

ROBERT J. C. STEAD, POET OF THE PRAIRIES

ROBERT J. C. STEAD, of Calgary, is the only singer of any decided merit that the Canadian West has yet produced. That other Robert, who has won such wide fame with his unconventional Klondike lyrics, is a hinterland poet; his verse is not truly representative of the life and thought of the vast majority of people whom we call Westerners. Robert Service has voiced the varied emotions of miners and adventurers, transients in a wildly beautiful and, in many respects, terrible land of ice and gold. Stead, on the other hand, while living in sight of the ice-crowned Rockies and with the lonely wilderness not many hours distant, centres his gaze upon the prairie country with its peaceful industry and innumerable problems incidental to the settling of a fertile empire. Occasionally cowboys and smugglers gallop through the foot-hills of