

The British Columbia Monthly

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COMMUNITY SERVICE, FEARLESS, FAIR AND FREE
THE MAGAZINE OF THE CANADIAN WEST

Promoting

Social Betterment, Educational Progress and Religious Life;
but Independent of Party, Sect or Faction.

"BE BRITISH," COLUMBIANS!

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BRITISH COLUMBIA PUBLIC MEN AND THE B. C. M.

[NOTE.—The management of the B. C. M. has invited representative public men in various circles to give us independent opinions concerning the work and field of service of this magazine, and we shall from time to time publish these, or excerpts from them.—Ed. B. C. M.]

I.—SIR CHARLES HIBBERT TUPPER

In addressing a reply to the editor, Sir Charles wrote:

"I read your issue of the British Columbia Monthly for October last, and, knowing you as I do, I am not surprised to find it intensely interesting and instructive."

"A journal of this character cannot fail to be of benefit to the community, and in my opinion, deserves every support. It certainly attracts attention in an alluring way to our resources, and keeps us advised at the same time of the world movements and problems. It gives us ideas of possible improvements in social conditions, so devoutly to be desired, and of what is really meant by the 'Brotherhood of Man.'"

"This issue, I am sure, will appeal to those who can lift their thoughts above the office desk."

PRINTERS' (T)ERRORS

Like other workers associated with printing, we have more than once had occasion to refer to printers' errors, which at times might be spoken of as "terrors" to the writer or editor anxious to be accurate in detail.

The usual proof-reader of this magazine may claim to have proved himself (in press work and in proof-reading books, etc., of friends) about as near letter-perfect in checking as it is possible to be. But in the publishing business, as in other work, no matter how careful any one may be, he is usually dependent to some extent on the care exercised by others.

Not infrequently it happens that, if a publication is to be got through the press in a given time, the checking of some proofs must be left to others; and as a result some of the most annoying typographical errors are sometimes made (and passed) when a linotype operator is making a final correction.

It was in such a way that a mistake occurred in the December B.C.M. when the phrase "shirt-distance" was substituted for "short-distance" in regard to Mr. Robert Watson's running. It was not meant to suggest that the author of "My Brave and Gallant Gentleman" and "The Girl of O. K. Valley" has done his "running" in anything but the regulation costume, or that the distances were measured by any other standard than that of and by feet.

(Continued on Page 16)

The Failure of Japanese Imperialism in Korea

Part II

(Written for the B.C.M. by a writer of education, experience and insight.)

ANOTHER example of this "race discrimination" is to be found in her system of official appointments. This is the natural outgrowth of her military policy, and depends upon the educational system for an excuse for its continuance. The ignorance and incapacity of the Korean officials of the former regime was made the excuse for the wholesale employment of Japanese in the higher official service. It was fondly hoped by Koreans that as the years went by and their stronger men acquired more experience and were educated under the Japanese administration, that the higher official positions would be thrown open to them. The opposite has been the policy and practice of the Japanese. In 1910 six out of thirteen provincial governors were Korean, now there are only three. At that time all district magistracies were held by Koreans, now at least one-seventh of the largest districts are governed by Japanese magistrates, and even in some places the village provostship has been transferred to Japanese hands. The number of judgeships that have gone to Koreans is very small, and all school principals are Japanese. The story is the same in every public department. But it is not only in the filling of offices that the discrimination appears, but also in the dignity and remuneration attaching thereto. The Japanese officials of same rank receive 40 p.c. higher salaries than the Koreans, and in addition allowances for colonial service. This may happen in the case of men who graduate from the same school. One need not labor the point that the Japanese regard themselves as the superior race. It appears no less among the educated than among the lower classes. The most dignified Korean official, if met by a Japanese stranger, would invariably be conscious of the other's sense of superiority, and in the same business office the overbearing manner of the Japanese to their Korean assistants is evident enough even to the passer-by.

Look at the administration from whatever point you will, the aim of the Japanese to make Korea a preserve for Japanese officialdom, and exploit her for the benefit of Japan and Japanese colonists, stands out as clear as the day. Visit the large harbors and you find that the land adjoining the docks is monopolized by the Japanese, and the Koreans denied building rights within the Japanese section. The crown lands that have been held in perpetual lease by generations of Korean farmers have been sold by the government almost exclusively to Japanese settlers. For this reason the immigration to Manchuria has been increasing year by year. The banking system of the peninsula has been greatly extended and improved, and is increasingly proving a boon to the natives. But it is surely unfortunate that, with the possible exception of the Kanjo Bank, all the managers and nine-tenths of the clerks are Japanese. It is this wholesale handicapping of the Korean youth that engenders the disaffection which has recently shown itself. This, coming as it does from a people who are so strongly urging their policy of "No Race Discrimination," is, to say the least, an aspersion on Japanese sincerity. Discrimination runs through their whole imperial policy, is applied even in their private business enterprises, and is perpetuated by their school system. For not only are Japanese and Korean children separated in their schools, but the standard of education is higher for the Japanese than it is for the Korean.

The origin of the present demonstration in favor of independence has to be sought, then, in the persevering national spirit, in the Korean's keen sense of humiliation, and in a due appreciation of the evils and deficiencies of the present administration. It has an immediate cause which will be noted