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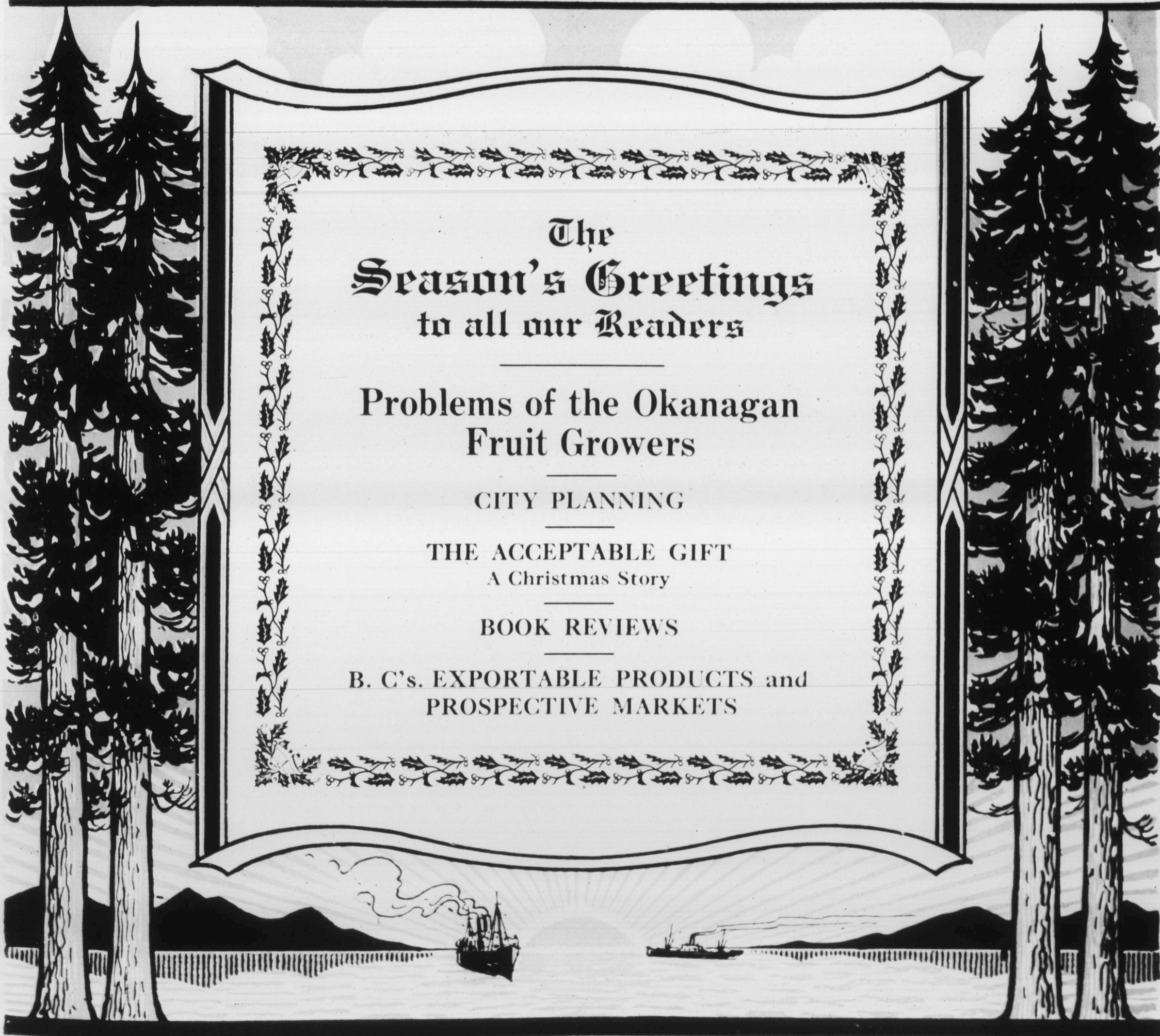
The Magazine of The Canadian West

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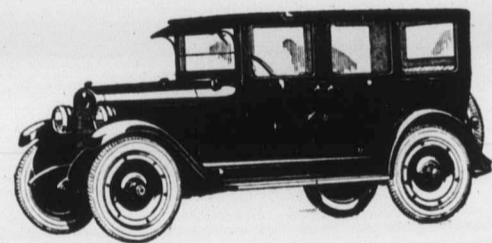
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BUY B. C. PRODUCTS

(By W. B. Forster.)

There has been considerable comment recently on the fact that the provincial debt and expenditure of British Columbia is higher than that of any other province in the Dominion of Canada.

It must be remembered that British Columbia is one of the youngest provinces, and many of her undertakings are still in their infancy. Just as in opening up a new industry, the initial overhead expense is always heavy, it becomes lighter in the course of ordinary successful development.

A comparison with the Province of Nova Scotia, whose population, according to the census of 1921, is 524,579, against 524,582 in British Columbia, is enlightening.

With population practically equal, the provincial debt of Nova Scotia is \$33.76 per capita, compared with \$94.19 in British Columbia; whilst her per capita expenditure is \$8.88, as against \$29.08 in B. C.

As the former is the older province, she has naturally had a longer time to reduce her debt and dependent expenditure, but her administration must be exceptional in that her provincial debt and expenditure are 40 per cent. below the average for the whole of Canada.

On the other hand, the average farm value per acre in B. C. is \$174, compared with \$41 in Nova Scotia, and in the matter of industries the former with 1786 plants, producing 216 million annually, far exceeds the latter with 2125 plants, producing 133 million.

British Columbia is maintaining her position both in agricultural and industrial expansion, but in the matter of population her development is slow. She is in that stage of economic development when her population is small in relation to her wealth of natural resources, and when the export of raw materials must pay for imported capital to develop them.

Within the Dominion of Canada there is every indication of a new era of prosperity governed by the remarkable expansion of her export trade, and the influx of new capital to increase the exploitation of natural resources and the development of industries.

It is therefore incumbent upon the citizens of the province to do everything in their power to attract new settlers and industries, and at the same time expand existing industries, by giving an increased buying preference to HOME PRODUCTS.

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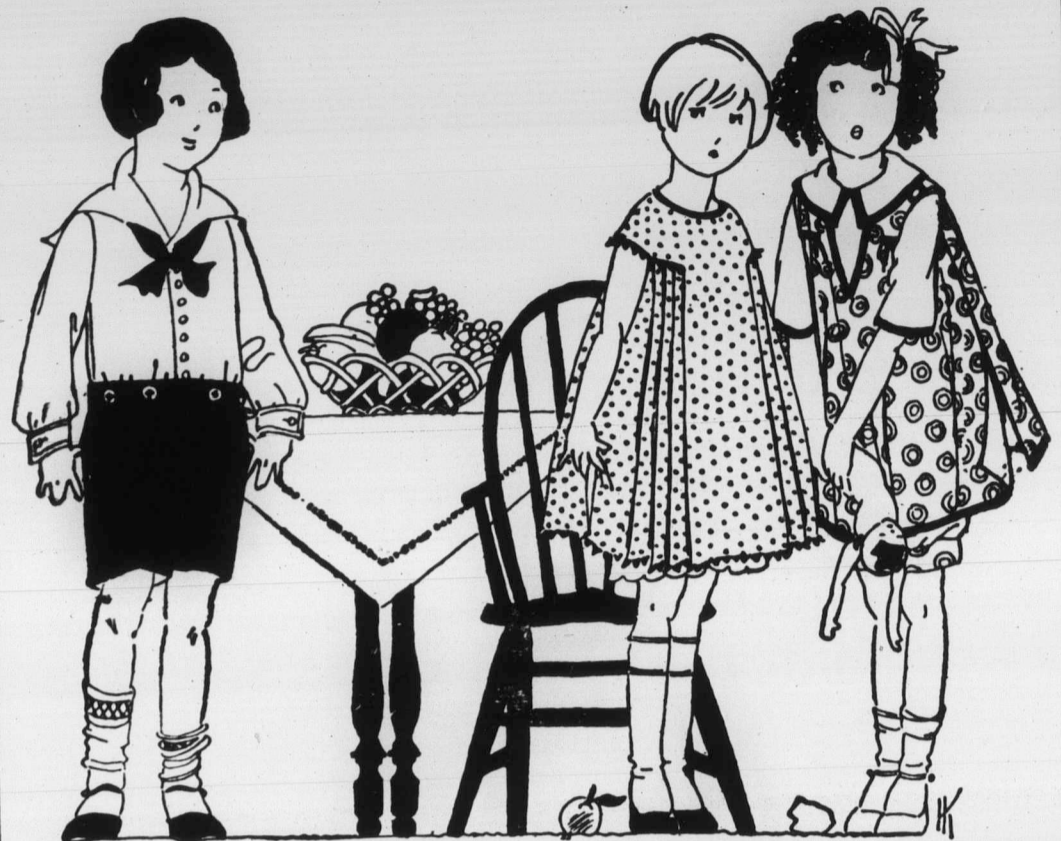
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PROBLEMS OF THE OKANAGAN FRUIT-GROWER

(By Capt. F. C. Brown.)

