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Managing Editor and Publisher
With an Advisory Editorial
Committee of Literary
Men and Women

The Twentieth Century Spectator of Britain's Farthest West
For Community Service—Social, Educational, Literary and Religious; but Independent of Party, Sect or Faction
"BE BRITISH" COLUMBIANS!

VOL. 24

APRIL, 1925

No.

EDITORIAL NOTES

A CRITICAL SUBSCRIBER writes: "Enclosed find \$3.00. I read your Magazine, but will say that some of your contributors are very partizan. The one with the long name is a dyed-in-the-wool Tory of the kind that can see no good in any government that is not of his particular stripe." . . . (That is evidently "another one" for "The Wayside Philosopher"—which we believe he will not object to our passing on in these notes, just as received. As before, we shall leave him to "speak for himself.")

THIS CRITIC CONTINUES: "YOUR MAGAZINE IS IMPERIALISTIC IN THE EXTREME. Why not get some real Canadian spirit in your system? Let us make this Canada of ours a nation, instead of an adjunct of some other country."

FIRST, LET US THANK THIS CRITIC for his candour, and at the same time express regret that space does not permit our answering his criticism with any fulness in this issue. It is a commonplace that we do not expect any reader to approve of ALL the articles published, or viewpoints outlined or advocated in this Magazine. But we always value LIVING INTEREST—and our critic EXERCISES THAT in two ways: (1) He PAYS his SUBSCRIPTION, and (2) he READS the Magazine; and these are the first practical essentials to co-operation with it in real community service.

IF ONLY EVERY OTHER OVERDUE SUBSCRIBER would follow his example in that matter of remittance! It is so easy to put off and to give little or no thought to THE OTHER SIDE and THE SIDE OF THE OTHER. Probably the records of most publishing offices could supply "copy" enough for a book on human pettiness and meanness as revealed in attempts to evade or avoid overdue payments, and that of small sums: exhibitions of selfishness of which it is reasonable to believe many of the guilty ones would be ashamed if they had more knowledge of the publisher's conditions of work or if they GAVE ONE THOUGHT to the OTHER FELLOW'S SIDE.

THIS MAGAZINE'S SUBSCRIPTION RATE (in advance) has now been reduced to the MINIMUM, and it is therefore all the more necessary that subscribers should not require even one mailed notice of renewal date. To any disposed to recall or glibly speak of HOW THEY DO IN THE "STATES," or of HOW "STATES" periodicals—DUTY-FREE into this CONVENIENT CANADIAN DUMPING GROUND—"cut them off" and otherwise treat them, we would say, PLEASE REMEMBER YOU ARE IN CANADA, and that, whatever be the fair

or unfair privileges in the publication field extended by Canada to the States, Canada has not been annexed by the United States—YET!

THE NECESSITIES OF THE CASE CONSTRAIN US to add that we trust that no subscriber whose subscription is due or overdue, will take exception, much less offence, at finding his or her attention called to the fact by a MARKING on the MAGAZINE. For fourteen years now the publishers of this periodical have striven—under many hindrances and handicaps, including printers' strike and other equally trying hold-up conditions due in part at least to Canada's proximity to the States—to do their part to provide an independent "Community Service" Magazine for Western Canada, and British Columbia particularly; but, IN CANADA, the subscription price at best does little more than pay for the POSTAGE and HANDLING of the Magazines. There is all the more need that EVERY SUBSCRIPTION should be paid without delay, and certainly without involving the outlay and work of mailed notices, of answering phone calls, or any kind of correspondence. Critics and friends, life is short and work is crowding, for we too are among CANADIAN PIONEERS!

CANADIANS ARE IN DANGER of being "spoilt" in this respect—and perhaps in some other ways!—by the conditions meantime pertaining to publications of all kinds shipped in by the ton or carload from the Republic to the South. But that is another subject—of which more anon.

WE VALUE THE COMPLIMENT TO THIS MAGAZINE and its editor in the report by the Chairman of the British Columbia branch of the Canadian Authors' Association (page ten), and, without vanity on the one hand or a pleading of poverty on the other, we are disposed to take this opportunity—in acknowledging the compliment—of emphasizing that we believe it is more than time that: (1) business men; (2) lovers of literature; (3) people of all denominations who believe in practical Christianity; (4) members of Service Clubs; and (5) all Western Canadian citizens who believe (as we do, notwithstanding our critic's comments), that for us in Western Canada THE SANEST IMPERIALISM begins with upbuilding and developing CANADA FIRST—joined more fully in the work of a magazine with such aims and ideals of community service as the BRITISH COLUMBIA MONTHLY—no matter who may happen to be its editor pro tem.

EDITORS AND CONTRIBUTORS MAY PASS, but so long as there is influence

in the printed word there will be need for magazine mediums that seek primarily to serve the community without selling themselves to "party, sect or faction" politically, religiously or socially.

"LET US MAKE THIS CANADA OF OURS A NATION instead of an adjunct to some other country." Our critic may be surprised to learn that we are quite at one with him in that ambition—assuming he means "a nation" in the commonwealth of nations known as the British Empire. Only we sometimes wonder how far some of the Canadian-born themselves are ready to recognize and PRACTISE SUCH AN INJUNCTION?

WE ARE NOT, AND DO NOT WISH TO BE, ANTI-U. S., or anti-any other nation. But so fully do we recognize CANADA'S INHERENT POTENTIALITIES, and believe in its NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, that—let us say respectfully what we sometimes suggest in jest—one of our regrets is that we could not have arranged for OUR IMMIGRATION into Canada to have begun with our forefathers a few generations back! We do not believe that we would, in that event, have been less British. On the other hand, it may be that years of experience and some knowledge of conditions in Britain may have their use in ENLARGING THE VISION of those who are none the less Canadians by being CANADIANS BY CHOICE. At any rate, in the conditions of the world as it is TO-DAY we advocate the development of Imperial or INTER-EMPIRE RELATIONS because we believe that THEREIN LIES THE SOCIAL SALVATION OF THIS CANADA OF OURS.

BUT EVEN NOW THERE IS GOING ON IN CANADA—whether or not we Canadians choose to recognize it—A PROCESS OF PEACEFUL PENETRATION AND PERMEATION BY OTHERS, some of whose ideals do differ from the British.

WHAT HAS OUR CRITIC—RELATIVE OF A FORMER LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR—and others who may share his views, to say or suggest in that connection? We may have much more to say—"if we are spared." Meantime we assure our critic that we advocate Imperialism, involving INTER-EMPIRE RELATIONS, because we believe that the BEST BASIS FOR CANADA'S DEVELOPMENT lies in British stock and British ideals—BRITISH STOCK ACCELERATED IN ACTION, and BRITISH IDEALS EMPHASIZED IN PRACTICE.