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## The Honorable Charles Colquhoun Ballantyne, Minister of Marine and Fisheries and the Naval Service, Builder and Optimist.

By Bernard Rose

What is there in the Scotch character that distinguishes it from the qualities inherent in that of other nationalities? Go where we will, whether it be within the confines of the British Empire or outside its borders, we find the ubiquitous son of Scotia engaged in earning not only a livelihood but determined to acquire a fortune.

The Scotch are an intensely practical people. Their idealism very seldom runs away with their judgment. They as a rule, value money, not for what it is worth, but for what it can accomplish in the works of the world.

The Scotchman is never a man with a grievance. He is fond of asserting his independence. His shrewdness makes him a successful rival of the members of those races who pride themselves on being able to strike a good bargain. The man from the land of the heather who engages in commerce is more than a match for his non-Scotch competitors. He is likewise very industrious and diligent. A pioneer, and fearless in all his undertakings.

Though he occasionally specu-

lates, he does so with all the caution characteristic of the race. Scotland has for centuries bred splendid men. As soldiers they have no peers. They are first and foremost in battle, and during the war earned the sobriquet of "the ladies from hell". The Germans were evidently taken somewhat aback when they saw the figures of men ferocious in appearance, dressed in swinging kilts with a determined look upon their countenance, ready to put their bayonets where they could do the most good. Withal, the Scotch are a kindhearted and hospitable people. Their faith has made them intensely self-reliant and the spirit of the covenantor still lives.

There has and will be, types of Scotchmen inclined to be somewhat narrow and fanatic in their devotion to certain dogmas and principles. This is due to that ingrained stubbornness that nevertheless makes for success in one's battle with the world. Almost all the Scotch millionaires were brought up and nourished upon the national diet of porridge. They know what frugality means and very seldom

give way to that extravagance and dissipation that the newly made rich of other races do.

Intellectually, they are strong minded. They reason from facts and have a dislike of hypothesis and theory. This is merely another phase of their character demonstrating the dislike of unverified assumption.

The lad from the land of the thistle to whom fortune is kind, is very generous in his charitable bequests and benefactions. They believe in promoting democracy and education. They favour giving every child a chance and scores, if not hundreds, of institutions wherever the English language is spoken, have been the recipients of the Scotchman's generosity.

Andrew Carnegie's munificence in the matter of libraries, hero funds and pensions for professors, is well known. In Canada, Sir William MacDonald has erected more than one monument in the shape of the MacDonald College and his contributions to McGill University and other institutions.

No surprise need therefore be expressed or shown when we are told that it required a Scotchman with vision who is both an optimist and a successful business man, to take the initiative in pointing out the splendid opportunities that existed for a government owned and managed merchant marine.

Canada is no longer a place on the map. Its fame is world wide. What its heroic sons have accom-

plished on the battle field has redounded to the advantage of Canada from a national, historical, and geographical standpoint. The material advantages, if one is permitted to speak so grossly of the splendid exploits of our brave men, will be reaped within the course of the next few years. This broad Dominion, possessing in abundance all the materials and means that can make life pleasant, will undoubtedly be the mecca for those who seek to profit by the opportunities offered the ambitious and industrious.

Anything that tends to broaden intercourse between the nations on our borders as well as beyond, is an incentive to the resident there and the prospective Canadian citizen to make the most of what comes within his reach.

The creating of a merchant marine was a magnificent and timely conception that has earned well deserved praise for the one primarily responsible for the crystallization of a concept into a plan that is being carried out rapidly, systematically and efficiently.

One who is instrumental in having two ships plow the ocean where only one did previously, is entitled to that distinction that marks the great citizen from the mediocre. The father and founder of Canada's Government owned merchant marine, is the Honourable C. C. Ballantyne, Minister of Marine and Fisheries and the Naval Service in the Borden Government.

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