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"BE BRITISH," COLUMBIANS!

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HUDSON'S BAY COMPANY TO CELEBRATE 250th ANNIVERSARY WITH PAGEANT.

With enterprise becoming such an old established and nation-serving institution, the Hudson's Bay Company in Vancouver, in common with other points in Western Canada, is preparing to celebrate its 250th anniversary in May next by the organization of a public pageant which should go far to indicate to twentieth century citizens the historical pioneering conditions under which the company has developed from 1670 to 1920.

The Company's representatives are zealously doing their part. At the same time we learn that a Community Committee has been formed and that their duties will include the inclusion and oversight of historical and educational floats and other interesting features. Vancouver City, neighbouring municipalities and other organizations are co-operating, and we understand that nearly forty bodies have already undertaken to join the pageant. It is probable that the territory to the south, including such cities as Seattle, Portland and Spokane, will also be represented.

If the plans of the organizers are realized, the pageant should be, in some measure, a pictorial reproduction of "the Romance of Western Canada" or of the still greater "North West Territories," and of the big company's outstanding part in it throughout the past three centuries. The inventions of the present day will be utilized to perpetuate the production as a moving picture of the pageant will be taken. An up-to-date suggestion will be given to the celebration by the appearance of a Flying Corps above the city while the pageant is in progress.

With commendable regard for education as well as entertainment, the company is arranging to supplement the film of the procession by one showing the fur-bearing animals; and all loyal western Canadians will be interested to know that contracts have already been arranged for showing these pictures in Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, and the United States, and that inquiries are being made about it from many other quarters.

As the business growth of the Hudson's Bay Company has been inseparably associated with far-reaching service in the development of Canada, it is fitting that on such an occasion interest should be manifested in the celebration by citizens generally and that practical recognition and support should be given to the pageant through a representative committee including the Mayor of Vancouver.

Attention may here be called to Mr. MacBeth's article on the anniversary, which came to hand after this paragraph was passed for the printer.

The Prohibition Muddle in British Columbia

As Viewed by "The Man on the Street."

(By P. McA. Carrick)

In the discussion of all matters of public interest it is usually the case that it is the two extremes of view that get all the attention. The great intermediate body of opinion is, as a general rule, inarticulate.

Just recently the Prohibition Party in B. C. have held a conference and made their views and intentions known to everyone concerned. The opposition, if we may call the Moderation Party by that name, have also had an inning and announced their remedy for the ills we suffer from.

The time is therefore opportune for the "Man on the Street" to have his little say on the matter if it is only by a word inserted edgewise.

The present situation, to say the least, is absolutely intolerable. No matter how Prohibition leaders may cloud and camouflage the issue, we are worse off than before Prohibition, so-called was introduced. We have done away with the Bar, which is so much to the good. I don't think there are ten per cent of the population of B. C. who have any desire for a return to the old conditions in that respect. That is the one entry on the credit side of the ledger. What of the debit side?

We have an absolutely unrestricted sale of alcohol which is not fit for use as a beverage and which is nothing less than slow poison; and not very slow at that, as many cases in the coroner's court have proved.

Why is it that the Prohibition leaders have never made any suggestion of measures that would really control the sale of commercial alcohol, camouflaged as flavoring extracts or medicinal preparations?

Is it not a fact that this weakness in the Prohibition Act was pointed out to them more than two years ago and measures then suggested which would have put an end to the scandalous conditions existing?

Why have these suggestions been ignored? We can only conclude that it was because somebody's ox would have been gored.

At the present time the sale of so-called ginger extract alone in Vancouver is enormous. The Prohibitionists propose to put an end to this by restricting the quantity to be sold at one time to 2½ ozs. Would they be surprised to know that it hardly ever sold now in quantities over 1½ ozs?

Consider what 2½ ozs. of this so-called extract means.

Flavoring extracts should be made with alcohol of not less than 90 per cent strength. 2½ ozs. of 90 per cent alcohol means roughly 4 ozs. of proof spirit. An average high grade Scotch whiskey is about 25 degrees under proof, so four ounces of proof spirit is equal in alcoholic value to 5 ozs. or one imperial gill of good whiskey. I don't think that even the most confirmed drunkard would want any more than a gill of whiskey for one drink, and as there is no restriction on the number of times a day he may purchase his 2½ ozs. of extract, we can see what a joke their proposed restriction proves to be.

It is quite possible, indeed quite easy, to extract all the soluble matter in 1 lb. of Ginger Root with 1 lb. of 90 per cent Alcohol. An extract so prepared could not be used as a beverage and would have a very much higher value for all legitimate purposes. By fixing such a standard for extract of Ginger the Government would be conferring a great boon on all legitimate users of the extract and would do away with the necessity for much of the alcohol that is at present wasted or used for a nefarious purpose.