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# BRITISH COLUMBIA MONTHLY

The Magazine of The Canadian West



Volume XX.

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No. 1.

Kiwanis Big-Brother Movement



Help the Under-Privileged Child!



EDUCATE EASTERN CANADA & THE EMPIRE CONCERNING THE CANADIAN WEST: PASS ON THE B. C. M.

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## *Please take another look at the picture on the cover.*

As we go to press we have no idea how much cash may be realized for the Under-privileged Child from the Kiwanis Club Advertising Show, or more correctly, Sale of Goods—generously donated by manufacturers and others. But though the B. C. M. did a little bit there, we wish to do better.

Not in the interest of any club, but because of the object for which the fund is started, we use this page to give readers and friends an opportunity of supplementing their contributions (by purchase) through this magazine.

The B. C. M. has a "Get-Acquainted" campaign, by which the relatives and friends of its readers may be listed for twelve months for one dollar. We shall give 50 per cent. of the amount of new subscriptions sent direct to us (not through our agents) before the end of 1922 to the Under-privileged Child fund.

The B. C. M. management is aiming and working to give the Canadian West a magazine nearer sixty than sixteen pages, and meantime our space is specially valuable. But we hold such practical "Community Service" as the Kiwanis Big Brother Movement worthy of a page, or even a tithe of our space; and we trust readers and friends in all sections of the community who value such

### **DEMONSTRATED CHRISTIANITY**

will co-operate. (See the article by Mr. Nelson Harkness in this issue). Is not this YOUR OPPORTUNITY to send the **British Columbia and Canadian West Monthly Magazine** to several friends—to whom you often "intend to write"—as a monthly reminder of you (in place of a letter), or a

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## VERSE BY CANADIAN WRITERS

TO  
ROBERT BURNS.\*

O, many love you, Robert Burns,  
And many more they fear you still;  
Even now your barbèd arrow turns  
In writhing hearts with right good will.

And some they praise you for their love,  
But more they praise you for their fear,  
They set your image high above  
And hymn you with a hidden tear.

Like rose upon a spiny stem  
You warn the ignorant hands away,  
And keep your priceless jewels for them  
That know you night-born son of Day.

Rose too, now white, now shamestruck red,  
Your head with changeful beauty crowned;  
Rose too, your fragrant breath is fed  
From foulness festering in the ground.

You were, 'tis true, the friend of man;  
Men oft you slandered pitilessly,  
And women jealously did scan  
With bitter and envenomed eye.

Thus read we what we'd fain forget  
What you perchance have long forgotten,  
For oft you wished with eyelids wet  
To bury deep what reeked so rotten.

But friends, who were not friends to thee,  
Men who were blind with adoration,  
Have lit your sins as shrines for me  
And to your frailties pour oblation.

You were a prince and claimed your throne,  
Yet frolicked gaily in the gutter,  
Though oft the laughter masked the groan,  
And hid the shame you dared not utter.

You were a lamp to fainting hearts  
To lead them on to new endeavour,  
But clouds obscured your nobler parts,  
The satyrs danced around you ever.

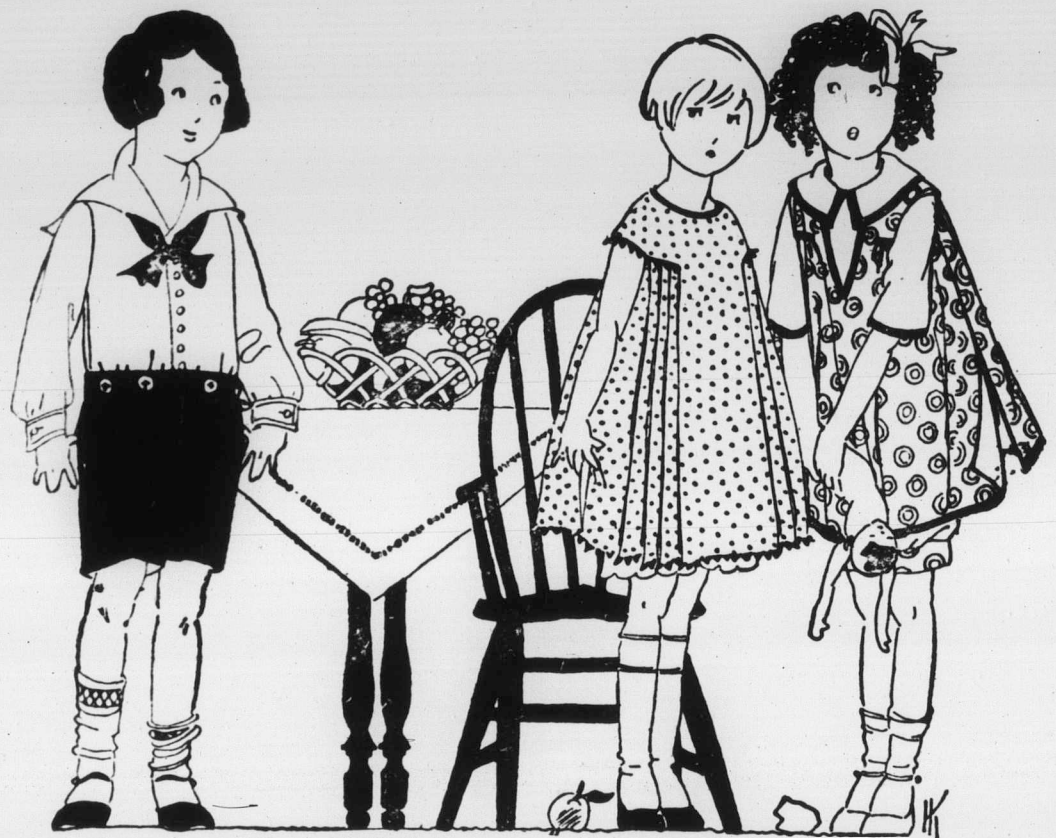
Yet were you instant at the morn,  
The dew not fresher than your spirit;  
Betwixt two natures wildly torn,  
Both hell and heaven you did inherit

Life gave you joy and bitter pain,  
But never mixed them in the giving,  
High laurels and a blasting stain,  
But ne'er contentment to thee living.

So when the early darkness fell,  
And Death's cold fingers touched your fever,  
You scarcely feared his passing knell,  
Or grieved for Love that you must leave her.

—Donald Graham.

\* Read at a Burns' Night of Vancouver Scottish  
Society, November, 1922.



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## A Brief Outline of the Work of the Parent-Teacher Movement

(By Mrs. A. T. Fuller, Corresponding Secretary, Provincial Parent-Teacher Federation of British Columbia.)

Eight years ago Parent-Teacher Associations were practically unknown in British Columbia. Now almost every school in the city of Vancouver has a Parent-Teacher organization. These are united by a central association known as the "Vancouver Federation." South Vancouver, North Vancouver, Point Grey, Richmond, and New Westminster each have a sufficient number of associations to have a local Federation. In other parts of the province there are separate or isolated associations, thirty or more (besides those in Victoria); these, with the city Federations, are joined to form a Provincial Parent-Teacher Federation.

When we remember that this movement was started in British Columbia during the Great War, and that it has continued to expand under the adverse conditions following it, this seems a remarkable growth. In its early history there were those who were unsympathetic—who felt that already there were plenty of organizations. But wiser folk said: "Don't discourage them. If there is no need for this P.T. Association it will die of itself." The fact that it has grown so steadily indicates that the need for the P.T. A. was there.

One factor which helped this growth was the realization, during the war, that our children are just about the most important possession, not only of every home, but of our province, our Dominion, and our Empire—that the future depends largely on the training and discipline, on the facilities for self-development which we ensure our children. In all this movement there is one underlying thought—we might almost call it an instinct, for it may be seen in some of the lowest forms of animal life—the instinct to care for and protect the young. In the lower animals the time during which the young need care and protection is comparatively short, but in the human race that time tends to be prolonged as a higher stage of civilization is reached. A High School Parent-Teacher Association is a highly specialized manifestation of this instinct.

Although so comparatively recent in British Columbia, this movement is not in itself new. Twenty-five years ago there were attempts to establish something along these lines in England, but they met with small success. In the United States, however, where free schools are universal, the seed fell upon suitable ground, so that for some years now they have been holding National Parent-Teacher Conventions every year. These are attended by representatives from almost every State in the Union. Australia has been doing good work, too, although the growth has been slow in that country. In Canada a similar movement was inaugurated several years ago in Ontario, and the expansion has been sufficient for that province to hold its "Fourth Annual Convention of Home and School Associations," as they are called there.

