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Vol. IX.

No. 3

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**Westminster  
Review**

Published at Vancouver, B. C.

May, 1916

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—and the Way Out**

**The Educational System of British Columbia  
II.—Public School System**

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THE MANAGING EDITOR.

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D. A. Chalmers

Managing Editor

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### NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS

Mainly because of business conditions this (May) issue has been made "No. 3 of Volume IX." In consequence in future, instead of renewals falling due on the month printed beside subscribers' names, that month will, in each case, represent the date up to which the subscription is covered.

#### ARTICLES AWAITING PUBLICATION.

Even in these abnormal times the circulation of this "Review" is steadily increasing. Business conditions are testing, however, and the business side affects the size of an independent publication. We usually "carry" more pages (and never less) than our business department warrants.

Readers may be interested to know that the next article of the series on the Educational System of British Columbia deals with "The University of British Columbia." Other articles awaiting publication, some of which we hope to publish in our next number include:

- 1.—Great Preachers: Rev. R. W. Dale of Birmingham. By Rev. E. A. Henry, Vancouver.
- 2.—Education With or Without Religion. By Rev. J. T. McNeill, B. D.
- 3.—The Place of Oratory in Dialectics. By W. R. Dunlop.
- 4.—Present Day Problems and Our Attitude Towards Them. By Rev. A. E. Mitchell.



We should certainly vote for the Saturday half-holiday, and hope to see the time when the Saturday whole-holiday will be general. We believe that Sunday observance will then, in comparison with these times, be more largely Christian.

"Not all the heroes are in the trenches; it would be much easier to throw up everything and go; but we are just holding on in the hope that the change will come before we reach the end of our resources."

### The Easier Way: and the Recruiting Meeting

These words, uttered recently by a Granville Street business man, express what is true of the experience of many in Western Canada and elsewhere at this time. It is the duty of every man, physically fit, to ask himself if his circumstances or his home responsibilities are such as to prevent his offering himself for service in some capacity in connection with the national and imperial organization to meet the German military menace. It need not be taken as a reflection on the thousands who are going, however, that a passing tribute is paid the men who stay behind to fight in the business trenches.

Following hard on the presentation of that side came the recruiting meeting in the Vancouver Hotel. Several short but pointed addresses were made by representative men. Unfortunately, towards the end of the meeting, a versatile speaker of wide sympathies won the favour of the audience when he introduced a subject other than recruiting into the discussion, and this led a peripatetic orator who followed, to test the patience of the meeting by airing certain grievances along labour lines.

In the course of his address, Rev. Dr. O'Boyle made an appeal to the Canadian-born. Canada has no reason to be ashamed of the part her native sons, in common with her British-born citizens, have already taken in the world struggle, but those who are in constant touch with the Old Land know that the requirements of the situation seem to have come home more fully to the men of Britain and that in most cases brothers and nephews have long ago, without need of any form of compulsion, made everything secondary to the interests of the Empire and enlisted in one department or another of army or navy service.

There is no doubt a danger that the very security from the consequences of war which the Imperial Navy has so far ensured to the Dominions beyond the seas may prevent some young men from realizing all the present struggle means, and the primary claim the Empire has on the personal consideration of all who value British institutions and Christian civilization.

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Probably, as was suggested at the recruiting meeting, many Canadians are only now beginning to be seized of the significance of what is involved in the conflict, and that has only to come home to them to lead the young manhood of the nation to volunteer in undiminishing proportion from the remaining population. Cost what it may, Prussian militarism must be destroyed.

Last month the English-speaking world united in doing homage to the genius of the peerless prince of characterization, William Shakespeare. So much has been written on the subject that in our reference to it we shall content ourselves with recording the deep sense of gratification common to all lovers of the great master in Vancouver in that the citizens not only had an opportunity of hearing a series of excellent lectures, but that the city had in Mr. Harold Nelson Shaw a worthy exponent of the greatest of all dramatists.

Mr. Shaw, who is well known in Vancouver as a teacher of elocution, revealed himself not only as an outstanding interpreter of such widely-different characters as Hamlet, Romeo, and Shylock, but as a tutor capable of bringing a large group of amateurs to a creditable stage of histrionic efficiency.

Under present circumstances and with the depleted population of Vancouver, it was a somewhat daring thing for Mr. Shaw and his company to undertake to produce four Shakespearean plays. It was all the more gratifying to gather from his short speech on the closing evening that the response of the public resulted in the venture being a financial success.

