

"SCARLET AND GOLD" AND ITS EDITOR

A SUGGESTION FOR THE DOMINION GOVERNMENT

AS Rev. R. G. MacBeth has been a contributor to this magazine for years, and is a member of its Advisory Editorial Committee, it need hardly be noted that the following suggestion is published without his knowledge.

SAM MacPHAIL (Continued)

handkerchiefs and sox, suggestive of the drying room of a Chinese laundry.

Jim and I did not look upon these phases of Sam's career as serious. We had passed through this intensely economical stage. It is a kind of raw emigrant's distemper the result of having had for twenty years or so to look on both sides of a ha' penny before spending it.

Sam was industrious, honest and straight-forward; and he abhorred the very name of strong drink. With these attributes, he was sure to make good.

In a year's time, we knew that this same Sam would present a vastly different picture. Probably he would be making headway in some large mercantile house or running a real estate office on his own and talking glibly of Agreements for Sale, Assignments, Deeds, Mortgages and seven-per-cent. interests, as if he had been in the business all his life. He would then be wearing white boots, duck trousers and a panama hat; brushing his hair up in front, taking his own or some other fellow's best girl canoe rides and "blowing in" a dollar on candies for her, with less concern that he would have had a few short months before in spending his Saturday penny on a glass of ice-cream or a pomegranate.

As subsequent events will show, these prognostications did not fall very far short.

No doubt there are many writers in Canada, but perhaps there are few men living who have had such a wide acquaintance with those whose work and worth have gone far towards the making of Canada and the Canadian West, and at the same time have historic interests and literary capacity fitting them for the outstanding task of making records concerning the pioneering days and ways of Western Canada and the Dominion generally.

"Scarlet and Gold," which refers to the records of the N. W. M. P., has come to hand as we go to press.

Apart from any other question involved, however, it will be observed that this memorial publication, containing about 120 pages of a size approximating to that of the largest United States periodicals, has about 60 per cent. of advertising matter, no doubt readily given by big business firms because of the national claim and name and fame of the force. But it is obvious that the literary records published might have been comprised in ordinary book form of little more than 100 pages, much more convenient for record and reference.

This editorial work by the author of "The Romance of Western Canada" prompts us to express the opinion that the Dominion Government might, in the interests of the nation, seek to secure the services of such a man as Mr. MacBeth to compile and edit records bearing upon the country's early growth—much of which evidence may be in danger of being lost in these years of even more rapid development.

\$5,000 to \$10,000 a year would be a comparatively small sum for Canada to spend in securing such a trained and experienced recorder, and if Mr. MacBeth can be induced to undertake such work, we are confident no one would do it better and bring such experience in research and width of personal acquaintanceships throughout the Dominion to bear upon it successfully.

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