To some of those who first encouraged the formation of these associations in Vancouver, it seemed that they would fill a greater need in the city than in rural districts, but time has shown that this is not the case. Parent-Teacher Associations seem to be equally necessary and successful in the country as in the city, perhaps more so. They provide a central meeting place for all nationalities and creeds who come together on the common basis of their desire for the welfare of their children.

In some districts it has been found that the social diversion afforded by these meetings was very welcome. There soon followed a wish to better conditions in and about the local school. Some parents are dissatisfied with the conditions under which their children must spend their play hours. When they realize how important play is in the development of the child, and how much character may be affected by

rightly directed play, they look about for ways to improve the period of recreation. One association, at its second meeting, decided to erect a play shed, so that the children might play in the open air in all weathers. Other associations are providing balls, bats, playground equipment of every sort, and are encouraging sport by donating prizes for the annual sports day.

One association on Vancouver Island provided prizes in each class in the school for the child ranking first in the final examinations, and for the child making the highest percentage of improvement. The same P.T. A. was the means of obtaining a gold medal to be presented annually to the pupil making the highest marks in the matriculation examinations. The object in this case was to encourage boys and girls to remain in the high school to the end of their course.

In rural associations usually one of the first subjects to be considered is how to provide hot lunches for the children who must come a long distance. In some districts a committee of mothers take turns in making and serving hot soup or cocoa at noon, but this entails a great deal of work for busy women.

In many city schools children who show signs of malnutrition are served with milk once or twice a day, and those in charge believe that the results justify the labour. The milk is delivered in half-pint bottles, and each child is given a clean straw like those served with soda water. If rural districts could adopt some similar plan, and if some way could be devised for taking the chill off the milk, or even of serving it hot, the children might receive great benefit.

Every P.T. A. realizes the value of placing good books in the hands of growing children, and wherever an organization has been formed the school library has received early consideration. In some instances a separate collection has been compiled, consisting of books pertaining to health and child psychology, standard tests and similar subjects, for the use of parents and teachers of the school.

Many schools, helped out by a grant from the school board, have purchased pianos. Some have a gramophone, which is used to acquaint the children with all kinds of good music, besides being valuable in the teaching of folk-dancing and languages.

During the summer months a reading class among the parents might be successful. In one district the mothers met at different homes in turn and listened to resumés of portions of some helpful book, while their children played on the lawns nearby. A reading from some entertaining work of fiction, and musical selections made these meetings more enjoyable.

A magic-lantern or moving-picture machine, secured by some schools, has been very helpful in teaching history, geography, nature study and other subjects.

The improvement and beautifying of school grounds is an important activity of P.T. A.'s, and it does not seem to be generally known that any school applying to the Government Nurseries at Essondale will be supplied with trees and shrubs for this purpose.

These are only a few of the ways in which each association can meet the needs in its own district. The great outcome of all these efforts of parents and teachers has been the awakening of the community conscience to problems of child welfare, and the preparation of the minds of the general public for the educational reforms which are bound to come.

## Vachel Lindsay Visits Vancouver

It is a happy revival of an ancient custom which bids the modern bard sing or recite his own verses, for we are apt to forget, in this age of silent reading and silent drama, that poetry makes its main appeal to the ear. To the University Women's Club is due the credit of this revival in Vancouver. Last year, Bliss Carman, as their guest, recited his poems, and this year Vachel Lindsay, the distinguished American poet, has been introduced to us in a similar manner.

Mr. Lindsay and Mr. Bliss Carman were the guests of honor at a well-attended reception at Glencoe Lodge given by the Vancouver branch of the Canadian Authors' Association during Mr. Lindsay's visit here. Mrs. Julia Henshaw and Mrs. Ecclestone Mackay acted as hostesses, while Miss Molison and Mrs. Douglas Durkin served tea. Mrs. J. R. Reid, who has a most lovely and finished voice, gave several solos. Mr. Lindsay, when asked to recite, paid a happy and fitting tribute to his brother poet, Bliss Carman, and delighted his audience by his rendering of Swinburne's "Ode to Athens."

It was unfortunate indeed that the University students, who should have been his most enthusiastic audience, did not turn out in greater numbers to hear Mr. Lindsay when he addressed them in the auditorium at noon on Saturday. Here the poet was in his happiest vein, free from the seeming affectations and mannerisms that somewhat marred his evening recital. He spoke of the "West-going spirit" as the spirit of civilization, and delighted his college audience by saying that the Western college yell is the "perfect blending of the classic Greek and the primeval Indian." He then recited the "Calliope Yell" (please pronounce "cally-opy") in his own imitable fashion.

In the evening Mr. Lindsay gave a most unique entertainment at the First Congregational Church. Again the audience was not as large as it should have been. Vachel Lindsay is not a "high-brow" poet, and there are few people in Vancouver who would not have thoroughly enjoyed this original and dramatic recital.

Mr. Lindsay is emphatic in declaring that he is not a "free verse" poet; he claims that careful reading of his verse will show it to be "full of rhyme and meter, if these be virtues." It might be called, he says, "Orthodox verse about free subject matter." Among the poems he recited with a wealth of gesture and fine dramatic effect, often chanting and even singing, were "Lincoln Revisits Springfield," in which the great president mourns the invasion of Belgium; "Samson and Delilah," a sermon in the negro style, for whose humor he half apologized, for he takes the negro seriously, his hope being in the great religious capacity of the "Africo-American"; the famous "Congo" and "General William Booth Enters Heaven."

Whatever may be the opinion of the general philosophy underlying his poems, none can deny their virility and poetic power, their originality and high musical quality, which the poet's beautiful voice brings out to full advantage.

Mr. Lindsay's visit has been one of the outstanding literary events of the year, and one can only regret that more people did not avail themselves of the opportunity of hearing one who takes his place in the foremost ranks of modern poets.

(L. A.)

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### ETIQUETTE AS SEEN FROM THE SCHOOL ROOM.

Boys' ideas of "How Ladies Should Behave," and girls' opinions on "How Gentlemen Should Behave," are quoted by Mr. Donald A. Fraser in the **Public School Magazine** for September. We give some of the opinions, which are those of children of about eight years of age:

"When a boy meets a lady he should make a bough (sic), and be a gentleman, as much as a growed-up man is."

Undoubtedly the young lady who wrote the following will stand up for her rights when the time comes.

"A man shouldn't drink, smoke, or swear, and everywhere his wife wants to go, he should go with her. And he should do what he was told, and work hard. He should give his wife lots of munny, and his children, too."

The boys evidently use their eyes on the street:

"Ladies should walk sensibel on the street, and not smile at fellows."

"Ladies should behave theirselves wherever they are, and have good manners."

"Ladies should not drink, and smoke, and play baseball. They should not be tough, and go out with a lot of fellows."

"A lady should not be sassy to a gentleman, nor step on his toes, nor slap his face. And after she has finished her speech, she must let him have his say."

"Ladies like to go out for boat-rides, but they must be good, and behave theirselves. Men take them to shows, and men make them behave theirselves, and be good, and not be tuff."

### ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND IN EARLY DAYS.

(By Agnes MacMillan, aged 13 years.)

"England's the land of mountains and floods,  
Where many Britons shed their bloods;  
Where the Picts and the Scots disputed in lots,  
And covered the land with crimson dots,  
Where the Romans sent their bravest men,  
To copy down with ink and pen,  
Some notes on Scotland, England too,  
And get wet with Scotland's heavy dew.  
Where the Jutes had plundered many a store,  
Who had come in flat-bottomed boats to the shore,  
And took away the corn and wheat,  
For all their hungry children to eat."

—Public School Magazine.

# THE LIBRARY TABLE

"Openway." By Archie McKishnie. Hodder & Stoughton. \$1.25.

"Openway!" A book for the boys, a book for the girls, a book to take town folks to the woods, a book to sharpen the eyes of country folk, a book for every youthful-hearted man and woman, for every lover of bird and beast!

A book unique in Canadian literature; the product of keen and patient observation of the furred and feathered folk, of the shy denizens of wood, marsh and lake; a book written in a style so clear and strong, and withal so colorful, it transports one to the very woods and waters till one's nostrils twitch with the pungent fragrance of the pines, the sweet perfume of the red willow and swamp birch.

Here Creamy, the weasel, stalks his prey; here Grubber, the woodcock, tips forward and takes to wing; here Spotba, the Womper, battles with the sea-hawk; here Padwa, the lynx, and Spraycoat, the silver fox, match their cunning and their strength; here Dotgar, the pike, comes to his kingly end; here—but you must read it for yourself, you must meet Bob, the trapper, to whom most of the forest folk are "them thievin' vermin," and Bennie, to whom "their little lives are jest chock-full of things wu'th learnin', jest chock-full."

