

Greetings

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HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

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HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

Founded 1749

Bicentenary 1949

50 years from now is relatively unimportant. After all, the world experiences many changes over that period of years; it is not surprising that our tastes in literature should differ from those of our grandparents. Personally we have always felt that *Maria Chapdelaine* was one of the most insipid tales we have had the doubtful pleasure to read. And yet our schools use it as a classic example of Canadian literature. Mr. McCourt seems to think along the same academic lines, for he favorably compares one novel of western life to that tale of Old Quebec.

At times this reviewer felt that the author allowed himself to be carried away, in his searching analysis of the authors he has considered. But the book is interesting and well done. It is recommended to those who take their reading seriously, especially devotees of Ralph Connor, Robert Stead, Nellie McClung, "the magnificent failure" Frederick Philip Grove, and other well-known authors of western tales.

Edward McCourt is well-qualified to write such a book as this. He was a Rhodes Scholar, and studied under Edmund Blunden, the poet. Returning to Canada he taught at Ridley College, Upper Canada College, Queen's University, the University of New Brunswick and finally was appointed Professor of English at the University of Saskatchewan. He is the author of two novels, *Music at the Close* and *The Flaming Hour*, both about the West.

The Lance-Corporal William Donkin, favorably mentioned in the opening chapter as author of *Trooper and Redskin*, was actually Reg. No. 1094 ex-Cpl. John George Donkin. He served in the NWMP from Sept. 30, 1884 to Mar. 12, 1888, when he purchased his discharge. His book was known as *Trooper and Redskin in the North-West*, and was published in 1889. Donkin died the following year in poverty. Of him, Mr. McCourt says: "It is a pity that he did not try his hand at fiction. One suspects that had he done so he would have been our first realistic novelist." A.P.