

FORWARD BRITISH COLUMBIA and THE CANADIAN WEST!

In planning and preparing for big expansion in Community Service in British Columbia and the Canadian West generally, this British Columbia Monthly Magazine invites the co-operation of its steadily-increasing number of readers in cities and rural districts alike.

To stimulate interest towards that end, we offer a Prize of \$5.00 for each of the two best short letters setting forth—

HOW THIS MAGAZINE MAY BEST HELP FORWARD B.C. and THE CANADIAN WEST

One prize shall be given to the writer of a letter "FROM A WOMAN'S POINT OF VIEW," and one to the writer of a letter "FROM A MAN'S POINT OF VIEW."

Letters, (typewritten preferred), may be from 200 to 300 words (or less) in length. This Magazine may publish the Prize letters in whole or in part, and may also publish or quote from others.

Address Letters "FORWARD B. C."

British Columbia Monthly Office,

1100 Bute Street, Vancouver, B. C.

ON WASHING DISHES*

(By M. E. Colman)

Give me a bowl of rare warm suds,
And set it by the casement there
That by the sun's sweet alchemy
It may be bathed in rainbows fair.

Now hand me all your pretty cups,
The plates and saucers, all that you
Have used, and don't forget
Pots, pans and porringers, too.

A sweet white cloth to gently rub
The soil; Thank you, my pretty dear.
Now, tell me, did you ever think
How like the task that I have here

Is all our life? Our souls are grimed
By little meannesses, by care,
Foolish resentments, needless fears, . . .
How many ugly stains they bear!

Now see how fair each dish is made,
Silver bright and crystal clear,
Every garland gleaming gay,
All that defiled they lost in here.

So in the floods of grief our souls
Must oft be dipped, that every stain
Be quite purged off, and so we may
All purified start life again.

Now here's the roasting pan, the last,
Now work and homily are done!
Hang up the towels, so. How kind
This kitchen looks by the setting sun!

April, 1924.

*In sending us these verses, our contributor M.E.C., to whose more serious verse and other writings B. C. M. readers were introduced a considerable time ago, mentions that a friend challenged her to write a poem about dish-washing, and that this is the result. (Ed. B. C. M.)

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