The writer has frequently been asked to give some statement as to why the products, especially apples, of the Okanagan fruit-growers are not finding a market at a profit. There are many causes, the chief of which might be enumerated under the following heads:—

(1.) Heavy crops were harvested in all the fruit-growing districts in Canada, while many markets were sluggish owing to financial conditions.

(2.) Lack of cold-storage facilities that would allow reasonable control of distribution.

(3.) Growers consigning shipments direct to wholesalers, retailers, and consumers.

(4.) Lack of co-operation between growers and shippers in marketing their products.

This has been the greatest apple year in Canada's history. Reports from Ontario tell us that that old apple-producing province gathered the biggest crop in its history, in fact it was not fully gathered and markets for large quantities were not found, chiefly because the growers were not organized to market efficiently.

Without cold-storage facilities there is no safe method of holding both fall and winter varieties of apples and regulating the supply for all markets. Apple cold-storage is absolutely essential in order to control distribution. It is nothing short of a crime for growers and shippers to flood the market with winter apples in the months of October and November when fall varieties are still on hand in large quantities. If the famous McIntosh Red, for example, is to maintain its reputation, and sell for its true value, a large percentage of the crop must be held back in cold-storage till December. The spectacle of McIntosh Reds selling at \$1.25 a box in the month of November, because the jobber must get rid of them, is disheartening to the grower, while the psychological effect on the consumer is bad. Lack of cold-storage facilities available for all shippers has been the main cause of heavy stocks of both early and late varieties of apples being consigned to the wholesale trade. Some years ago the growers of Yakima were struggling with similar adverse conditions, and asked the late James J. Hill for his opinion as to the solution. His reply was: "Cold-storage and distribution, by which method



Nova Scotia's fine old orchards produced wonderful crops. One estimate placed the crop at over 2,000,000 barrels. A big percentage of Nova Scotia's yearly crop finds its way to the Old Country, where practically all shipments are sold under the hammer. This system makes it difficult for B. C. shippers to sell in Great Britain at fixed prices early in the season, the market prices there being almost solely controlled by supply and demand from day to day.

Our Okanagan Valley crop alone this year is in excess of 3,400 carloads (approximately 2,400,000 boxes) or about 400 cars over the estimates supplied to the Government from surveys made in July and August.

With such heavy crops from all our fruit-growing districts we were bound to see apples literally dumped into every jobbing centre, and offered at ridiculous prices, because we had no organized method of preventing such a condition.

you will be able to feed the public according to their requirements. By this system congestion of railway traffic or markets will be avoided."

Each year sees an increase in the number of growers who are packing and shipping direct to retailers and consumers. This traffic is doing great harm to our markets and serving no good purpose, for in the long run the grower must lose by such methods. The man who accepts this system of marketing his fruit not only provides himself with a great deal more labour, but faces poor prospects of building permanent and lucrative markets for his products. If only ten per cent. of the growers adopt this system of selling direct to all classes of dealers, they will to a large extent adversely affect the efforts of the ninety per cent. to control and keep steady the markets by distribution through proper channels. This year large quantities of poorly packed and graded fruit were sent

into Vancouver direct from producers and peddled to all corners of the city at prices that can scarcely return the grower the cost of container, packing and shipping. This condition lowers the standard and reputation of B. C. fruit, while one can safely say that consumption of apples is not being increased. A continued effort on the part of these growers to find their own market will have a very serious effect on the future of the industry. For the good of the industry, their fellow-growers and themselves, they should fall in line and have their products go through the proper channels.

Lack of co-operation in distribution is the main cause of all this, as well as of last year's difficulties. With the growers united, the causes above named would be small factors, easily overcome. There has been a decided lack of co-operation in distribution between the Okanagan United Growers and the independent shippers. While all made efforts to sell at uniform prices agreed upon, these prices could not hold, because all were seeking the same home markets at the same time. In other words, the growers were competing against themselves at a time when every packing house was heavily stocked.

The result was the wholesalers refused in most cases to buy at any stated prices, and in the end got abundant consignment stocks (that is, shipments for sale on a purely commission basis). This condition they easily forecasted, knowing that the growers and shippers were not co-operating through a central selling agency. For such a situation the growers themselves are mainly responsible, for while the majority may not approve of the union organization, they should not leave the marketing solely in the hands of their shippers. There must be a measure of control that will guarantee proper distribution, preventing breaking of markets at a time when the utmost care should be exercised in handling the market for the protection of the early varieties.

For example, no attention was paid to the question of how much fruit Vancouver market could handle. Growers and shippers simply threw their supplies at the retailer and wholesaler, with the result that apples for a time really had little market value. Before the stocks of early or poor-keeping varieties are sold, thousands of boxes will require re-packing at considerable expense, or will have to be disposed of at great sacrifice.

The majority of the jobbers would welcome any move on the part of the growers that would insure control of supplies. The responsible houses prefer to purchase their supplies when they have reasonable assurance that the market will not be flooded periodically through lack of co-ordination of effort on the part of growers and shippers. The jobbers, in their own interests, stand ready to co-operate for a steady, well-balanced market, where supplies are regulated to meet the demand.

The suggestion on the part of many growers that the O. U. G. should establish wholesale houses at jobbing centres throughout the West, is nothing short of ridiculous. Such a policy would be a short cut to suicide. The co-operation of the numerous well-established jobbing houses that have about given up any idea of purchasing Washington apples, so long as B. C. apples are well graded and packed, means success for our industry.

So long as the grower is satisfied to haul his fruit to a packing house without any guarantee that that packing house will line up with the others for the control of distribution through one agency, just so long will he be subject to a repetition of this year's marketing, and remain without any favorable outlook for the future of his industry.

The solution for the permanent establishment of the industry on a commercial basis lies in the word "distribution."

Distribution in a manner that will ensure control of a steady, ample supply for all available markets can only be brought about by the establishment of cold-storage plants at points that will best serve the trade. But the value of such

facilities can easily be over-estimated if the growers themselves do not put up a united front and demand sound co-operative marketing method on the part of all shippers.

The shippers throughout the Okanagan and Kootenay countries must be converted to the spirit of co-operation in its real sense and become parties to a compact that will ensure beyond all doubt sound distribution methods, with strict adherence to prices agreed upon by the growers from time to time. Such a compact must be binding, because while the spirit of co-operation is essential, some men need to be put under heavy penalties to enable them consistently to put this spirit into practice. The situation is in the hands of the growers, for they can, if they unite, refuse to ship through any packing house that does not become a party to the distribution compact. Any compact of this kind might carry a penalty clause calling for a bond on the part of each shipper for the protection of the growers. The important feature of any contract between grower and shipper, and shipper and shipper, should be the bringing into force of one central selling agency or clearing house, which would control the distribution of the entire crop to all markets. Such central agency should be under the control of the growers themselves, as it is their fruit that has to be marketed, and they should have the say as to prices.

If the Provincial and Federal Governments cannot be induced to give aid for the establishment of the necessary cold-storage plants, then the only solution of the present unsatisfactory state of affairs is for the growers to line themselves behind one big co-operative association that will control at least eighty per cent. of the crops. By this method they could get the financial backing to build cold-storage houses as conditions require. The success, however, of any such association depends largely upon the length of contract that the grower is called upon to sign, the longer the period the better, preferably not less than five years.

(Turn to Page 14)

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CITY PLANNING

(By Wm. Elgie Bland)

(Chairman Education Committee on City Planning)

Not all Vancouver citizens are aware that a committee has been working for many years in their interests to secure the passing of a "City Planning Act" for B. C. similar to that which all other provinces in Canada already enjoy. The object is to put the future development of our cities upon a sound basis by planning well ahead in the fullest interest of citizens as a whole, and so eliminate the serious cost to taxpayers of rectifying mistakes always associated with what is known as "haphazard" development. In view of the fact that we have the experience of the older cities to guide us in this new province of B. C., the avoiding of their mistakes is an obvious duty.

There is a mistaken idea amongst most citizens who have not given this question much thought, that "City Planning" means beautifying our cities. This is by no means the basis of City Planning, but is part of the ultimate result, that is to say, a properly planned city will naturally be an orderly and beautiful city.

