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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!

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Editorial Notes

IS THERE A "WIRELESS" COMMUNITY INFLUENCE that stimulates thought and leads to almost simultaneous expression of the same idea in various quarters? That reflection is prompted by the fact that the reference to excessive horse-racing programmes was scarcely published in the August British Columbia Monthly before we noticed exception being taken to racing by a number of public bodies, including Service Clubs, and likewise the daily press of Vancouver city. We are not suggesting that the criticism was begun by us—though we did not consciously get it from any other publication; but we are gratified to find each of the Vancouver "Dailies" come out in such plain language against this social evil. If it be suggested that in this case because of the lapse of time, the newspapers may have seemed to follow rather than to lead public opinion, we can only say that on not a few occasions, frequently indeed the editorial columns of the Dailies are expounding ideas and taking a stand which should commend their service to the community.

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HERE'S TO THE B.C.E.R., AND ITS DIRECTORATE, MANAGEMENT AND SHAREHOLDERS! All of these alike should find lasting satisfaction in the Company's Capilano gift, just as, not Vancouver City only, but all the present municipalities—the future big "Metropolitan" area of the Terminal City—should have reasonable pride, in this action. Judging by what has appeared in the newspapers, and by Mayor Owen's letter of thanks, we think that Mr. George Kidd may well be proud of his Company.

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MAYORS, REEVES, COUNCILLORS, CHIEF CONSTABLES, and others may differ in the opinions they express personally or through the press, as to the organization of a "Metropolitan" area for Water Supply, Police Supervision, etc., but surely it needs no superior vision to see that the inauguration of Boards of Supervision along these and other lines, is a natural and inevitable evolution inseparable from the healthy development of the great seaport of Vancouver and its neighbouring "hinterlands." When and How Best can it be done in this case and that, are the main questions that should fall to be considered in the not distant days in connection with the "County Council" unity in oversight and government that should be arranged.

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CONSIDER THE TRAGIC DEATH OF JANET SMITH in this connection: Whether or not people generally accept as final the verdict given at the second inquest, even the man in the street must have concluded that the sequel to the death of that innocent and attractive nurse maid would likely have been altogether different had the matter been investigated at the outset by a trained and experienced detective—such as any "Metropolitan" district, worthy of the name, should have ready for dispatch at a moment's notice, by motor car or motor-cycle. (By the way, in view of the frequency of "hold-ups," and the continued difficulty and delays in tracing the criminals, it would be interesting to know how many such cars or motor cycles Vancouver City Police Force itself is equipped with?)



Mr. Vancouver: "These things certainly are a nuisance. I wish I knew (ahem!) where they are coming from."

BUT THE BUNGLING DISPLAYED in even elementary investigation, by the taking of things for granted on superficial evidence,—evidence which a schoolboy reader of detective stories would know a guilty person might provide,—without pausing long enough to find out if there was motive for suicide on the one hand, or cause for suspicion in any quarter on the other, reflects so badly on the community that the best justification for giving it the fullest publicity is that thereby anything similar in "police investigation" may be made practically impossible in town or country in all future time.

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AFTER THE TWO INQUESTS it is not too much to say that the lack of reasonable caution in various procedure immediately following the report of the death of Janet Smith, not only obliterated what in these days of fingerprint and other tests might have been sources of positive evidence, but—assuming the gun were handled by someone who "did not know it was loaded,"—possibly prevented the fact being ascertained or acknowledged before the culprit had had time to get hardened to the temptation to adhere to another course, involving personal absence or silence as to what actually happened.

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WITH ALL RESPECT TO THE VERDICT OF THE JURY at the second inquest, some folk who heard evidence in Court may still question if Janet Smith was either "wilfully murdered" or deliberately shot. That she did not commit suicide is certain. That it was almost if not altogether impossible for her to have shot herself accidentally, the carefully detailed evidence of experienced medical men practically proved. What other course may be conjectured?

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MANY MINDS, MANY THEORIES, NO DOUBT: but in the absence of evidence—or confession—it may not be unreasonable to picture as possible that one not accustomed to