The business of a provision merchant is perhaps one of the most commonplace, and one at least in which a man would not be expected to have much opportunity of influencing a community. But it all depends on the man. More than the large attendance at the impressive service in Center & Hanna's Chapel on the occasion of the funeral of Mr. L. L. McTaggart testified to the personal worth of the deceased and the high esteem in which he was held in Vancouver and district. The young minister who officiated (Rev. Mr. Brown, Kitsilano, we understand), spoke with arresting fitness. He emphasized (among other things), that Mr. McTaggart had recognized that after all the first business in life was the upbuilding of character.

To have met this Granville Street merchant in an ordinary business way would itself enable one to assert that the pastor's remarks



at the funeral service were as well warranted as they were becomingly worded. Vancouver business life is the poorer for the early passing of Mr. L. L. McTaggart, who in all his dealings "best seemed the thing he was"—a Christian gentleman.

No doubt the minds of many people who seek to keep an open mind towards political men and matters were prejudiced against the present Premier when, as Attorney-General, he some years ago countenanced or instructed an unprecedented course of treatment towards certain prisoners sent to jail at New Westminster. On the other hand the recent action of ex-Mayor Baxter, Vancouver, in publicly announcing a change in his political party allegiance because of opinions formed from personal acquaintance gained of the Premier when meeting him in connection with civic and provincial affairs, may have influence with some members of the community.

Certainly the knowledge that comes from personal contact and business acquaintance with men may considerably modify estimates of their personalities formed mainly from the viewpoint of political opponents. Much must of course depend on the character of the person receiving the impression. Whatever his other characteristics may be, ex-Mayor Baxter in his public addresses suggests that he himself is a straightforward and plain-spoken man, one sure of himself and not troubled with doubt about his attitude towards a question.

There will not be wanting those who will allege that there are reasons for his change other than those given by ex-Mayor Baxter; but after all it would be a bad business for most men if their words and actions were judged solely on the interpretations of their motives given by those in opposite camps.

That the vast majority of the people of British Columbia are agreed about the introduction of Prohibition may be accepted as a fact which would have been amply demonstrated a year ago had the matter been referred to the people then. That there should be some difference of opinion with regard to the working out of the details is only natural, and that these differences of viewpoint should, on occasion, be expressed by candid men is one of the privileges common to British citizenship.

Influenced by various opinions expressed to us on the subject by business men—not canvassed for the purpose, but met in an ordin-

### A Personal Compliment to Premier Bowser?

### Compensation, Time Extension, or Property Adjustment?



ary business or friendly way—and by consideration of the peculiar conditions affecting the erection of hotel property in this province, this *Review* ventured, in an editorial in the March number, to suggest that some consideration might be extended, at a date later than that on which Prohibition itself is submitted, to the subject of readjustment of such property values.

In that restricted sense only—as the article as a whole bears out—did we refer to “Compensation,” and we see no reason for qualifying the suggestion. So far as the liquor business itself is concerned, we are of those—and no doubt there are many of them in the Prohibition Party and in all the Churches, who, since they were capable of taking any interest in social life, have marvelled that the traffic should have been tolerated so long. Were it a matter of dealing with saloons only—apart from hotel property—we should advocate closing them down in every case at the expiry of the current year’s license and that without any ceremony—unless it were one of general rejoicing.

We do not think that the suggestion of time extension should be considered. If the business is a bad and destructive one, it cannot be stopped a day too soon, and we would much rather see some money allowed by the Government towards the readjustment of property values than one month’s extension of time given. Time extension means “Compensation” in its worst form—not from taxes, but at the expense of the physical and moral well-being of the people.

---

### The Clamant Need for Prohibition in Britain

“There is still one reform which many have desired and worked and prayed for long before the war, but which war conditions have brought into a clearer light and truer perspective—that is the need for Prohibition.

“Is it creditable that in a Christian country, engaged in a life-and-death struggle, in which every man, every effort, every penny counts, the vast sum of 170 million pounds should be thrown away on the National Drink Bill, as was the case last year?

“The Christian manhood and womanhood of all our Scottish Churches are called to fight to the death against this cruel enemy within our own lines. It is an enemy whose devastating ravages far outnumber even those of the Germans, an enemy which saps the manhood, destroys the purity of the womanhood, and darkens the childhood of thousands of lives.

“How can we hope to win the war abroad if we parley with this deadly enemy at home? Since Government is too weak to legislate adequately in the matter, let the Christian conscience of the country see to it that public opinion is so roused that this curse may be swept away from our national life.”—From *Life and Work*.