The economic side is the important one, and the one that takes chief place in all well-thought out city plans. The procedure of efficient city planning is, first, the appointment of a "City Planning Commission" by the Mayor and City Council, and it usually consists of a number (say 10) of public-spirited, capable citizens who give their time gratuitously and because of their interest in, and love for, their city. They are assisted by an Engineer, usually associated with the City Engineering Department, and are given power, when necessary, to call in, for advisory purposes, a City Planning expert. Seattle has had such a Commission sitting for two years preparing a zoning plan for Seattle and district. Their plan and report is now ready to hand over to their City Council complete, and it is confidently assumed that they will save millions of dollars as a result of the two years' work of this Commission.

It may be stated that our Aldermen should undertake this work, but such contention is in practice impossible. Our Mayor and Aldermen have all work enough in the efficient management of the city's affairs, and have not the time to give to such exhaustive and detailed work as the preparation of a complete plan for the future development of the city, and its surrounding districts, so that perfect co-operation will result. This is an undertaking that means two or three years' work of a special Commission who will make a careful study of the principles underlying such duties, and a complete survey of the city and surrounding districts. This fact has been conclusively proved by every city in Great Britain, the States and Eastern Canada.

A "City Planning Act" is now before Parliament at Victoria, in the care of Mrs. Ralph Smith, who has made a careful study of the work, and it is hoped and anticipated it will become law this session. There is no Bill before Parliament so important to the interests of citizens.

Some may ask what advantages are there, over our present methods, in City Planning? A few comparisons will enable any intelligent citizen to appreciate the advantages.

Take Ward 8 of Vancouver City—developed under "haphazard" methods—and compare it with Shaughnessy Heights, developed under City Planning methods. The former, according to figures prepared by Mr. Dalzell, late Assistant City Engineer, represents in development cost one-million more dollars than the latter. Yet compared with Shaughnessy—a district of about the same area—it is a disgrace to any "modern" city, and its maintenance in the future will be proportionately heavier.

Again—think of the money expended in buying up land for car line service—such as Fourth and Ninth Avenues. Hundreds of thousands have been expended that would never have been necessary if the city had been properly planned

ahead. Such roads would have been provided to the required widths without cost to the city.

We are spending enormous sums of money at our sanatoriums to try and cure tuberculosis, and cannot indeed find accommodation for the patients. Yet, owing to the "haphazard" City Planning, we have congested parts in our city that are developing these patients quicker than we can cure them, even at the enormous outlay provided. Under proper City Planning these congested parts—our future slum section—would never have existed, and a portion of this expense would have been avoided.

Think of the millions that have been expended in making plank roads, sidewalks, water and sewer mains, etc., to outlying sub-divisions to enable some private interest to make a bigger profit out of their sales, at the expense of the public taxes. This is "haphazard" development, and would not have been possible if a proper plan showing future city development had been available.

Think of the hundreds of thousands that have been abstracted from innocent citizens for so-called building sites that will not be required for such purpose for twenty years ahead. This should still be productive agricultural land, taxed as such, and bringing in a revenue, in place of abstracting taxes from citizens or being a loss through tax sales.

Think of the absurdity of sub-dividing valuable industrial sites, near water front and rail tracks, into 25-foot lots, making it impossible to get industrial sites at a reasonable cost, and keeping increased prosperity (represented by industrial development) away from the city. Under a proper City Plan these sites would have been retained in acreage for their legitimate purpose, and not used by speculators to extract unreasonable profits; and the citizen would have been benefited.

Think of the streets and sewers that have been pulled up because of lack of forethought in anticipating reasonable development under "haphazard" methods.

Think of the enormous loss in the depreciation of some properties—especially in the West End—as a result of garages, laundries, stores, woodworking factories, etc., being erected next to residences, representing decreased assessments and decreased taxes. That loss is understood to run into millions of dollars in the West End alone. Under a proper "City Planning" scheme these businesses would have been zoned into districts, where they would have increased, rather than decreased, the value of properties.

Consider what we have to pay for our parks and playgrounds by "haphazard" development; leaving their purchase until values have run into enormous figures—in certain cases as much as \$30,000 per acre. Under a proper "City Planning" Act" these would have been secured ahead, in suitable locations, at little or no cost to the city.

These are but a few illustrations of what "haphazard" development means to our citizens—in dollars and cents language—and many others might be noted.

One result is, there is not money enough left to put our city into proper shape to encourage the enormous tourist traffic—which itself may represent millions annually. Nor can we readily provide sufficient schools for our children, or repair our bridges or house our civic staff adequately.

Surely it is time citizens began to think seriously of these matters and let our Government representatives at Victoria know that they must get busy in connection with such important legislation as a "City Planning Act"—which should indeed have been put on the statute book ten years ago when the first deputation waited upon the Government with such a request.

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B.C.'s. Exportable Products and Prospective Markets

(By J. B. Thomson, Vice-President of the Vancouver Board of Trade.)

Address delivered to the members of the Foreign Trade Bureau of the Vancouver Board of Trade, at the weekly meeting in the Hotel Vancouver on the 8th of December, 1922.

It seems to me that there are three fundamental principles necessary for any country to engage successfully in export business:

(1.) A supply of basic material required for export, whether raw or finished, or facilities for securing raw materials to be wrought into the finished product for export.

(2.) Adequate transportation facilities for the handling of products within our own borders, as well as for transporting same to foreign markets.

(3.) Markets to absorb our exports.

Mark Twain is credited with once having said that the most prosperous community he ever saw was a little settlement somewhere in the mountains of the south, where the sole occupation of the inhabitants was taking in each other's washing. There may be those who agree with this view, but personally it is not my opinion. In my opinion, export trade is the most important factor in the development of any country or nation, because it is the only sound means of acquiring wealth from the outside world and of making it economically possible for us to purchase from the outside world those of our raw materials and finished products which it is necessary for us to import.

It goes without saying that foreign capital brought into the country as a result of our exports is of immense value to our governments, both federal and provincial, through the impetus it gives to the development of our raw resources, and for this reason I think that some recognition by our governments should be given to the exporting community by differentiating in taxation as between domestic and foreign business.

It is undeniable that the government is rendering extremely valuable assistance to our exporters through the Department of Trade and Commerce and through the efficient Trade Commissioner service maintained abroad. The Department of Customs also recognize the need of assisting exporters in competing in foreign markets and allow drawback of practically the entire duty paid on imports of either raw materials or finished products, which are re-exported from Canada, but I think that this consideration for Canadian exporters should be extended to the matter of taxation in recognition, as I have said, of the important part which exporters play in the introduction of foreign capital into Canada.

If I am correctly informed, Great Britain is already working along these lines, and it has proven of vast importance to them in their foreign trade.

To increase the volume and value of exports from British Columbia, it seems to me that further attention will have to be given in the very near future to the establishment of industries for manufacturing to the fullest extent possible our native products, so that these products may be shipped in a more finished condition.

Products of our mines are to a large extent being shipped at the present time to other countries to be further manufactured into the finished article, notably, our copper. Would it not be better if we sent the finished bar and sheet copper, or going a step further, the finished electrical appliances, to the world's markets, rather than sending the raw copper abroad as at present?

This is only one illustration of the point I am trying to make, which is that if our raw resources were developed before being shipped as near to the completely finished article as possible, we would before many years passed have a tremendous number of inter-dependent industries giving employment to our citizens and contributing to the general welfare of the country. One could go on and apply this to all the im-

mense wealth-producing factors which we have, but I think you will agree with me that we are making a mistake in shipping too much of the raw product and too little of the finished.

One view of the export trade which is held in many quarters is that the export business consists only of selling in foreign markets the surplus production which we may have over and above the demands of the home market. To my mind this is entirely a mistaken theory, and one which the great exporting nations of the world have long since abandoned. To make a success of the export business, in any market, it is necessary to ascertain the requirements of the country we intend to sell to, and to make and ship an article in accordance with that country's requirements and not try and force upon them something which, while it may be eminently suitable for the domestic market, is not at all to the taste or liking of the market we are trying to ship to. Half the battle in any form of merchandising is offering your customers what they want in the form they want it. Using my own business as an illustration, what may be in style in Canada or the United States would be entirely foreign to the requirements of China or India.

One could go into details in regard to the question of markets and finished products as related to export trade to furnish a good many luncheon addresses, but I think you grasp my point in regard to the necessity of giving your prospective customers what they want, and I will now try and deal with the next point, that is, transportation.

A great deal of criticism has been levelled at the government for their expenditure on the C. G. M. M., and, while it may be true that on certain routes the actual return from the operation of the vessels has not been satisfactory from a revenue point of view, this cannot be said with regard to the ships sailing from British Columbia, as I understand that these vessels have, since the inception of their operation, shown a profit over operating expenses. The underlying factor, however, and where I think the government was justified in entering upon and continuing in the operation of ocean tonnage, lies in the added facilities which the operation of these vessels have given our exporters in reaching foreign markets.

