

GOVERNMENTS AND ELECTION EXPENSES.

It may seem utopian to suggest such a thing in this year of grace 1920, but why should not any statesmen who emerge in or from either political party, or from none, introduce and work for a bill to provide that all legitimate election expenses of candidates (nominated and supported by a certain minimum number of electors) be paid by government, as a part of the proceedings as necessary as the provision of voting booths and ballot boxes?

TO MAKE CITIZENS VALUE THEIR VOTES.

Then we often hear it said, if only we could waken all the electorate to so value their votes that every person would vote. It is a reasonable assumption that the exercise of the franchise, like some other things in life, is lightly valued by many because it seems to cost nothing. Such people remember little and care less as to how the right was earned by those who have gone before.

But just as there is greater need than ever for supervising the entry into the British Commonwealth of adults from other countries, so we may hold the time ripe for safe guarding and enhancing the value of the vote. Without advocating too drastic measures, we believe that some check should be put on the voters' lists so that the citizens who, while in health and at their homes in election times, do not exercise the franchise, should be compelled to show good reason why their right to vote should not be suspended for a time.

NEW EXECUTIVE FOR VANCOUVER CANADIAN CLUB.

The annual meeting of the Vancouver Canadian Club conflicted with another important meeting, but according to the Press, an entirely new executive was selected this year. This course is to be commended.

Attendance at the comparatively small "Nomination meeting" (always held shortly before the annual one) and at the Annual Business one itself for a period of years, gave an observer occasion to note a tendency, in this organization as in others, to fall more or less into a system of group government.

It is therefore refreshing to find such a club—which is primarily non-partisan and patriotic, and whose membership is based on citizenship alone—giving evidence of its democratic character.

It was interesting to note that while Mr. Murrin has, in regular course, become president, the new vice-president is the Bishop of New Westminster. As the Bishop, so far as we have observed or gathered, has not been prominent in connection with the work of the Club, his appointment is all the more worthy of note, as according to almost invariable custom, the vice-president of one year becomes president the following year.

ROBERT WATSON'S LATEST WORK.

As "the Magazine of the Canadian West," the B. C. M. makes no apology for giving more than ordinary attention to a book by a British Columbia or Canadian author.

Not that British Columbia or Canada lacks writers of outstanding merit, and also of promise, but because we believe that literary interest, like many other things, should "begin at home." And while the British Empire is our "Home" in the wider sense, Canada, and British Columbia particularly, is the part of it with which this Magazine is particularly concerned in development and service.

Also, let us reiterate and emphasize, that we are influenced towards such a course because we believe that one article, one Magazine, and especially one book, may reach a larger company of people than most preachers or teachers—or even politicians—ever get an opportunity of addressing;

and that when reading is done OF CHOICE, it is difficult or practically impossible to set a limit to its influence.

Robert Watson's third book, "Stronger Than His Sea," can be unhesitatingly recommended as a gift book for young and old. Already two independent notices of the book, by two of our literary contributors, are forthcoming, and as they are short, we are following the unusual course of publishing both in this issue. Without wishing to make a third "review" the editor thinks it right to commend Mr. Watson's latest work in this column also. Those who remember the struggle with the sea so well told in "My Brave and Gallant Gentleman," will be apt to assume from the title "Stronger Than His Sea," that there is another stirring episode of that kind in the book.

As the title of the story may leave the reader with the question—Does he mean his "sea of troubles?", it may be of interest to note that we understand Mr. Watson got the suggestion for the name from these lines by Arthur Stringer:

I threaded a course unbuoyed and black,
 To that Port where shone no light for me;
 Where, wrecked if you will, but unappalled
 I shall know I am stronger than my sea.

The proof reading seems to have been more hurried than has been the custom with his former books. It is a reasonable surmise that one or two typographical errors have got passed by being made when corrections in the same lines were having attention. It may also be assumed that the publishers were anxious to have the book "out" in time for distribution for Christmas, and so they may be forgiven this time—provided they are more careful with other editions, which will likely be called for in this case, as has already been done with this writer's first story "My Brave and Gallant Gentleman."

A BRITISH EMPIRE CITIZENS' LEAGUE?

Vancouver as the largest city in British Columbia, lacks not for Societies and Organizations of various kinds. Indeed, while appreciating the spirit that prompts the maintenance of ties with other districts, it may be held that when "Shires" or Counties, as well as the national institutions of any Nation within the Empire, seek to form societies of their own, there is a danger of a multiplicity of minor organizations absorbing energy and interest that might be much more effective if centralised.

British Columbians, as citizens of this great Dominion, and dwellers in that part of it AS FAR SOUTH AS THE CHANNEL ISLANDS and with ports ice-free all the year round, may have no unimportant share in the spread of British Empire ideals throughout the world.

Hitherto, apart from the group organisations referred to above, we, as Canadians, may have been apt to take a good deal from "across the line"; and all honour to our cousins of the United States, who, with characteristic energy and enterprise give worth and weight to so many movements. But we venture to suggest that the time is ripe for the formation of a society or League, the first objects of which would be the maintenance of the best in our British inheritance, and development thereupon.

The interests of an Empire Citizens' League would naturally begin at home, and as an organization it would concern itself not only with the type of men selected for civic life and work, but with policies put forward for social betterment. Ultimately, such a League of loyal citizens, independent of party sect or faction, could share in the work of world-permeation of those ideals for which thousands have been willing to die, and for which it sometimes seems many find it much harder to live.

The B.C.M. invites an expression of opinion on the subject.