

4. PEOPLE OF RELIGIOUS INTERESTS: Churchmen and women of all classes, professed, professional, and sincerely and earnestly aspiring: How long will ye be in waking fully to the fact that Western Canadian church interests and ideals cannot be satisfactorily represented by periodicals published in Eastern Canada?

In newspapers you usually get what you pay for: But the B. C. M. is **Here to Serve**, and our second decade

motto is: "Into Every Home." You ought, therefore, to be practically interested in its work. That means that you should not only be subscribers yourselves, but should see that amid the multiplicity of periodicals which find entrance into our homes and those of our friends, the B. C. M. is not overlooked. Encourage sensible discrimination, and then you will in your generation help to "Build B. C. British"—and progressive through healthful interest in social, educational, literary and religious life and work.

THE TWO ANNUAL EXHIBITIONS AT THE COAST --- A SUGGESTION

Nowadays an exhibition may be held a necessity to every large community. It is an object lesson of the capabilities of the surrounding districts presented through "Eyegate"—a competitive display of art, science, machinery, agriculture, cattle and horticultural genius.

Whether an exhibition is a necessity to a large community or not is patent enough to everyone who is a student of human nature.

The desire to do something that no one else has done—or of doing something a little better than others have done it, would remain dormant if there was not an opportunity to demonstrate its developments, and where could it be better demonstrated to more advantage than through the medium of the Exhibition? But the form it should take, what it should comprise, and whether it should be an event for every city, are questions that must be decided by the communities concerned.

The Exhibition, as it is staged today, is a growth of the old-time fair, which was instituted or defined as a greater species of market, recurring at more distant intervals, and which has been described as a customary or legalized place for the sale of commodities (including labor).

An Exhibition as I see it, is a necessity to every large community, it being the eye-gate to learning. It can be condensed or expanded to suit the requirements of the district concerned. It is of such vital importance that it should be under government control, and get government support. It should be used for the exposition of raw and manufactured materials—Agricultural Products, Horticultural Products, Horses, Cattle—in fact, everything necessary to the comfort and labor saving in home, office, and on the farm. An Exhibition should be an annual object lesson of what is being done in a community for the benefit of the community. That an Exhibition falls short along these lines on many occasions is granted, but that is oftentimes because everyone wants an exhibition, but many are too lackadaisical to take active part to make it a success.

In the Exhibition such as Vancouver presents annually, the lack of interest on the part of the citizens and the merchants concerned is very manifest, and in many of the exhibits the real object of the exhibition is entirely lost sight of.

An exhibition might be termed a Graduation Class, in which the exhibitors are the pupils, and the public the examiners.

Many exhibitions fail because they make more of the directorate than the exhibits—as was the case in the first exhibition in England—others fail because of lack of organization, proper publicity, etc.

While an Exhibition should be a paying concern, no matter how much money it makes, unless it has exhibits that

has a tendency towards progress and the uplift of the community in which it is held, it has failed in its object.

The old saying, "Too many cooks spoil the broth," might be changed to "Too many Exhibitions become monotonous," and with this thought, might I not suggest that Westminster and Vancouver combine their resources and make one event that will be a credit to the directorate and community at large.

The out-door program of an exhibition is one that inevitably is decidedly weak, but nobody knows that better than the directors themselves, and these gentlemen are always on the lookout for something better, but unfortunately, they are not to be had, or at any rate, they can't find them, and would no doubt appreciate advice which would help to better this part of the Exhibition program.

Then there is the horse racing—no exhibition outside of an International Exhibition would be complete without this event. Indeed, in the olden days, the horses were the main attraction of an Exhibition; they were shown in pushing contests, pulling contests, and racing contests. In the large farming districts of South America pushing and pulling contests have an infatuation over the visitors to an even greater degree than do our racing contests here.

Horse racing is a part of the spirit of the Fair, the seasoning that gives it the taste to suit the individual. As to whether or not races are an asset to the show is, in my opinion, not the thing. They are a part of the Fair, just as much as the auto exhibit, cattle exhibit, etc.

Vancouver Exhibition Association has, I understand, several thousand dollars to its credit, and now, with buildings in better shape than for many years past, and while there is yet time, may I suggest that the Vancouver Association approach the Westminster Association with the idea of amalgamating and holding one Fair, so that the merging of enthusiasm and interest shown individually might make, when combined, for one really big event which practically every loyal citizen of British Columbia for miles around would feel they had to visit.

F. S. G.

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