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THE BRITISH COLUMBIA MONTHLY

The Magazine of The Canadian West

Devoted to COMMUNITY SERVICE · FEARLESS · FAIR & FREE

D. A. CHALMERS
Managing Editor and Publisher
With an Advisory Editorial
Committee of Literary
Men and Women

The Twentieth Century Spectator of Britain's Farthest West
For Community Service—Social, Educational, Literary and Religious; but Independent of Party, Sect or Faction
"BE BRITISH" COLUMBIANS!

VOL. 26

Canadian Authors, Convention Number

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Welcome to the West, Canadian Writers

In connection with the Annual Convention of the Canadian Authors' Association, which convenes in Vancouver city this year, it has been suggested that the editor of this "Magazine of the Canadian West"—linked to literary interests no less than to social service—might himself, for once in fifteen years, "step to the front" typographically—and photographically—and express a word of welcome.

Knowing that the gathering will include not only kindred writers in the craft, but men and women of notable achievement in prose and verse alike,—outstanding members indeed of that regal aristocracy of the World of Letters and Inspiring Thought,—we may be excused for hesitation in the form of our address. Yet in different ways men and women may earn the right to ally themselves with those personalities illumined by the Ideal, and haunted evermore by the vision splendid.

In a former generation Dr. Johnson counselled the aspirant to English style to give his days and nights to the study of Addison. But what will be thought of one who in the twentieth century is foolish—or daring—enough to cherish, and to try to carry out in practice, the idea that a monthly journal, in social, literary, educational and community service aims akin to Addison's in the "Spectator," "Guardian," etc., might be established, and prove of progressive worth?

The fact that for fifteen years such a task has been maintained in this Farthest West Mainland city of Vancouver may itself justify the recording of it at this time of Convention here of Canadian Authors from all over the Dominion: and that, together with the editor's determination to extend the work, may warrant him in claiming kinship with the many larger Lights in literature who have followed the gleam.

Like most literary workers, we have of course recognized that if the amassing of money should be a first aim in this mundane life, it were better to give time, thought and energy to some other form of activity, or to merchandising, rather than trouble about the upbuilding of a Magazine medium devoted to literature and social progress.

Yet even in these days we believe the time is opportune—for expansion in service, so far as the two Western Provinces at least are concerned. For while we dared, years ago, to speak of Vancouver becoming "Canada's Front Door," and of Montreal itself as being in "Our Hinterland," there is at this date no doubt that Vancouver shall be the Port, not only of the Mainland of British Columbia, but also for Alberta, and probably for a good part of Saskatchewan; and, as we for years have stated on our letterheads "Our base in Vancouver, Our Province British Columbia, and our field of service the Canadian West."



Wadds Photo

D. A. CHALMERS.

Such a statement affecting this periodical is made necessary by the fact that, owing to the Authors' Convention drawing writers from all parts of the Dominion, we naturally infer that some of them will now make the acquaintance of this Magazine for the first time. Be that as it may, the editor of the **British Columbia Monthly**, as a member of the Executive of the B.C. Branch of the C.A.A., respectfully joins in extending goodwill greetings to all visitors,—poets of prominence, writers, and literary workers seeking to serve their own and other generations.

That all may find Vancouver and vicinity pleasing and inspiring is our earnest wish; and if conditions are normal, and the atmosphere remains free from the smoke of forest fires, it is practically certain that the city will prove both; for Vancouver, like Edinburgh, is set near the sea, and has at its doors such majestic mountain grandeur as no parts of the British Homelands, or the whole of Europe itself, can surpass.

It should be added that our sister city of Victoria is equally worthy to be visited. Both cities—as our own citizens themselves may sometimes need reminding, are as far south as the "Channel Islands" between Britain and France, and, thanks to that location and to mountains and sea, enjoy the climate of a sunny summer land for not less than six months in the year. Accordingly, it is not uncommon for visitors to British Columbia to come again, and then to come to stay; and we venture to hope that some members of the Authors' Convention will be in that class. But whether their stay be for a longer or a shorter period, we bid them all a warm western Welcome.

A Dominion Government Policy

(1) Clean Government; (2) Development of Canada's Natural Resources in **Canada**; (3) Inter-Empire Development; and (4) Tariff Protection.

Hitherto this Magazine has taken no side in Party politics. But it believes that Canadians should seek and work for clean government at all costs; that citizens should put into power men who will work for inter-Empire development, and also make it imperative that the development of Canada's natural resources shall take place **within Canada itself**.

Above all, without wishing to be anti-U.S., we think it is more than time that a Canadian Dominion government should see to it that some reasonably arresting tariff is imposed upon goods coming across the international boundary line. Take publications for example: Both the weight of paper and the value of advertising carried by these United States Journals ought to be taxed. We are referring to leading and reputable publications. (The shoals of other printed matter that abuse printers' ink raise another question, and should be legislated out of the country).

As we have said before, we believe that Canadians in the publication business, east and west alike, have a right to ask for a fair field in their own country. Apart from that it is highly desirable and practically imperative that something should be done without delay affecting printed matter if **Canadian periodicals and Canadian writers are to have a reasonable opportunity to develop and extend a Canadian National spirit**, and influence their own countrymen as Canadians, or as some prefer to phrase it, British Canadians,—citizens of a Nation within the British Commonwealth of Nations.

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Poetry Contest:

\$25 Cash and Other Prizes

Books by Canadian Authors

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