

stances and surroundings are similar, can meet and compare experiences without feeling that their proceedings are irksome in any degree to others.

Sectional meetings, being held in private, will afford opportunity for free and informal interchange of experiences, and consultation upon methods and subjects of peculiar interest to the respective classes of journalists, that should result in signal advantage; whilst the general sessions preserve a common plane upon which we may all meet and participate in discussions upon broader topics.

The hearty cooperation of the entire membership is confidently solicited in the inauguration of this feature. If persevered in and perfected, upon due trial, it may aid materially in widening our membership; there being no reason why a further sub-division might not be made than that to be made to-day, provided the interest of good journalists who now hold aloof may thereby be awakened in the work of this association.

The perfecting of this feature should deprive of his text the individual, not unknown in the history of the association, who has sought to arouse jealousies between different classes of journalists. I am glad to say such attempts never succeeded, because of the good sense of newspapermen. One class is regularly being recruited from the ranks of another; the weekly publisher of to-day is the daily publisher of to-morrow; the city editor of a daily may next week embark in business as a weekly publisher in a country town; the young reporter of a few years ago is not seldom to be found in the chief editorial chair of a leading metropolitan paper. The Canadian Press Association includes, and should aim to interest, all these classes of journalists, bearing in view that the keenest student of daily discussions may be an ambitious weekly publisher, whilst victims of the daily grind may often cast longing, envious eyes upon the comfortable and independent situation of the weekly editor.

The great event of the year was the excursion to the Pacific Coast under the association's auspices. Previous excursions had been conducted mainly to provide a holiday; this excursion combined patriotic impulses and the holiday trip so completely, that, while unsurpassed for sublimity and variety of attractions, left impressions to be gained in no other way of the illimitable resources and vast possibilities of our country. The partial realization afforded of the greatness and grandeur of Canada, with its wide timber tracts, dazzling mining regions, boundless breadths of grain lands, almost endless ranches and peerless mountain scenery, made enthusiastic Canadians of those who before had depended upon cold book knowledge for their conceptions. The trip was also a revelation as to the tremendous physical difficulties that had to be overcome in carrying this great railway line through the Rockies, and hence added to the admiration for the men, who, undaunted by tremendous obstacles, pressed to a successful conclusion the task of uniting Eastern and Western Canada by a band of steel. One hundred ladies and gentlemen drawn from the Eastern Provinces, beginning at Halifax, composed the party who traveled to the coast in a sumptuous special Canadian Pacific train, returning by the alternative Crow's Nest Pass route and through the great lakes. The railway service throughout was such that could not fail to call forth wonder and admiration. The service provided by our great national railways cannot be overpraised. The association owes to the masterly management of both the Canadian Pacific and the Grand Trunk the opportunity supplied by this excursion to view the rich Canadian expanse, much of it untrodden a few years ago, to the greatest advantage and at moderate cost. Especially should be blazoned abroad the splendid complete-

ness of the Canadian Pacific transcontinental service, and the watchful vigilance which created its reputation for immunity from serious accident, and is earning for it the title of the greatest and best-managed railway in the world.

The welcome accorded to the party by municipal, commercial and press bodies throughout the trip, was of the warmest and kindest description. Beginning at Gravenhurst, where a reception was accorded through the cooperation of the municipal authorities and the Muskoka Navigation Co., the pleasing experience was repeated at Port Arthur and Fort William, Rat Portage, Winnipeg, Portage la Prairie, Brandon, Regina, Calgary, Vancouver, Victoria, New Westminster, Rossland and Nelson, while invitations from Seattle, Greenwood, Fort Steele, Virden and elsewhere had to be declined because of the press of time. Journalists who accompanied this excursion will ever feel a personal interest in the Great West, kept vital by recollections of the warm hospitality, the fraternal greetings, and the display of the same keen and sturdy Canadianism throbbing in every heart from coast to coast. The descriptive articles with which the Eastern press has since abounded, respecting our Great West, must serve to inspire other Canadians with some of the pride and enthusiasm which we feel, and so promote Canada's prestige abroad.

Journalism out West was found to be thriving; and men of energy, enterprise and ability were everywhere in evidence in its ranks. The journalist of Eastern Canada may regard with fraternal pride the press of Western Canada, who, in enterprise and public spirit, set a strong, leading pace, and are proving a powerful factor in the development of the country.

The Pacific Coast excursion must have served to emphasize in the minds of its participants certain points brought out by Lieut.-Col. J. B. MacLean, in his annual address as president a couple of years past, and also in his paper read a year ago upon the tourist question. Inasmuch as experienced travelers regard the scenery of the Canadian Rockies as not only richer than that via United States transcontinental lines, but also describe it enthusiastically as surpassing that of the famed Alps of Switzerland; and inasmuch as our far north presents the finest remaining fields for the modern hunter, it is worth while to be reminded of the advantages Canada should be able to gain by attracting tourists from Europe as well as from the neighboring republic. Col. MacLean pointed out, among other things, that sportsmen of Great Britain are estimated to spend annually about \$224,000,000. When to this is added the amounts spent in travel and sports by the American and British people and the well-to-do classes of Europe, it is evident that here is a field which Canada has barely begun to exploit. Considering the natural playgrounds afforded by New Brunswick, by the Muskoka and Parry Sound districts, by the Lake Superior and Lake of the Woods regions, and, to crown all, by the Rockies and our Pacific Coast, Col. MacLean's view that Canada should attract annually one million tourists from the United States does not appear extravagant; we certainly ought to be able to attract one million from the United States and Europe combined.

In support of the reasonableness of this estimate, I quote some facts which Col. MacLean has helped me to procure, showing how quick has been the response to what have been, so far as Canada is concerned, practically a few isolated organized attempts to attract tourists. The best work is probably done in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, in both of which Provinces there exist tourist associations. The New Brunswick association, now in its third year, reports that last year the tourist traffic was exceptionally heavy. The Nova