

THE B.C.M. DOES NOT HOLD IT NECESSARY to demonstrate its independence by referring to the points of criticism not uncommonly stressed. If it be alleged that the "Province" owes its success in part to "sitting on the fence" politically, we, for our part, are disposed to ask if the West has often had men in public life who would constrain a really independent newspaperman or journalist to do otherwise?

PARTY DIVISIONS MAY BE ESSENTIAL for government, but have we not suffered from too much Partyism? Have not the "Ins" and the "Outs" too often been more concerned about rivalling each other—and reflecting upon the policies of each other—than in evolving constructive legislation that put the interests of the Country first? A natural sequel to such conditions is that each "Party" in public life is disposed to give nothing it can possibly avoid giving in a business way to men or publications without a QUID PRO QUO, and usually that, only following "wire-pulling," if not independence-selling.

In retaining its independence under such circumstances, a newspaper has to face the prospect of getting no business recognition from either Party. On the other hand, by building up its service and influence in the community, a publication may attain a position in which it cannot be ignored by either political party; and that we surmise, is what the responsible management of "Vancouver Daily Province" did.

IN ANY CASE IN LEARNING FROM COLUMNS OF THE "PROVINCE" that the Hon. W. C. Nichol has assumed the "Presidency" of the re-arranged management, we infer that the calls of his high office together with an opportunity for almost complete relief from business cares, have led him to pass on a big share of the "interest" and more of the practical supervision to others. As he accordingly, as present Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia, assumes a position that leaves him more free, if possible, for public service, we respectfully congratulate him on his crowning success, and salute him in passing—and venture to express the hope that many long years may be his!

IN THUS CONGRATULATING THE "PROVINCE" and its publishers on its phenomenal progress to date, and incidentally acknowledging the help and co-operation extended by them to the management of this magazine, we wish that we could write with equal truth of the interest of the other Vancouver papers. But newspapers, like other businesses, are subject to frequent change, and when commercial or merely partisan interests seem to dominate a sale and management, it is not surprising if these conditions are sometimes reflected in the service of departments.

We value every independent notice given by any of the City or provincial newspapers—and several in the interior also have shown interest from time to time in the contents of the B. C. M.

IN FORMER YEARS WE HAVE HAD FITTING REFERENCE to that champion of journalistic "reminiscencers," whose social and literary gossip now graces the columns of the "Sun." "The World's Window" which he previously edited, is now in the comparatively junior but capable control of "N. R.," a journalist of genial personality and literary promise.

SYNDICATED HUMOUR IN THE NEWSPAPERS might provide a topic by itself. There is no question of the attraction of pictures in these days of hurry and often (it is to be feared) of the reading of little else than the headlines in the newspapers. But it is amazing to note what is passed as humorous. Occasionally, too, there will get past a picture, or series, the nature of which peculiarly emphasizes that it is a production from the other side of "the line"—as unhappily too much, if not all of the syndicated supply seems to be.

The "horse stuff" that is given for humour in one case we would rather not comment upon. But an illustration of the "other side" type mentioned appeared recently in the leading daily in a picture of a man betraying a guilty feeling in "Trying to pass a Canadian quarter." In common with many others, no doubt, we at once thought of the incongruity of that picture appearing unsupplemented in a Canadian newspaper; but we think all it needed was some such query underneath as: "Imagine a Canadian so worrying, in jest or earnest, about the passing of an 'American' quarter?" U.S. pictorial artists please take note!

BUT THAT POINT OF CRITICISM REMINDS US OF A COMPLIMENT, without the noting of which any general reference to the "Province" staff would be incomplete. For years the cartoonist "Fitz," has unquestionably been responsible for hundreds of healthy laughs in thousands of homes of British Columbia. His "hits," whether on home-like, City, Provincial, National or International topics, are usually so apt and (when not in serious vein, as the international cartoons sometimes must be) so mirth-provoking and happy, that, we are sure this contributor is looked upon as almost "a friend of the family" in many homes where the name "Fitzmaurice" itself may scarcely be known.

AS OF ANY OTHER BIG BUSINESS, the successful carrying on of a newspaper, depends on the practical interest of the members of the staff, and especially of the heads of departments—from the supreme business manager down. Those who have had occasion to come into contact at times with men on the inside will understand that a capable overseer in the "make-up" room, who takes a pride in his work and looks on it as more than "a job," is a valuable asset to a newspaper. The Province has been fortunate in having such a foreman—one who is not content to pass any slipshod work but must have everything up to that standard, which may, with double point, be termed—"just right."

It was gratifying to gather that the re-arrangement at the "Province" does not involve change in the staff. So that we may expect to see all those who have done their bit in the upbuilding of this leading Daily, continuing their markedly progressive community service under the new regime.

THE IMPRESSIONS OR REPORTS by President J. B. Thomson and Secretary W. E. Payne in this issue concerning the Vancouver Board of Trade Delegation to Great Britain, will speak for themselves. We may note that we hope to supplement these by others.

"PRESIDENT J. B. THOMSON ON THE SECRETARY" is just a summary of ours of what the President actually said. From all we gather, the compliments to Mr. Payne were well warranted, and, from the conditions under which he and the President travelled overseas, Mr. Thomson had every opportunity to judge fairly of the secretary's work and worth.

ON THE BASIS OF THE CONTRIBUTION IN THIS ISSUE—to say nothing of others in previous months—we feel justified in calling special attention to the work of Mr. W. B. Forster. Just read his short article "The Buy B. C. Products Campaign," and ask yourself if it does not constitute a good case, well stated? Without going out of our way to record compliments, we think the B. C. Products Organization has been fortunate in securing the services of such an earnest and consistent hard worker as Manager.

WE ARE INCLINED TO QUESTION MR. FORSTER'S statement, when he says there is no sentiment in business. We believe that sentiment—reasonably—affects almost everything in this life. In one sense Mr. Forster only strengthens his case by his statement and emphasizes that the Buy B. C. Products appeal is not DEPENDENT upon anything but com-