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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!

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## Editorial Notes

TO THE ALERT JOURNALIST OR LITERARY OBSERVER, under normal conditions, the dominant question re notes or articles is not what he shall write about but what subject or topics out of the many clamant ones he will select for comment or review in the time or space at his disposal.

It follows that in the measure in which he is impressed by the folly or convinced of the wisdom of a given course of thought or action, in that measure will he desire to have the greater voice or the wider-reaching means of expression. Thus any writer restricted to a book every few years, or one or two articles per month or week, may naturally wish that the medium of distribution were open to enlargement so that his "message" might have an opportunity of interesting, and perhaps influencing greater numbers.

IN BOOKS AND MAGAZINES AND NEWSPAPERS alike, however, there is now such a superabundance of production—even though a considerable proportion may be ephemeral and many of them provide employment for binders and printers only—that the men and women who seek, from literary choice and interest in life, to deal with the vital things, may well be thankful, if, following continuance in patient work, they find a circle of readers "fit though few."

THE INCREASING NUMBER OF NEWS-PAPERS (properly so called), and other experiments in print have indeed made discrimination on the part of the "constant reader" a very necessary exercise. The desire for "sensations," itself fostered and fed by a certain type of newspaper, or news(?)—supplying syndicate, still provides a source of revenue for the "penny-a-liner," whose interest in his writings or his "story" being mainly or entirely commercial, tends to the production of not merely extended, but repeated versions of incidents and on-goings, of which perhaps the less said—or read—the better.

In the field of fiction—always, in so far as failing and aspiring human nature is truthfully portrayed, an attractive means of mental recreation—there are now so many amateur as well as professional writers, some of whom outshine the penny-a-liner by asking payment not by the line but by the WORD, that newspaper, magazine, and other publishers had need to have a business department giving big returns indeed to enable them to pay to pass on such words of weight and wealth to the world!

BUT IF THERE BE MANY TOPICS, of minor or major interest affecting the community which an observer may note or pigeon-hole for comment, there are times when conditions so come under review, or questions or proposals so present themselves, that anyone with any sense of the fitness of things, or with any real community interest, may well wish for a voice or medium of expression that would outrival the combined efforts and influence of a big city's daily press. Such was the feeling engendered when the amenity of Van-

couver City was endangered by an unseemly barricade erected in Georgia Street West. No doubt many others felt disposed, as this note-writer did, to ask the three daily papers to voice protests, and found satisfaction, as he did, in noting that all alike were at once open to objections—and took objection themselves—to the lack of common sense which had led such a place to be even considered as a site for an underground excavation. Evidently the erection of such a preliminary barricade was necessary to waken the imagination of some of the Vancouver City Council to the obvious unsuitability of that locality.

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WHILE REFERRING TO A MATTER CONCERNING VANCOUVER City Council or other Local Authorities, we venture to suggest again that something be done to give more light to many blocks in the West-end of the City. The lack of light at the lane intersections particularly is a direct incentive to crime.

Then there's the matter of uncovered garbage trucks: we did see one with a cover recently, and we trust the Health Authorities will insist on all such trucks being covered.

STILL ANOTHER MATTER THAT SHOULD HAVE MORE ATTENTION is that of street noises—at all hours of the night and early morning. In one of the Dailies recently, a correspondent, who had had experience of other large cities, alleged that Vancouver was altogether exceptional in what was tolerated in it in the way of street noises; and judging by the canine yelping, the "honking" and the "cut-outs"—and what-nots—that may be heard almost any night in certain parts of the West-end, we think that letter to the Editor was more than justified.

Unfortunately it seems to be too true that there are many human beings who, in such matters, never give a thought to their neighbors—unless they are compelled to do so.

In this connection, it is also pertinent to ask—Can no better hour out of the 24 be selected than between 3 and 4 a. m. to collect refuse—involving the dumping of barrels of empty cans—from apartment blocks? It is little short of criminal than any "Local Authority" should tolerate, much less be responsible for, a traffic that so seriously interrupts the sleeping hours of citizens.

All the more because of the rush of the age, and the increase of nerve-taxing conditions, it becomes the duty of the Powers that Be to see that the citizens generally have opportunity for sleep, say after 11 p. m. till 6 or 7 at least. This may seem a trivial matter to make note of here; but refreshing sleep has much to do with health, and health is no trivial matter.

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THE RECENT CHANGE IN CONTROL, ANNOUNCED BY "VANCOUVER DAILY PROVINCE" would prompt some reflections on the vicissitudes of the daily press of the big Terminal City which is "the base" of this "Magazine of the Canadian West."