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British Columbia

IN last issue appeared an article by Mr. Burns, in which he described conditions in British Columbia as he saw them. The Western Home Monthly did not accept any responsibility for statements made, but knew that there would be many ready to confirm or criticize them. It has worked out in just that way. A number of articles have been sent in, some approving and some condemning Mr. Burns. It is impossible to print them all. Two typical letters are printed, which are fairly representative of all. With the printing of these the discussion closes. It is hoped the exchange of views will be for the good of all concerned.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

The Land of the Britishers

There is no province in the Dominion of Canada, with a future before it more brilliant than that which seems the destiny of this great last west. As all who have watched the progress of events during the past decade must admit the trade centre of the world is slowly shifting. There must come a time when the Pacific will rival, if not out-class, the Atlantic as a highway of commerce, for we have here bordering on this greatest of oceans, hundreds of millions of populations slowly but surely awakening to their economic needs, and these needs must be supplied. Mental and physical hunger is the stimulus behind trade, and is an insistent craving which cannot be denied. British Columbia is preparing to do her part toward satisfying that want. She is already establishing factories, and will establish many more, for the immense natural resources of this province which go into the maw of the factories, and come out a finished or semi-finished product, are practically inexhaustible. Pulp and paper mills, iron and steel plants, smelters, woollen mills, flour mills, canneries, meat-packing houses, cold storage plants, creameries, condensaries, every sort of plant for handling the raw materials is being established here, and at the shipyards where we turned out vessels for the French and British Governments during the war, we are now building the units of our own mercantile marine, which will plough the seas between us and Australia, New Zealand, China, Japan, India and all of the countries bordering on the Pacific, and pass by way of the Panama Canal to the older, and more travelled waterway which will lead them to practically all of the ports of the world.

The Dominion of Canada is the largest of those imperial units which go to make the commonwealth of nations known as the British Empire, and British Columbia is one of the largest and richest provinces in the Dominion. She has an area of 372,608.37 miles; with the exception of nickel, all that the other provinces possess in raw materials is here in abundance. The coal mines, as yet in their early stage of development, have produced over \$670,000,000. There are 366,000,000,000 feet of raw timber in the forests and immense supplies of pulpwood. The fishing production is 47½ per cent of Canada's total. \$3,000,000 worth of furs are shipped out from this province annually. There are millions upon millions of acres of fertile farm lands, fruit lands, grazing lands. There are upwards of two and a half million water powers. And there are only something over 700,000 of a population.

It is population we want, the right sort of population, preferably British born, but in any case, we desire only men and women who can measure up to the British standard mentally, morally and physically, and who will come here prepared to adopt our flag as their own. Unfortunately, owing to the laissez-faire attitude of those in authority, the Chinese were allowed to come into Canada some years ago in large numbers, nor was there any very strict regulation against the Japanese except as was implied in the "Gentleman's Agreement." To-day there are heavy restrictions against the importation of Chinese, one of them being the five hundred dollar head-tax. But the Orientals came, and because they knew they could find no better country than this, very few of them penetrated further east. To-day out of our population of some seven hundred odd thousand, they form about fifty thousand. It is the evidence of the Orientals here which impresses many people coming to this country. Naturally enough the Chinese and Japanese stand out prominently

to those who are not accustomed to meeting them, and the inference is drawn therefore, that there are many more of them than is actually the case. As a matter-of-fact, the population of British Columbia is more distinctly British than that of any other province in the Dominion, and Victoria, the capital, is frequently described as a bit of Old England itself. On the other hand, we have not the mischief-making element here which is so prominent in the Prairie Provinces, and which, like a putrid sore, eats out the very heart of the moral and industrial fabric: we refer now to the Galicians, the Ruthenians, the Mennonites, and many other of those retrograde Slav sects which have settled in the rich wheat lands of the interior, and with whom it is almost the despair of the Government to deal. A defiant, immoral section of a population can work open and insidious havoc which involves a whole people, as Winnipeg itself has proved to its sorrow. British Columbia will deal with the Oriental question, is dealing with it, in fact. The Japanese and Chinese have not the franchise, nor shall they be able to get it if the people of British Columbia have their way. There is one way to overcome economic menace of these people, and that is by a great influx of our own Anglo-Saxons who are prepared to go on the land. This influx has already begun, and the indications are that within the next year, we shall be well up to the million mark in our producing population.

Just at present British Columbia is suffering, as is every other province in Canada, from the after effects of the war. The climatic conditions here, the opportunities which offer, have attracted a great many people who seem to think that a house and a job are awaiting for them immediately upon their arrival. This is not true of any section of Canada. In the eastern cities housing conditions are much worse than they are here, and rents much higher. What we desire to emphasize, and what we cannot emphasize too strongly, is this, the need of an agricultural class in British Columbia. A small capital to start out with is absolutely necessary. Given that, good health, and a determination to succeed, and nothing can hinder the realization of one's hopes. There is no country richer than this, no climate as good, and nowhere are prospects brighter for great industrial development.

In conclusion it might be well to point out that there is nothing to be gained by the abuse of one section of the country by a person or persons representing another section. Each city, each province, has its own peculiar problems, and in the solving of those problems, invective and diatribe can play no part. Rather let each one of us, recognizing the necessity for it, co-operate in all matters pertaining to civic, provincial and federal welfare whenever possible. Only in this way can we keep alive the imperial spirit which means universal progress.

N. de Bertrand Luglin.

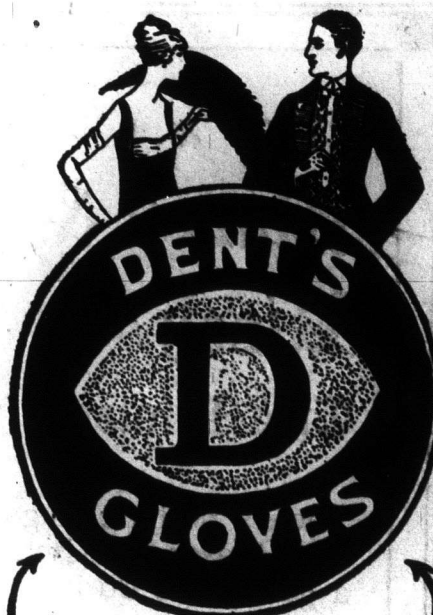
BRITISH COLUMBIA, THE LAND OF THE AMBITIOUS.

In answer to October's Article:
"B.C., The Land of the Oriental."

On reading the above mentioned article in the October number of The Western Home Monthly, I felt it my duty to write another article in answer to it, pointing out the narrow-minded views of the writer of the aforesaid article, and to correct the poisonous influence it would have on the minds of those who have never been fortunate enough to view B.C. at closer quarters than through the mediums of magazines.

First of all I want you to understand that I am not a real estate shark, neither am I connected with any railway, land office, nor am I a retired financier. I am a returned man, rendered unable to work, and living on a full disability pension. And believe me, folks, I was mighty glad to view the Rockies once again through the window of a hospital train, and I thanked God He had decreed that my home should be in a land of such promise as B.C. Although born in Ontario, I came to B.C. as a child, and have caught the ambitious and optimistic spirit of the Great West.

Living in Vancouver, I am well able to study the conditions of labor over which my friend, Mr. J. W. Burns, waxed so sarcastic. By nature, I am a person who loves all his fellow men. But I must say that I think Mr. Burns (Cont'd on page 18



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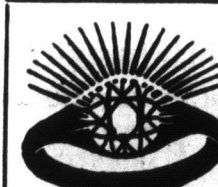
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