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"BE BRITISH," COLUMBIANS!

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Canadian Authors' Association

British Columbia Branch

Report by the Acting Chairman, Mr. R. A. Hood, as submitted to the Annual Meeting at Quebec City by one of the delegates from British Columbia.

In the absence of our Chairman, Mrs. Henshaw, it falls to me to present a report on her behalf for the activities of the members of our Branch in the year just past.

I consider that the record is a most gratifying one, not only for the amount of work that has been produced but also for its high quality and the wide range of literary effort which it covers.

First of all, I would speak of the splendid service Mrs. Henshaw herself has been giving in her lectures in London and other big centres of the Old Country. She has spoken before a number of the foremost literary and scientific societies on "Mountain Wild Flowers of British Columbia" and other subjects, and from the press reports that have come to us she has been most favourably received everywhere she has been.

Mrs. Isabel Ecclestone Mackay has completed a new book of children's poems which will shortly be published and has written several one-act plays. She has been contributing short stories and poems to various magazines, "McLeans" among others, and has recently placed a novelette with one of the best United States publications.

In the field of the novel, Bertrand Sinclair has received high praise for his recent book, "The Inverted Pyramid," which is a story of Vancouver. Its plot has to do with the disastrous collapse of the Dominion Trust Company. His short stories, published in "McLeans" and elsewhere, celebrating the thrilling escapades of rumrunners on our own Pacific Coast, have gained a wide popularity.

Douglas Durkin, who is now carrying on his work at Columbia University, has achieved a notable success with "The Magpie," a powerful story of Canadian life. Apart from its fine story interest, it provides a serious study of the conditions in this Country after the war which should be of value to the historian of the future who may seek to understand the mental outlook of the various classes of the people at the time.

Francis Dickie's novel, "The Master Breed" has been published in three countries and has had a wide sale, and that writer has recently carried off the 100 pound prize in a short story contest in which the judges were Hugh Walpole, Christopher Morley and Sir Philip Gibbs. He has another novel to be published shortly in England.

The publication of Frederick Niven's two Western stories, "The Wolfer" and "Treasure Trove" has been followed by the republication in New York of "Justice of the Peace," a novel, the scene of which was laid in Scotland. This was published in London in 1914 and the new edition has introductions written by Hugh Walpole and Christopher Morley. "The Wolfer" and "Treasure Trove" are both adventure stories. The former is especially interesting as being the result of an experiment in which the writer has used the plot elements of the "penny dreadful" but has clothed them with all the embellishments at the resource of a finished literary stylist.

Harwood Steele's new novel of the Mounted Police, "Spirit of Iron" is a strong piece of work and received high commendation from the New York Times. The same number contained long and appreciative reviews of "The Inverted Pyramid" and "Justice of the Peace."

Mrs. Alice M. Winlow has been devoting herself principally to the short story field and her stories have appeared in "The Canadian Magazine" and other good mediums. Mrs. Hilda Glynn Ward (Mrs. Howard) has been writing many stories for the American magazines.

Along the line of poetry, two notable books have been produced, Mr. Bernard McEvoy's "Verses for My Friends" and Mrs. Annie C. Dalton's "Flame and Adventure," both of which have attracted wide and favourable comment from the reviewers. A new edition of Mrs. Lefevre's book of poems, "A Garden by the Sea," has been published this year.

Mrs. Jean Kilby Rorison, Miss M. E. Colman, Miss Rae Verrill, Mrs. Holt Murison, Lewis Wharton, Herbert Beeman are among our poet members who have been contributing to miscellaneous magazines and periodicals.

Mr. Frank Burnett's fine book of travel in the South Seas "Summer Isles of Eden" was brought out this year and is a notable addition to the literature of the subject.

Mr. John Nelson has published a series of articles in McLeans Magazine, "Problems of the Provinces," which have attracted wide comment and shall shortly be published in book form, under the title "The Canadian Provinces, Their Problems and Policies." The Hon. Arthur Meighen furnished the introduction.

Dr. R. G. MacBeth is now at work on a history of the Canadian Pacific Railway. His recent history of the North West Mounted Police, "Policing the Plains" is now being produced for the motion pictures.

In the publishing field Mrs. Edith Cuppage has launched out with a new ladies' publication, entitled "The Ladies Mirror," which is proving deservedly popular.

Mr. D. A. Chalmers with the British Columbia Monthly has advanced well on into the second decade of its publication. It is gratifying to learn that application has been made from the East to have this magazine on show with the British Columbia exhibit at the Empire Exhibition in London this summer, and a considerable number of copies monthly have been ordered by the Government for distribution to visitors.

Mention should be made of the part which this Branch took in the Book Week activities. Addresses were given in the Manufacturers' Building and in the Hotel Vancouver before the Women's Canadian Club by Mr. Douglas Durkin, one of our members, advocating the necessity for Canadians to read their own literature and encourage its proponents. At both meetings an exhibition of books by Canadian writers was arranged for through the efforts of Messrs. Ireland & Allen and