

Life's Little Comedies ~ The QUICK Lunch ~



LONDON INTEREST KEEN IN CANADIAN BOOK WEEK

Authors Now Famous Made Their Literary Beginnings in This City.

MORE BOOKS WANTED

By E. J. PENNY.

With the idea of fostering and developing a literary tradition which shall be specifically Canadian, public libraries, reading rooms and book stores throughout Canada will make a special effort during next week to bring attention upon the work of Canadian writers.

Started several years ago the idea of thus observing a Canadian Book Week has had excellent results in bringing home to the reading public

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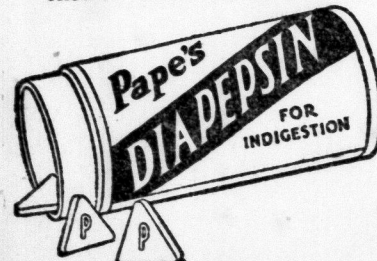
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REV. ROBT. NORWOOD.

former Londoner, whose contributions to literature have attracted wide attention.

of this country the fact that Canada has a great deal of worthy literary talent of its own, and that Canadian writers in the various fields of literature deserve the patronage and support of their own fellow-countrymen.

The old proverb about a prophet not being without honor save in his own country, has, alas, proven only too true in the case of Canadian authors of bygone days, but this feeling is rapidly giving place to one of genuine pride in Canadian achievements in the literary field, and the work of Canadian writers is now in demand at public libraries and in bookshops the whole year round.

Librarian R. E. Crouch, of the London public library, reports that the year just closing has seen a notable increase in the production of works of merit by Canadians on Canadian themes. They are being read, too.

There is a steadily increasing demand for Canadian literature, showing, in the opinion of Mr. Crouch, that Canadians are becoming more appreciative of the fact that their country is now developing a distinctive type of literature.

Canada is Developing. "Canada has developed a distinctive type of art," said Mr. Crouch, "and is also developing a distinctive type of literature which is redolent with Canadian scenery, and with the experiences and thoughts of Canadian people."

"One of the developments of the past year," he continued, "has been the marked increase in the treatment of purely Canadian problems by Canadian writers in the social, economic, religious and even in the historic field. Much literature of this type is now coming out, including some good treatises in practical medicine. All of them are being widely read to judge by the demand we experience here."

Mr. Crouch very kindly conducted

a brief tour of the stockroom at the library for a survey of books bearing the names of Canadian authors. Brief and cursory as such an examination must necessarily be, it was astonishing to note how many and varied have been Canadian contributions to current literature.

The year just passing has seen some notable examples particularly of the type of book in which Canada's scenic beauties form an excellent background.

One book of this character which is attracting much attention is Beautiful Canada, by Heyward.

Another notable production of the year was a story of Quebec life, Chez Nous, by Judge Rivard.

The novel, Wild Geese, which recently won a prize of \$25,000, was written by a Canadian, Martha Ostenso.

London Writers.

London and the surrounding district has been prolific in the number of writers which it has given to the field of Canadian literature.

One of these who have attained outstanding success in the present season is Adrian MacDonald, a London boy who received his public and high school education in this city. His book, Canadian Portraits, is a series of biographical sketches of outstanding Canadians in many spheres of activity. Admirably written, his sketches are just what their title implies, portraits of the originals which give the reader an accurate picture of the personalities whose genius contributed so much to the making of Canada.

Mr. MacDonald will be remembered by many former pupils at the London collegiate where his scholastic prowess not less than his scholastic attainments won him recognition and popularity.

Another former London resident whose literary abilities are attracting increasing attention in the United States, is Rev. Dr. Robert Norwood, now rector of a large church in New York. Mr. Norwood continues to produce poetry of the highest quality besides occasional dramatic productions.

Sage's Works Popular.

Since his lamented demise in Victoria hospital, (it seems only a few months ago), the works of Peter MacArthur, the "Sage of Ekfrid," have steadily increased in popular favor and are in great demand at the local library.

Another great loss to Canadian literature was the death this year of

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Concerning Baby's Own Tablets, Mrs. John A. Patterson, Scotch Village, N.S., says: "I have six children, and all the medicine they ever get is Baby's Own Tablets. I would use nothing else for them and can strongly recommend the Tablets to all other mothers."

Baby's Own Tablets are sold by medicine dealers or by mail at 25 cents a box from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.—Adv.

Nora Holland, recently a visitor to London, whom critics all agree was a poetess of rare promise.

Harvey O'Higgins, a former London boy, is achieving fame as a writer of fiction, and there are many others whose work is adding lustre to London's reputation as a home for Canadian writers. Among these might be mentioned Miss Beatrice Taylor, and Mrs. James Thorburn, (Amy Campbell), whose short story

Elisie Has Loveliness to Sell, won a prize of \$200 this summer.