Privately-owned steamship lines, whose only source of revenue is the freight collected on the cargo handled, recognize the desirability and necessity of placing their patrons as quickly as possible on an even footing with competitors in other countries, and have gone to the length, some of them, of quoting rates in certain cases on merchandise originating in Eastern Canada destined to such markets as the Orient, designed to place manufacturers in Eastern Canada on an even footing with those on this coast. If private transportation companies can afford to adopt such a policy for fostering Canadian exports, we believe that the government-owned steamship lines can afford to go much further in facilitating exports and developing new markets, through the added revenue accruing to the government in taxes levied upon industry and in the Customs revenue accruing to the government on increased imports which naturally follow if we increase our exports.

I referred in my opening remarks to the necessity of proper transportation facilities for domestic as well as for export shipments. The two principal points in this connection which I had in mind were, first, the grain movement through this port, and secondly, the sale of our exportable products in Eastern Canada, one of the retarding influences of both of these export movements being inadequate transport facilities.

(Turn to Page 10)

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D. A. CHALMERS
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With an Advisory Editorial
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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!

VOLUME XX.

DECEMBER, 1922

No. 2

NOTES and QUESTIONS

WITH CHRISTMAS AND THE CLOSE OF 1922 only two or three weeks off as we write these lines, our first duty, in the limited space available for Notes and Questions this month, is to wish every one practically interested in this Magazine the Compliments of the Season.

IN TYPE THE GREETING MAY SEEM FORMAL, but it is no less sincere than if it were expressed personally—to readers, advertisers, and the various contributors and associate workers, without the collective interest of all of whom the central management could not have maintained this publication into the twelfth year as The Community Service Magazine of the Canadian West.

WITHOUT ATTEMPTING TO DISCUSS "The Menace of Foreign Magazines," so ably expounded before Vancouver Canadian Club the other month by Mr. Vernon McKenzie, managing editor of MacLean's Magazine, Toronto, we have never denied that the task—or as we would prefer to call it, the congenial duty—of building a magazine medium for service in Western Canadian homes, has not been an easy one. Indeed it has been such that without a strong faith in an ideal of service, and a firm conviction that the production and development of an instrument whereby the THOUGHT LIFE (which governs action) of a community can be influenced, are more important than monetary success, the work could not well have been continued.

MANY CAUSES HAVE CONTRIBUTED to make the upbuilding of such a publication difficult. With the foundation assured, and increasing expansion in service throughout the Canadian West now well in sight, we do not care to dwell at any length here on the handicaps that have beset us. Yet on the well-founded reasoning that this is YOUR MAGAZINE and the Magazine of our contributors, a word or two to readers—subscribers and business folk alike—may not be amiss towards the end of one year and the beginning of another.

APART FROM THE PILES OF PRINTED MATTER of all kinds that find their way across the line from the United States, the age-old questioning of local familiarity is apt to be applied to publications as to individuals—as it was indeed to the Leading Exponent of life whose birthday we celebrate at Christmas—"Is not this the carpenter's son?" In all human relationships familiarity, or more correctly, perhaps, proximity, is liable to breed slowness of recognition, if not indifference, to real or relative values.

NEXT, MANY PEOPLE WILL UNTHINKINGLY take advantage of their nearness to a foreign market to buy there, without pausing to ask themselves if, while they take the benefits of, say, another country's bigger production (due to

bigger population, etc.) they are not by their action retarding the development of their own community?

IN THE MEASURE IN WHICH THE HOMES of British Columbia and the wider Canadian West demonstrate their interest in this representative Magazine, in that measure shall we advance towards the realization of our aim—to provide a bigger and better publication, nearer sixty than sixteen pages.

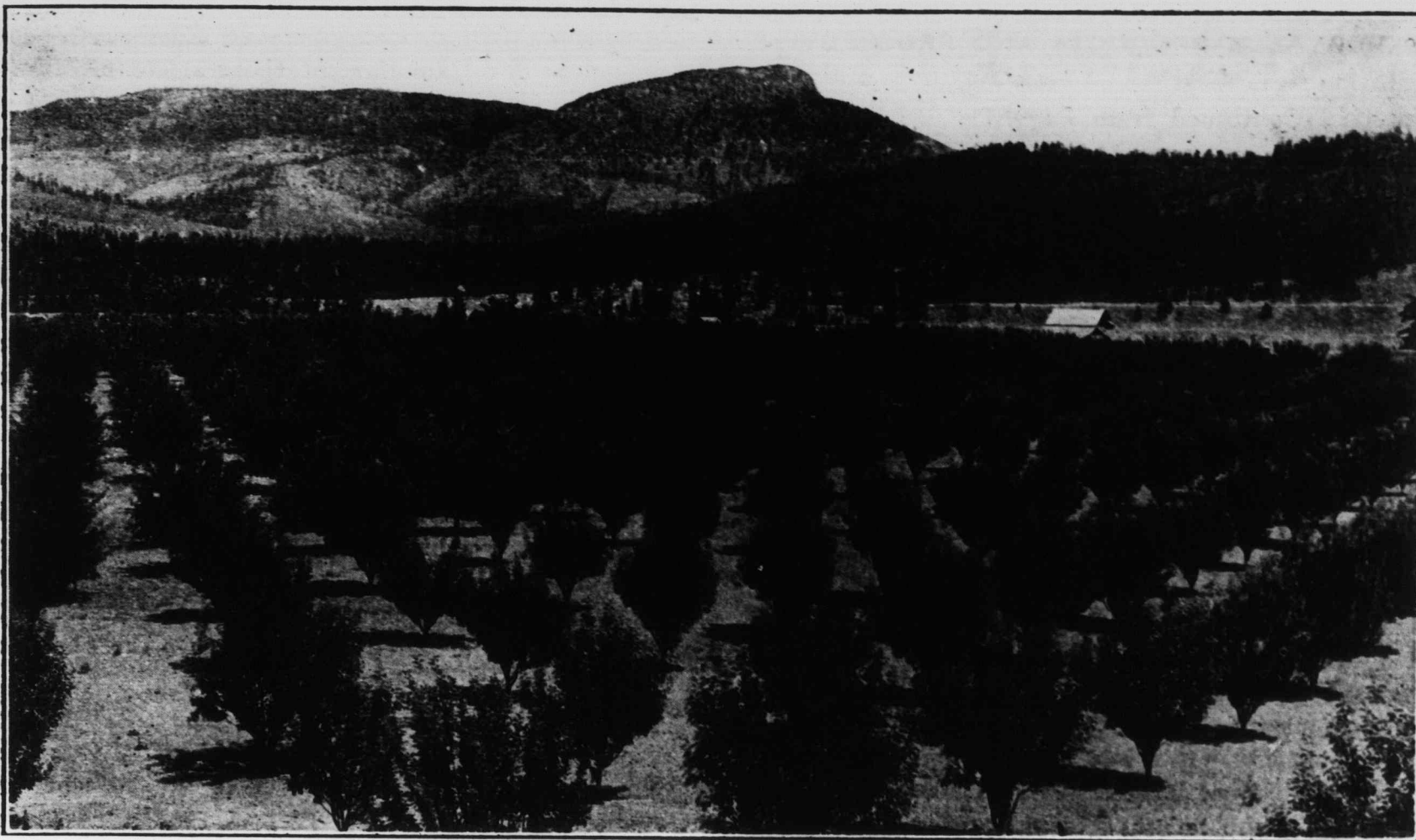
SIMILARLY, AS OUR OWN WESTERN CANADIAN business men and firms increasingly recognize that we seek to put something more attractive than newsprint, and (considering our contributors) than ordinary "news" into these homes, and wish, with a growing social and community service, to be progressively of use in a business way to "leaders in every line," so will they more and more use this Magazine as an advertising medium.

THE SPASMODIC LIFE AND SUDDEN DEATH of not a few experimental publications have contributed not a little in recent years to the difficulties besetting subscribers and advertisers alike. We simply ask that in considering the appeal of this Magazine, whether made personally, or through type, regarding business or subscriptions, readers of this paragraph help to prevent the B. C. M. being confused with or classed among the ephemeral. Steadily and strenuously it is being built for service not for a month or a year, but to last.

WITH ALL THAT WE NEED NOT HESITATE to say that we are still striving to overtake conditions created by the printers' strike of last year, when for months we had no alternative but to accept a service which was simply strangling in its nature. Following that, we had another experience demonstrating the unreliability of some printers. We do not wish to bother B. C. M. readers with our difficulties, but these facts and our earnest desire to give fuller value as soon as conditions permit, may justify our repeating here the request made elsewhere, namely, that subscribers please attend to their renewals without delay.

