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With an Advisory Editorial
Committee of Literary
Men and Women

THE TWENTIETH CENTURY SPECTATOR OF BRITAIN'S FARTHEST WEST
For Community Service—Social, Educational, Literary and Religious; but Independent of Party, Sect or Faction.
"BE BRITISH," COLUMBIANS!

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Editorial Notes

SO CROWDED ARE THESE DAYS with events of more or less importance to the community, that the commentator with limited time and space at his disposal may well have a difficulty in selecting topics for precedence.

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APART FROM WHAT THE COMMISSIONER'S JUDGMENT ON the P. G. E. Inquiry (now under way) may be, or the effect on British Columbia political parties, one thing is suggested by the allegations made, namely, that it is highly desirable that some system be evolved and tried out practically, whereby approved Parliamentary Candidates—no matter what their Party connection—should be guaranteed the necessary "election expenses." So far as all candidates and Parties alike are concerned, the present system tends to support the unhappy and unwholesome allegation that "every man has his price."

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NO MATTER WHAT THE PERSONAL OR PRIVATE CONSIDERATIONS which may have been involved in the transaction, the merging of "Vancouver Daily World" with the "Vancouver Daily Sun" office and management is a subject of public interest. In these days we are often reminded that political party considerations or personal money-making may be the dominating factors in changes in management in newspapers. And of course newspapers—and all other publications—must work for a surplus in their business department, no less than other forms of industry and social service. But according to a ruling idea of journalism, which may be considered a bit old-fashioned in some parts, its outstanding attraction is the opportunity it gives for influencing the Thought life of the Community regarding all questions affecting public welfare and human progress.

In that connection particularly, we congratulate the publisher of "Vancouver Daily Sun" on his enlarged opportunity for Community Service, and trust that a correspondingly en-

larged vision as to relative values—needed by us all in such circumstances—may accompany it.

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THE PICTURE OF "PRESIDENT HARDING IN VANCOUVER" (to be sent to Washington, D. C.) is a fact in which every loyal Western Canadian will find satisfaction. Many may hold that it should have been supplied and presented by the City of Vancouver—if not indeed by the Province of British Columbia.

But we are glad that it was thought of and executed without undue delay, and congratulations are due to all concerned. First and foremost should that hearty and wholesome specimen of a "Native Son," Mr. Bruce McKelvie, be given credit for expressing the idea. After all the idea was at least as important as the ability to paint or pay for the work. Mr. John Innes the painter, will have the satisfaction of knowing that his name will be associated with a work of historical value to the United States and Canada too, and, in common with others, we sincerely congratulate our fellow-citizen. Finally, the name of the "Vancouver Sun" will go down (in a "setting" that will know no setting) to generations associated with the gift. Here, again, some may hold that the painting might better have been presented by a citizen—the citizen behind the "Sun" rather than in a name of the newspaper,—lest it would seem to be used as a form of advertisement.

In that connection perhaps it is right to note that we understand that another prominent publisher did not take up the idea because he held that it should be carried out—without such association, and by the City—or a citizen.

At the same time—provided undue use is not made of the gift in an overdone advertising way—many will approve of the spirit which prompts a man to put his work before himself.

In any case, we repeat, it should be gratifying to Western Canadians, and Vancouver residents particularly, that the historic visit to Vancouver of President Harding has been so fittingly commemorated.

Educational

(By Spectator)

In a brief resume of matters educational in New Zealand one of our city dailies has been betrayed into several errors more or less pardonable. In the article referred to we are told that in New Zealand "Co-education is a thing practically unknown, except in one or two technical schools." The reverse is more nearly the truth. Co-education is the rule in primary schools, district high schools and the university. In the cities, however, there are boys' grammar schools and girls' grammar schools.

We are next told that high school tuition is free only for those students who have passed the proficiency examination, and a further satisfactory examination at the end of the second high school year. This is true, yet a very small percentage of New Zealand high school pupils pay fees. Some years ago, in the Boys' Grammar School, Auckland, approximately nine hundred pupils out of nine hundred and fifty had

free places. The proficiency examination is the equivalent of the British Columbia high school entrance examination. Failure at this examination in British Columbia closes the high school door to the would-be entrant. Such a candidate might be admitted to a New Zealand grammar school, but he would be required to pay fees.

Next comes the extraordinary statement that in New Zealand "no rural schools exist, but for the country child a correspondence course is prepared," etc. As in other countries where popular education obtains there is the usual distribution of rural schools. According to the report of the New Zealand Education Department for the year 1921 there were in all 2,498 primary schools. Of these 203 had an enrollment of from 1 to 8 pupils each; 703 enrolled from 9 to 20 each; 542 from 21 to 35 each; and 588 from 36 to 80 each; and so on. The term "rural school" is not officially used; nor is one