

The Signal of the North

By Bert Huffman

O, Canada, Queen of the Northland! Thy signals light the sky!
The pulsing heart of the world salutes thy banner flung on high!
The call of thy wakening prairies, the thrill of thy joyful heart,
In the Drama of the Ages, speak of thy major part.
The empty trails of the Northland have waited the pioneer long,
Thy eager plains are leaping to catch the builder's song.
O, Queen of the North, give heed to the call of the landless one
Who brings thee the best of every flag under the kindly sun.
Just be thy statutes, fearless and free and kind—
That the stranger hearts keep loyal faith with the covenants they find!
Be strong and true and tender, yet fearless on sea and land,
That the souls of the Oppressed who come may lovingly understand,
That each who comes may bear thy name and be of thy life a part—
May wear thy image in his palms, thy flag in his loyal heart.

O, splendid Queen of the Northland, thy lonely wastes shall thrill
With the stress of a mightier purpose, the urge of a newer will.
Thy prairie, white and olden, rich with the dream of years,
Shall waken into wonderment as the march of the host it hears.
Thy listless plain shall hearken to a sound unheard before
As the tramp of the thousands—millions—shall thunder at thy door!
O, Queen, be ready, ready, for thine is the opening age—
Be equal to that Greater Day that is thine heritage!
For, as a dream in the night, shall come the peopling of thy lands.
One Daybreak o'er thy prairies—in, the treasure of thy hands!
To the verge of thy far horizons, fruitful and fair and blest,
The gems of myriad loyal hearts shall deck thy queenly breast.

Then the waiting seas shall welcome thy Argosies of gold;
The wide hung marts of the world shall groan with the weight of thy
wealth untold,
And the Nations, selfish, sodden, shall wonder at thy worth—
Shall marvel at thy mounting power, at the newness of thy birth!
They shall marvel at thy statutes, thy codes so clean and pure,
At the faith and trust and loyalty that in thy sons endure.
They shall pause in the Path of Plunder to mark thy righteous grace,
And, like a light o'er the New World raised, shall be thy stern, sweet face.



BERT HUFFMAN

Bertram ("Bert") Wilson Huffman, editor, author, reformer and farmer, whose poem, "The Signal of the North," appears in this issue of *The Guide*, was born January 10, 1870, in Union County, Oregon, of early pioneer parents, and has spent his life in the West. After leaving home at an early age he became successively stockman, locomotive engineer and managing editor of a daily paper, and three years ago resigned from the latter occupation to engage in farming and stock raising in Alberta. He now resides with his wife and four children on a section of fine wheat land seven miles north-east of Langdon, Alberta, where he is building a permanent home and where he intends to live and ally himself with the agricultural interests of Western Canada. During all of his life, Mr. Huffman has been an active reformer, beginning with the very first inception of "The Oregon Plan" in his native state. Aside from extensive literary work for western magazines and papers, he was, for seven years, managing editor of the *Daily East Oregonian*, of Pendleton, Oregon, and as such was a strong factor in instituting in the State of Oregon those excellent reform measures, the Initiative, Referendum and Recall, direct election of United States Senators, direct primaries and corrupt practices act, which have placed Oregon in the very front rank of reform states and which have freed it from the baneful influences of corrupt politicians and corporations.

As a member of the United Farmers of Alberta, Mr. Huffman still works energetically with tongue and pen for the success of those reforms which have so blessed with political independence those people who have adopted them.

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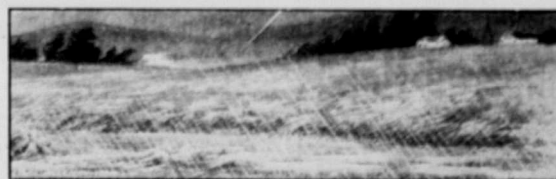
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