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Notes of the Month

It is not surprising that the former Russian premier is disinclined to sit at a conference table with Bolsheviki emissaries and outlaws. The same ground might be taken with regard to the Germans. The latter have certainly placed themselves in the class of outlaws and pirates by their atrocities on sea and land.

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If there is not to be a permanent deadlock, however, it will be necessary to confer with somebody. Probably the best way out of the difficulty was the arrangement by the supreme council of the Paris Conference to invite every organized group in Russia to send delegates to that island in the Sea of Marmora on February 15th. Such a conference cannot fail to be vividly interesting. If the Bolsheviks decline to come they will have to be counted out and dealt with.

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The misguided youths who are endeavoring to terrorize the people of Vancouver by holding them up and demanding their money and valuables have, no doubt, attended some of the Sunday evening meetings in this city where they have listened to fervid demagogues proclaiming the doctrine that "property is a crime." Whether any of these speakers have been requested to hand over their watches has not yet transpired.

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Exception has been taken to a recent paragraph on this page to the effect that Commissioner Gillespie was attaining considerable success in straightening out the municipal tangle in South Vancouver. The comment has been made that the Commissioner would be able to do better if he had a free hand, but that he is impeded by political affiliations.

The British Columbia cabinet is not so strong that it can afford to disregard the charge that most of its appointments have been political. As a distinctly party man, Premier Oliver naturally finds it hard to dissociate himself from the habitudes of years. In this regard he seems to differ but little from the former government, though he is not nearly so extravagant.

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The so-called People's Moderation League does not seem to be quite the antithesis of the People's Prohibition Party. The opposite position to the latter will not be filled until the Free and Unlimited Drinkers make a stand. On the principle that invites the Bolsheviks to Princess Island to discuss matters, it might be suggested that the Drink-Hards be heard, and—as this is the age of woman—their wives.

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It cannot be said that the general course of proceedings on the liquor question during the past month has been such as to constitute an invitation to the British Columbia Attorney-General to rest upon his laurels. There are those who say that the leafage of those laurels is not sufficiently luxuriant for anybody to rest upon. But the balance of opinion seems to be that Mr. Farris has shown decided ability in the matter.

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Of the recent Vancouver municipal elections and the accompanying voting on money bylaws, it may be said that the principal distinguishing features were the reluctance of the electors to go to the polls, and the vigorous efforts against the money bylaws by the real estate men and property-owners. The backward swing of the pendulum from former extravagance only defers the inevitable tax sale that would seem to be the only

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