

THE BRITISH COLUMBIA MONTHLY

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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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The Suggested British Empire Citizens' League

Shortly after a British Empire Citizens' League was suggested in this Magazine in November last, we observed from the newspapers that an organization using such a name had been formed in Ottawa, and we understand that a branch of that body has been—or is being—organized in Vancouver.

Because of the importance of the subject we reproduce the B. C. M. reference, together with a communication which was sent to us in December by Mr. R. W. Douglas, of Douglas Mackay & Co. Board of Trade Building, Vancouver.

A BRITISH EMPIRE CITIZENS' LEAGUE?

Vancouver as the largest city in British Columbia, lacks not for Societies and Organizations of various kinds. Indeed, while appreciating the spirit that prompts the maintenance of ties with other districts, it may be held that when "Shires" or Counties, as well as the national institutions of any Nation within the Empire, seek to form societies of their own, there is a danger of a multiplicity of minor organizations absorbing energy and interest that might be much more effective if centralised.

British Columbians, as citizens of this great Dominion, and dwellers in that part of it AS FAR SOUTH AS THE CHANNEL ISLANDS and with ports ice-free all the year round, may have no unimportant share in the spread of British Empire ideals throughout the world.

Hitherto, apart from the group organisations referred to above, we, as Canadians, may have been apt to take a good deal from "across the line"; and all honour to our cousins of the United States, who, with characteristic energy and enterprise give worth and weight to so many movements. But we venture to suggest that the time is ripe for the formation of a society or League, the first object of which would be the maintenance of the best in our British inheritance, and development thereupon.

The interests of an Empire Citizens' League would naturally begin at home, and as an organization it would concern itself not only with the type of men selected for civic life and work, but with policies put forward for social betterment. Ultimately, such a League of loyal citizens, independent of party sect or faction, could share in the work of world-permeation of those ideals for which thousands have been willing to die, and for which it sometimes seems many find it much harder to live.

"NO MORE URGENT NECESSITY."

Mr. Douglas wrote:—In your November issue you invited an expression of opinion on this subject, to which you make a passing reference. May one of your interested readers record his impression that there is no more urgent necessity than this and to neglect a duty so apparent and so needful is nothing less than unfaithfulness to a sacred trust committed to us.

It is not irrelevant in this connection to refer to sentiment. In our thousands we cheered and bade our youthful defenders God speed in those dark days, of 1914-15. We proudly read of their achievements and our hearts within us glowed at the glorious deeds of Empire, but what is the aftermath?

WAR MEMORIALS AND AMUSEMENTS.

We are endeavouring, with more or less success, to care for our living heroes, but what about our glorious dead? They sleep peacefully in the quiet "God's Acres" in France and loving hands see that those sacred spots are kept as befits our brave, but sir, we should have in every city and in every hamlet, a British Empire League which should so foster public opinion that in every city, village or municipality, some memorial be erected of a monumental character—not necessarily merely a marble pedestal—which will proclaim to all observers and for all time that as a Nation we realize the meaning of the sacrifice of our well-beloved.

No time to do it, and no money forthcoming! Too many other demands! Why, Mr. Editor, we spend each evening in Vancouver on amusements more than enough to build an everlasting memorial to those brave lads who will laugh and play no more.

SUGGESTS CANADIAN, ROTARY AND KIWANIS CLUBS COMBINE.

Too many Leagues and Societies now! Yes, but how many of them are helping to rear a great and enduring structure in Civic, Public, and Political life! Never was a time when true men and women of high ideals and with a vision more required to get together to combat the insidious influences which are creeping into every section of Society. A British Empire Citizen's League is needed and although we are surfeited with public meetings, I suggest that the Canadian Club, Rotary Club, Kiwanis Club and every other organization which stands for the best and highest ideals be bound together in a great effort to start this movement! Do, not let the suggestion drop. God speed you.

Meantime, we shall await with interest fuller particulars concerning the purposes and programme of the organization started in Ottawa and of the branch of it formed in Vancouver.

"HOW CAN WE DO IT AT \$1?"

The timely question and the notice at the beginning of this issue, and the letter on page ten, speak for themselves.

We are undertaking to mail twelve issues of the B. C. M. at the "Get-Acquainted" rate of \$1, because we have faith in the Home and Business service of such a magazine.