From a sick bed in Queen Alexandra sanatorium, C. M. Freeman, better known to Londoners as Doc Pen, continues to make literary contributions which are attracting wide attention.

In the wider field of Canadian literature one meets with such names as Thomas O'Hagan, R. J. Stead, Robert Watson, and Miss E. A. Wilson, all poets of more than ordinary distinction, not to mention such well known poets as Bliss Carman, Charles Mair and others.

Charles G. D. Roberts, who first gave the world psychological interpretation of animal life in story form, is still contributing to Canadian literature. He has a worthy follower in the person of Arthur Hemling, Frank L. Packard of Montreal continues to write detective stories which are widely read, while Stephen Leacock maintains his place as Canada's premier humorist. Some very charming contributions have recently been made by E. Harrington, a Vancouver lady.

Book of Folk Songs. A notable contribution of the year was a book entitled Folk Songs of French Canada by Marius Barbeau and Edward Sapir. A book of verse, My Rose, by Euphemia McLeod has also been highly praised, while a fiction story by John Middleton, Sea Dogs and Men At Arms, has given pleasure to many Canadian readers.

To the student desiring information on Canadian literature is recommended a book which appeared a little over a year ago entitled Headwaters of Canadian Literature, by Charles G. D. Roberts. This book, to quote its preface, "is a dictionary type of literary history; it narrows the definition of 'Canadian' to its true meaning, a criterion for judging the success of a Canadian book; it tries to establish a relationship between the growth of rational, at first, provincial, self-consciousness and the production of books; and it emphasizes the importance of Canadian periodicals in the different literary movements."

Whether or not Canada has produced literature in the truest sense is a question which has been long and hotly debated. That the question has been raised at all is a sign, in this writer's opinion, that the young nation has a soul which is striving to articulate.

"On the surface though Canada be prosaic and commonplace," he says, "there is deep down in the nation's heart a capacity for the ideal. Literature is the voice of a people. Through its literature, the life, the soul of a people may be known. And though it is vain to look for a Canadian Charles Dickens or a Canadian Tennyson, work of this rare kind has been written in Canada, of Canada, by brilliant Canadians. It is a question of degree, not of kind."

A Long list of Names. The volume deals in some detail with the work of such Canadian writers as Robert Service, W. Wilfred Campbell, Bliss Carman, Ralph Connor, (who incidentally is a visitor to London this week, the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Dr. D. C. Macgregor, the latter of whom has made some notable contributions to Canadian fiction under the nom-de-plume of Marion Keith), Octavo Cremazie, Willis Gray Drummond, Sara

Jeanette Duncan, Louis Frechette, Thomas Chandler Halliburton, Joseph Howe, Rev. Robert Knowles, Archibald Lampman, Stephen Leacock, Col. John McCrae, Gilbert Parker, Marjorie L. C. Pickthall, Goldwin Smith, Charles G. D. Roberts, Arthur Stringer, Duncan Campbell Scott, Prof. G. M. Wrong, and a score of others.

The writer sums up the literary achievements of Canadians as follows: "In the literature of power Canada

has repeated the history of all primitive peoples. Poetry has come first. Prose is a late development. The only native prose fiction worth considering is that of the very latest period. Most of it shows the weakness of the amateur. The novelists do not speak for Canada as the poets do. Frechette has voiced the aspirations of his province; Roberts, the aspirations of Canada. The absolute achievement of our true poets, Cremazie, Lampman, Carman, Morin, Pickthall is far higher than the best

work of our novelists."

A remarkable feature of Canadian literature, the writer finds, is the popularity of Canadian authors in their own country. "Being interpreted," he says, "this phenomenon means that the Canadian public is interested in itself and is able and willing to buy home-grown books."

"It also implies a rapid and widespread literary cultivation and genuine interest in the world of letters. A Canadian public has been formed which is ready to welcome the work

of Canadians and is becoming more and more competent to judge that work. Canadian writers need no longer exile themselves abroad or look first for a market south of the border. Nor does a sweeping, popular success mean that Canada cannot appreciate a pure and high idealism in literature."

It is with the idea of developing and fostering such ideals that Canadian Book Week has been instituted, and will be more widely observed this year than ever before.

A Tree that Grows Chocolate Bars

Nature's Wonder and Mystery

There is something very strange about this tree. It grows buds, fruit and flowers all the year round and all at the same time. The Indians used to gather the pods that grow on it; split them open; take out the beans; and, after drying them in the sun, they ate them just as you would eat the chocolate bar sold in stores.

268 years ago there appeared this advertisement in an English newspaper called the "Public Advertiser."

"In Bishopsgate Street, in Queen's Head Alley, at a Frenchman's house, is an excellent West Indian drink called Chocolate, to be sold, where you may have it ready at any time, and also unmade at reasonable rates."

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