

# Community Life and Work

... "I have lived in this city for some years: I have lived in this city when it was a great deal poorer, and when there was the seriousness of war, and when the interests of our fellow citizens and our brothers were threatened and their lives imperilled; I have seen people meet just like this: on the moment, on the nonce, without much advertisement and come shoulder to shoulder to do all they could for those who were risking their lives for the Empire. I have watched with pride as the city took development, in a haphazard way if you like, with people congregating from everywhere, and suddenly coming together with little or no associations such as old communities have;—I have watched and rejoiced over it, to see that with all the desire for gain, with all their ambition for wealth and prosperity their hearts were warm—their hearts were not only warm, but on occasion their purses were open. This is no mean city to live in. . . ."

THAT QUOTATION is from the address given by the late Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper on the occasion of the Memorial Meeting in Vancouver in connection with the "Titanic" disaster—(verbatim report by D. A. Chalmers published in this Magazine, April, 1912.)

\* \* \* \*

THE PASSING OF SIR CHARLES takes from Vancouver Community an outstanding Canadian. A strong personality, his addresses on political and other questions were characterized by independent thought and a playful humour. He will be remembered by many citizens in various walks of life as a genuinely genial gentleman.

We welcome the timely tribute of the Wayside Philosopher, published in this issue.

\* \* \* \*

VANCOUVER CITY IS RICH IN ORGANIZATIONS which arrange for lectures and addresses on questions of social and intellectual interest. So much so that a commentator might find work enough in attending the various functions and making notes thereof.

\* \* \* \*

THE BOARD OF TRADE through its Bureaux, is a leader in this line of social service. Its addresses are usually given in the lunch hour, and so it is inevitable that, like luncheons of the Canadian Club, meetings often clash with those of one or more of the "Service Clubs." Again and again citizens interested in Community development must choose to attend one of two or more equally attractive meetings, held at the same hour.

In the evenings there is often no less an embarrassment of riches. The Vancouver Institute has had a programme more than commendable for its weekly meetings, and Vancouver Scottish Society—devoted to literary, musical and social interests—has provided equally notable entertaining and instructive evenings twice a month in what may now be called the auditorium of Glencoe Lodge. The suggestion made in this Magazine that a door be placed at the rear of the "hall" was carried out and has certainly improved hearing conditions.

\* \* \* \*

THE OUTLINE OF REASONS in favour of "Burrard Bridge head site" for a Civic Centre as given before the Civic Bureau of the Board of Trade by Mr. Smith, Chairman of the Special Advisory Committee, was certainly such as to constitute a strong case for that location.

\* \* \* \*

STOP SHAKING HANDS! Professor W. H. Hill was one of the most fluent lecturers at Vancouver Institute. Following his masterly treatment of his subject—"Does Poor Health Cause Disease?" questions were invited.

On being asked if the social habit of handshaking was detrimental to the health of a community, Dr. Hill assumed (though incorrectly) that the questioner had heard of an experiment made in that connection at the University. Evidently it was fully demonstrated there that the habit of handshaking could be a sure method of transmitting "disease."

By the way, in these days when there are so many alleged "cures" for the "common cold," it was noteworthy to get Professor Hill's opinion that a fortune awaited the person who discovered a really effective remedy or preventive for this common yet mysterious affliction, of which statistics prove there are on an average two and a half per year per head of Canadian population.

\* \* \* \*

"STELLAR EVOLUTION," by Professor D. Buchanan, was another of the more outstanding lectures of the Institute this season. To the reflective mind Astronomy is one of the most fascinating of subjects.

If we heard him aright, it was Professor Buchanan who mentioned the estimate of "three hundred thousand light years," as a recent one, of the extent of the known "starry universe." Since his lecture we have seen references to "millions" of light years. But so far as human imagination can go,

this is a case in which we need not be finical! Perhaps in other "spheres" we may yet learn of measurements by other methods than "light years;" but we can be confident that increased knowledge will not lessen our sense of wonder and awe at the immensity of the Universe.

\* \* \* \*

Knowledge of even the elements of astronomy should keep any sane soul from talking, much less upholding, Atheism. "Had there been naught, naught still had been; Eternal there must be."

\* \* \* \*

ANOTHER OF THE INSTITUTE LECTURES worthy of note was that by Capt. A. J. B. Mellish, who followed an historical outline of what led to the Boer war by stories of not a few of his own personal experiences and reminiscences. Captain Mellish's address could not fail to be of interest to those who remember the Boer War, and it was the more commendable in that he had, on short notice, substituted for another.

\* \* \* \*

THE SUBJECT OF "THE NEW GERMANY" was the topic ably expounded by Mr. Howard S. Coulter, another Vancouver barrister. As a Toronto University man, Mr. Coulter had specialized in "Modern Languages," and that had led to an educational experience in Germany twenty years ago. His preliminary review of conditions as he and others found them then (in 1907) was scarcely less arresting than his references to the war—and after. In closing he referred in a fine-spirited way to the admission of Germany to the League of Nations, and said, in effect, "Let us exercise British fairplay and believe that Germany's representative meant what he said on that occasion."

Without wishing to doubt the words or good faith of Stressemann and others, however, it may be permissible to ask what truth is in the assertion that Germany has a secret treaty with Russia; and also how far (irrespective of treaties) Germany may be engaged, independently, or in collaboration with Russia, in producing war weapons, gaseous or other, out of proportion to defensive requirements?

\* \* \* \*

AND STILL THEY SAY "POOR SCOTLAND!" was a thought that would readily arise in any reflective mind after hearing such a lecture as Librarian Hosie of Victoria gave before Vancouver Scottish Society. For a country of its size, Scotland is rich