

Vancouver Branch Canadian Authors' Association

REPORT FOR 1922-23 OF ACTING SECRETARY MR. A. M. POUND.

To the Chairman and Members of the Vancouver Branch of the Canadian Authors Association:—

In submitting the report of this Branch for the year 1922-1923, I would like to point out that the work of the Association has been handicapped to some extent by the illness of Mrs. Isabel Ecclestone MacKay, Vice President for British Columbia, and the absence from the City of the Hon. Secretary, Mr. Bertrand Sinclair.

On June 15th, at Glencoe Lodge, the Association gave a Luncheon to Miss E. Montizambert, the well-known London writer, Author of "Unnoticed London," etc.

In July 1922 we had the privilege of tendering a dinner to the President of the Association, Mr. John Murray Gibbon, at Glencoe Lodge, after which he gave an interesting address to the members and their friends.

In November, Mr. Vernon MacKenzie, Editor of MacLean's Magazine, also addressed the Association, his subject being "The more Human Aspect of some Canadian Writers."

In the same month a reception was given for Vachel Lindsay, American Poet, and Bliss Carman, Canada's Poet Laureate, at Glencoe Lodge, which was well attended by the members and their friends.

In March of this year Dr. Ashton, author of "Madame De La Fayette," gave an address on Rostand's "Cyrano de Bergerac" before the members at the Hotel Vancouver. This proved one of the most delightful evenings of the year, but unfortunately the members did not attend as well as they should have.

Four meetings of the Executive were held at which the routine business of the Association was arranged.

A special committee made the arrangements for book-week, and they had the hearty co-operation of the Book-sellers, unusually good displays being made. The Carnegie Library also had a display of Canadian books during the week, and Mrs. Holt Murison gave several addresses. Editorials pointing out the importance of book-week were published in the "Vancouver Daily Province," and "New Westminster Columbian." Advertising matter received from headquarters was distributed to the best advantage possible.

British Columbia writers, and members of this Association in particular, have been very active since our last Annual Meeting, and among the books published are the following:

"Fires of Driftwood" by Mrs. Isabel Ecclestone Mackay;
"The Woodcarver's Wife" by Marjory Pickthall, who had resided in this Province for some years before her death;

"The Ninth Vibration" by Mrs. L. Adams Beck;

"The Key of Dreams" by Mrs. L. Adams Beck;

Mrs. Beck also had the honor of having one of her short stories included in O'Brien's book of Short Stories for the Year.

"Tillicums of the Trail" by G. C. F. Pringle;

"Summer Isles of Eden" by Frank Burnett;

"The Mad Minstrel" by Robert Watson;

"A Motor Scamper 'Cross Canada" by Percy Gomery;

"The Wolfer" by Frederick Niven;

"The Three Kings and Other Verses for Children" by D. A. Fraser, Victoria, B. C.

"Madame De La Fayette" by Dr. H. Ashton.

The French Government gave Dr. Ashton the Legion of Honor in appreciation of his service to French Literature, but he was unable to accept it owing to legislation against titles in this country.

"The Probation of Kathleen Maxwell" by Nellie Rhodes; (Mrs. A. W. Johnson, Duncan, B. C.)

The Collected Poems of Tom McInnes will be published this Fall, and among the new books announced for early publication are:—

"Spirit of Iron" by Harwood Steele;

"Through British Columbia and the Rocky Mountains" by Frederick Niven;

"The Rosary of Pan" by A. M. Stephen;

A new edition of "The Shining Ship and Other Poems" by Mrs. Isabel Ecclestone Mackay is promised, and also a new edition of "The Mystic Spring" (a B. C. Classic) by the late Hon. D. W. Higgins;

"The Conquerors" an all Canadian story, by Francis Dickie.

Bertrand W. Sinclair, Robert Allison Hood, and Ben Toon are also working on new books for early publication.

Negotiations are now pending for movie rights of "Policing The Plains" by Dr. R. G. MacBeth, and "The Chivalry of Keith Leicester" by Robert Allison Hood.

During the year short stories were published in the Canadian Magazine by Mrs. Isabel Ecclestone Mackay and Mrs. A. M. Winlow, and MacLean's Magazine published several stories by Bertrand Sinclair, and several articles of importance by Mr. John Nelson. Mr. Nelson is now engaged in writing a series of articles for MacLeans on the problems of the Provinces. This is one of the most important assignments given to a Canadian writer for some time. The articles will be published in book form later on.

Among the younger members of the Association whose work has attracted attention is Miss M. E. Colman. Her verses appearing in the British Columbia Monthly Magazine from time to time have been widely read and favourably commended.

It is a pleasure to report that our Chairman, who has been doing Historical work of value for some years, has been honoured since our last meeting by Westminster Hall conferring on him the degree of Doctor of Divinity.

In the removal of Mr. Harwood Steele to Montreal this Branch loses from its membership one of the most promising of the younger Canadian writers.

The members of this Association will be pleased to learn that there is a strong possibility of Bliss Carman taking up his residence in Vancouver and becoming affiliated with this Branch.

Executors

Administrators

Trustees

Insurance and Rental Agents

The General Administration Society

Head Office, MONTREAL

ROBERT CRAM,

Manager for B. C.

Credit Foncier Building, 850 Hastings Street West

VANCOUVER, B. C.