

Successful Inauguration of the Scottish Society of Vancouver

(D. A. Chalmers)

Under happy auspices the Scottish Society of Vancouver gave evidence of real vitality at its first meeting in the Citizens' Club, Vancouver, on February 16th, when a company of nearly two hundred members and invited guests enjoyed a programme which augured well for the usefulness of the Society as a social institution. The President, Magistrate H. C. Shaw, in outlining the objects of the Society, said that it had been founded by a number of Vancouver citizens of literary, musical and artistic tastes, who were specially interested in the expression of these on the lines of Scottish national development. They hoped, by means of lectures, concerts and other entertainments, to afford members sufficient opportunities for the gratification of such tastes, and to increase provincially the interest already felt everywhere in Scotland, its scenery, people, their history, national work, and influence.

The Society wished its membership to be limited to those who had such sympathies and desires, and, while welcoming all who could enjoy or assist in the work which it had undertaken, did not consider that it would add to the Society's strength or usefulness to receive into membership persons not really interested in such work. It would be the aim of the Society to present the Scottish national idea and genius in a truthful and dignified manner.

Principal W. H. Smith and Professor James B. Henderson, the two vice-presidents, gave short addresses. Principal Smith said that such an organization could make a valuable contribution to the life of this portion of the Empire by reproducing here the devotion to Scottish national ideals, and emphasized the fine spirit that throbbed through Scotland's national music. At this stage of the world's history he thought the Society might also try to interpret that spirit of democracy which had done so much for the world. Wherever Scotsmen had gone they had stood for that higher democracy. Some other societies claiming connection with Scotland emphasized the incidental and accidental rather than the outstanding characteristics of the race. The members of such a Society should stand together to develop a genuine Scottish spirit. They would have an opportunity of making a real study of the things which were worth while in Scottish life and literature.

In his address Professor Henderson also struck several notes which appealed strongly to the audience, his quotation from R. L. Stevenson being peculiarly appropriate.

Refreshments were afterwards served, and before the meeting concluded commendation of the evening's programme was freely expressed by the guests, many of whom filled in application forms for membership.

For a musical program of Scottish song and instrumental pieces of outstanding merit, the following were responsible: Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Robertson, Mrs. Allen C. McNab, Miss Nellie MacLeod, and Mr. W. R. Dunlop. Mr. George Duncan gave a reading from the poems of Robert Fergusson, to whom Burns referred as "his elder brother in the Muses."

That the Society has been exceedingly fortunate in the selection of its leading officers was emphasized by the wit and humour which supplemented the serious portions of the addresses of the speakers of the evening, and particularly by the genial spirit of friendly hospitality which emanated from the chair.

The invitations to this first meeting were issued by the executive committee, and in the circumstances were necessarily somewhat restricted. It is recognized that many

hundreds of people of Scottish birth or extraction have only to know of the Society's aims as quoted by the President to become candidates for membership.

As published, the executive committee for the current year (in addition to the chief officers) includes: Messrs. R. A. Hood, D. A. Chalmers, Douglas Symington, James I. Reid, Alexander Morrison, Professor John Davidson, J. G. Forrester, W. R. Dunlop, R. W. Douglas, J. B. Stevenson, Robert Cram, and Robert Bone. Mr. A. Y. Tullis is the honorary treasurer, and Mr. George Duncan, 615 Pender Street West, Vancouver, the honorary secretary.

Application forms may be received from any member of the executive or from the honorary secretary.

FIRST PRESIDENT SHAW

Magistrate Henry C. Shaw, whose portrait appears on the cover of this issue, was born of Scottish parentage in Prince Edward Island. After attending Prince of Wales School, Charlottetown, he graduated at Dalhousie University, Halifax, N.S. He studied law in Charlottetown and came west shortly afterwards, nearly thirty years ago.

After being in law partnership in Vancouver for some years with Messrs. McPhillips & Williams, he spent five or six years up country, at Greenwood, B.C. He returned to Vancouver in 1905, and, following some years partnership again, was in 1911 appointed Police Magistrate and judge of the Juvenile Court.

Mr. Shaw is a Presbyterian, and apart from his professional work, a man of literary interests. He takes an active concern in the University of British Columbia, and is a member of the Senate.

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