

# THE BRITISH COLUMBIA MONTHLY

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## EDITORIAL

### The B. C. M. and Prohibition in B. C.

The contributions we have published on this subject may be left to speak for themselves.

In the case of the last two articles, as in that of the first one by Mr. Carrick, published in our March number, the passing by the editor of the articles as handed in does not mean that this Magazine endorses all the arguments set forth by either writer.

Like many others, we believed in liquor-selling reform, and in the abolition of the old form of "public-house" and bar system long before some ardent "prohibitionists" gave evidence of interest in the subject at all, and perhaps when a few of them were directly or indirectly allied with the old social-suicide system.

But without believing in any need for the sale or use of strong liquors as beverages, it may be open for reformers as earnest and sincere as "bone-dry" prohibitionists to question whether it would not be wise to consider the case for exceptions, say regarding some form of beer and light wines as beverages.

Next, provided there is justification, as many folks maintain, for having a bottle of brandy in a home for an emergency, we think it should not be necessary for citizens to secure a medical man's certificate to get such "medicine" say once a quarter or once a year, much less pay him a fee for one. If it must be made imperative for citizens to consult or call upon a doctor, the authorities, and not the citizen, should be responsible for the payment of such a professional official. Under the present system of private consultation and appeal, honest doctors must at times be perplexed to know what to do, while of course unscrupulous ones may make money easily.

In British Columbia, as elsewhere in the Empire, the public, to its shame, formerly tolerated conditions in the drink traffic that were a disgrace to elementary common sense, and as a consequence many people probably voted for prohibition with a feeling of—"Let's get rid of this damnable system anyway, and argue about it afterwards."

Perhaps there are now not a few who, though they may have believed in and practised prohibition personally all their lives, or long before any act was in force, are sincerely perplexed regarding the attitude they should take towards prohibition—in the light of certain conditions, that have somehow prevailed under the Act.

In closing a reference to this subject at this time, we have the two replies—on different sides—in last issue to speak for themselves. But so far as the *British Columbia Monthly* is concerned, we think it right to record that while we passed Mr. Carrick's first article completely as contributed, we cannot endorse the statements in it concerning the Great Master.

No matter what may be gleaned for argument's sake pro or con from phrases or stories in the Old Testament, or the New either, for that matter, it goes without saying that the Spirit of the Christianity of Christ teaches self-denial regarding anything that will cause one's fellowman to stumble.

Whatever the personal preferences or reasonable qualifications in our minds, if we take the spirit of that teaching or the teaching of that Spirit as the touchstone for our action, our real or fancied difficulties about decision may soon vanish.

### Mr., Mrs., or Miss?

Reasonable exception may be taken to the continuance of the old-world affix of "Esq." for "Esquire" to a man's name on mailed matter, but surely even stronger objection should be made to the adoption of what we fear is an overdone "Democratic" or "American," (in the U.S. sense) method of addressing letters without any prefix.

Vancouver Canadian Club and Board of Trade address all members as "Esq." It may be argued that, strictly speaking,

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