceful, clear, determined," were some of the adjectives that were suggested by the man and his message—in his two speeches in Vancouver. To the journalists indeed he gave some points "not for publication"; but his spirit of cheerful and well-reasoned optimism with regard to the work of the