

Publishing Office:
1100 Bute St., Vancouver, B. C.
Telephone:
Seymour 6048



D. A. CHALMERS
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THE TWENTIETH CENTURY SPECTATOR OF BRITAIN'S FARTHEST WEST
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"BE BRITISH," COLUMBIANS!

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WOMEN'S INSTITUTES AND B. C. PRODUCTS

Under the aegis of the Department of Agriculture, there is in British Columbia an organization known as the Women's Institutes of B. C. Few people realize the strength of this organization and the important part it is playing in community development.

According to Mrs. V. S. MacLachlan, provincial secretary, one hundred and five of these institutes with a membership of nearly 5,000 women have now been formed. They are located in every part of the province, from the remotest corner of Vancouver Island to the eastern limits of the Kootenays.

The aims and objects of the organization are to improve conditions of rural life so that settlement may be permanent and prosperous in the farming communities.

Last fall the B. C. Products Bureau of the Vancouver Board of Trade was invited to present a programme dealing with the industries of British Columbia and the part women could play in aiding in their development. The meeting was so successful that the Bureau was asked to co-operate in arranging a series of meetings throughout the province in order that the support of the Institutes could be obtained in furthering the work of the Buy B. C. Products Campaign.

Mrs. W. D. Todd, secretary of the Victoria Women's Institute and secretary of the Vancouver Island Board of Directors of the Women's Institutes, was invited to conduct these meetings and commenced her tour on Vancouver Island at the beginning of April.

The programme opens with a roll call answered by pithy paragraphs relating to the advantages to be gained by patronizing home products. This is followed by an address describing the industries of British Columbia and the need of co-operation between the rural and urban districts in patronizing each others products. Questions relating to the

subject matter of the address (previously distributed in the audience) are then answered from the chair, after which the meeting is thrown open for discussion.

At the conclusion of the programme, a questionnaire relating to B. C. Products is distributed with a view to obtaining constructive criticism.

Mrs. Todd reports an enthusiastic reception at all meetings she has attended to date. She has used every known means of transportation, with the exception of the air service, in visiting the outlying districts and scattered islands. In many cases she found women who had walked from seven to eight miles through the bush in order to attend the meetings. In some cases they had even packed blankets to darken the windows of the school house in order that they could enjoy the pictures of B. C. industries presented by Mr. A. D. Kean of this city. In one particular case a man who was building a garage constructed it larger than was necessary in order that the pictures could be presented in a part of the country where moving pictures had never been seen before. All the meetings were well attended and an intense interest was taken in the programme.

In every case the work of the Buy B. C. Products Campaign was endorsed and recognized as a solution to many of the problems facing British Columbia to-day.

The women throughout the rural districts are unanimously pledging themselves to support the industries of the Province, Dominion and Empire, and they are expressing the hope that their sisters in the cities will do their part in helping to build up the rural communities by patronizing the products of the farms.

Their slogan is "Wait for our fruit crops to do your preserving, just as we wait for the money from those crops to purchase other B. C. Products."

New Fables by Skookum Chuck

I. SKIN DEEP.

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The train stopped at "Canoe" flag station and a young woman entered carrying a rich bouquet of white and purple lilacs across one arm. She was closely followed by a rather bulky man with an infant in his arms carefully wrapped against the chill mountain air. It was nearly midnight.

The man had the appearance of one who was hopelessly out of patience with everything but the baby, for he handled the fragile bundle very carefully.

The lady threw the lilacs into the rack above her head as she approached a seat and then sat down facing me. I fancied she smiled modestly.

She motioned with a sort of haughty, deaf-mute sign to

the man to sit down on a vacant seat across the aisle.

The gentleman sat down as he had been directed and stretched the sleeping baby on the seat in front of him.

And again the train plunged into the darkness.

I moved over to the open window to enjoy the cool air, for although the temperature on the outside was chill, the confined space in the car was close, warm and stuffy.

I looked out into the night, and as I did so, the lady moved over on her seat and looked out also. We could see nothing beyond the range of the light from the windows.

Suddenly there was a sound of coarse, croaking voices radiating through the outside atmosphere. They came up