

The Transfer Of Gordon Drysdale's Business: An Acknowledgment

It just happened that as the writer passed Gordon Drysdale's vacant store the other day he overheard one lady remark to another—"Isn't it peculiar not to have Drysdale's!"

That was open evidence that, however good the reasons may have been which led to the change, many members of the public regret the passing of a firm the name of which has been synonymous with fine quality goods and satisfying business service.

Apart from that, the editor and publisher of the "British Columbia Monthly" holds it only consistent with due appreciation of practical business co-operation in "community service" work, to record that, in these fifteen years of hard, initial building of this magazine, no firm in the West has exercised a more sustained interest in this periodical than Gordon Drysdale's.

Accordingly, without the knowledge of the head of that firm, or any of his associates, we venture to state here that years ago we found Mr. Gordon Drysdale a considerate and genial Business Chief, who, when satisfied with the nature and purpose of this magazine's service, unhesitatingly supported its work by directing that his firm use considerable advertising space regularly; and that that practical interest was maintained throughout years of varying business conditions.

Reflecting on occasional conversations with Mr. Drysdale and other well known Western business leaders, one questions—What is the impression most worth emphasizing in relation to these bigger business men generally? Considerable experience in interviewing and other work has demonstrated to the writer that the Big Business Heads in the community are not given to fussiness or pride of place on the one hand, or perfunctoriness towards their fellows on the other. The small man, to whom business success has come perhaps through some fortuitous circumstance—such as a beginning or expansion of business at a time when the market in his line was specially favorable, or when rents and "overhead" were low in proportion to profits—may become big so far as a bank account is concerned, and yet himself remain small. That usually follows, for instance, if a man gives evidence that he thinks only of himself and his monetary success—often at best, whether in war or peace times, but the result of careful craftiness in buying and selling—and fails to get a vision of the worth of the work of others whose service may be more concerned with ideals than dollars.

It is a pleasant reflection to the publisher of this magazine, which he believes it is not impertinent to note at this time, that in these fifteen years, he has found many Vancouver business men really outstanding in their lines of service, wholesale and retail, men of wide interests, of sympathetic insight, and, as a matter of course, courteous and considerate, and from time to time ready to demonstrate practical business interest in a community service magazine.

Meantime, with a fair sense of the meaning of words, we gratefully and publicly acknowledge Mr. Gordon Drysdale's freewill co-operation in the work of this magazine; and in doing so, we cannot do other than commend his example of sustained practical "community service" interest to the consideration of other Business Leaders or decision-making Managers.

Retiral Of Mr. H. T. Lockyer: Hudson's Bay Co.—Another Steady "Standby" of the B.C.M.

About the same season that Mr. Gordon Drysdale transferred his business, Mr. H. T. Lockyer resigned from the management of Vancouver Hudson's Bay Company. While we have not had as many opportunities for exchange of views with Mr. Lockyer as with Mr. Drysdale and others like them, of the more outstanding wholesale and retail business leaders in our community, we have to record, also with sincere appreciation, that Mr. Lockyer, as General Manager at Vancouver for the Hudson's Bay Company, years ago directed that advertising space be used in the "British Columbia Monthly," and the big Pioneer Company has been another valued patron of this periodical uninterruptedly ever since.

The Hudson's Bay Company, like Shakespeare, seems to be not for a day or a generation, but for all time. It goes without saying, therefore, that in establishing this magazine for enduring social service in the Canadian West, we trust that, no matter what changes take place in the management or policies of the company at headquarters in London or throughout the provinces of this vast Canada of ours, "the powers that be" in Western Canada will so value the "community service" of this "magazine of the Canadian West" as to continue, and if possible enlarge, the measure of the company's business interest in our work.

The change at the "Bay" has reminded us that it was the writer who, as editor of this "British Columbia Monthly," suggested to his valued literary and personal friend, Mr. Robert Allison Hood, one of our British Columbia authors, that the 250th anniversary of the Hudson's Bay Company was a suitable theme to celebrate, with the result that there was published in this magazine at that time (1920) an "Ode to the Governor and Company," etc., which closes with this stanza:

"It's well that we honour the Past in our story,
Play it in pageant and sing it in song;
That we cherish its mem'ries and ponder its glory,
To help us to 'quit us like men and be strong.'
Our task is a great one; our young growing nation
Must gird up its loins in the pride of its strength;
Now purging the follies of youth, take its station
In the vanguard of freedom and progress at length!"

For the same issue in 1920 we welcomed a review article concerning the Hudson's Bay Company written by Mr. F. S. Garner, a department manager in Vancouver, who has occasionally contributed other literary articles to this magazine.

We ask our readers to note—in more ways than one—if the Hudson's Bay Company continues to use space in this "British Columbia Monthly," and if so, to give particular attention to their advertisements, as well as to those of other advertising patrons, who are all, in a real sense, practical partners with the publishers in their aim to give community service.

In acknowledging the Hudson's Bay Company's interest hitherto, we join others in wishing that peace and prosperity—in the best and fullest meaning of these words—may increasingly enter into the experience of the two Business Leaders whose retiral from one line of activity has occasioned these notes.