

Having quoted poetry, I have reached a climax, and I should stop. However, I cannot forget that the morning after the closing of the Convention we took the boat for Victoria, where we were motored "through the pleasant streets of that dear old town" to the famous Butchart Gardens, where we were invited to tea; that the following morning we were invited to inspect the Archives of British Columbia and in the afternoon met in the gardens of the Lieutenant Governor's residence, where we were received by His Honour Mr. Randolph Bruce and his charming niece, Miss Helen MacKenzie. Mrs. Adams Beck, the authoress of "The Exquisite Perdita," just published, and of "The Laughing Queen" in the printer's hands, was one of the guests. There we had an unusual treat: recitations of "The Song My Paddle Sings," of Pauline Johnson, and of "Hiawatha's Childhood" by a full-blooded Cree, Miss Frances Nickawa. Her beauty, the quaintness of her elocution, the setting in which she appeared, were a delight to all, and we can well understand Mrs. Davies-Woodrow, when she says:

"I wish all the other members of the Association could have shared the delights of my last night in Vancouver! Mr. G. A. Palmer, Secretary of the Regina Branch, and myself, had the unique pleasure of visiting Stanley

Park with this fascinating Indian girl. We sat near Siwash Rock, and there, under the faint stars, Nickawa recited for us the Indian legends she had heard as a child."

VANCOUVER POETRY SOCIETY

The Vancouver Poetry Society met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Winlow, Haro Street, on the evening of Dec. 11th. Dr. Chas. G. D. Roberts was present as guest of the club, also his nephew and niece, Mr. and Mrs. Goodrich MacDonald, who have come to Vancouver to make their home. By special request Dr. Roberts read one of his most beautiful poems, "The Unknown City," also a stirring poem by Goodrich MacDonald, "The Sailor."

An inspiring essay by Mrs. Dalton was read by Mr. Dalton, the subject being, "A Plea for More Joy in Poetry."

An artistic musical program was provided by Miss Gweneth Humphreys, a pupil of Mrs. Winlow, her selections being "The Witch's Dance," by MacDowell, Prelude in C Sharp Minor, by Rachmaninoff, "The Eagle" and "Winter," by MacDowell, with illustrative readings by Mrs. Winlow from Tennyson and Shelley, and "Consolation," by Liszt.

Two announcements of interest to the club were made. Mrs. Dalton's new book, "The Silent Zone," and Dr.

Fewster's book, "My Garden of Dreams," will be in Vancouver by the middle of December. Mrs. Winlow's new book, "The Miracle of Roses," is already off the press, and to greet its appearance a beautifully woven basket, filled with ferns and red roses, was made and brought by Mrs. Maud Edgar, with a poem of her own delightfully arranged in a birch-bark scroll.

Two chapbooks, the handicraft of the club, were on display containing poems by members. A water-color of "The Lions" by Mrs. Bertha Lewis forms the cover of one, and a study of Pink Roses in water-colors forms the cover of the other, painted by Mrs. Winlow.

Those present were: Mr. and Mrs. W. Dalton, Dr. E. P. Fewster, Mrs. Moody, Mr. and Mrs. Gilpin, Mrs. R. Edgar, Mr. F. Wright, Miss M. Fewster, Miss H. Hesson, Mr. and Mrs. Chalmers, Mr. S. Golder, Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Stephen, Miss Horton, Mrs. D. J. Taylor, Mrs. Sullivan, Miss Colquhoun, Mrs. Wilkes, Miss May Judge, Miss Claire Pennington, Miss R. Smith, Miss A. E. Fraser, Mr. Teeple, Miss Cartwright, Miss Hilda Wheeler, Mrs. Redman, Miss M. Robertson, Mr. S. Smith, Miss Dorothy Halliwell, Mrs. Humphreys, Mrs. E. Fielding, Miss F. Camp, Mrs. Doberer, Miss Ellis, Mr. J. Brunn.

The Wayside Philosopher

ABRACADABRA

W. J. BOWSER RETIRES

Political History was made quickly when at the recent Conservative Convention at Kamloops the question of the Provincial Leadership was, for the time being, settled.

Among the almost kaleidoscopic changes of that Convention, the outstanding event was the retirement from the contest for the Leadership and from active political life of W. J. Bowser, K.C., a striking figure in British Columbia politics for over 30 years. The selection of the new leader, important as it may have been, was relatively unimportant to this event.

To few men is it given to play the outstanding part that Mr. Bowser has done in British Columbia life. As a Lawyer he achieved a distinguished and outstanding position, succeeding in both civil and criminal matters—an achievement possible only to the few. In Fraternal circles he won his way to the front, becoming Grand Master of the Freemasons of British Columbia.

Always deeply interested in politics, Mr. Bowser, by great ability, splendid fighting capabilities, and wonderful executive and administrative genius became a dominant and dominating figure. Keen and fearless in debate, a hard and efficient student, he was as successful on the floor of the House as he was in the administrative side of his work.

As Attorney-General of British Columbia his grasp and vision of what an Attorney-General and his Department should be, enabled him to give this Province an effectual law-enforcement and fair and fearless carrying

out of legislation that have never been at all equalled since, while his sane guidance showed in the nature and quality of the legislation superintended by him in that capacity. It is, perhaps, to be regretted that as Attorney-General he had not wider powers over legislation, but what would have been gain under him would, undoubtedly, have meant loss under others.

Clean, able, fearless, Mr. Bowser has made a wonderful contribution to our politics. He had his faults, as other men, made his mistakes, as others do, but, withal, he has placed himself on a pedestal that few will ever gain.

The closing scene of his political career was greatest of all. Despite the great, and mostly causeless, antagonism to his Leadership, he had the warm love and esteem of the majority of the Liberal-Conservative Party. The Leadership could have been his. It was no more than his just due and the Party could not have honoured itself more than in welcoming him back to the Leadership when victory was assured and a term in the sunshine of Premiership should atone for the hours of stress and strain since 1916.

Dear as his political dreams must have been to him, great as must have been the sacrifice, he refused to accept a victory that would entail division in the Party. True to the ideals he always followed, he justified the confidence of his friends and supporters in his true greatness by withdrawing from the contest for the Leadership and from active politics. The last step was an unfortunate, but necessary, consequence of the former.