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THE TWENTIETH CENTURY SPECTATOR OF BRITAIN'S FARTHEST WEST
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"BE BRITISH," COLUMBIANS!

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Editorial Notes

SHOULD CANADIAN CLUBS ENLARGE THEIR SCOPE of service and their sphere of influence? is another question that has been raised with us. Perhaps such a question is pertinent and inevitable in view of the formation and activities of several "Service" Clubs, most of which have originated in the United States.

That the Canadian Club should be the premier club in every Canadian Community many may hold, but—Is it so now? Meantime, the interests of such Clubs centre mainly, if not solely, in addresses from outstanding visitors. That is an important service, but IS IT ENOUGH?

If the answer be in the affirmative, we should be disposed to ask here, what we have questioned privately for long,— 'Should there not be a place for a British Empire or Inter-Empire Club, having associated with it all the commendable features of the "Service" Clubs—and in addition perhaps some others that would make for the stronger binding of the bands of that Empire, or Commonwealth of Nations of which most of us, as Canadians, are proud to form part?

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IN CONNECTION WITH THE ABOVE SUBJECT we noted with interest the plain remarks made by ex-President Tait of Vancouver Canadian Club, in the President's report for last year. No matter in what part of the British Empire citizens of this nation of Canada, and the British Columbia province of it in particular, happen to have been born, we believe it is quite consistent with the utmost loyalty to "B. C. Products" (human as well as material) to hold that opportunities should be open equally to every real home-maker who is here to do his share in building or developing the country. He would be a poor "native son" who would cast any reflection on the enterprise of his parents, and it is well to remember that but for the courage and faith exercised by their fathers in former years in venturing into this "new country," many of the "native sons" would not have had the privilege of being born in this favored land. After all to have an honourable "domicile" anywhere under the British flag is something for which to be thankful, and in the measure in which we inherit the spirit of our race, we shall be ready to respect the regard in which our fellow-citizens hold the particular spot of which they are "native sons,"—while rejoicing in the heritage of freedom common to us all.

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THE RECENT DEATH BY DROWNING IN THE CAPILANO of Rev. Walter Agabob, was tragic in the extreme, and as Dr. E. D. McLaren so fittingly suggested in his address at the funeral service, the circumstances were peculiarly perplexing from several points of view. Mr. Agabob, after years of more or less strenuous preparation, had just been getting well under way in service in a settled district, where his undoubted gifts were telling on his work; he was still a young man—not out of his thirties; and, so far as human reckoning goes, his home certainly had need of his care. . . .

Those who remember when Mr. Agabob came to Westminster Hall, Vancouver, as a student will recall their first impressions of his personality—often so cheerful and happy,

and then at times subject, more so perhaps than his Anglo-Saxon brethren, to experiences of a different kind. Associated with him in his journey from Scotland were Messrs. J. R. Craig and H. M. Rae and they, especially the former, with his overflowing humour, had not a little to do with counter-acting the pre-dispositions which occasionally taxed their comrade.

Mr. Agabob was born of Armenian parentage—his father, if we mistake not, being Harbour Master in a big Far Eastern Port—but he had made good educational headway in Scotland before coming to Canada and ordinary school work had been supplemented by considerable training in Glasgow Technical Institute, which made him no mediocre draftsman before he came to Church work in Canada—through arrangement with Dr. E. D. McLaren, then General Superintendent of the Presbyterian Church, and now of our own Canadian West.

"Walter" is the first to "cross over" of a student group who gathered occasionally in what was then known at Westminster Hall, as "the Inferno,"—a large ground floor room, having an open fireplace.

In Theological Colleges, as in other conditions of this fast-fleeting lesson time of life, men tend to become more intimate in proportion to the prevalence of kindred-spiritedness or common experience in joy or sorrow, and in "breasting the blows of circumstance;" and the members of the small band who were wont to gather for a helpful social hour round that "Inferno" fire will be among those who will cherish a pleasant memory of "Walter" and real regret at his seemingly (from this side) untimely passing.

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FROM TIME TO TIME we observe many details in connection with the work of contemporaries, especially our western newspapers, which we should like to quote or commend. As time and space—and B. C. M. development—permit, we hope to resume the section of quotation under "Contemporary Views and Reviews" which we carried some years ago. . . . At the "Buy B. C. Products" meeting the VANCOUVER SUN had in evidence one of its many recent pieces of practical publicity worthy of note. That was a neat card folder headed "The World's Granary" and showing Vancouver in relation to that "Granary" (of Alberta and Saskatchewan) as "Western Canada's Gateway to World Markets."

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A RECURRING REMINDER OF THE COMMUNITY SERVICE of Vancouver Gyro Club may be found these days in the steady progress in the making of the Children's Recreation Grounds at the corner of Haro and Bute Streets in the West End. The preparation of the ground has involved the removal of four houses. Two were taken down, one—formerly the home of the Wesley Church pastor pro tem.—has been moved to the other side of Haro Street, and the fourth, the Westmore house, was transferred to the next lot west. An excellent Playground and a local improvement promise to be the result.