

Publishing Office:  
1100 Bute Street, Vancouver, B.C.  
Telephone:  
Seymour 6048



D. A. CHALMERS  
Managing Editor and Publisher  
With an Advisory Editorial  
Committee of Literary  
Men and Women

*The Twentieth Century Spectator of Britain's Farthest West*  
*For Community Service—Social, Educational, Literary and Religious; but Independent of Party, Sect or Faction*  
**"BE BRITISH" COLUMBIANS!**

VOL. 25

UNIVERSITY NUMBER (1)

No. 3

## Educational Notes

(By Spectator.)

For years past a conference, or a series of conferences, has been held for the purpose of studying Pacific problems, and by such study to promote peace between all the nations whose territories bound the world's greatest ocean. So far the meetings of this association, the Pan-Pacific, have been held in Honolulu. During the coming summer the members are to convene in Japan. Nothing but good can result, even if for a time the greatest good should prove an achievement beyond the power of the present generation. A generation or two ago the world consisted of a congeries of isolated nations, or groups of nations, dominated largely by a spirit of selfishness that would be considered intolerable in the social life of private persons. Now the world is really one. All nations now look one another in the face. In time it must become patent to all that friendly co-operation, and not selfish antagonism, is the power that must bring prosperity and happiness to each.

\* \* \* \*

Fifty years ago the theory of evolution was a much discussed subject, and many good people were then disposed to look askance on any one suspected of dallying with a doctrine so dangerous. As the years went by, however, it seemed as if not only men of science, but the thinking world generally, had accepted the theory in some form or other, and as if the wordy strife the question had once engendered, had now happily passed away forever. Then, like the explosion of a bomb in the midst of a peaceful gathering, came the Dayton trial, with the late William Jennings Bryan as the great anti-evolution protagonist.

So great was the interest in the trial itself, and in the eminent American citizen who had so fearlessly leaped into the arena to spend, as it proved, his latest breath in combatting the supposed pestilent heresy, that few men noted the most serious matter of all, viz., that an American legislature in the twentieth century had had the temerity to do that which had caused the Pilgrim Fathers to accept cheerfully exile in a wilderness, rather than to bask in the sunshine of a royal court. The Act of the Tennessee legislature, in forbidding the teaching of the theory of evolution, was in perfect keeping with the action of a royal autocrat attempting to "carve creeds for slaves."

With all reverence be it said, the Bible would be a poor text-book in science. Little beyond a very superficial knowledge of scientific principles was required by the primitive folk among whom the various books of the Old Testament first saw the light of day. But men and women of those times were like men and women of our own day, hungering after the things that

truly satisfy, the deep things of the spirit, the bread of life coming down from heaven. The Bible will never lose its freshness, its appeal, its satisfying reaction to all who approach it aright. That its words have satisfied the deepest yearnings of the human soul, that it has strengthened and sustained the crushed and broken heart, that it has ceaselessly proved the power of God unto salvation from sin, are the unanswerable and undying proofs of its inspiration.

\* \* \* \*

These are red-letter days in the educational life of British Columbia. First, we have the publication of the findings of the Commission, composed of Inspector Putman and Professor Weir, appointed to make a survey of the elementary and secondary schools of the province. Following closely on the heels of this, we have the inaugural ceremonies celebrating the removal of the University from its temporary quarters on the General Hospital grounds, Fairview, to its permanent home on the magnificent site at Point Grey.

As for the educational survey, there has never been any thought on the part of the surveyors, or of others in close touch with them, that their recommendations would be, or could be, put into force all at once. To put it briefly, the report and its recommendations may be considered an educational guide-book pointing out the main highways, and some of the byways, along which educational advance may most successfully be made during the next decade or two.

With respect to the University, it has well been pointed out that a school of higher learning is no longer a cloister to assist in the so-called cultural development of a social or intellectual elite, but the great school of the people, a fitting foundation on which all other grades of schools may be securely reared.

The functions of a university may be variously defined. One authority very properly points out that a university is an institution for the training of leaders for every department of human activity and life. In the world of industry, the world of commerce, the world of finance, the professional world, the university man is sought out and set to work. In the educational world he is, in these days, indispensable. Education is not reformed from the bottom up, but from the top down. The university prepares teachers for our high schools, the high schools in turn train teachers for our elementary schools. Increased efficiency in the university is the source of increased efficiency in our high schools, and increased efficiency in the high schools is quickly reflected in the greater effectiveness of the work done in our elementary schools. The university must, to a greater and still greater degree,