

Work for the Canadian Clubs

CANADIAN club members all over the country may be interested in some quotations from an address delivered at the second meeting of the Canadian Club of Victoria, B.C. on March 15th. The speaker, Mr. J. S. Dennis, recounted his experiences and outlined some work for Canadian club enthusiasts. He said:

"Thirty-five years ago Western Canada was only a name. Those who fathered the confederation and who had the hardihood to foretell that the western portion would occupy the position that it now occupies, were classed as visionary. Thirty-five years ago Winnipeg was only a small village, reached by boats coming down the river. It was thought that the western limit of possible habitation lay about 60 miles to the west of Winnipeg. That vast country to the west was practically unknown. Of British Columbia nothing was known except by the gold seeker. This province, which is more richly endowed by natural resources than any other in Canada, was spoken of as being somewhere near the North Pole, fit only for Eskimos to inhabit.

"The first real development followed the influx of settlers from the south—that is east of the mountains. This is now going to have a reflex action to the West of those mountains. At first only 8,000 people came in in one year from south of the line, whilst last year there were several times eight thousand. The movement is rolling up until it has assumed large proportions, and it has had this effect, that the country is attracting not only men from across the line, but emigration from northern Europe and Great Britain. The cause of this was the feeling that where there is anything good the Yankee goes after it. (Laughter.)

"My work, however, is to speak of the development of the country and the part the Canadian Club should take in it. Fifteen years ago there was no city of any size at Edmonton. In 1898 I assisted in founding the village of Saskatoon. Both of these are now great centres of trade. In a few years with the present development we shall be independent of the great country to the south, or of Europe. I estimate that there is now a population of 900,000 in Saskatchewan, Alberta and British Columbia, and it is increasing at the rate of a quarter of a million per annum. In these provinces there are 7,000 miles of railways in operation and 3,000 miles under construction. The bank clearings in the same district are \$15,000,000. (Cheers.) We have finally a recognised position throughout the emigrating world as the greatest unoccupied area of land suitable for agriculture and horticulture, as well as the greatest natural resources in timber, coal, mining and fisheries in any portion of North America.

"We are now starting on what I think should be a new era of development.

"It is with reference to that that I should like to speak to you for a few minutes. We have not only disproved the erroneous idea that this great western country is unfit for cultivation and habitation, but we have proved that we can produce a larger average wheat crop than has ever been produced in North America.

"When I look back for twenty-five years and then note the cities now built where the buffalo once possessed the land, the vast areas devoted to agriculture, when I look backward eighteen years to the existing conditions in British Columbia, am I not justified in saying that we have dispelled that erroneous impression and proved that the great western country can invite people to come and possess it with every confidence.

"In connection with the development to which I look forward the Canadian clubs should, in my opinion, make it their business to take a prominent part in guiding that development on proper lines. We are getting all nationalities and all creeds; we are assuming certain re-

sponsibilities. Even here in British Columbia you have been agitated for some time past by the question of Oriental immigration. But I am referring more particularly to the emigration of the Slavonic races to the provinces east of the Mainland.

"The work of this club should be to assimilate that population that these may become in time Canadian citizens. (Applause.) That is a work which must be done, and one in which governments cannot take part. These people must be made first Canadians, and must have awakened in them that spirit which has more than anything else made the United States the marvellous country it is to-day. We must make them, no matter what their nationality, Canadians first. It can and will be done through the medium of these clubs.

The British Royal Family

IT is interesting, says the "Argonaut," to note how rapidly the members of the English royal family are dividing the royal spoils of Europe. An English princess is on the throne of Norway; another, Princess Margaret of Connaught, will some day wear the Swedish crown. The daughter of the late Princess Alice, King Edward's sister, is now the Czarina, the son of the Duke of Albany is Duke of Saxe-Cobourg-Gotha, the eldest daughter of the Duke of Edinburgh is Crown Princess of Roumania, the Crown Princess of Greece is also a niece of King Edward, while a daughter of Princess Henry of Battenberg is now on the Spanish throne.

The entente cordiale, so ardently desired by King Edward, is likely to be strengthened by the family ties which exist between the various reigning houses of Europe. But on the other hand, a quarrel, when it does arise, is all the more bitter when the enemies are of the same blood.



Japanese Women in Winter Costume.