

If we consider the question from the standpoint of the daily activities of life, we can, perhaps, group the subject matter of our article under four heads: educational, political, commercial and social. Of these the highest and most important is, in our opinion, the educational; and that is true not only because of the vast field of enterprise and influence which education itself affords in British Columbia but because of the present stage and condition of our educational progress.

Perhaps the first thing which comes to the mind, no matter how cursory a view of our educational conditions be taken, is the University of British Columbia. Can the importance of this institution, rightly conducted, be overestimated? Or can its influence for good or evil be at all realized or foreseen, even by the closest student of our local affairs? None will deny that in the opportunity given it for moulding the thought and character of the citizenship of what will ultimately be one of the greatest provinces in our Dominion—of its reaching and touching the thought and character of the Orient, as well as of our neighbors in the Pacific States of the great republic to the south of us, and the other portions of the world by which geographically, politically, or commercially, we are brought in contact, fortune has laid at its door

An Almost Unparalleled Opportunity which carries with it, however, the concomitant responsibility in the answer which the years will give to the question—How has it performed its duty? Doubtless many will figure in its history who will be endowed with the highest qualifications of ability, character and energy, but in the main the responsibility for the answer will rest upon, in a peculiar manner, the univer-

sity people of British Columbia of average rank and attainment.

Much there is deserving of commendation in the preliminary work so far undertaken in respect of the proposed university, but it is greatly to be regretted that the first Convocation held in connection with the university scheme should have been so fully occupied in the discussion of detail matters which should never have received its attention; while there was an entire absence of discussion of those educational questions and problems which even now confront us and which should not in fairness be left to the principal and his colleagues, no matter how excellent their calibre and character may be, aided by such help as can be afforded by the bodies and committees such as the proposed university constitution allows.

Be that as it may, it remains true that on the university men and women of British Columbia, particularly those who are at present here, rests the duty of seeing that no effort is spared to place this institution on a proper basis. The Government must be interviewed if the claims and demands of the university are not to be overlooked in the crush of other governmental work. The public must be inspired with a proper regard for the best and highest interests of this great work and the materialistic influences of the present day in British Columbia must be overcome. Will we prove worthy of the occasion?

It will not be sufficient to have attention concentrated on the university project, taken by itself; if it is to do for British Columbia what is desirable it must be the crowning glory of a sound educational system, and one door of opportunity now open to the university man or woman in British Col-