

Prominent Publishers at the Pacific Coast

I.---John Nelson

Like other men in all lines of community service, journalists of all ranks may differ as to forms of procedure and in the order of their preference of men for office or honors. But probably most men connected in any way with the publishing business who have had opportunity of meeting masters and men at the Pacific Coast during the past decade, if requested to make nominations for the chief executive position of any organization of Western Canadian, not to mention Provincial, extent, would unhesitatingly nominate among the first half score or first half dozen from among employers, Mr. John Nelson, now managing director of the "Daily World," Vancouver City.

Learning that Mr. Nelson has just been paid the compliment by his fellow publishers in the Canadian Press Association of being invited to take charge of one of the two special trains which are to convey the Imperial Press Conference delegates across the continent, the *British Columbia Monthly* held it timely to secure a few notes of his career.

Born in Bruce County, Ontario, something over forty years ago, John Nelson was "brought up," or as it is put on this continent in speaking of human beings as well as of stock, "raised on a farm." His home was about two miles from the little town of Paisley, and his newspaper experience began with work on the weekly "Paisley Advocate," which was owned by his brother-in-law, Major McGraw. "Bruce County" is a part of Eastern Canada over which even Old Country born Canadians in the West soon gather that there is some glamour, as is perhaps befitting such a name as "Bruce." But, as his own not-less-famous name would indicate, Mr. Nelson is of English stock.

About twenty years ago he came to Victoria where he became a reporter on the "Times." Later he passed from head of the editorial staff to manager of that newspaper for the Company of which Senator Templeman was then nominally the chief.

About ten years ago when Mr. J. H. Matson purchased the "News-Advertiser" in Vancouver, Mr. Nelson came over to take charge of it and held that position for about five years when he entered upon his present position as managing director of the "World."

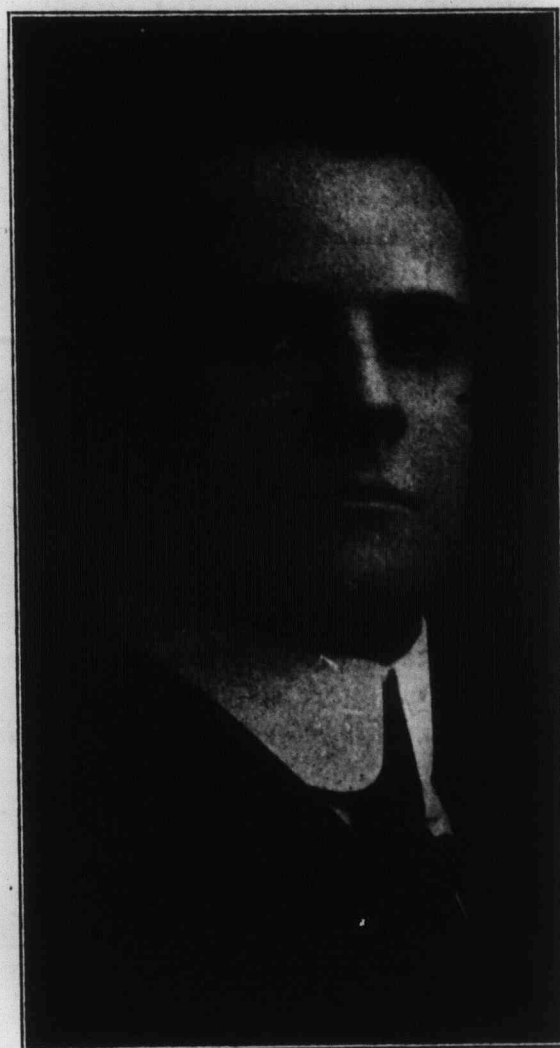
As one prominent journalist who has come much in contact with Mr. Nelson remarked to the B.C.M. representative, the Chief of Staff of the "World" has had the rather unusual combination of practical experience in both the editorial and business sides of a daily newspaper.

However opinions may differ about the policy of the paper, many besides Prohibitionists have no doubt recognized that the publisher of the "World" showed considerable courage when he championed the Prohibition Cause and committed the "World" to it at a time when it was by no means certain that that cause would triumph. The success which has so far been achieved by the Prohibitionists may in no small measure be attributed to the fact that that Cause had the support of one of the daily papers. Nor is the value of his work done lessened by the fact that the "World" happens to be the oldest among the daily newspapers of the mainland, and that it was generally recognized that a new lease of life and also a lease of new life were given to it when John Nelson became manager.

Having a broad vision of the news necessities of Canada and particularly of the West, Mr. Nelson became one of the Chief Promoters of the Canadian Press Association, which now operates leased wires from Halifax to Victoria on a con-

tinuous day and night service; and he has served several times as a director of the C. P. A.

It is interesting to know in connection with his present mission that this Vancouver publisher was one of the Canadian Representatives who went to London to attend the Imperial Press Conference held there before the War. In the circumstances Mr. Nelson is likely to find a good many old friends or former acquaintances among the contingent of Imperial Press men whom he has been commissioned to welcome at Sydney, Nova Scotia and escort from there all the way to the Terminal City at the Pacific Coast.



MR. JOHN NELSON.

Managing Director and publisher of the "Daily World," Vancouver, B.C., who has been commissioned by the Canadian Press Association to act as Press Escort of one of the two special trains conveying the Imperial Press Conference Delegates across the continent.

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