As Canadians we should be proud of Mr. McKishnie, and grateful to him for a real Canadian classic; nor should we forget Dudley Ward, who has illustrated the book in a fashion truly delightful.

"Openway" is a book to warm the heart and delight the mind, a book one would like to see in the hands of every Canadian boy and girl this Christmas, a book, too, no teacher nor nature-lover can afford to miss.

Read it! You will be made richer in understanding, more tender of heart thereby; lend it to a friend that he may share your joy; give a copy to some boy or girl dear to you, you will open avenues of sympathy and interest that will lead to fine and beautiful things in their lives.

"Encrcr." By Jessie Alexander. McClelland & Stewart. \$1.50.

This book where reminiscences are so charmingly blended with some of the favorite platform speeches of the well-known elocutionist, Mrs. Alexander, is very welcome to her many friends in Canada. There is a chapter of very helpful hints to amateur elocutionists, and a goodly number of recitations, humorous and otherwise, all delightful.

"Sex and Commonsense." By A. Maude Royden. Third edition. Hurst & Blackett, London.

A book to be recommended to all thoughtful men and women. It is impregnated with a high idealism, and deals in a frank and sensible way with numerous problems that are perennial, but more acute than ever since the war, with its aftermath of abnormality.

"Spinster of This Parish." By W. B. Maxwell. McClelland & Stewart. \$2.00.

This is an excellently well-written novel, with an original plot, capably sustained. The style is delightful, and some of the descriptive passages are unusually fine.

Yet it is in some ways disappointing; it falls just short of being a great book. The hero and heroine are prevented from marrying by a truly iniquitous law which will not free the man from a wife who was insane when he married her, and who, three weeks after the wedding, is taken to an asylum, where she must stay for the rest of her life.

Here is a pitiful problem. How will the lovers solve it? It is because in their solution they live to themselves alone, that they, and the book, fall short of greatness.

"The Dust Flower." By Basil King. Hodder & Stoughton. \$2.00.

Can anything new be written around the eternal triangle? Yes, for here it is, "The Dust Flower," by Basil King. A rich

man and two maids, one rich and one poor, both love him, which will he choose? We won't tell, you must read this very interesting novel to find out. Not the least interesting character in the book is Steptoe, the butler, with his homely philosophy. "Umble 'ill is pretty stiff to climb," says he, "but them as gets to the top of it is tough." "Trouble is to character what a peg'll be to a creepin' vine—something to which the vine'll 'ook on and pull itself up by." His views on women are interesting and decidedly original.

"God's wyes is always dark, and when it comes to women they're darker nor they are elsewheres." "It spiles women to put 'em to 'ousework," are some of his conclusions, but Steptoe must be read to be appreciated.

—L. A.

## A Prompt Answer Improves Everybody's Telephone Service

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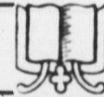
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## Book Gifts



"Reading Maketh a Full Man"

—Bacon.



**B**EN TOON herein announces the removal of "The Little Bookshop" from 316 Richards to 724 Hastings Street. It was with great regret that the doors of the old shop, a place of many pleasant associations, were closed, but the necessity of carrying a larger and more representative stock made the securing of larger premises imperative.

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## Points of Interest

(By F. S. G.)

### Why Christmas Presents Are Called "Boxes."

We always call a present given at Christmas a "Christmas box," whether it is really a box or not. In olden times almshouses were placed in the churches on Christmas Day to receive gifts of money for the poor, and these gifts were distributed on the following day, which thus came to be called "Boxing Day." Later, the watchmen, apprentices, and others used to go round collecting for their own benefit, and to receive the money gifts they had little earthenware boxes. Ever since those times Christmas presents have been known as Christmas boxes.

### Why We Put Holly in Our Homes at Christmas.

The custom of decorating the inside of our homes at Christmas with holly, mistletoe, and other evergreens, is very ancient and can be traced back to the old heathen festivals that took place at the same time of the year as we celebrate Christmas. At these festivals the temples used to be decorated with evergreens, and as one of the Scripture lessons usually read on Christmas Eve contained the passage from Isaiah—chapter 60, and verse 13—"The glory of Lebanon shall come unto thee, the fir tree, the pine tree, and the box together; to beautify the place of My sanctuary," the practice of decorating the churches grew up. This, however, was much opposed at first, owing to the pagan custom, but gradually it got a firm hold, and at last even dwelling houses were decorated.

### Why Children Have Christmas Trees.

The Christmas tree was very little known in England before the coming of Prince Albert, the husband of Queen Victoria, who introduced the custom from Germany. It is supposed to have been derived from a custom of the ancient Egyptians, who used to deck their houses at this period of the year with branches of date-palm, their symbol of life triumphing over death. In Germany, far more than here, the trees are gaily illuminated with lighted candles, a practice that grew out of the custom of keeping a large candle alight at Christmas time in churches, to show that "Jesus, the Light of the World," had come.

### Why We Have Christmas Plum Pudding

Plum puddings and mince pies have only been made in their present form during the last two or three hundred years. It was in ancient times the practice for people to give one another at Christmas time little cakes, roughly shaped in the human form, and these represented the infant Jesus and His mother. These became more elaborate as time went on, and developed into a great Christmas pie made up of all kinds of things—chicken, eggs, spices, raisins, currants, sugar, candied peel, and so on. The pies were made in the supposed shape of the manger in which Jesus was laid. The various ingredients, coming, as many did, from the east, were said to represent the gifts of the wise men to Jesus. Later the pies were made in the more convenient round shape, and developed into our plum puddings and mince pies.

### Beginning of the Cotton Industry.

Long before the dawn of history the cotton plant was cultivated in various parts of the world, and the earliest records of spinning its fleecy bolls are of such antiquity that it is difficult to obtain satisfactory evidence of its beginning. The name "cotton" itself is of Oriental origin, being derived from the Arabic "koton" or "gootn." India is known as the motherland of cotton, and its earliest history is found in the Rig Veda hymn, composed fifteen centuries before the Christian era, which honors the "threads of the loom," and also 3,000 years ago it was used as an ornamental shrub in Egypt.

Alexander the Great acquainted Europe with India, and with that singular plant, "vegetable wool," and often referred to "the trees of India bearing wool." Cotton was first im-

ported into England in 1298 A. D., and the manufacture of cotton goods thereafter became one of its greatest industries. In the United States cotton became an early experimental plant, beginning in Virginia in 1600 A. D., and after that date its growth was very rapid. During the war of the American Revolution and immediately thereafter, cotton culture began to receive considerable attention in the Southern States; along the coast the valuable sea island cotton was raised, and later, in the interior, the upland or green-seed cotton was raised.

Cotton goods are in the front rank of American exports today, but the name of Anderson gingham and Horrockses' cottons from England are still household words when quality and best value are demanded.

## ENLARGING THE B. C. M. LIST

OF

### "LEADERS IN THEIR LINE"

For various reasons the time available for consulting Business Leaders in any line in regard to publicity through this Magazine, is limited.

We are building rather than "boosting," and employ no dunning solicitors.

Because of the Magazine's steady progress and widening field of Community Service, however, we have arranged for assistance in the business department, and as soon as possible one of our representatives will meet the "Leaders" to whom marked Magazines have been sent.

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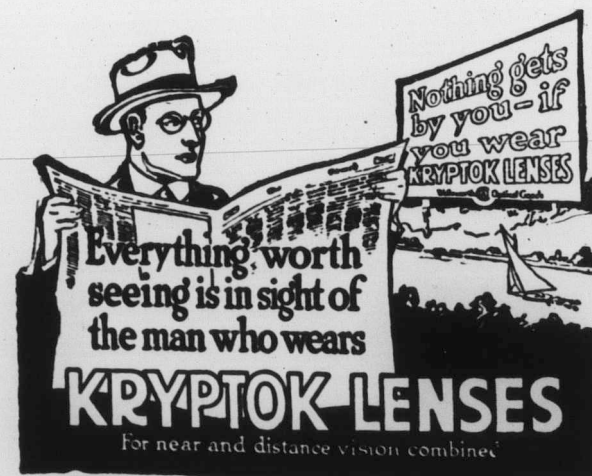
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# "Kiwanis and the Under-privileged Child"

(By Nelson A. Harkness)

Executive Secretary "Kiwanis Big Brothers"

Within the last few years there has sprung up in Canada and the United States a remarkable organization of business and professional men known as Kiwanis. From a very small beginning in the city of Detroit in the year 1915, this movement has grown until now it is represented by more than 800 clubs with a membership of over 70,000 men. Its rapid growth is due to the fact that from the beginning Kiwanis has been dominated by the highest ideals, and the spirit of service. It is not merely a social or fellowship club. It has taken its existence most seriously, and has accepted responsibility whenever community need has arisen.