## The Children's Page

### Why Did You Enlist?

The Prophet of God had denounced the King of Israel, who, through disobedience had forfeited his right to the throne. A new King had been chosen and anointed to reign in his stead. The old King, however, not only refused to give up his crown and throne, but pursued the man called to succeed him, intending to put him to death.

Many thrilling adventures befell the newly appointed King before he finally entered his kingdom. By an ingenious stratagem he escaped imprisonment in a foreign country into which he had fled from his vindictive enemy. Afterwards he found a hiding place where his friends and relatives joined him.

There also gathered under his leadership one of the strangest armies ever known, consisting of a few hundreds of men who were in trouble or wished to avoid their creditors, or who had a grievance against their fellow citizens. It was an unlawful company in a lawful cause and such questionable motives as prompted their enlistment did not inspire them to render faithful service.

In the service of humanity can be found many who joined the ranks with doubtful motives. Pride, ambition, personal interest are hindrances to loyal, acceptable service.

A story is told of a general in the Northern Army who purposely kept President Lincoln waiting. This deliberate discourtesy was brought to the notice of the President, who said: "I would hold the General's horse for him if he would give us a victory." His great soul was not disturbed by petty insults, for he was sustained by right motive and high purpose.

Not for weight of glory; not for crown or palm;  
Enter we the army, raise the warrior psalm—  
But for love that claimeth, lives for whom He died.

The prize winners in the April competition are: First, Miss Edna Wells, Quesnel, B. C.; second, Miss E. Marjory MacKay, 79—64th Avenue West, Vancouver, B. C.

Only one prize is usually given, but this month a second prize was donated by a friend interested in the Children's Page.

### This Month's Question

Name the King and his hiding place, and tell what the Bible says about the followers who joined him there. A book prize will be awarded to the most neatly written correct answer received. Age of competitor will be considered.



## The Crisis in Party Politics—and the Way Out

(Part I.)

That there is a provincial and national crisis in party politics is generally recognized. The people's problem is to find the cause, with the object of finding a solution. Is the defect in the character and principles of democracy, or in an unfair representation of democracy? Is the influence in those character moulding centres, the Home and the Church, deteriorating, or is national character falsely mirrored in our legislatures and administrative assemblies? If "the hand that rocks the cradle" *does* "rule the world," why should there be a desire for the extension of the franchise? If the "virtue, essence and spirit" of any house of representatives consists in being the "express image of the nation," why the need of a referendum to correct our legislation, or a Royal Commission to examine the doings of our representative bodies?"

### *The People's Will and the House*

All political parties agree in accepting the principle that "The will of the people *must* prevail," and there is also general agreement (whether for extraordinary questions, the referendum be adopted or not), that in ordinary circumstances, and in modern times, a popularly elected Representative Assembly, such as our Canadian Provincial Parliaments, is the necessary organ for carrying into effect the Will of the People. If any "House" be, for any reason, not truly representative, legislation and the control of government ceases to be in harmony with the Will of the People.

Self-government is replaced by an undemocratic and unrepresentative form of "cabinet control," and the "House" becomes merely an assembly for the registration of decisions, arrived at without its deliberative assistance. With just and fair representation, the more powerful the "House," and the more certain will it be of carrying into effect the popular demands. With unfair representation, the unchecked power of the "Commons" becomes dangerous to democracy, and self-government is reduced to an illusion. It is therefore plain that the proper constitution of all legislative assemblies is of vital interest to true democracy.

### *The Present Electoral Methods Defective*

The prevailing plan of electing Dominion and Provincial Parliaments, as well as municipal and other councils is abnormally defective. The counties and cities are cut into a number of arbitrary divisions called "constituencies" and "wards," in each of which, (with a few exceptions such as Vancouver or Victoria, each of which



has several representatives), a majority of voters elect a member. Electoral statistics, in this and other countries, have proven that this system of single member constituencies does not give just and adequate representation to all the elements of national life, and that for the following reasons:—

(1) The majorities and minorities on the legislative bodies are not in proportion to the voting strength of the country. The minority in each constituency is disfranchised. Large minorities all over the country have no representative, e.g., the Unionists of Scotland; Conservatives in Alberta; and the Liberals in British Columbia.

