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## EDITORIAL

### CRITICISM OF B. C. E. R. CO., ADVERTISING, AND BRIBERY?

ARE there publications in Western Canada that write *for* or *against* businesses or companies according as they get—or do not get—advertising from them? The question is prompted by a recent reference in the weekly hand-bill of the B. C. E. R. Company, freely distributed on the cars, in which the company's writer suggested that the absence of B. C. E. R. Co. advertising in a publication might usually be associated with criticism of that company.

This magazine had an independent editorial on the subject of the jitneys and the electric car service—which the writer was honoured to hear commended and attributed to the senior member of our editorial committee—but we do not assume that the reference had any application to us. At the same time, as a publication that has applied in the direct way of business and without any wire-pulling to be considered in connection with advertising by the B. C. E. R. Co., we think it well to note that if we cannot be used in that way without selling or in any way mortgaging our right of comment on public affairs, we shall cease to ask to be even considered.

Whether or not there are such publications as the B. C. E. R. Co. writer insinuated, the one question naturally suggests this other: Is it to be inferred that advertising can be used—and is given—by some businesses or corporations as a form of protection from criticism? That this is so in some cases was alleged in a different connection recently by a well-known Vancouver journalist, but we are reluctant to believe it.

If such procedure is practised it is on a par with the money-patronage business which, applied to political parties, makes for graft and corruption in any government, and against which we believe the best of Empire citizens of all shades of political opinions will stand more strongly than ever now that the world has suffered so much from the abuse of power in high places.

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### VANCOUVER Y. M. C. A. CAMPAIGN—AND “STRINGS” TO CONTRIBUTIONS

WHATEVER justification there may be for criticism of details of the working of the organization at the front or elsewhere, the main purposes of the Y. M. C. A. are excellent, and for that reason alone no doubt hundreds of citizens committed themselves as willing contributors in the recent campaign.