At the Kiwanis international convention in Toronto last June it was decided, after careful consideration, that no other form of service could mean quite so much to the individual and the community as that in behalf of the underprivileged child. This form of service was accordingly recommended to all the local clubs of North America, which recommendation has been acted on throughout the whole extent of our territory. Kiwanis believes that in this objective there is opportunity for each club, large or small, to make a contribution to the well being of the nation which is of greatest importance.

In this particular field of service the Kiwanis Club of Vancouver is most active. It has recently inaugurated the Big Brother movement, and incorporated its organization under the laws of the province. Already it has justified its existence by giving help to many underprivileged boys and girls, placing them in foster homes, finding employment for them, saving them from delinquency, and setting their feet in the path of good citizenship. In every city, town and country district there are boys and girls who are denied their rightful heritage. The door of opportunity is closed against them, or in some way they are handicapped in the race of life. It is the right of every child to be well born, to enjoy good health, acquire a sound education, to have wholesome companionships, and to possess his just share of the material things of this world. The lack of any of these things constitutes one, to that extent, an underprivileged child. Kiwanis is in the field to give every child "a square deal," and to remove, as far as possible, the handicap under which he faces life.

To do this a vast amount of educational work must be carried on. Up to the present material values have been emphasized. The whole machinery of our civilization has been organized around the adult life of society. The child has been too largely forgotten, or sometimes even exploited for the sake of gain. Society has been contented to care for the products of our social maladjustments in her asylums, poor houses, reformatories and penitentiaries. Slowly but surely are we awakening to the gravity of our mistake, and learning that from every standpoint, moral and economic, it is better to strike at the roots of our difficulties and to dry up, at the source, the stream of moral and physical contagion. To care for the child, to give him a chance in a good environment, to protect his health and train him for a worthwhile occupation is infinitely better than to allow him to grow up a menace and liability to the state.

Kiwanis believes that every child has in him the possibilities of a good citizen. The failure of the child, or his delinquency, is largely due to the failure or delinquency of his home and parents. It is often necessary for the sake of the child to remove him from the evil influences which surround

him, and place him in a wholesome environment, with a new outlook on life. Many cases have already been dealt with in this way. Foster homes have opened their doors and received the joy and buoyancy which only a child can bring, and at the same time have blessed the child with a new opportunity in life. Scattered throughout our province are many homes willing to help in this cause when their attention is drawn to the great need and when shown the opportunity for real service. The Kiwanis Club of Vancouver appeals to the organizations and societies interested in child welfare work to make known the possibilities of this effort and arouse the public conscience in behalf of the underprivileged children.

In every community there are the physically handicapped boys and girls—children who through injury or malnutrition are not able to take their place amongst the workers of the world. Or it may be they were born into the world crippled, paralysed, blind, bearing in their body the sins of their parents. Too often society has pushed these aside, or left them alone to become derelicts and wards of the state. Kiwanis has heard their appeal and is endeavoring to lighten their burden, and make more bearable their lot in life. Such children are given financial assistance in some cases, and educational facilities are brought within their reach.

To make useful citizens is the object of the Kiwanis Big Brother movement. In every community are to be found a great many youths who have no idea of the vocation for which they are adapted, or in which they can be most successful. It is a serious reflection on our present day educational system that so little vocational guidance is given to boys and girls who are graduated from our schools. To help a boy choose an occupation in which he can be happy, and in which there are possibilities of growth and advancement is to render that boy a real service. Vocational talks to groups and to individuals is a work which Kiwanians are doing with great profit and acceptance.

The Club is also taking up the cause of education in its broadest aspects. It believes that provision should be made for the training of the subnormal child. Against our carelessness and neglect of the mentally defective child must be placed the fearful toll of criminality, social misfits, and our huge expenditures for so-called charitable work. In spite of the fact that 50 per cent. of all crime, 66 per cent. of prostitution, 50 per cent. of the inmates of our poorhouses are due to the non-care of the feebleminded, society permits them to live out their lives in the community, and to continue to bring their kind into the world. The public mind must be awakened, and the public conscience quickened in the interest of this unfortunate class which is so serious a menace to the wellbeing of the nation. Kiwanis everywhere can render a large service by calling the attention of the public to the need of making provision for her citizens who are mentally handicapped.

The possibilities in the work for the underprivileged child are unlimited. It is impossible to overtake the task. Those who are handicapped physically, mentally, morally, must be given a chance to escape into life, and to unfold those divine capacities with which each child is endowed. In this service Kiwanis seeks the co-operation and goodwill of all public spirited men and women, and appeals to every member of the community to give "a square deal to the underprivileged child—a future citizen."

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With an Advisory Editorial  
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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!

VOLUME XX.

NOVEMBER, 1922

No. 1

## NOTES and QUESTIONS

THAT FUN AT HALLOWEEN can be indulged in without descending to wanton mischief and destruction of property, is one of the lessons that some youthful members of this Western community must be taught, if need be, by the infliction of fines and insistence that the culprits, or their parents, make good the damage.

\* \* \* \*

NOR SHOULD CITY AUTHORITIES be slow or negligent in repairing damage done. There is little encouragement to residents to improve boulevards, etc., if, when these are damaged by youthful "hooligans," city officials, in response to inquiry, reply that such matters are outside their jurisdiction.

\* \* \* \*

TO NOTE A CASE IN POINT, the "hardpan" on the boulevard in front of a West End lot was this year made to give place to a surface, the greenness of which earned complimentary comment from passers-by during the summer drought. But on reporting to the city officials the wanton destruction of a new railing at Hallowe'en, the occupant learned that the city—which claims such boulevards—was not interested, and leaves the tenants or owners to make and keep such ground presentable.

\* \* \* \*

IN THE WEST, if not elsewhere in Canada, the old copy-book headline, "Procrastination is the thief of time" (who reads Dr. Young's "Night Thoughts" now?), might well be revised to read, "PUNCTUALITY is the thief of Time." At meetings and functions of various kinds it is so common a practice to begin the proceedings about half an hour or more after the advertised hour, that many people who value their time find that being in time only results in a waste of time. The practice is the more objectionable inasmuch as it often leads to meetings being prolonged towards retiring hours—and as a consequence only a thinned audience or attendance remains for the latter part of the programme or business. Often, too, in such cases people go home tired or carry away a tiresome recollection, in place of what might have been a pleasant or refreshing one.

\* \* \* \*

THE SCOTTISH SOCIETY OF VANCOUVER, under President Shaw, is to be congratulated in giving evidence that it seeks to counteract the practice above mentioned. At a recent "Burns' Night" the proceedings were begun practically "on time," and a well-arranged programme was followed by a social hour, for which the "concomitants" were purveyed in excellent abundance by Mr. Jas. I. Reid, whose re-constructed building on Granville Street is now fitted to furnish welcome home supplies of more than one kind.

THE INSTITUTE LECTURE ON THE MOUNT EVEREST expedition of 1921 was of an attractive nature, but from the point of view of thrilling adventure we believe it may be said without prejudice that in some respects it scarcely excelled the story told last season of the ascent of Mount Robson in our own Canadian Rockies.

\* \* \* \*

PROFESSOR HENDERSON'S LECTURE on philosophical theories was one of special appeal to reflective folks, and his exposition obviously won the approval of the audience at the Institute meeting.

\* \* \* \*

WHEN IS VANCOUVER TO HAVE AN AUDITORIUM worthy of a big coast city?—we are tempted to interject here. It is little short of shameful that while "the movies" have the best of accommodation, this "Perennial Port of the Dominion," the development of which into a dominant one of the Empire and the world is inevitable—has not yet, in this year of grace 1922, one tolerably capacious hall adapted for public meetings, lectures, etc.

\* \* \* \*

THE PRAISE OF HIS OWN GENERATION, and the commendation of posterity, will be assured some Western Canadian citizen who has public spirit enough to invest capital in providing such a building, or buildings, as are common in the larger cities of the Old Land. Who'll lead the way?

\* \* \* \*

WE WISH INDEED that our Western population was big enough to justify this magazine in opening a fund for such a much-needed community service. But after the Kiwanis Big Brother Movement has been attended to, we'll be open for suggestions from readers and friends. (See page one, please.)