SCORES OF LEADING BUSINESS MEN with whom we have communicated in these years, but to whom we have sent no dunning advertising agents, might also accept this intimation and invitation—to get their copy ready. Join us FOR BRITISH COLUMBIA AND THE CANADIAN WEST!

WHATEVER ELSE IS OMITTED HERE, we must find space to call the special attention of readers to two articles in this issue. First, that on the Okanagan Fruit-Growers' Problems, by Captain Brown. Captain Brown is well qualified to deal with his subject—being himself a producer in that



valley, while, as former superintendent of the Soldiers' Settlement Board, he had excellent opportunity of acquainting himself with farmers' problems all over the province. On the other hand, practically all his experience and business training have been in the wholesale distribution of food products.

NEXT, THE TITLE, "B. C.'s Exportable Products and Prospective Markets," should be enough to ensure attention to the exposition of Mr. J. B. Thomson, which will be found at once informative and stimulating.

* * * *

IT IS ALIKE INTERESTING AND AMUSING to note that that address suggested to Mr. Herbert Beeman a "Bureau Ballad" (To J. B. T.) entitled:

A "RAW" PROPOSITION.

We boast of our natural resources,
 The wealth from the hills that we take—
 The timber we fall in our forests—
 What use of these gifts do we make?

We're proud of the growth of our exports,
 But it's rather a tragic mistake
 That other folk reap all the profits
 From the things that our raw products make.

Then see how the youth of our country
 To live must their homeland forsake,
 And it's quite on the cards, our resources,
 Help elsewhere their living to make.

Copper matte, unrefined, all shipped southward,
 Why shouldn't our province partake
 Of the work and the wages provided
 From the rods and the sheets it will make?

With nature so rich in resources,
 Don't be lulled to repose, but awake!
 Use these riches to better advantage,
 Start right in, and "get on 'he make."

"B. C.'s EXPORTABLE PRODUCTS AND PROSPECTIVE MARKETS."

(Continued from Page 7)

In regard to the grain, the lack of proper handling facilities at this port is a very live issue at the present moment and I need not dwell on that, but would refer to the freight rate on grain from the producing centres in the Northwest to Vancouver. The transportation companies say that all the grain we can handle with present facilities is now moving via Vancouver, and by some process of logic, which personally I cannot grasp, they claim that for that reason they are justified in charging twice as much for a given haul westward as they do eastward. The revenue accruing to the port of Vancouver and to the business men in this port is a very considerable factor, but there is another element than our own in B. C. to be considered, and that is the producer on the prairies. I personally cannot see why the wheat growers in Alberta and Saskatchewan should pay any more than for having their grain hauled westward than eastward, and why they should not be given the advantage of every saving which can be effected by shipment through this port, whether it be 10c a bushel or 20c a bushel. It would appear to me to be good business, and I cannot see how any other course of reasoning can be justified, for the railways to place every facility possible for the westward movement of grain and to handle products eastward for distribution in the prairie markets, and I am confident that sooner or later those in authority in the administration of our railways will come to see the justice of British Columbia's claim in this respect.

With regard to our Eastern Canadian market, our Board of Trade have, as long as I can remember, been agitating for the appointment of a customs officer at New York to enable us not only to purchase some of our requirements in Eastern Canada and avail ourselves of the lower freight rates applying through the Panama Canal, but also to enable us to land our products in Eastern Canada at lower rates than our transcontinental railways can hope to name.

As an illustration of what I mean, the rail rate on certain classes of canned goods from the Pacific Coast to certain common points in Eastern Canada and the United States is \$1.05 per hundred pounds. I am informed that at the present time, canned goods are moving from Seattle to New York via the Panama Canal at 30c per hundred pounds, and are being shipped westward as far as the State of Indiana at a total transportation cost less than the same commodity can be handled from Seattle by rail.

Our railways say that no Canadian canned goods are sold in the States anyway, so that British Columbia canners and packers are not suffering, but I think the effect of the situation I have outlined on our producers here is obvious, namely, that their competitors on the American side enjoy just that much larger markets in the Eastern section of their own country—the privilege of selling in contiguous territory in Eastern Canada being denied to our British Columbia companies; restricting their sales by just that much.

In the broader aspect of patronizing home industries as far as possible, the lack of a customs officer at New York or a Canadian intercoastal steamship service is also working a hardship on Eastern Canadian producers of commodities of which we import—it being a fact that we can now, in many lines, buy in Europe or the United States, ship in here by water, and after paying freight and duty, land our imports cheaper than we can bring them across Canada by rail.

I think that the time is coming when we should press for better transportation facilities between here and Eastern Canada to put us on an even footing with our competitors to the south of us, both in regard to imports and exports. If San Francisco can interchange with the Eastern Coast of the United States some 892,000 tons of merchandise as she did during the twelve months ending June 30th last, I believe there is vast room for expansion in interchange of commo-

ties between British Columbia and Eastern Canada through the medium of a Canadian intercoastal steamship service.

It stands to reason that if Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland and Seattle can bring in their requirements from the Eastern United States at rates varying from 30c to 50c per hundred pounds, the cost of living and the cost of manufacturing must be cheaper than in British Columbia centres of population, where we have to bring in our requirements at high rail freight rates, and it follows that our competitors on the American side are going to be in just that much better position to reduce their manufacturing cost and thus be in a better position to compete with our concerns in foreign markets. Taking my own business, as an example, very often in cotton goods we are obliged to purchase either in the American or English market through difference in freight, as the rate on cotton goods brought in by water from Manchester or Boston make such a difference in the cost of the material that even the tariff protection afforded our Eastern textile manufacturers is not sufficient to counteract the cheaper methods of transportation.

I could go on illustrating industry after industry which has come to my attention through the C. M. A. where we are seriously affected in B. C. owing to the lack of an all-water transportation route from West to East and vice versa, and I think that as a Bureau, some strenuous effort should be put forth toward remedying this condition.

In dealing with the third point which I had in mind, namely, the necessity of markets, I remember that Major Belcher, on his recent visit here in the interests of the British Empire Exhibition, made the statement that within the Empire there was a demand for all of our products in some part of the Empire if it could only be got there under proper conditions and at the time required. Now that is a question entirely of marketing and of availing ourselves of the information at our disposal through our Trade Commissioner service and other connections, but wrapt up in this question of marketing is the question of transportation which I have already referred to, as markets are of little avail unless we are able to get our goods to those markets.

Major Belcher's statement is borne out by the exceedingly varied enquiries which are constantly being received by our trade organizations for our products, indicating that there is room for a tremendous expansion not only in our lumber operations, but in fruit and vegetable canning, our fisheries products and in our dairy products. We have sound progressive industries already in these lines, and it is up to everyone of us to work together to the fullest extent for the greater expansion of markets for our products, keeping as our constant aim the establishing of a reputation for B. C. products and business methods in keeping with that enjoyed by the Mother Country—Great Britain's reputation in this respect having been, as you all know, one of the largest factors in placing Great Britain in the position which she occupies as probably the greatest exporting country in the world.

You have all heard it said, so often, probably, as to have it become tiresome, that in the wealth of our timber, mines, fisheries, agriculture, and horticulture, we have barely scratched the surface. Let us recognize the responsibility, which rests upon our shoulders individually and collectively for developing on sound practical lines the heritage, unequalled in extent and variety, which is ours in British Columbia.

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THE LIBRARY TABLE

"The Woodcarver's Wife and Later Poems." By Marjorie L. C. Pickthall. McClelland & Stewart; \$1.50.

"There was a singer lent to us awhile,
Who captured lovely melodies,
Silver sounding rhapsodies,
And bound them in a magic net of words."

Such was Miss Pickthall, our Marjorie Pickthall, and the sight of this beautiful little book, which contains, besides that powerful drama of French-Canada, the "Woodcarver's Wife," a number of later poems, brings again to heart and mind the grief of her untimely death and the joy of her achievement. For as there is pure pleasure to the beholder in every well-wrought work of men's hands, so every lover of the arts of mind shares with the artist the joy of his creation.

These poems reflect a beautiful, and, I think, a lonely mind, an intense capacity for suffering, and a royal power of enjoyment. How wistful the cry in this poem:

The Chosen.

"Called to a way too high for me, I lean
Out from my narrow window o'er the street,
And know the fields I cannot see are green,
And guess the songs I cannot hear are sweet.

Break up the vision round me, Lord, and thrust
Me from Thy side, unhoused, without the bars,
For all my heart is hungry for the dust,
And all my soul is weary of the stars.

I would seek out a little roof instead,
A little lamp to make my darkness brave.
'For though she heal a multitude,' Love said,
'Herself she cannot save.'

How she could suffer who wrote:

"Desolate strange sleep and wild
Came on me while yet a child;
I, before I tasted tears,
Knew the grief of all the years."

