

railway officials, and, of course, the police department—from the chief to the latest recruit—all come within the ken of newspaper writers who may begin with paragraphs and end with editorial or other notes.

BUT, CURIOSLY ENOUGH, the turning over of these well-illustrated "Annals" reminded one of ideas commonly associated in certain districts in other days—if not still in these days?—with America and American; and—let the sad truth be writ!—they involved, particularly, a disposition to "discount" many stories sent over the Atlantic in writing or print, and to hold them more or less exaggerated, if not indeed positively incorrect. . . . The reason or justification for such an attitude of mind on the part of Britons toward American, or, to be more accurate, United States reports of one kind or another, we need not enter into at this time. But we are concerned to know whether such a disposition still obtains in certain parts of the Homeland, and especially whether our Dominion of Canada has to any extent, been drawn into that qualified association.

LEST THESE LINES SHOULD, IN A BRITISH LIBRARY or newspaper office, come under the eye of those interested in this subject, the writer (British born) wishes to emphasize with all the earnestness possible that, without exaggeration, "the half has not been told" of the potentialities of the vast Canadian portion of this North American continent. Even at the Pacific Coast we are only beginning to get something like a fair idea of the natural wealth of the extensive Peace River country, a "district" which, though only a comparatively small part of the Provinces of Alberta and British Columbia, is, in itself, so vast that it exceeds the area of ten Great Britains! Of course we remember that size alone does not matter much. But—well, that is but a bit of the "hinterland" of the Port of Vancouver, but a bit that, though six or seven hundred miles away from the "Perennial Port," is,—or will be, when direct rail communication is established—relatively about as near as, say, the Highlands of Scotland to Edinburgh!

APART FROM THAT PREAMBLE, an acknowledgment is due Mr. Lloyd Owen for the illustrated and excellent address on the Peace River District which he gave at the Annual meeting of Vancouver Board of Trade. Such a lecture was a fitting supplement to President McRae's Report, and capped a memorable meeting.

BECAUSE OF THE CRITICISM sent us by one Vancouver business man, we think it right to emphasize here that this magazine is not out to take sides politically with any man or party—apart from such "Community Service" as we believe makes for the good of the country. In common with others who put men before parties, we believe the present Premier of British Columbia is one of those rugged pioneers of whose enterprise and achievements in several ways his fellow citizens may be proud. Incidentally we are proud of him as a prominent British Columbian who was born in Britain. At the same time we are confident that Premier Oliver himself would be among the last men to object to that criticism which is inseparable from public office; and "the Wayside Philosopher," or any other regular contributor is just given that freedom of comment which he and we alike will allow to any

opponent interested in public affairs and not actuated by any personal animus.

THE EXCEPTION TAKEN is welcome and shall (with other replies), be passed on to "the Wayside Philosopher" who, however, (as his notes in this issue clearly indicate), is not as our correspondent assumed "an old country conservative," but a very much alert Canadian-born British Columbian. We leave him to speak for himself, but are tempted to re-echo here his query of the other month—WHO IS A CANADIAN? . . .

MEANTIME WE ARE PROMPTED TO ASK of our own accord—following information that reached us while we were exercising ourselves in the interests of the "Community Service" open to this magazine,—Is it the case that a well-supported plan for development of that same wonderful British Columbia section of the Peace River district was submitted to Premier Oliver, and that he, or his government did not take it up—thereby passing by an unexcelled Opportunity for this Canadian West? Assured that there is truth in that story, we ask the question "more in sorrow than in anger" because we believe that if the present government has missed, or misses, such an opportunity, the name of another Premier or Government will, at no distant date, be associated with the opening up of that remarkable territory. (Herein observers may note that we ourselves disagree with "the Wayside Philosopher's" theory about Peace River development being premature).

FOR THIS CORRESPONDENT and others whom it may concern, we repeat that we are sure "the Wayside Philosopher," like the Editor of the "British Columbia Monthly," will welcome any statements on "the other side" of any debatable question, and that such statements will be given attention as soon as "time and space" permit.

"ABOVE ALL, MAY WE HAVE BETTER WEATHER!" With such an exceptional phrase ends the New Year Greeting to Citizens by the Lord Provost (mayor) of the "Fair City" of Perth, Scotland. His message appears in one of the "Pictorial Reviews" of the year passed on by friends. What wonder that such a wish expressed in a publication causes questioning to follow a train of reminiscent thought. One wonders, does life, even after the great war, move on in much the same routine in "the dear Homeland?" Some pictures suggest that it does. Here one finds the newspaper-work companion of early years, now editor and publisher, like his father before him, and evidently equally genial, and bright and beaming as a "Baillie" (alderman-magistrate). Others have trod the well beaten paths. In public civic service, Lord Provost Dewar himself has followed in his father's footsteps as Lord Forteviot (as he now is), once occupied the same honourable office.

But in reflecting on them and the conditions of life there—not forgetting the weather!—we wonder how they think of other parts of the Empire? Do any of them think of us, in British Columbia for instance, as in the "Colonies," in that far-away, rather detached manner, not unfamiliar in other years? . . . Well, we should not like to express ourselves in any form that would even remotely suggest a disposition to be superior in any objectionable sense, and yet—what must we say for instance, of the weather! We do not advise ANYONE to prepare to

rush off to Canada, or its best Province, British Columbia, in a hurry, or without investigation, but it is a fact that we can count on about six to eight months in the year of weather that is much more than tolerable.

Then, as to conditions of living here? Naturally ALL KINDS OF RELIABLE INFORMATION should be obtained by people of any parts of Britain before they decide or plan to emigrate. But—to close this subject for the present—those Britons with years of experience at the British Pacific Coast will not fear fair and full comparison in climate, and in most other conditions, with any other portions of the Empire, the Central Homelands included. With widening experience, patriotic Britons-born may not love England or Scotland less, but they come to love their adopted Homeland with a kindred devotion, and, above all, LEARN TO THINK IMPERIALLY!

THE CHINA INLAND MISSION

Interdenominational, International, Evangelical, Evangelistic.
Supported by Free-Will Offerings.

Founded in 1865 by the Late J. HUDSON TAYLOR, M.R.C.S., F.R.G.S. General Director—D. E. HOSTE. Shanghai, China.

Director for North America—HENRY W. FROST, D.D., Princeton, N. J. PRACTICE—The Mission does not go into debt. It guarantees no income, but ministers to workers as funds sent in will allow. All members are expected to depend on God alone for temporal supplies. No collection or personal solicitation of money is authorized. Duly qualified workers are accepted irrespective of nationality and without restriction as to denomination, provided there is soundness in the faith on all fundamental truths. Correspondence from earnest young men and women who desire to serve God in China is invited.

OBJECT and AIM—The preaching of the Gospel to every creature in China.

EQUIPMENT (Jan. 1, 1924)—Missionaries, 1,101; Paid Chinese helpers, 2,211; Voluntary Chinese helpers, 2,150; Stations, 258; Outstations, 1,764; Hospitals, 13; Dispensaries, 91; Native Schools, 545; Schools at Chefoo for missionaries' children.

RESULTS IN THE FIELD—Churches, 1,165; Baptized in 1923, 5,892; Communicants in fellowship, 64,350; others under regular instruction, 65,428; Baptized since commencement, 99,041.

Main Offices: Toronto, Philadelphia, London, Melbourne, Shanghai. Pacific North-West District Secretary:—Rev. Charles Thomson, home and office, 1464 Eleventh Ave. W., Vancouver, B. C. Phone: Bay. 1681.

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