

The Coming Election in British Columbia

Many citizens no less than many church members in British Columbia need awaking to their responsibilities. A country as well as a church usually gets as good a government as its active individual members or citizens deserve. If in politics citizens allow any political party or clique to organize influences affecting the electorate which do not leave every man free to vote according to his conscience and his intelligence, no complaint need be made if government by a self-seeking oligarchy follows; and sometimes, with a clever and ambitious or merely audacious man in the group, an oligarchy may easily become practically an autocracy.

Every citizen who has a vote has some measure of responsibility for the government of the country or province in which he resides. If men recognized that only by the toil and suffering borne by former generations has our race attained to the state of freedom and "manhood suffrage" we enjoy to-day, perhaps the vote would be more highly valued; but too often it seems that, like other benefits got, not through personal effort and acquirement but by inheritance, the vote is valued lightly by many.

We wish we could have welcomed women voters in the coming election; but who knows?—if men of the right type are returned to form a government this year the women of this Province may have a vote in the British Columbia election next following that of 1916.

Organizing for Prohibition

There is some reason to anticipate that while Provincial Prohibition is still under discussion, Dominion-wide Prohibition may be enacted. In any case British Columbia prohibitionists did well in getting Rev. Dr. Matthews from Seattle in January, if only to emphasize the need for thorough organization. While most of the men connected with the movement in this Province are no doubt disinterested and earnest workers for this great cause, it is regrettable that there should have been changing of officials, and that any chairman should even think fit to mention the avoidance of division in the forces.

The ways of politicians in this country are past finding out, and it sometimes seems as if no public movement can be carried on without disagreeable questions arising regarding funds or some conflict of personalities. The fact is that in work affecting the most ideal kind of service in the State—no less than in the Church—there is always a danger of differences or antagonisms arising through members of the human family thinking more of themselves than of the work undertaken or the end to be attained.

Many people believe that if a referendum could have been arranged in British Columbia last Fall, the cause of Prohibition would have been carried by an overwhelming majority. The delay—