But to what rapture of the soul into the Heaven of Heavens do we owe this:

"Grey hours have cities,
Green hours have rhymes
Of hearts grown loving
In old summertimes;
But the white hours have only
A cloud in the sky,
And a star, bright and lonely,
To remember them by."

Some of the loveliest and most appealing poems in the book are inspired by Holy Writ. In one of them, entitled "Mary Tired," occur these singularly beautiful lines:

"All the new-born airs were spilt
Out of the cups the morning made
Of a glory and a shade."

Several poems inspired by the Great War are included in this collection. Of these, one very tender one is entitled "For All Prisoners and Captives." It begins in this wise:

"Over the English trees and the English meadows
Twilight is falling clear,
But my heart walks far in the homeless winds and the shadows
For those who are not here.

Youth, and pleasure and peace and the strong flesh clothing
The freeman's soul, they gave;
Beauty they gave for a scar and honour for loathing,
And life for a living grave."

One is tempted to go on and on, quoting one's favorite gems, but lack of space forbids; suffice it to say that all lovers of lofty thought and cunning melody will count this little book among their treasures.

"The Poisoned Paradise," by Robert Service. McClelland & Stewart; \$2.00.

For an author of repute to offer a book like "The Poisoned Paradise" is to insult his public. Of a highly sensational character, it has not even the merit of originality or even passable technique. Mr. Service starts out with a plot dealing with the adventures of a beautiful young girl, whose chief glory is her golden hair. The account of her hideous experiences with an old artist and then with a brutal criminal, might be pardoned, though neither entertaining nor pleasant, if they bore any relation to the climax of the novel, but they do not. Half-way through the book, the plot having Margot Leblanc as heroine, is dropped like a hot potato, and now Hugh Kildair is the hero of a wild tale about a "system" that threatens to break the bank at Monte Carlo, and the girl figures only incidentally, as a lay figure.

Professor Durant is assassinated by a gang of criminals, who rob his safe of the famous "system." When they find that it is in cipher they kidnap Hugh Kildair, who is the only one who was in the old man's confidence, and who is believed to have the key. We are given a revolting account of the tortures the gang inflict first on Hugh and then on the girl in his presence, to induce him to disclose his knowledge. Just as they succeed in breaking down his resistance, the "system" is stolen from them in spectacular manner by a man employed by the Monte Carlo authorities.

Now Mr. Service drops this plot, and the rest of the book deals with the successful attempt of the criminals to hold up the bank at the Casino, and the adventures of Hugh, who gets hold of the loot accidentally and is tracked by the thieves up and down Sicily, where he takes refuge. Here again blood flows freely, and inconvenient folk are murdered right and left.

No doubt people who like to associate with criminals of the most abominable sort, whose minds readily accept the impossible as probable because it is printed, and who do not object to a technique that would disgrace a high school student, will enjoy this book. One would not like to recommend any one else to waste an evening over it. L. A.

"Fires of Driftwood," by Isabel Ecclestone Mackay. McClelland & Stewart, Toronto.

Mrs. Isabel Ecclestone Mackay's many readers and the public generally will welcome this collection of her poems, not only as a valuable contribution to Canadian literature, but as a delightful companion either for the fireside on a winter's evening or to take with one in summer for a day in the green woods or a ramble on the seashore. Here are songs to suit every mood, merry or sad, gay or plaintive, reflecting life in its varying phases, but for the most part suggesting its deeper and more serious aspects. The range of subjects speaks for the poet's wide sympathies, but Canadians must especially rejoice in the manner in which the collection sets forth and celebrates something of ourselves and our national genius. Early Canadian history is represented in "The Gatekeeper" about old Quebec, the making of the West in such poems as "The Bridge Builder," "The Homesteader," "The Prairie School" and "Calgary Station," the last dealing with immigrants and their part in Canada's destiny:

"What if within their hearts deep memories hide
Of lands their fathers grieved for, till they died?
The bitterness is gone and in its stead
New understanding and new hopes are bred.

With wider vision which may show the world
Its cannon dumb, its battle-flags close furled!
—Dreams? We may dream indeed, with heart elate,
While a new nation clamours at our gate!"

"Lake Louise" describes something of the beauties to be found in our Rocky Mountains, and our own Coast region supplies inspiration for the fine descriptive poem on "The Sleeping Beauty" and "Down at the Docks," as well as the title poem, "Fires of Driftwood," a free verse offering which besides a pleasing rhythm has poignancy of phrase and true poetic power. "Down at the Docks," with its clever concreteness of sensuous impressions crowding one after the other, and its haunting overtone of the glamour of the sea, is as fine as Masefield at his best and is one of this reviewer's favourites in the collection.

That Mrs. Mackay is not a stranger to the mystic realm of Faerie is evidenced in "The Banshee" and that charming lyric, "Fairy Singing," with its haunting rhythm. "The Witch," in which the heroine, because a monk has fallen in love with her, is burned at the stake for witchcraft, is a fine example of the ballad form:

"They haled her to a witch's doom,
They matched her shining hair with flame—
But ever through the cloister's gloom
The mad monk babbles of her name!

And when the red sun droppeth down
And wet sand gleameth ghostily,
Men see her weave a sea-weed crown
Between the twilight and the sea."

Several poems in the collection deal with the war and with Canada's part in it. Space does not permit, in this brief notice, of dealing adequately with many which strike a deep and serious note. The tribute to Marjorie Pickthall at the end, exquisite in its simplicity and inevitability of phrasing, will give pleasure and evoke gratitude, especially from those who were her friends and who admired and enjoyed her work.

McClelland & Stewart are to be congratulated on the format of this volume, so artistically embellished by the artist, J. E. H. Macdonald, A.R.C.A.

A PATH-FINDING SCAMPER 'CROSS CANADA.

Motorist enthusiasts, as well as many who are not motorists at all, will welcome "A Pathfinding Scamper 'Cross Canada" (The Ryerson Press, Toronto) by Percy Gomery. This is the chronicle of a trip from Montreal to Vancouver made by the writer and his wife in the summer of 1920 and provides a narrative full of interest and literary charm. Mr. Gomery has managed to describe the country through which he passes and the condition of the roads with admirable fullness and yet without tedium to the reader and has handled a difficult problem with considerable skill. "The book is not a treatise for experts," he says in his preface, "but for the everyday motorist having an itch to cross the continent." It will also have its appeal, however, to the less daring souls, who are fond of adventure, but prefer to experience its thrills by proxy and enjoy them second hand in their arm chairs.

And adventure is by no means mild in this protracted scamper on four wheels, in which the progress of the party was followed with interest by the press from Atlantic to Pacific. Starting with a midnight alarm in a lone inn in Ontario, encountering bears a little farther on and colliding with a mounted cowboy in the Rockies, to mention only a few of the thrills, the reader who likes a tale with a punch to it will not be disappointed.

Mr. Gomery has a pleasing gift of humor and there is much sprightly banter and fun between himself and "The Skipper," his partner in the undertaking. The folk with whom they meet along the route and stay with over night

are often delightfully described. There are many funny incidents that take place but "The Great Drama of the Gall Stones" is especially amusing. However, I shall not spoil it for the reader by repeating the plot of it here.

This book is a decided acquisition to the season's offerings.

R. A. H.

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THE ACCEPTABLE GIFT

(By M. E. Colman.)

The good curé was highly excited. He walked briskly along the village street, form erect, eyes flashing, a happy smile on his benevolent old face. Suddenly, as he turned a corner, he came upon a little knot of his people gathered about the doorway of a house slightly larger than the others. From within came the sound of wild weeping and lamenting. All made way for the curé as he hurried to the door:

"What is the matter, my children; what is the matter?"

A dozen voices answered, and above them all rose the shrill wail of Mère Lenoir:

"My little one, my daughter, my daughter well beloved."

The priest raised his hand and sternly demanded silence.

"You, Lenoir, tell me what has happened."

Marc Lenoir had been standing, sullen and silent, beside his wife, but at the priest's question he looked up and spoke hoarsely:

"It is Jeanette. She is gone. You remember the gay Seigneur who passed through here last summer? He chucked the girl under the chin, told her some nonsense about her hair being like sunshine on the grapes, kissed her and went his way, laughing. But she did not forget. May God not forget him in the day of vengeance! He came again, and I forbade Jeanette to leave the house. They told me she met him beyond the village, so I locked her in her room. This morning she was gone. The window was open, there are hoof-marks on the sod beneath it."

The mother broke into fresh lamentations; the neighbours peered curiously, some weeping or cursing in sympathy, some whispering and cackling maliciously, for Jeanette was the belle of the village, and her father its richest farmer.