\* \* \* \*

AS PROFESSOR HENDERSON so pithily suggested in his lecture, the theories of creation and development of the universe are numerous and curious.

\* \* \* \*

PROBABLY THE APPEAL OF THESE and their acceptance depend to a large extent on the disposition (inherited or acquired) of the individual. Some folk seem to inherit a happy mentality which readily accepts more or less "orthodox" assurances concerning life, while others find in their mental make-up an eternal interrogation mark.

\* \* \* \*

RELATIONS OF TIME AND SPACE or of "Time-Space" may justify various lines of reasoning, but in seeking an explanation of the universe as it becomes known to us in our present state, humans cannot avoid being influenced by analogy and experience.

"HAD THERE BEEN NAUGHT, NAUGHT STILL HAD BEEN" (as Dr. Young reasoned) is a conclusive statement that satisfies our reason, but does not enlighten us as to the nature of the "Eternal."

\* \* \* \*

ON THE OTHER HAND, as we grow in knowledge of life and the universe as they are understandable here, it seems childish presumption and folly to assume that human intelligence, with all its wonderfulness of experience, is the highest form or expression of personality. It is easier and more reasonable to believe that all the scores of years of this life are spent in the kindergarten school of universe experience.

\* \* \* \*

IF, HOWEVER—leaving creed and doctrine for discussion at another time or place—we care to contemplate the possibilities open to Intelligence throughout the centuries or aeons, we should reflect on the recent discoveries—or reckonings—of science, so far as the stellar universe is concerned.

\* \* \* \*

A CLUSTER OF CONSTELLATIONS, the latest of which we read, is said to cover a span or depth in space equal to 110,000 LIGHT years. Pause to imagine what a "light year" means, namely, the distance light will cover travelling for a year at the rate of 182,000 miles per second of our present time reckoning.

\* \* \* \*

CONTEMPORANEOUS WITH NOTICES of that scientific discovery it was curious to note in a newspaper a statement that one truly great man and notable servant of humanity, not long gone hence, was of opinion that we humans should not concern ourselves with the starry universe.

\* \* \* \*

WE SHOULD NOT CARE TO ACCEPT such an allegation concerning General Booth, without strong confirmation. Such an attitude of mind, while it might betoken a humble preference for ignorant dependence on another (capital or small "a" as you choose), might also suggest a fear of fuller light.

\* \* \* \*

THE PSALMIST HIMSELF WROTE that "The heavens declare the glory of God," and perhaps there are few subjects like astronomy in that even a little general knowledge of it is well calculated to teach the children of men to see their little lives, with all their majestic worries, in fairer proportion.

"Our little systems have their day;  
They have their day and cease to be.  
They are but broken lights of Thee,  
And Thou, O Lord, art more than they."

\* \* \* \*

THOUGHT-PROVOKING AND SUGGESTIVE as are many of Tennyson's lines on such themes, Addison's words are as likely to linger in the memory. Contemplating the continuance of soul life in the changing material universe, he wrote:

"The stars shall fade away, the sun himself  
Grow dim with age, and nature sink in years;  
But thou shalt flourish in immortal youth,  
Unhurt amidst the war of elements,  
The wrecks of matter, and the crush of worlds."

**WHAT ABOUT A CHRISTMAS  
or NEW YEAR GIFT  
that lasts**

**ALL THE YEAR ROUND?**

*Why not send that relative or friend the B. C. M.  
(See Page One Please)*

**Armistice Month**

**THERE IS NO DEATH!**  
(By Gordon Johnstone.)

I tell you they have not died,  
They live and breathe with you;  
They walk now here at your side,  
They tell you things are true.

Why dream of popped sod  
When you can feel their breath,  
When flower and soul and God  
Knows there is no death!

I tell you they have not died,  
Their hands clasp yours and mine;  
They are now but glorified,  
They have become divine.

They live! They know! They see!  
They shout with every breath:  
"All is Eternal life!  
There is no death!"

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## The Exhibits In Detail At The B. C. Manufacturers' Building

(Continued from last issue.)

The "Classic" Phonograph Co., who have their office in the building, have a fine display of "made-in-B. C." phonographs, and a pleasant young lady will demonstrate any model one cares to see.

"Chanticleer" has an attractive display of chocolates and spun sugar candy.

"Blue Ribbon Tea" is to be seen in an attractive booth, decorated with Japanese lanterns.

The B. C. Electric remind us that it is not so long ago that we had to walk instead of ride, to use man-power instead of machinery, candles instead of electric light. They have a realistic representation of a camping ground, camp-fire and all.

The Electro Magnetic Health Comforter Co. show an electrically heated blanket.

There is a show-case of dainty blouses and neckwear from the Vanity Neckwear Co.

The Suprema Polish Co. show us what can be done to beautify the home with polishes.

The Restmore Co. show a mattress in the making, and model rooms in a bungalow, whose every appointment is a joy to a woman's soul. A bedroom in grey and rose, a breakfast room in cream and blue, another bedroom in mahogany, a dining room in mahogany too, with such a nice oblong table, and the homiest living room, all in soft browns and blues, with a rose-shaded light. The pictures which so tastefully adorn the walls of these rooms come from the Vancouver Art Gallery, which also has a wall display elsewhere in the building.

At the top of the stairway, enterprising students of the U. B. C. present a petition for signature. The petition asks the Government to build the University at Point Grey. "We're all packed, let's move," say they.

The Canadian Western Cooperage Co. show us barrels, casks and tubs for all uses.

The Canada Metal Co. has a booth with pipes, and all sorts of mysterious locking things made of metal.

The National Paper Box & Carton Co. have a case of paper boxes of all kinds, from the humble butter container to the kind of a hat-box or candy box you've always wished to have.

The King-Beach Jam Co., and the A. B. C. Packing Co. have a nice booth, where a pleasant attendant will give you a taste of her wares, and then you're sure to want more.

The Nabob products of the Kelly Douglas Co.—tea, coffee, spices and extracts—are demonstrated in one of the prettiest booths of the exhibition, all mauve and gold, with some beautiful potted plants.

The Easterbrook Milling Co. have a good display of flour.

There are splendid looking boots in the glass case that bears the "Leckie" name.

The Victory Flour Mills have a very attractive display of Paragon Flour, with the poppy trade mark artistically used.

The Britannia Wire Rope Co., and Gibson's Logging Supply House combine to show chains, cables, monstrous pulleys and hooks, wicked looking spikes, and other mysterious contraptions which look very useful and imposing, but are quite incomprehensible to a mere woman.

At Braid's pretty red and white booth, smiling young ladies dispense delicious tea and coffee, making it the most popular spot on the second floor.

The Vancouver Milling & Grain Co. have a splendid display of Royal Standard Flour, and a young lady, in a most becoming costume thriftily made of flour sacks, smilingly presents the visitor with a most useful recipe book.

J. W. Gehrke has an exhibit of distinctive printing and engraving. Here we see beautifully engraved and embossed notepaper, charming and original Christmas, place and tally cards, and many other samples of the engraver's art.

The Dust Control Company's mops and polishes are sure to delight every woman's housewifely heart.

There are beautiful and intimate portraits by Wadds, who is an artist as well as a photographer, as his work shows.

Exercise books for boys and girls, paper and envelopes, and wrapping paper are attractively displayed by Smith, Davidson & Wright.

There is an imposing crankshaft for a 40 H.P. heavy duty engine on display by the B. C. Marine Engineers, who will also install hot water heating apparatus in your home.

Robinson's Easykut Candied Peel looks very good, but the display is not as attractive as it might be.

Thorpe's serve the thirsty with delicious drinks. "Mickey" is the latest and most popular.

The B. C. Sugar Refining Co. show six kinds of sugar, not to mention their delicious golden syrup. It is a pity that there is no demonstrator at their display.

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MONTHLY**

1100 Bute Street, Vancouver, B. C.

Want a brush? a broom? a mop? big or small? stiff or soft? from a little one to clean baby's bottle to a floor brush about a yard long—the B. C. Brush Works have them all.

Laxafood, a new B. C. health food, is demonstrated at an attractive booth, and tastes delicious.

Beautiful maple leaves decorate the booth where Fleischmann's Yeast is shown. Here you are urged to eat more bread, and given samples of yeast and a recipe book to encourage you to try your hand at making some.

Whole wheat flour and tonics for tired hens are shown at the Vernon Feed Co.'s booth.

