

ROBERT J. C. STEAD,

his verse. He has devoted several of the lyrics of his former volumes, "The Empire Builders" and "Prairie Born," to romantic doings in the Alberta of earlier days; but the bulk of his poetry has to do with the affairs and aspirations of wheat-growing patriots. He is a poet neither wild nor woolly; he lives in a community which is beginning to pride itself on its urbanity; he is intensely concerned in the dreams and deeds of ordinary everyday Western Canadians.

One of the signs that Robert Stead is a civilized poet is the patriotic character of his verse. He has been inspired not so much by Phœbus Apollo and the Muses nine as by Britannia, who in these days of innumerable war-poems ought to be designated a tenth Muse. From the very first the Calgary poet has sung the glories of the Motherland, of Canada, and the Empire. Perhaps nothing could better illustrate the unity of the Empire than the fact that Mr. Stead's poem on the death of Lord Kitchener has had such wide circulation and, needless to say, such power of appeal. It was written a few hours after the announcement of the great war-lord's death. Through the agency of the Western Associated Press it appeared next day in many of the morning dailies of Canada. It is probably the only Canadian poem that was ever