

LEGAL TECHNICALITIES AND QUIBBLING of course are mainly responsible for the temporary toleration of this system. It is well to learn from an official source that even in this respect the attention of the powers-that-be is being directed to changing the situation.

* * * *

THAT AGGRESSIVE PERSONALITY, Mr. F. W. Marsh, B. C. manager of one of the leading life insurance companies, gave an entertaining as well as interesting address to the Life Underwriters following his recent return from "Europe." The luncheon was at the Hudson's Bay rooms. The speaker was evidently considerably impressed by his contact with men and affairs in the present centre of Empire. At any rate, his address was a very creditable one. The sympathetic audience no doubt influenced the speaker.

* * * *

GOOD STORIES LIGHTENED AND BRIGHTENED Mr. Marsh's address, which was at no time dull. The records played on the steamer phonograph on the sea voyage during meal hours on an unsettling day, he said, seemed unconsciously to be timed to suit the occasion—and the dwindling company in the dining saloon. "I Hear You Calling Me" was one, and it was followed by "I'm Forever Blowing Bubbles."

* * * *

LIFE INSURANCE AND THE CLIMAX OF ASSURANCE might be made the title of another story told by Mr. Marsh. An enterprising agent, who evidently believed that attendance at an entertainment should not interfere with work, was alleged to have submitted an application form to a companion in a theatre, and to have been so eager to get his signature that time and again his voice was heard between the pauses in the "patter" of an eminent entertainer who happened to be acquainted with the life insurance man. At last the patience of the entertainer became exhausted, and, stopping abruptly, he addressed the insurance agent by name from the stage and said: "When you have finished your business, Mr. Blank, I'll go on with mine!"

* * * *

AS MR. MARSH REMARKED, that would have silenced most men; but the agent in question, with fountain pen in hand, turned again to his "prospect" and exclaimed in a clear tone: "Come on, now, sign it; don't you see you are holding up the whole show!"

* * * *

"AND HE GOT THE SIGNATURE," we think Mr. Marsh added. At any rate, some may hold he deserved it. Next?

* * * *

IF MR. MARSH GOT—AND GAVE—NEW LIGHT on conditions and methods affecting insurance work in Britain, many of his fellow citizens in Vancouver got new light on him from what was a delightfully chatty after-luncheon speech.

* * * *

ENTHUSIASM, LIKE CHARITY, may cover a multitude of mistakes, and a man's very zeal may sometimes outrun his discretion. At any time we would rather compliment than adversely criticize, and believe it is better to laugh than to frown folk out of their foibles or failings. But we have all to learn in one way or another, that social or community interest—in home, club, city or country—is bigger than what concerns the individual viewpoint.

* * * *

HIS VERY EARNESTNESS no doubt led a Kiwanian to make a prolonged speech in place of an announcement, the other week. Following that, it was all the more gratifying to note that the group of workers that speaker represented, by their efforts in another direction, earned the silver cup for the best roses.

MR. ED. BROWN AND HIS ASSISTANT MR. PROCTER, worked with that garden and flower enthusiast, Mr. James Stables, with the result that the Vancouver Kiwanis Club has another "flower in its cap" and cup in its keeping. Congratulations, all!

* * * *

VANCOUVER CITY COUNCIL methods regarding the letting of contracts has come under severe criticism. According to statements made, there seems good ground for calling for an investigation.

* * * *

"CITY FATHERS" AND CITY OFFICIALS, like other folk, may jointly and severally officially and privately, make errors of judgment which may best be condoned or forgotten. But any deliberate manipulation of official figures for ulterior private purposes, or evasion of responsibility by any officer or representative should earn speedy retirement.

* * * *

CLEAN GOVERNMENT AT ALL COSTS must be the slogan in city and province if Western Canada is to flourish by natural products and British or other capital.

* * * *

"CALLED TO THE BAR" will apply to Vancouver City Council in December next, and what the public verdict may be then will depend on revelations or justifications in the meantime.

THE FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE C. A. A. — JOHN MURRAY GIBBON

(From Page 7)

"There was complete silence in the room until John Murray Gibbon ceased speaking."

"He spent some six years in this apostolic mission of spreading the glad news about Canada 'in partibus infidelium'; but the 'infidels,' particularly in Mittel-Europa, for reasons which we now understand all too clearly, kept growing more and more unsympathetic to his preachings, and in 1913 he was asked to come to Canada as General Publicity Agent for the Canadian Pacific Railway. He had already visited the Dominion annually or oftener for six or seven years, and he was satisfied that Canada, and the C. P. R. had a future. His 'Scots in Canada,' a picturesque and vivacious narrative of Scottish settlements in this country, was published about the time of his arrival here as a resident, and speedily won him a place in literary circles in Montreal and Toronto. But it was his first novel, 'Hear's and Face' (John Lane), which drew the attention of the general Canadian public to the fact that they had amongst them, not as yet a Canadian novelist, but a very important British novelist dwelling in Canada."

In reviewing Mr. Gibbon's later literary work, Mr. Sandwell points out that "Gibbon has gone on steadily adding to his portrait gallery of types and his sketches of social backgrounds ever since he came to this side of the Atlantic."

*"Men may rise on stepping stones
Of their dead selves to higher things."*

THE B. C. M. AS The Magazine of the Canadian West

Is appointing representatives throughout B. C., Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Address: Manager, B. C. M., 1100 Bute Street
Vancouver, B. C.