The Peggy Duff Co. have a tempting display of chocolates in beautiful gift boxes. The "Yard of Chocolates" is a unique box a yard long.

The British America Paint Co. tell us that they have a paint for every purpose, from enamelling an engine to tinting the walls of milady's boudoir.

The Canada Western Cordage Co. have an imposing display of ropes and cable, from twine to a 12-inch cable, with almost every intermediate size imaginable.

Peerless Beauty Clay is demonstrated in a very pretty booth.

Gregory's Tire & Rubber Co. have a nice booth to display this "made-in-B. C." tire.

Mrs. Haines' Marmalade is attractively displayed on a table.

The Empress Manufacturing Co. have a dainty display of good things to eat. The demonstrator pleasantly proves how delicious the jams and jellies are by giving the visitor a generous taste.

Pat Burns Co. have a tempting display of hams, butter, and other products.

The Okanagan United Fruit Growers show fresh, canned and evaporated fruits in an attractive fashion.

The Pacific Milk have a very fine display in a pretty booth. Here you may sample the whipped cream that may be prepared from the rich and delicious evaporated milk.

The Royal Crown Soap Co. have a pleasing display of soaps and premiums.

The Davies Paper Box Co. have a very beautiful assortment of boxes on display.

B. C. Maid Eggs are exhibited by the B. C. Poultrymen's Co-operative Association.

The Dominion Cannery show many varieties of canned fruits and vegetables, grown and packed in B. C.

Writing pads, envelopes and school exercise books are shown by the Columbia Paper Co.

Mrs. Pound's Jams and Jellies are very temptingly displayed.

The John Bull Co. has a table of products useful to the poultryman.

Johnston & Salsbury show food and medicine for your canary.

Candy from the Kelly Confectionery Co. is daintily displayed, and cards tell us that they make over 500 different kinds of sweets. What a paradise for children their factory would be!

The Henrietta Co. has a very pretty booth, where many things essential to milady's dressing table are shown: perfumes, powders, creams and beautifying clays. A charming page in scarlet, with powdered hair and dainty beauty patches, dispenses samples of fragrant sachet powder.

The Western Industrial Development Co. has an interesting display of cleansing agents.

Nearby the Disabled Veterans are making poppies for Armistice Day.

The Gosse-Millerd Co. have a nice showing of canned fish and sandwich pastes. A platter of pilchard sandwiches on the table was very popular.

The C. H. Jones Co. have one of the most interesting displays in the building. It represents a camp in the woods, and is complete in every detail.

The Quigley Knitting Mills show a sweater in the making, besides having a show-case of fine knitted goods on view.

The Pacific Coast Fluff Rug Co. show beautiful rugs made from old carpets.

More pulleys and mysterious metal things are shown by the M. O. Olson Iron Works.

On the wall on the third floor is a beautiful example of inlaid hardwood floor, by the Inlay Hardwood Floor Co.

Nearby is the display of polychrome brick, by the Ritchie Supply Co. These are beautiful colored bricks for facing buildings or making artistic fireplaces.

"Made-in-B. C." Toys are displayed by the David Spencer Co., Ltd.

There is an interesting case of paints for many purposes bearing the name of the Crown Paint Co.

The Compressed Gas Co. have a display most interesting to men, since it is all about machinery, but a mere woman can make nothing of it.

The same must be said about the Barr Anderson automatic sprinkler.

Here are more model rooms, these panelled with Lamatco and furnished by Copeland Bros. Lamatco certainly makes a beautiful finish for the walls, whether it is enamelled in plain colors, or finished to represent wood; while Copeland Bros.' chairs and chesterfield make one feel rested just to look at them.

Mr. Wakefield has an interesting display of willow and reed furniture, trays, baskets, etc.

Here are more cables and mysterious metal things shown by the Morrison Steel & Wire Works.

A miniature bungalow tells how you can buy your home all ready cut from the Mill Cut Homes & Lumber Co.

The Dawson Stone Art Works have an interesting showing of garden urns and fountains.

The Impermea Products show how bricks and shingles may be made waterproof, and concrete floors covered with a coating in color that gives them a smooth and beautiful finish.

Of interest to the motorist is the S. & S. shock absorber of G. Lightly Bros. who also exhibit a large washing machine.

The Westminster Iron Works display ornamental railings, lamp posts and other fine iron work. There is a truly wonderful spray of roses, and another of grapes, made of iron by one of the workmen, who also designed them. He is to be congratulated, for he is a true craftsman.



(B. C. M. Space Contribution)

In a corner near a window is some fine ornamental plaster work by A. Fabri.

There is a table of blankets made by the Canada Western Woolen Mills.

The N. Nelson Co., upholsterers, have a very fine display of beautiful and comfortable upholstered furniture.

Another interesting exhibit is that of the Bee Keepers' Association.

No woman could help longing for the electric range that is displayed by the McClary Co. or the cabinet household refrigerator, manufactured by the Freezo Kitchenette Co.

Men halt interestedly at the table where Messrs. Story & McPherson, the Particular Tailors, display their distinctive suits of beautiful material.

The New Method Coal Co. are showing their No Choke Grate to many interested visitors.

There is nothing in the building more interesting than the display of the Alpha Tile Co. Here are beautiful decorated tiles for fireplaces and other uses. The designs are very artistic, and the fireplace on view is a joy to behold.

The Empire Cleaners, with their "family service laundry," offer the busy housewife invaluable service. Their display is most instructive.

Crane Co., Ltd., show how very dainty and comfortable the modern bathroom may be. All fitted in blue and white, with tub and shower bath, basins, towel racks, and all other conveniences, their model bathroom makes a beautiful display.

The Vancouver Engineering Works have a display which is, undoubtedly, very instructive, but it is Greek to a mere woman, who sees only enormous iron or steel wheels and things.

Geo. Hewitt Co., have a fine exhibit of stencils, rubber stamps, etc., which are made at their Vancouver factory.

Laundry tubs are more in a woman's province. Hunter & Son make them, and they are just the right height—you know what that means in comfort!

The Martin Senour Co.'s display is another very instructive one. Here we see a paint mill in operation, and learn all the ingredients that should be in paint, and all those that shouldn't be there.

The Jo-To Co. show their effervescent healthful drink in a pretty blue and white booth.

The Hudson Bay Co. have a realistic representation of an old time H. B. post, with red blankets and grub stakes displayed, and elsewhere a fine showing of beautiful garments.

The Fraser Valley exhibit of dairy products is most interesting and instructive.

The Western Canada Lumber Co. have a series of beautiful rooms, the walls of which are made from three-ply veneer. A different finish is shown in each room, and one could wish for all three in different parts of the home from sheer inability to decide which is the most artistic.

Altogether a walk through this Exhibition is a liberal education, and gives point and meaning to the panoramic representations of Vancouver, as it was at the time of the great fire, and as it is now, that are to be seen on the second floor. Vancouver is the hub of B. C., as she has grown so has the rest of the province, till, though the youngest of the provinces of the Dominion, she is by no means the least important.

The B. C. Manufacturers and the Elks are to be congratulated on the success of this exhibition.

### HOPE.

(Romans v: 3, 4.)

Hope is a treasure that's for age to claim—

The garnered grain of ripe experience;

For courage that o'ercomes, a recompense;

Or, change the metaphor, the sunset's flame.

In youth, strong bars a cramped enclosure frame;

Age, having hewn a gap in the high fence,

Goes out to blaze a trail through brushwood dense,

And so to fields beyond the forest came.

Young eyes, I ween, see only valley lands

And the sky resting on the nearest hill;

Young ploughmen work with blistered, bleeding hands,

And miss the glories that the distance fill.

Who wins the guerdon is the one who stands

On vantage ground attained by patient will.

—Annie Margaret Pike.

Established 1911

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The Story of Modern Piano Making.

(By L. D. Kennedy.)

The piano industry of Canada, and its allied trades, are so bound up with the history of the company with which the writer is connected that it is impossible to speak of one without mentioning the other; and as my connection with the trade has been exclusively with the firm of Mason & Risch, my references must be particularly to their piano and its construction.

## Early History.

Before the year 1877 the manufacture of pianos in Canada had practically no existence; the piano trade of Canada was done by a few importing houses who handled American pianos exclusively. The dawn of better things came, however, when several men (who up to this time had been importing exclusively) conceived the idea that a piano built by Canadians on conscientious and artistic lines, would be sure to be appreciated in this country. They immediately put their ideas into execution, and in 1877 turned out the first artistic instrument which could claim to be entirely the product of Canadian skill and enterprise.

