

Publishing Office:
1100 Bute St., Vancouver, B.C.
Telephone:
Seymour 6048

Established 1911
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!

VOLUME XXII.

JANUARY, 1924.

No. 1

Editorial Notes

COMMUNITY

STAIID AND RELIABLE probably sums up the estimate many citizens have of the new Mayor of Vancouver City. An impression of that kind has no doubt inspired those who have for years consistently supported him for the office of Alderman. This Community Service Magazine extends congratulations to Mayor Owen and the Councillors associated with him, and in common with others, trusts that their reign of office in 1924 will be connected with the beginning of a period of unexampled prosperity in Vancouver City and the West generally.

* * * * *

WE ALSO CONGRATULATE THE MAYORS, REEVES AND COUNCILLORS of neighboring Cities and Municipalities—though the results are not in all cases what were anticipated. Ex-Mayor Morden failed to supersede his own successor in office, Mayor Donaghy, in North Vancouver City. Perhaps that was partly due to an aversion on the part of the majority of voters to change their leading representative now that the Second Narrows Bridge arrangements are well under way—and everybody knows the adage about "not swapping horses when crossing a stream." Yet in the adjacent Municipality of the District of North Vancouver, that reasoning did not apply, as Mr. Fromme succeeded there against Reeve Loutit. The voters of Lynn Valley district (in which we understand Mr. Fromme is a highly-esteemed Old Timer) had likely much to do with the result. While we congratulate Mr. Fromme, we cannot but regret that a man of ex-Reeve Loutit's ability and experience should not have been retained in office to share in the forwarding arrangements regarding the Second Narrows Bridge. Though he is "out" meantime, perhaps there are not a few impartial voters from the Vancouver City side of Burrard Inlet who, (like the writer of these notes) carried away a very favorable impression of the ex-Reeve after hearing his account of his stewardship—as given at a public meeting—and his straightforward replies to the challenge or questionings as to why he had acted thus and so.

* * * * *

WHETHER OR NOT they are retained in office uninterrupted for years, men who give evidence of exercising earnest and honourable spirit in public service ought to be given less criticism and more encouragement.

* * * * *

REEVE BROOKS OF SOUTH VANCOUVER has done well in being re-elected—especially as his preparations for a campaign were interfered with by an hospital experience on his part—an operation for appendicitis. This election, carried out under "P. R." (Proportional Representation) involved considerable transferring of votes ere the result was reached, and though it was "a close thing" for "Tom," his many friends will look to him for progressive service—following his past year's experience.

* * * * *

WHEREBY WE ARE REMINDED that ex-Alderman Crone (of Vancouver City) was making reference recently,

at a Kiwanis Club meeting, if we are not mistaken—to the objections that can be taken to any really busy business man going into a big city's council for a one year term. Years ago, we believe, this Magazine ventured to suggest that a system which obtains in some other parts of the Empire, of electing Councillors for three years, might with advantage be tried—if the Council or Aldermen system itself is to be maintained. And if three years seem rather long, a two-year term might be advocated.

* * * * *

"THAT ARTICLE ON 'THE PRICE OF PROGRESS' by A. D. M., was one of the best things you have published." So said one of the leading Professors at the University of British Columbia, as he stopped the editor of this Magazine on Granville Street the other day. We think it fitting to pass it on to "A. D. M."—and others—in this way. It is always encouraging to learn by written or spoken words that the Community Service "bit" this BRITISH COLUMBIA Magazine is seeking to do, is appreciated, and our satisfaction is enhanced when we can pass on sincere compliments to our contributors.

* * * * *

MENTION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA reminds us that from another direction we were met the other day by what practically amounted to a challenge to us to take exception to an objectionable tendency which was alleged to be in evidence in the Students' Weekly, and liable to manifest itself elsewhere.

* * * * *

WHEN WE ASKED FOR EVIDENCE, our attention was called to a "Triolet" (for one thing), the suggestiveness in which could not perhaps be altogether met by saying (as the Defense may always do) "It depends how the reader cares to interpret it."

* * * * *

BUT EXAMINATION OF THE ISSUE referred to might fairly provoke a larger question, namely,—Is there work or service in the publication that compensates for the time and effort (taken from study time in some cases perhaps) which the thirty (or thereby) of a staff contribute to maintain the weekly paper? Probably the issue in question is exceptional, but, beyond one or two "skits" (of which a typewritten copy "boarded" at the University might give full publicity), there seemed to be very little that could not be well "covered" by paragraphs in the local newspapers.

* * * * *

WE KNOW WE ARE OPEN TO MISUNDERSTANDING in questioning, even in a friendly way, any thing related to a student body or publication, but the challenge to ourselves which introduced this subject here was thrust at us unsought, and now we surmise that—if the weekly publication WERE to be suspended—not a few students might live to be thankful for time saved to them for more serious and worthwhile work.