(2) In many districts political life is dead, because one or other party has no chance of electing representatives. A division in the party supporters by running two candidates secures the defeat of the party, and renders the votes ineffective. This leads the electors to look to a nominating convention to control the selection of candidates. Special interests which seek special legislation can thus secretly control the selection of candidates. The small group, or machine, which effects this, can sell its influence to the special interest. The agent who makes the "deal" with the machine is the "boss."

Under this system the individual elector, who, on the whole, prefers his own party to any other, but who, as times and circumstances change, seeks modifications in the party "creed," has only the choice of a man for whom his political affection is, at best, lukewarm, or probably whose policy he actively dislikes. The elector may have voted against this particular candidate in convention. Thus we see that this class of elector has no representative in Parliament. Nor has he any means of saying that he endorses nine-tenths, or three-fourths, or two-thirds of any particular programme. If it is possible that this can be done—and it is the object of this article to prove that this is possible—why should not this class of elector have all the liberty obtainable for the fullest expression of his political views? In this great matter of free franchise, there should surely be freedom. The onus of proof must necessarily fall upon those who affirm that the curtailment of the elector's freedom is necessary, and it is necessary for such that they should show just cause against any electoral system, if such can be found, that will give absolute freedom to both voter and representative alike. The net result of the present system is to increase, at the electors' expense, the powers of those who concern themselves more especially with the organization of parties. It is within this power to force the people to give assent to policies which many electors may strongly disapprove of, on pain of greater evils should anything be done to thwart the workings of the machine. The party manager can usually secure the exclusion of any member who

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shows too much independence by, as has been pointed out, running a third candidate against him.

### *Conditions Against Independence*

It is not to be wondered at that, under such conditions, men whose co-operation in public affairs would be of great value, abstain from "mixing in politics." The "House" is not open to men of new ideas and men who seek to keep abreast of current opinion; men of high character who refuse to be bound to the acceptance of the "whole programme" of any political party. The simple fact that a small margin of votes can give a quite disproportionate effect to an election encourages political corruption, and drives from the service of the country some of our best men. Again, a small displacement of the boundaries of a constituency may alter the political representation. This encourages gerrymandering. *A majority of the electorate has no security. A minority of the whole body of electors may secure a majority of seats.* This happens where one party is concentrated mainly in one part of the country, and its opponents are more widely and evenly spread so as to have small majorities in many places, though actually a minority of the whole electorate. Legislation is rendered unstable, too rapid advance is followed by too violent reaction. *Are such conditions necessary?*

### *Democracy Unfairly Discredited*

As a result of all this, the principle of democracy is often charged with faults which are really the effects of this defective electoral system.

### *No Remedy in the Second Ballot or Alternative Vote*

Neither the second ballot, nor the alternative vote could remove the inherent evils of the single member constituency system. On the contrary, this method has additional defects. It involves a struggle between two candidates for the support of a third party, with which neither agrees. This is both immoral and inconvenient. It is quite immoral to send a member to Parliament to represent views which he does not hold, and to advocate principles with which he has no real sympathy. The second ballot was not popular in France and Belgium. In Australia, the alternate vote involved a struggle of the Conservatives and Liberals to defeat the Laborites.

### *Proportional Representation the Cure*

Proportional representation is the only method of curing these evils. It does not appeal to any one party, as a party measure, for its aim is to do *justice* to all sections and shades of opinion. In the many countries (Switzerland, Belgium, Sweden, Wurtemberg, South



Africa, Tasmania) where it is in operation, it has given freedom and independence to both electors and representatives. It has rendered legislation more stable and popularly acceptable. No country which has experienced its benefits would dream of reverting to the evils and absurdities which are inseparable from any single member system.

### *What Is It?*

Proportional representation is the representation of all classes of citizens, on elected bodies, such as councils or legislative assemblies, in proportion to their voting strength. For example: The just representation for a constituency having 70,000 electors, of whom 40,000 are Conservative, 20,000 Liberals, 10,000 Laborites, is *not seven* Conservative members, but 4 Conservatives, 2 Liberals, 1 Labor members of Parliament.

[In Part II, which we hope to publish in our next issue, an endeavour will be made to set forth clearly "The Method of Proportional Representation."—Editor.]

## Notes and Comments

(By Rev. R. G. MacBeth, M. A.)

The opening of the Summer Session in Westminster Hall though obscured somewhat by the overshadowing presence of the war, is an event of much importance in the passing year. The student body has been markedly reduced by the call for recruits for the European conflict but one can safely say that the study of humanity in the unconventional form in which it manifests itself in the camp and the field will be of enormous value to any who go on thereafter into the work of the ministry.