The curé's face was grey and drawn. Every line the sins and sorrows of his flock had graven there in the fifty years of his service, was clear in the morning sunlight. But his voice was brave and clear as he spoke:

"The hand of our God is heavy upon us, for this is a greater grief than death. But keep up your hearts. This very morning a gracious sign was vouchsafed me. I found in an unused cupboard of the sacristy an ancient manuscript which tells that on the day (nigh two hundred years ago) that the organ, the glory of our humble church, was dedicated, a wandering friar passed this way and made the prophecy that if ever a gift perfectly acceptable were laid upon the altar, heavenly hands would play upon the organ, and angel choirs sing in token of God and our Lady's pleasure."

There was a murmur of surprise and awe, and all crossed themselves devoutly.

"This prophecy, my children, has never been fulfilled. Indeed it had been forgotten. But my finding it on this sad morning seems to me a sign of Heaven's favor. Pray for Jeanette, but be of good cheer: Le Bon Dieu and His blessed Saints will guard her, and send her home again. Pray too, that some one may offer a perfectly acceptable gift at the Christmas Eve service. Prepare your gifts with humble and grateful hearts that God may be pleased with us and grant us our prayers for poor Jeanette. Go now, my children, to your homes. I would be alone with Lenoir and his wife."

Slowly the crowd dispersed, talking in eager whispers of the marvellous events of the morning, and the priest was left alone with the stricken parents.

There was no question of attempting to find the girl. Communication was slow and uncertain. Paris was so far away it seemed on the boundary of the universe. Besides how could poor peasants, or a country priest contend with a rich and noble seigneur? Only a holy faith could keep their hearts from fainting, and this faith the good curé strove to strengthen.

The weeks sped on. Christmas was at hand, and there had been no news of Jeanette. The church was ready for the holy festival. At the back the events of Christmas night were pictured by life-like wax figures: there was the stable with the ox and ass, there the Blessed Virgin sat watching the Saviour in His manger cradle while Joseph stood by; there the shepherds worshipped, and the Magi presented precious gifts. In front of this sacred scene was an altar, richly dight, to receive the gifts of the faithful.

At the appointed time the church was full of devout worshippers, the very air was vibrant with joyous expectancy. The curé took his place and the service began. A very solemn and impressive service it was, and to his parishioners the priest seemed no longer the curé in his shabby cassock, but a prophet mantled with authority, his face illumined with divine radiance.

The first part of the service concluded with the ancient carol:

"Black was the sky, and white the earth

On the night of our dear Saviour's birth."

The choir boys came down from the loft and took their places at one side, the curé stood behind the altar and gave the invitation; now the gifts were to be received.

A deep hush fell over all. The deep, clear voice of the priest as he blessed each giver was the only sound that broke the reverential silence.

Many and varied were the offerings, and many a tale of sacrifice they told. One brought a gold piece, the savings of the year; the baker gave a cake with a verse of praise to the Virgin, cunningly wrought in sugar, upon it; Jean-Marie, who played the organ, laid a roll of music, the crown

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of his life's work, upon the altar; the cobbler gave a pair of boots, made with his best skill; one woman brought a warm garment of wool shorn from her good man's sheep; another a fine piece of embroidery she had wrought with many a prayer; still another, a notable housekeeper, offered fine white loaves of her baking; a crucifix carved of precious wood was the offering of a cripple; children brought their best beloved toys, but still the silence was unbroken. One by one they came, and now almost all had presented the gift of their love and were kneeling at their places again.

The heart of the good priest was faint within him, as he sadly wondered whose the fault could be that no perfectly acceptable gift was offered.

Now the last man stood before the altar, the village smith, and he brought a cross of intricate and cunning workmanship, a triumph of his craft; but still no sound broke the silence.

The curé lifted his hands to Heaven, all the kneeling multitude crossed themselves; but before the word of dismissal was uttered a woman entered the church and came slowly forward. She was closely shrouded in a dark mantle and walked with bowed head. Unconscious of those around her, looking neither to the right nor to the left, with faltering steps she made her way to the altar and sank before it on her knees.

As she did so her hood fell back, revealing a mass of red-gold hair. A gasp of wonder broke from every throat: only one in the village had such hair!

"Jeanette!" Mère Lenoir's voice thrilled clear and high, like the sound of shivered glass in the silence.

The curé motioned for silence.

A strange brightness filled the church, the walls seemed to expand, and the roof to be raised, till the little, shabby church was a great and lofty edifice that embraced the four corners of the earth and reached to the star-lit sky.

Softly at first, then swelling louder, and louder yet, celestial music filled the air, and angel voices sounded clear:

"There is rejoicing in Heaven over one sinner that repenteth. Glory to God in the Highest! A broken and a contrite heart He doth not despise. Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, . . . peace, good-will, good-will to men. . . ."

Softly the music died away in the distance, the unearthly radiance dimmed and faded; again the church was small and mean, but still some heavenly light seemed to linger lovingly about the altar and the kneeling penitent.

"My children," said the priest, "Rise," and his voice vibrant with joyful emotion, he intoned the "Magnificat."

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PROBLEMS OF THE OKANAGAN FRUIT-GROWER.

(Continued from Page 4)

With Government-controlled cold-storage available for use to any legitimate packer, I see no strong objection to any number of independent packers, so long as they are responsible and become parties to the distribution compact which must control the output.

With the better pack of apples, control of distribution through one central office, and a thorough and intelligent exploitation and expansion of foreign markets, backed by a business-like campaign of education for the wider use of apples and all bye-products, the growers of B. C. need not fear a state of over-production or repetition of the past two years.

As to the future of the industry, I see nothing in the experience of the past two years to justify the pessimism one finds in some localities. While it is disheartening to any one to work for small returns, or to go behind on his year's operations, we must remember that almost all industries suffer reverses and fight through many perplexing problems before their lines are established, or their machinery working smoothly. One might add here, that the manufacturer has one advantage over the grower, in that he can control his production much more easily, turning out his product according to the markets he finds or creates.

The Government should be able to play a very great part in making the fruit industry one of the most important and profitable in our province. It is already doing much to help the grower to produce more fruit and better fruit, and it has the opportunity to assist the growers in perfecting their selling and distribution methods and in finding wider markets. The people as a whole are behind the Government in any measures it adopts that will further the interests of any branch of our agricultural industries, knowing that a thriving rural population is the first guarantee to industrial progress.

No one who knows the Okanagan country and who has a reasonable amount of sane optimism, can doubt its bright future. The fruit industry is bound to succeed. If those now directing operations fail, others, whose all is at stake, will come forward and find the solution leading to success.

The areas of good fruit lands that can be brought under irrigation are limited, while one could almost say that the possibilities for the expansion of our Canadian market alone, through increased population and aggressive marketing methods, are unlimited. In time the growers through co-operative methods will establish factories in order to turn into money their bye-products and surplus of perishable fruits and vegetables.

The Okanagan is unsurpassed as an apple producing country, and with such suitable soil for nearly all products and such an attractive climate, it cannot fail to fulfil the expectations of its champions.

For my own part I think more of the possibilities of our fruit industry than I did when I planted my orchard at Winfield thirteen years ago. I am in no respect disappointed with the investment. Any orchard planted in good soil, under a good water supply, and with the right varieties of apples, well cared for, will yield good returns on the money invested, and at the same time provide an attractive life for those who like out-door work.

When the growers can act as a unit and distribute their products to markets as required, the industry will show definite signs for permanent success. Without co-operation in any industry of this kind, success would seem impossible, because production is not easily controlled, being greater one year than another; and thus it frequently overruns demand; control in marketing is therefore essential.

(Nov. 15, 1922.)

JUST BETWEEN OURSELVES

A Corner for Mother and the Girls.

A very happy and a very merry Christmas to you all!

"There's a song in the air!

There's a star in the sky!

There's a mother's deep prayer

And a baby's low cry!

And the star rains its fire while the beautiful sing,

For the manger of Bethlehem cradles a King."

—J. G. Holland.

Let's make this Christmas a truly happy and a sanely merry one. Truly happy; we are in danger of losing the true Christmas spirit, the spirit of joyful giving. To the children it is becoming more and more the "time when Santa comes and gives us toys." I know a little girl of eight or so who, from the earliest spring begins to talk of what she will get when Santa comes, never a word of what she will give. Poor child! what joy she is missing! In this age of "child worship" we are truly in danger of depriving the little ones of the purest and sweetest joy that should be theirs: the joy of giving.

Happiness is, after all, a state of mind, and if we grown-ups would achieve happiness this Christmas season we must first of all have "hearts at leisure." And how difficult that is! But one of the ways is, I think, to do all we can in efficient but unhurried fashion, and not fret about what we can't do. Also, not worry about what others can't, won't or at any rate don't do! After all, what does it matter? a happy face and restful manner, a gentle voice and sympathetic ear mean so much more than mere perfection of housekeeping or Christmas dinner, now don't they?