The result was phenomenal; and the question became not "how to dispose of such pianos as was modestly put forward" but "how to fill the increasing demand." This was overcome by factory extension, replete with modern appliances and machines of our own invention.

In 1879 Mason & Risch pianos were exhibited in the Toronto exhibition for the first time, and were awarded two diplomas and a gold medal.

In 1882, to test the artistic worth of Canadian pianos, a Mason & Risch Grand was submitted to the immortal artist, Franz Liszt, and his opinion was as follows:

"The Grand piano you have forwarded me is excellent, magnificent, unequalled. Artists, judges of music and the public will be of the same opinion."

This testimony, coming from such a source, induced Mason & Risch to exhibit their pianos at the Colonial and Indian exhibition that was held in London in 1886. At that exhibition our pianos attracted universal attention, and one of the instruments was selected by Her Majesty Queen Victoria, and was placed in the King's Presence Chamber in Windsor Castle.

The trade in Canada today is composed of **thirty-two factories** manufacturing pianos, uprights, player pianos, and grand pianos. There are **fifteen factories** manufacturing actions, keys, hammers, strings, plates, cases, pins, and sounding boards. These factories are located principally in Nova Scotia, Quebec, and Ontario. The great majority of them are located in Ontario, with Toronto as the chief centre. The piano manufacturers of Canada employ, roughly, 4,000 people, and pay out in wages over \$5,000,000 annually. The trade represents an invested capital of over \$15,000,000, the annual output being around 30,000 pianos, and is the main support of the musical instrument dealers of Canada, of which there are 402 exclusively engaged in this business. There is also a larger number of dealers retailing musical supplies, who occasionally retail pianos.

The invested capital of the piano dealers in Canada is estimated at over \$46,000,000. They give employment to 10,500 additional workers, and have an estimated annual business of approximately \$50,000,000.

The business of Mason & Risch, Ltd., was established in 1871, and the first factory employed but a few men. Today they employ 250 men at the factory, on a working capital of \$2,100,000, and turn out an average of 2,500 pianos annually, with an annual turnover of \$1,750,000. This firm operates 22 retail stores, which cover the entire Dominion of Canada,

from the Atlantic to the Pacific Coast, and, in addition, a large number of independent dealers handle our instruments exclusively.

## Piano Construction.

I shall not touch on case design, finish, and the details connected with the cabinet maker's department, except to say that only the finest woods and most expensive and choice veneers are used, and the varnish work or finishing is a trade in itself, and appeals to our love of the beautiful, in the graceful lines and beauty of the finish. Instead I shall deal with the inside construction of a piano, and start at the very beginning, like a good house builder, and deal first with the foundation.

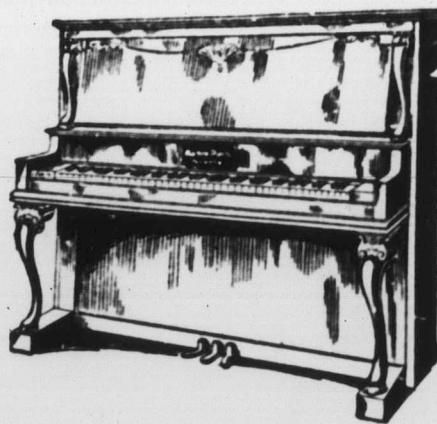
## The Foundation.

The foundation is the back frame of a piano, and is so constructed as to secure the greatest degree of strength. It consists of several hard wood uprights, firmly braced together. In the top of this frame work the pin-block is solidly set, and in place of iron bolts, which have always proven unsatisfactory, in the Mason & Risch piano we have introduced a series of wood "interlocks," which firmly bind the pin-block and frame work together. The pin-block is constructed of layers of rock maple. Each layer presents a different grain surface to the adjacent layer. These layers are glued by special process.

By this construction we secure a pin-block that is equal to any strain that may be brought to bear upon it, and which will neither buckle, warp nor crack.

This might seem a trifling matter on first thought, but it is really of vital importance to the life and wearing quality

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of the instrument. This construction of the pin-block enables it to resist all changes of weather and temperature, another very important attribute.

When a piano is in tune, the 225 strings that are put into the instrument have a combined steady strain of twenty-five tons, most of which comes on the pin-block. The importance of the pin-block construction will therefore be realized.

#### The Sounding Board and British Columbia Spruce.

Piano sounding boards, in their construction, material and adjustments, have been for years the subject of the closest scientific investigation. The object has been to secure the necessary resilience combined with firmness and strength, which are necessary to secure the fullest tonal equality and development of the instrument.

From exhaustive investigations that have been made in this matter, it has been found that spruce is the best wood for this purpose, when it is grown in a climate where the conditions of the weather and the soil mature the wood in such a way as to give it the closest fibre, free from unnecessary moisture. Only in recent years has it been discovered that in the northern part of British Columbia is a spruce grown that is suitable, and makes excellent piano sounding boards. Previous to this most of the spruce was imported from the States.

#### The Iron Plate.

Just as the inventor of the railway suspension bridge figured out the distribution of the bridge's great weight, so is the iron plate of the upright piano designed to withstand pressure. No one point must bear more per inch than the other, as the strain of the strings amount to about fifty thousand pounds. So the equal distribution is of vital importance in the construction of a piano plate and in the maintenance of tone.

Vibrations from this iron plate must not conflict with those of the sounding board, or the influence of the strings, as the purity of tone would be impaired. It is for that reason that some features which appear in the next paragraph, became necessary in the construction of the Mason & Risch piano.

#### The Overstrung Scale.

This is constructed on exact mathematical and acoustic principles, producing through the entire register depth, richness and purity of tone. The one objective point has been beauty of tone. No matter what other qualifications a piano may possess, it is valueless unless it produces a superior quality of tone.

#### The Separate Agraffe System.

There is in all pianos a device for preventing vibration of that part of the piano string which is between the tuning pin and the bridge. In the Mason & Risch piano construction, the separate agraffe screw is exclusively used for this purpose.

In most pianos a simple metal bar is used which traverses all the notes, necessarily giving them a metallic influence, which greatly mars the purity and richness of tone. Another objection in the metal bar is that the strings of a note are liable to shift their position and thus spoil the tone. A separate brass screw agraffe isolates each note, and each of the three strings of the note, from those adjoining, thus permitting a clearness and purity of tone otherwise impossible.

#### Piano Action.

The action of a piano has often been compared to the heart in the human body. It is the vital part of a piano. It must respond to the player's every graduation of touch. It must be sensitive enough to stand the heaviest demands with continuous use. Its part in the production of tone is most important. The wood used in its construction is selected with the utmost care. It is thoroughly seasoned, and there are many different kinds of wood used—each chosen for its fitness to meet the special requirements.

The action of a Mason & Risch piano is designed on scientific lines to enable the parts to work together without friction, and produce the maximum of power with the minimum of force. Thus the action is known for its accuracy and its great power for rapid repetition. It is noted for its elasticity, sensitiveness, and evenness of touch. That is due principally to two features, which I shall describe:

(1) **The Action-Regulating Rail.**—The regulating rail in the action of a piano is that part on which the trueness of the action depends. The slightest warping or twisting of this rail caused by climatic extremes immediately affects the action. The hammers are thrown out of alignment, and the action loses its responsiveness of touch. In the action of the Mason & Risch piano, the regulating rail is encased in a brass tube, which prevents its warping. This is one reason why these pianos, after many years of use, are as perfect as when the instruments first leave the factory.

The other feature is (2) **Continuous Brass Flange.**—The range of a piano action is that part to which the hammers are attached and on which they operate. It has to hold the hammer firmly so that it will strike the note full, and with effective clearness. The advantages of a continuous brass flange are as follows:

1. The use of metal, instead of wood, avoids any possibility of expansion, shrinking, or warping.
2. The flange being a continuous piece, preserves unvarying alignment of the hammers.
3. The Mason & Risch method of attaching the knuckle of the action to the flange by a metal piece which is tongued at the end and fits into a groove in the flange, prevents any lateral play or wobbling of the hammers from one side to the other.

These points in the action are of vital importance, as the blow delivered by the hammer on the strings must be at a certain point in order to secure the full and free vibration of the strings which compose each note.

It may be inferred from this outline of construction that the life and tone of a piano depend more on the parts that **cannot be seen**, than on what is visible, and that the piano industry in Canada is not only an important part of our national business life, but also equal in quality to the industry of our cousins across the border.

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# CLEMENCEAU

(Or, The Senate and The Tiger.)

By Donald Downie.

*"Ils crient, donc ils paieront."*—Cardinal Mazarin.