\* \* \* \*

This climate at the Coast lends itself to a Summer Session and in view of the need for all-year-round supply in Western fields it is safe to say that the Coast College will grow in value to the Church once it passes the shoals of war and business depression. One recalls how the late Principal King of Winnipeg, co-operated with the late Dr. Robertson to establish a Summer Session there in order to help out the Mission fields. An inland city has no such climate as our city on the Coast, yet these great men and their helpers persevered and did a work of enormous value at a critical time. So let Westminster Hall persist and grow from more to more.

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In the public mind the question of prohibition holds a position of a close second to the war. This is due in some measure to the fact that nations supposedly less important than our own have courag-

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ously throttled the liquor evil in order to prevent being throttled themselves. It is dawning gradually on the British mind that to be the only nation that can be terrorized into submission by the liquor traffic is unworthy of our boasted traditions. And the signs are multiplying which indicate that British Columbia is not going to be held up on the path of progress to sobriety and economic as well as human conservation by this glaringly impudent and ruthless destroyer of homes.

\* \* \* \*

In the Ontario Legislature the other day one of the most notable speeches since Confederation was delivered by Premier Hearst in support of the position he had taken for the abolition of the liquor traffic there. The note running through this lofty address was that of the necessity for supreme regard to the nation's strength in this hour of great crisis. When the Empire is bleeding at every pore we must throw off the leeches no matter who is temporarily inconvenienced. But it ought to be remembered to the credit of Mr. N. W. Rowell, leader of the Opposition in the House, that he was the pioneer in this Abolish-the-Bar movement before the war had come to make abolition an act of national self-preservation. It is fortunate for a Province when both the old-line parties agree to put an end to a great and long-suffered wrong.

\* \* \* \*

One of the most remarkable documents recently issued is that in which leading men in the United States have felt compelled to put themselves right in the eyes of the world by expressing their detestation of German war methods and their hope for the success of the Allies. No other attitude could be expected of the descendants of men who fought for freedom at Valley Forge and Lexington and Gettysburg. The position of President Wilson has been terribly difficult. It is not a light matter to hurl the American people into a European war. The sympathies, however, of the real American have been with the Allies throughout and it is a mistake to suppose that President Wilson is a weak man. He may yet have a large share in the culminating scenes of the war.

\* \* \* \*

The problem of the returning soldier is engaging the attention of thinking people in every part of Canada. In a few months they will be coming back not by tens but by hundreds, some of them, alas! disabled for life. Let us be generous to these gallant men. Like Horatius in the brave days of old they stood in the path of the inhuman enemy and like Horatius they ought to have not only our plaudits but our intensely practical and tangible appreciation.



(b) DUTIES.—A thorough re-arrangement of this section of the system is in my opinion necessary. At present, I understand, an Inspector (other than City Inspectors) is required to visit each school in his district only twice each year. Thus on two days observation he is supposed to judge the value of the educational work done by a teacher trained, perhaps, under a different system from that of which he is a product, and without having any real knowledge of the material upon which the teacher has to work. That this is anything but a stop-gap practice can hardly be denied.

Again, at present, an Inspector is called upon to judge and pronounce upon work amongst all ages of pupils. The readiest illustration of the absurdity of this is where an Inspector naturally unsuited for Primary or Beginners' work (and totally untrained in it as well) is called to pronounce upon the work of different teachers representing various systems or methods of primary instruction. Sometimes the Inspector has sense enough to realize his position and say nothing. Others interfere, with often lamentable results.

An Inspector should, to my mind, be chosen for his peculiar fitness to judge of methods, etc., in some limited field such as Primary, Junior or Intermediate work, or in English, Mathematics, Science, Classics, etc. With this especial ability he would require such an educational standing as would satisfy the requirements of the Educational Council, by whom he would be directly appointed.

His duties would be increased twofold. First—He would be required to make a reasonably sufficient visitation of each school or class within his field of labour. Secondly—He would be charged with watching not only the equipment of the schools visited by him and seeing that Trustee Boards supplied good and sufficient equipment; but more important: Thirdly—He would be required to acquaint himself (by study) with the features of each type of education illustrated by the teachers whose work he was called upon to inspect; and, Fourthly—Not only to keep the teaching staff under his supervision up to rank, according to the financial ability of the several districts in his inspectorate, but to observe and note minutely the operation of the system in his districts:

- (a)—As to its effect in stimulating or discouraging interest in education amongst pupils and parents.
- (b)—In the general dissemination of culture.
- (c)—In its results in the individual work under his direct supervision.
- (d)—In the trend given toward each of the different vocations and professions for which pupils are prepared in our public schools.
- (e)—In the balance kept between the ideas expressed or sought to be expressed by our system.

