

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA MONTHLY

The Magazine of The Canadian West

Publishing Office, 1100 Bute Street, Vancouver, B. C.

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Managing Editor and Publisher.

With an Advisory Editorial Committee

of

Literary Men and Women.

THE TWENTIETH CENTURY SPECTATOR

of

BRITAIN'S FARTHEST WEST.

For Community Service—Social, Educational, Literary
and Religious; but
Independent of Party, Sect or Faction.

"BE BRITISH," COLUMBIANS!

Vol. XVI

SEPTEMBER 1920.

No. 6.

WHO WANTS POLITICAL PUBLICANS?

We did not expect our recent comments on prohibition to commend themselves to all our readers; but we had a right to expect that those who differed from us would note the conclusion of the article.

The criticism of one subscriber (Fort William, Ontario) was more than offset by that of the others. One layman of influence in the West commended the B. C. M. on its courage in stating that there was difficulty about decision. "He too, had voted for prohibition, but was perplexed by the conditions resulting. . . ." As an example he mentioned the case of two elevator boys who were known to have secured motor cars as the result of their agency in the nefarious traffic.

If the unsatisfactoriness in the carrying out of the act is due not only to the surviving craving for strong liquors—which may not be extinguished in a day or a year—but also to laxity in the matter of government supervision, the question whether, as an alternative to prohibition people should support so-called government control is answered before it is put. For, if under present conditions, the government is incapable of "controlling" the traffic, it would be bad business and poor policy to pass into the hands of any group of politicians the right to carry on a traffic in strong drink.

Consistently with the conclusion in our former reference, we hope readers of the B. C. M., whatever their doubts and questionings, will vote for prohibition as a movement making for "the greatest good of the greatest number," and real social and Christian progress.

EXHIBITIONS AS "COMMUNITY SERVICE."

Vancouver 1920 Exhibition has passed into history. The all-round excellence of the exhibits as indications of the work and development of the city and Province must have been a source of satisfaction to the Directorate, even though the financial returns were seriously lessened by the record-making inclement weather.

Because of the unquestionable value of such exhibitions in "Community Service" the B. C. M. ventures to suggest that the Civic and Provincial Powers—that be should be asked to guarantee the expenses. If, as we understand, the Directors give their time and business experience in an honorary way it is not unreasonable to hold that they should be assured against loss.

Such a guarantee might have the additional advantage of doing away with the "skid-road" criticisms by making the primary consideration the securing of an abundance of wholesome recreation and entertainment.

B. C.'S VERSATILE ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

Of politicians many hard things are said, and perhaps not a few are justified. When a man enters the political arena the tendency in the community is to think of him solely as a politician, and usually as a party man. It is refreshing to find a member of parliament who in public addresses gives evidence that his interests are wider than party or politics.

The present Attorney General, Mr. Farris, naturally a fluent and ready speaker, gives promise of becoming known as something better than a mere lawyer or politician, one of whose usual qualifications professionally in each case is a capacity to "talk." Once or twice recently Mr. Farris has spoken at the Kiwanis Club; he made a short speech at the Board of Trade function the other week; and he followed that up the other day by a stimulating address to the Life Under-

The Fallacy of Government Control

By Ernest Thomas.

NOTE: The following article reached our hands after this Magazine had been made up for the press; but rather than miss the opportunity of being of further "Community service" in connection with the important question soon to be submitted to the people of B. C., the issue was delayed and re-arranged so as to give space to Mr. Thomas's thought-provoking and enlightening contribution.—Ed. B. C. M.

The most significant feature of the present discussion concerning the prohibition plebiscite is the studied confusion of terms. People are often heard saying that they are going to vote for "government control." Well, all one can say is that they will not find a place on the ballot paper for their vote. "Government control" is not an issue and is not before the electors. The only alternative to the prohibition act is "Government control and sale" of liquor by the bottle, a radically different thing. The opposition find it wise to refrain from the full title.

Were I their publicity agent the same tactics would occur to me as the only safe ones. "Government sale of liquor" would not get more than a corporal's guard of confirmed old-world dwellers. The public has made up its mind that booze ought to go. And in so making up its mind the theological questions about sin and the biblical questions of what certain sacred personalities said or did have very little influence. For the question arises whether those persons ever had the issue set before them on the basis of ascertained fact as we have it today.

Every word about temperance as opposed to prohibition is wasted energy. The thing has been tried out for thirty years and always fails to do more than serve as an excuse to those who evade the issue. The intelligent prohibitionist absolutely denies the first axiom of the other fellow—that alcohol is all right consumed regularly in small quantities. We agree with him that alcohol is all right in its place but that that place is not in the human system. In taking this stand we have the now unanimous agreement of every first class reputable scientist.

Alcohol, Not Drunkenness, the Issue.

The three British Commissions on Birth Rate, Venereal Disease, and Alcohol have all agreed that alcohol, not drunkenness is the supreme factor in each of the three investigations. Alcohol and still births, alcohol and venereal disease, alcohol and reduced vitality, all confront us as the indissoluble groups.

The British government has adopted the plan of those who on this continent sowed the minds of two generations with the facts as ascertained by science. Our task was difficult because the facts had not been adequately ascertained; but the recent British Commissions are so emphatic and of such unimpeachable authority that the British case is simpler. They

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