

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA MONTHLY

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of
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of
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For Community Service—Social, Educational, Literary
and Religious; but
Independent of Party, Sect or Faction.

"BE BRITISH," COLUMBIANS!

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Both Sides Surprised

Explanations of all kinds will likely be given of the extraordinary vote recorded in the plebiscite throughout British Columbia. We believe that a good portion of the big majority probably voted not so much FOR the alternative as AGAINST the social conditions created by the Act.

If it be the case, as one earnest citizen phrased it, that one result of the conditions created by the condemned Act was that "Society was just seething with deceit and hypocrisy," it may be that the route of further social reform in the use of liquor will be found in other ways.

Without wishing to be in any way associated with a "prophet of evil," we hold it quite conceivable that many citizens and homes may learn anew by harrowing experience that all who become addicted to using intoxicating liquors in excess, begin as "moderate drinkers," and are, to that extent, "moderationists."

Among the thousands who voted in the minority, many may have questioned whether it was advisable to attempt at this stage to enforce a total prohibition Act, and yet have voted against "Government Control and sale" with the conviction that such a course was likely to put any Government into a position sure to prove testing to the strongest.

NOW SELECT YOUR GOVERNMENT.

Accordingly, notwithstanding the result of the plebiscite, we dare to repeat the question—"Who wants Political Publicans?" There is too much reason to believe that under the Party system both parties, by the very basis of their existence, methods of working and conditions of success, come under obligations to men, individually and in groups, so that, from "Cabinet" members down, merit and special fitness are seldom the main, and almost never the only basis of consideration in the award of Government positions; which are usually regulated by the amount of political "pull" that can be exercised through "service to the PARTY."

Such is the inevitable sequel to the party system, to which some folk think, and strong party men say, there can not easily be any alternative.

LET POLITICIANS PASS—AND STATESMEN ARRIVE

Yet if the governing of a country is as much a "business" as that of any big corporation or national concern, why should not the people seek to have it composed of men who are, by business experience and acquired social position, best qualified to "represent" them?

An election in British Columbia is a certainty in the near future. After having tried (in office, of course) representatives of each side, the independent citizens of Brit-

ish Columbia would do well to consider selecting a "slate" of leading citizens and business men (with or without party affiliations) whose integrity and capacity are unquestioned, and find out how many of them agree that the time for mere "politicians" has passed or is passing, and that the hour is ripe, or fast ripening, when "Statesmen" with a vision backed by practical experience should "arrive?"

In each party there are no doubt a few men whose ability and experience should not be overlooked. But the sooner we have Proportional Representation and the pick of the BEST for government business and statescraft, the better it will be for this **British Province with the World-influencing location.**

A CHARGE AGAINST THE NEWSPAPERS.

"All the newspapers are interested in is what they can get out of a candidate. . . . Here you never get a blessed thing from newspapers except by advertisements they are well paid for."

These words were spoken this month by an ex-Alderman of Vancouver at a Bureau meeting of a leading organization. Between the sentences quoted he added that he would say that before the representative or Editor of any paper.

It happened that no newspaper representative was present, though one came in to the meeting as it was about to close.

The criticism carried with it an implication, if not a direct statement, that the papers were not interested in a candidate's platform or civic service unless in so far as these contributed to their coffers.

Many may hold that the charge is too sweeping. Though it goes without saying (in British communities if not in those of the United States) that magazines are in a different class from "papers" we should not like to believe that our kinsmen of the Dailies can all be so stigmatized with truth.

"WHAT'S IN A NAME?"

It is perhaps unfortunate that the smaller but by no means unimportant municipalities adjacent to Vancouver City,—"South Vancouver" to the south, "North Vancouver" across Burrard Inlet and "West Vancouver," also across the Inlet and nearer Puget Sound, should have been so named. As the words must naturally suggest to strangers, Vancouver, South, North and West, respectively, as portions of the one city.

It is probable that they will all become so in fact within a generation—when there have been completed (1) the absorption of South Vancouver; (2) the Second Narrows bridge; (3) the First Narrows tunnel, and (possibly) (4) a ten minutes suburban circuit service by aeroplane, etc.