

newspapers to a greater extent confined their politics wholly to their editorial pages? And is there not some chance that the development of such a practice would tend to soften somewhat the asperities of the party system and to improve our outlook on public affairs? Have we not the right to expect this from the press of Canada?

And now, supposing political partisanship eliminated from the news matter printed in our newspapers, is there anything further to be desired? Let us look for a moment at the news columns themselves from other points of view. Does it not seem, as one's eye runs over the average daily newspaper, that more and more every day one encounters the vernacular of the street? Is it not a fact that under the guise of comic illustrations, some of our representative newspapers print what can only be described as vulgar rubbish? Fortunately, these last do not have their origin within the Dominion itself, and have to be imported, Heaven knows why, from elsewhere.

The press seems to need something of that efficiency which it has been strenuously and properly urging on the public as necessary for the proper development and progress of Canada. It is worthy of a higher level of thought and workmanship than that on which it stands at present. For the newspaper, it should be remembered, is the sole reading of an ever-increasing portion of the people, and the sole medium by which vast masses receive instruction as to public affairs and policies. Days are fast approaching in Canada when we shall confront problems and conditions which will tax the energies and resources of the wisest and best among us. The most powerful instrument we can bring to the aid of those on whom these burdens will fall will be a free, fearless and efficient press, maintaining with dignity and honour the interests of this splendid Dominion and the more splendid Empire of which it is a part.

As to certain other features in my address, they were disposed of as being "academic." I am ready to admit the charge. The time is rapidly passing away when those verbal brooms "academic," "visionary," "idealistic," etc., will be able to brush aside ideas that heretofore have not been regarded as "practical." I trust I have made it quite clear in the address that I am not at all dogmatic. I admit there is ample room for other views than those I put forward, yet mine may be helpful to men seriously wishing to be of some service to Canada—my only excuse for appearing before the Winnipeg Canadian Club, to the members of which I wish to express my deep appreciation for a warm and sympathetic hearing.

C. A. MAGRATH.

Ottawa, April, 1916.

NOTE:—Since writing the foregoing, the back of the country has been pushed a little further under two of our large railway