

Vancouver Board of Trade in a New Light: Extending Its Community Service Functions

By D. A. Chalmers.

First there was the arrangement of the banquetting hall—the ballroom of the Hotel Vancouver. The seating of the guests of honour beside the chairman and other outstanding officials of the board, representatives of such Community Service Clubs as Rotary and Kiwanis, the ever-ready orator and effervescent mayor, the city members of the Dominion Parliament, and others, necessitated the chief table being placed lengthwise of the hall.

The dinner, if not an elaborate one, was at least a dainty one, well-served, and a pleasant contrast to the too-often-cold luncheons with which the Canadian Club and others have to be content. But we must not grumble for the accommodation and conveniences are the best, and in these days, when "tipping" may become illegal, who knows what troubles hotel managers may have with that honorable body of men who not "only stand and wait" but "also serve."

A Genial Chairman—of Words Few but Fit.

Chairman Blake Wilson rose to the occasion as some other non-speechmaking presidents—his predecessor for instance—have also done admirably when put to the test.

In his opening remarks and in his introductions of speakers, Mr. Wilson's words were few but fitting, and even his naive allusion to Mrs. Wilson in the gallery was in keeping with the fellowship spirit and unpretentious social tone of the meeting.

As all who have had occasion to come into contact with him must recognise, there is something actively human and unaffectedly sincere in the personality of the president. A man with heavy responsibilities and of no end of work, involving the constant exercise of judgment and supervision affecting a big concern, whatever his attitude to a business proposition, Mr. Blake Wilson is always the same pleasant, unassuming, good-natured gentleman, whose conversation on current topics suggests "the larger heart, the kindlier hand."

Mr. Tisdale—A Layman!—Says Grace.

It was in keeping with the "human touch" to find president Wilson calling upon "Mr. Tisdale, one of the oldest members of the Board" to say grace.

Why do we not have more of this at the public functions of our Clubs and Community organizations in the West? Surely no man, of whatever race or creed, should need to study any to express in one sentence or two common thanks to the Almighty, the working of Whose beneficent laws should teach us all to ask—"What have we that we have not received?"

Yet at the Canadian Club and other luncheons it often seems as if a member with a clerical collar was an indispensable mouthpiece, though recently President Somerville (journalist by profession) of the Canadian Club himself gracefully expressed the vocal thanksgiving for the assembly.

It is well to "honour the cloth," but it is no less worth while remembering that "Thank you" to the Common Father can be said sincerely in any garb.

In this connection we are reminded of the varied comments that follow a certain clergyman's unusual but repeated expression for "Grace" at public functions, and reflect that the poet's line "For modes of faith, let graceless zealots fight," might be adapted to read:

"In forms of Grace, let zealous parsons vie,—

The layman says: "Accepted thankfully."

Mr. Tisdale's expression was exemplary in its naturalness, and such that while all good conservatives could not but join him in it, the most earnestly liberal could also follow with "Amen."

Mr. Tisdale is well-known in Vancouver as a business man and also as a former member of the British Columbia legislature. But perhaps his community service is not secondary, and certainly he does not appear in anything but a friendly and non-partisan guise, as Chairman of the Civic Bureau of the Vancouver Board of Trade. Business-like, yet patient and considerate towards the members, he expedites procedure, unhasting, yet unwasting of time. May his cheerful presence long "grace" the Board!

"Mr. Phil" to the Fore.

While in the course of the evening marked compliments, which must have been gratifying to Vancouver citizens and of interest to British Columbia people generally, were paid to the work of Mr. W. H. Malkin in connection with the Victory Loan Campaign in this province. Mr. Phil, as the present vice-president of the Board, was at the outset, called to express some words of welcome to the guests. In doing so, he made pertinent reference to the functions and scope of the Board, emphasizing:

1. Such an organization must not look upon questions from one side only; and therefore he pleaded with all members to obey orders and act on the committees to which they were appointed. Also he counselled committees to consider all resolutions that came before them from every angle—always remembering that it was the duty of the Board of Trade to sink sectional and private interests, and always view questions from the civic, provincial or Dominion viewpoint, as the case may be.

2. With all due deference to their guests, the real work of

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