Let us be sanely merry too. Why do we all, or, well, nearly all (for of course you and I don't) overeat at the Christmas season? I heard of one family where the children were allowed to eat anything and everything they pleased on Christmas Day, then in the evening mother brought out a large bottle of castor oil, and every one, from father to the baby, had a generous dose! Well, that's one way of doing it, but one could imagine better ways of saving tempers and tummies on the 26th of December. Some of us, very wise perhaps with our own, still make things difficult for our friends by giving their little ones more than they should have when they come in to see the Christmas tree. Remember, they have probably had more than is good for them already—the other woman's children always have! Don't you think it ought to be the twelfth commandment: THOU SHALT NOT FEED THY NEIGHBOUR'S CHILDREN.

Christmas is a great time for story-telling, and there are so many beautiful stories that may be told! The best time is the evening, the best place around the fireside, and the best story-teller mother, of course, though father probably has undeveloped talents in that direction too. No other story can compare for simplicity and beauty with the story of the Nativity as recorded by the Evangelist Luke: "And there were in the same country shepherds, abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. . . ." Read it to the children, or, better still, tell it in just the way Luke tells it; you can't improve upon it, and you don't need to simplify it.

Next might come the story of "The Three Wise Men," as told by Matthew. Again the original is beyond the need for improvement or simplification. Outside of the sacred narratives Van Dyke's story of "The Other Wise Man" is one of the most beautiful Christmas stories ever written, and of course "The Christmas Carol," by Dickens, is the heritage of every English-speaking child. Besides these there are numerous stories published every year in the November or December numbers of the magazines which are suitable for telling aloud, and among them all you are almost sure to find

one or two at least that are of rare and unusual beauty. These deserve to be preserved and to "belong" specially to your Christmas celebration year after year.

How much of the joy of Christmas lies in happy memories! How well I remember the happy celebration on Christmas Eve when I was a child in Switzerland. It was at a boarding school, and in the evening, after the festive dinner, we all waited in the large hall upstairs while mother and the teachers of the school put the finishing touches to the large school-room that had been kept locked all day. The tinkling of a little bell was the signal. At last we heard it, and, formed in a procession of twos, we walked down the stairs. What an effort it was not to run! The school-room was ablaze with lights. Down at the far end was a noble Christmas tree that reached to the ceiling, and was trimmed with gilded cones and nuts, and draped from top to bottom with fine threads of silver and gold that shone in the light of a myriad candles. All around the room were little tables, labelled with the name of the person whose presents were there displayed. What twistings and turnings of heads to see where one's own table was! But present-time was not yet. We all stood in a group facing the tree, the servants on one side of us, the teachers and my own dear mother facing us at the foot of the tree, while the Head of the school read the Gospel account of the Nativity. Then we sang carols specially prepared for the occasion, and said our "pieces." How long the ceremony seemed then, how sweet it is in remembrance. At last it was over and we were free to look for our places in the row of presents. You may be sure we were enabled by previous surreptitious but searching glances, to make a bee-line for our own corner! There were mishaps sometimes, witness the time when my small brother received (among many other more frivolous and festive gifts) a bottle of cod-liver oil and an iron money-pig, and the two collided in the basket on the way home, with disastrous results to the rest of his presents—and ours!

How we've wandered on! Quite over our own column, I'm sure, but I must give you, in closing, this dear, whimsical little poem by Mary Carolyn Davies:

The Stars.

"The stars are lighted candles
Upon a Christmas tree;
(The branches that they hang upon
We can not ever see):
On Christmas Eve the angels stand
About it after tea.

And if an angel's very good,
He gets a present, as he should."

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The Growth of Vancouver Scottish Society

The Scottish Society of Vancouver, which came to life when this year was just born, will soon, like it, be a year old. Though a great age for a year, it is only the first milestone on what promises to be a long and useful life for the Society. The first session, or what time remained for it at the Society's inception, came to an end last September, and the current session then began.

The summer, during which no regular meetings are appointed, was marked by two special events. The first was the visit of Lord Shaw of Dunfermline, a Scotsman well known to an older generation as a politician, and to the present as a member of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, the highest law court of the Empire. Lord Shaw accepted the Society's invitation to lunch with the members at Glencoe Lodge, and a large gathering was no less delighted with his pawky humour than inspired by his kindly wisdom and friendly advice. Two reporters from the Vancouver daily newspapers, by their presence, showed their personal interest in the guest of the Society, but the newspapers which they represented did not consider that the witty, amusing, and at times moving address of this missionary of Empire would be of interest or importance to their readers.

Towards the end of the autumn another meeting was held to hear Dr. Alexander Macmillan of Toronto lecture on Dr. John Brown of Edinburgh, author of "Rab and His Friends," and many other sketches and essays, which have made his name famous. The man himself and his strong, self-sacrificing character received the tribute which is their due, and when the speaker read with well-trained voice the moving delineations of Scottish life, humorous or pathetic, which Brown knew so well how to pen, the audience was alternately touched to laughter or to pity.

The annual meeting of the Society, which was held in September, cut down the number of the Executive Committee from its somewhat large original number. Not that the members had not attended regularly or worked successfully, but it was not thought fair to take away so many busy men from their own business, if a smaller number could, perhaps equally well, attend to the work. At the same time it was arranged to relieve the Executive Committee of part of its work, and with this purpose three Special Committees have been formed to take over the preparation of the Society's program, supervise the musical department, and have charge of the reception of guests, etc. Mr. H. C. Shaw, who had acted as President since the formation of the Society, was unanimously re-elected President in spite of his contention that honours should go round, while Professor James B. Henderson and Mr. Robert Allison Hood were chosen to be Vice-Presidents for the year 1922-23.

The first meeting of the Society's program was addressed by Dr. James Carruthers, of Point Grey, whose subject was "Ian Maclaren," one of the best known of the national emotionalists, whom some critics have classified as "the kailyard" school of Scottish literature. Sympathetically treated by the lecturer, this author was shown to be the literary preserver of a phase of Scottish life and character, which were dead or dying even when he wrote. The lecturer's readings were much enjoyed, both when he gave his hearers the humours of church life through the eyes of Dr. John Watson, and when he more sparingly touched on the pathetic passages, of which that author is at times so prolific as to cover the stern and hardy Scottish ploughman and artizan with a false mist of sentimentality.

On the 17th of November the Society did due reverence at the shrine of Robert Burns, notwithstanding that some held that saint's day only to fall in January. The President opened the function, and for that evening nothing was heard but the name of Burns. His songs were finely sung

and some of his most characteristic poems in the Scottish language recited with just emphasis and feeling. The Reception Committee gave signs of vigorous life by serving refreshments at the close of the meeting, when members and their friends had a welcome opportunity of meeting and enjoying social intercourse.

At the end of November, Mr. R. W. Douglas, of the Carnegie Library, gave a thoughtful and interesting lecture on Sir Walter Scott and the Waverley Novels, and the next lecture will have for its theme a subject as dear as any to the great novelist's heart, "The Border Ballads." Professor Henderson will be the lecturer, and members may anticipate a delightful evening on the 15th of December.

At its meetings the Society has put much weight on the attractions of Scottish song and music, and the endeavour has been made, as far as possible, to illustrate the lectures with the songs. Except in the case of Robert Burns, it has been found impossible to present musical programs consisting solely of songs even by such prolific lyrists as Walter Scott or Robert Louis Stevenson, because the required music is often not to be obtained in Vancouver. But once such an obstacle is recognized, it only remains that it should be removed; and the Musical Committee will doubtless be able before long to do justice to every Scottish songwriter of importance.

Many other reforms and improvements await the guiding hand of the various committees. Some have been put in force this session; others will come ere long; while more must await the natural growth of the Society. Already its numbers fulfil the expectations of its founders, but before it can attain their ambitions and hopes its membership must warrant it in taking a much larger part in the social life of the city. Then it will be in a position to organize and co-ordinate with sister societies throughout Canada, and carry on a useful correspondence and interchange of historical, literary, and musical work with other societies in Scotland and the rest of the Empire.

G. D.

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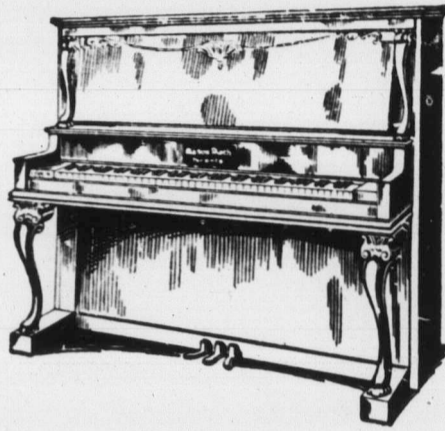
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