In the fencing school and on the field of honour, no less than in the turbulent Chamber, Georges Clemenceau, in the course of his long and stormy career, has often heard from his home-thrust the warning cry: "Touché."

## Touché.

So the Pacifists and the pro-Germans are touched and enraged. Therefore there is hope. And the venerable senators, as we see, are afraid of that formidable hyphenated vote. And so the fiction of New World gratitude to the land of Lafayette and Rochambeau—that pious sentiment which had lasted more than a century—has disappeared like so many of our illusions, at the very first testing time. Disappeared the moment that a European statesman, with courage that is rare and splendid, sets foot upon their sacred soil and tells them the sober truth.

For this commercially clever, precocious, interesting, amiable, gullible and childlike race of people in America—quite in the kindergarten class so far as international politics and foreign affairs are concerned—are accustomed to only one language from all foreigners, distinguished and otherwise, who come among them. And that is the language of flattery. They have supped full of that; until their healthful mental appetite for simple food and plain facts is vitiated and destroyed.

## Spoiled Children.

Heretofore every diplomatic ambassador, true to his trade, every social lion looking for recognition, and every learned literateur or lecturer looking for dollars and applause—with the brilliant exception of Charles Dickens—have thrown themselves at the feet of this youthful and receptive race; and from Bowling Green to the Golden Gate have told them exactly that which they wanted to hear. That they won the war; that they have saved humanity; that they are the greatest people on earth; that without their assistance, and perhaps that of the Russians and the Germans, the world cannot recover; and that without their intervention the hands upon the dial of our Old World civilization must inevitably be turned backwards.

Are not our own university men even here telling them today that they are the only people able to write a history of the Great War fit for Canadian schools? We all know it would be ridiculous, of course, to think that any British, French or Canadian could do so. We were too close to the fighting line; without proper perspective; while they were calmly looking on. Or—to use the figurative expression of old Doctor Johnson—they were standing on the bank while we struggled for our lives in the water, and when we had reached shore they overpowered us with help.

## Ambassador to the World.

But here, in this unofficial ambassador, we have something altogether new to the American audience. Here is one who does not get down flat upon his stomach in front of them. One who stands erect; who can handle the rapier—in both senses—and who, launching out in his very first public pronouncement, is designedly and completely provocative. And he has drawn their fire.

Their alert young pressmen call him derisively, "the aged statesman." And they question his tact. Well, I wish some of these "smart Alocs"—mostly suffering from extreme youth—and some of their Borahs and Hitchcocks and Hearsts—had tried to act as a secretary for this octogenarian war minister of France any time in the past few years, in order to test their energy. They might have received some lessons in tact, in mental vigour and in practical ability from the

ablest and the most accomplished tactician of the age. It was he who on the momentous 11th November, 1918, in the tribune of the House, all standing tense with the excitement of victory, closed his speech with these peaceful words of thanks to the army:—

"Grace a nos soldats, la France, hier Soldat de Dieu, aujourd'hui Soldat de l'Humanite, sera toujours le Soldat de l'Ideal."

But today he speaks again to us in a language which happily even every American can understand, upon matters in which every one is interested.

## The Elite of America.

And so, in fine, let us hope that the intelligenzia—the saving remnant of the excellent American people—those of the Roosevelt school, who recognize genius when they meet it, and who know and deplore what Clemenceau bluntly calls the former tardiness and the present weak-kneed isolation of their country—may yet have the courage to save it from its present unworthy attitude of Teutonic superiority and Olympian detachment. And leaving Germanic Kultur and German propaganda, may turn, as Britain herself does today, more sympathetically towards that land of France to which all other lands are debtors, which has long led the world in peace and war, in fine arts, in fine manners and polite learning, and that still holds the banner high and the torch bright in the very vanguard of our modern civilization.

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"Wholesalers are beginning to feel the benefit of good wheat crops on the prairies, as the merchants in that territory are buying much more freely, and collections of late have been better. Conditions in general remain very satisfactory, business apparently being steady, and mining concerns and other industries are kept busy." — From "The World's Markets," Canadian number, November, 1922, published by R. G. Dun & Co.

## Just Between Ourselves

A Corner for Mother and the Girls.

The G. K. E. has given us this corner to talk about all the things that are of special interest to us, and I hope that we shall have many a pleasant chat—if not of “cablages and kings,” at least of “a number of things” that should make us all “as happy as kings,” or, rather, as queens. Now, do let me know just what YOU would like to talk about: address your letters to me, care of the B. C. M., but let them be short, PLEASE.

Christmas shopping is quite the most thrilling event this month, of course, and a trip through the stores gives one a hundred and one ideas that may be carried out, even though one suffers from “insufficient capitalization,” chronic or acute.

Aprons, large and roomy, made of unbleached cotton, and trimmed with applique in bright or pastel colors, make delightful and useful presents. One I saw had a bright red poppy growing all up one side, and the topmost poppy was the pocket. Another had morning-glories in pale shades all around the bottom, and on the pocket, while for the little maiden what could be more appropriate than a sunbonnet baby watering her garden?

Have you noticed that we are getting positively Mid-Victorian again? Well, we are. Glove and handkerchief boxes, elaborately trimmed with gold and silver lace, with intricate bows of ribbon, or puffs of pink silk, are going to be favorite presents this year.

It's often hard to know just what to give to an invalid. A book is splendid, but it must be just the right one. “Open Trails,” by Janey Canuck, and the Grayson books, “Adventures in Contentment,” “Adventures in Friendship,” and “The Friendly Road,” are restful books that breathe the very spirit of out-doors.

By the way, let's all ask for “Made in Canada” or “Made in the Empire” goods this Christmas season, and so help to create a demand for home-grown and home-made things.

Is there an intermediate-grade school boy or girl in your home? If there is, be sure to let them take this and the last number of the B. C. M. to show teacher the long list of “Made in B. C. goods.” “How I Set Up Housekeeping with Made in B. C. Products” would make a good subject for an essay, wouldn't it?

Talking of school, have you a P.T. A.? They're doing a great work in many schools of the province. All sorts of questions of interest to teachers and parents are discussed at the meetings. Newspaper reports lately show that the vexed question of home-work is being aired in many a district. If one who is neither a teacher nor a parent may be allowed to make a suggestion, I would say that the question of home-work is one that Parent-Teachers' Associations would do well to leave severely alone. The home-work any child does should be discussed, if need for discussion arises, by the parent and teacher of the particular child; if they cannot agree, the matter should be taken to the principal, then to the trustees, but NEVER to the P.T. A., where it is sure to be a rock of offense and a stone of stumbling.

The students of the U. B. C. have waged a mighty warfare with advertising as their weapon, and seem to have awakened the people and the Government at last to the absolute necessity of new buildings. Advertising in this province will be a fine art by the time the students who engineered this campaign are let loose upon the public. Honor to whom honor is due. 'Twas cleverly done indeed, and in an excellent cause, and so say all of us.

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#### CHILDREN COMPETE FOR FORESTRY ESSAY PRIZE.

Scores of school children in every school district of the Dominion are competing these days in the national school essay competition on “Forestry and Tree Planting,” inaugurated recently by the Canadian Forestry Association.

Questions as to the forest resources of Canada, the damage done by forest fires, what trees to choose for planting, and how to plant them, are being asked by a multitude of young people, and the resultant information is being applied to the essay competition. Three substantial cash prizes are being given in each province, and the effect of the national effort to stimulate juvenile interest in the forest resources of the country and the multiple benefits of tree planting, has secured the hearty endorsement of all the departments of education, which are giving every co-operation. (S.)

#### LITTLE QUESTIONERS.

If you have little children in your care,  
And they come to you with inquiring eyes  
And puzzling questions and an eager air,  
Put all the best you have in your replies.

You cannot always make them understand—  
Perhaps you do not understand yourself;  
But give your best. Give with a willing hand.  
Share what you have. It is not miser's pelf.

Sincerity and patience, linked with love,  
Should meet the little seekers after truth.  
There are few duties this great task above,  
To treat with reverence the heart of youth.

Give out the best, however poor it seems,  
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—Annie Margaret Pike.

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Page One?

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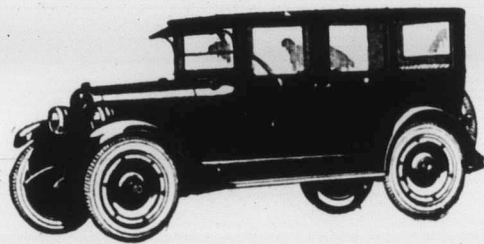
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