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Trusting that a sufficient hint of my ideas and purposes has been given to make my viewpoint on inspection understood, I proceed to—

(3)—*The Constitution of School Boards and School Finances.*

(1) CONSTITUTION OF SCHOOL BOARDS.—Here again at present two divisions present themselves, one Geographical, the other Constitutional. The Geographical one is easily disposed of, even under present circumstances, and, under a proper system of creating school districts, would entirely disappear. It is that every section or unit of a school district, be it ward or community, should have a representative on the school board. To illustrate by Point Grey again. A board of five represent seven wards (or, on the community basis, nine communities). Each district in the scramble for its own good (that is a representative) naturally loses the broader aims in the selfish fight for place, and the recent election showed by the defeat of a valuable member of last year's board the unwisdom of such tactics. To increase a school board is, of course, no insuperable task.

However satisfactorily an increase in numbers might adjust this difficulty, it would not remove and would probably only accentuate the constitutional difficulty. This consists of getting a school board in the constitution of which there would be due weight given the educational element of a community.

I have expressed my idea of the ruling conception of the average school board. It is proven in many ways and in almost every district each year. At the last gathering of the Trustees' Association, one of the representatives of a wealthy district stated with pride that the school district he resided in and served, was free of debt. One acquainted with his district could have easily replied that a far less wealthy community could have given much superior educational advantages in building and equipment and been able to make the same boast. Let us keep our districts free of debt to the fullest possible extent but let us boast not in that, but in school buildings having some claim to architectural beauty; in school grounds that will give opportunity for healthy recreation yet show that taste has a home there as well; in buildings where a full and complete equipment in aids to education shall be found; and in a staff of able teachers receiving a proper remuneration for their services. If we can furnish these and keep the districts free from debt we shall have done well. If we have failed in any of these respects mere freedom from debt will not recompense.

School boards require, in my belief, to be remodelled. In the urban districts I would create two divisions: (1) General or business; (2) Technical or management; (a third looking after health and allied considerations might be added in some cases).

(1) The "General or business" would be charged with the duty of providing: (a) Proper school buildings; (b) Sufficiently sized playgrounds; (c) Janitor service; (d) Fuel; (e) School supplies as



determined by the management or technical section, and (f) Generally, with looking after the business and financial interests of the board. Business men interested in education could here serve their community most usefully.

(2)—TECHNICAL OR MANAGEMENT. This would be composed solely of men, or men and women, interested in the purely educational aspect of our public school system. Its duty would be to: (a) Determine the class quality of teachers required; (b) To select the teachers to be engaged by the business section; (c) To determine the equipment needed by the school or schools under its care; (d) To visit each class in the district at least twice a month; (e) To meet with the teachers at their monthly meeting or oftener for conference on the work done; (f) To report at least twice a term to the people of each community or section in their district, (at regular meetings of the people of the community or at special meetings called for the purpose) on the position and progress of the school work; (g) To create a proper and adequate interest among the parents in school work; (h) To suggest to the Educational Council any defects they might think to exist or improvements they might be able to make. In short, to deal educationally with school board work.

(3)—HEALTH AND ALLIED SUBJECTS. Like the technical or management section this would probably be a mixed board of ladies and gentlemen. It would reinforce the medical inspection and seek to supplement or complement home training in these respects and seek, by work in the schools and at the homes, to relieve the teachers of certain duties not strictly educational, now under their oversight.

Crude as no doubt is the foregoing division and the description of the varied duties of each section of the board, it will suffice to discuss—

School Finances.—Not being a business man, properly so called, I shall not enter at any length into a discussion of this subject. I merely wish to express my opinion that in many, if not most instances, school financing is not properly done. To explain:—Raising money by by-law or bond issue is an extraordinary method, only to be resorted to in a particular case of need and, probably, capable of being eliminated by proper methods of finance. Not only does it mortgage the future, but it encourages wrong habits of thought regarding finance; leads to shirking present self sacrifice and is, ordinarily, almost wholly bad in principle and results. In addition it often results in serious losses to the district issuing the bonds, as videlicet, Point Grey's loss on its last issue of School Debentures.

The normal method is, I believe, by taxation. The present Act allows of a taxation of five mills each year. Had Point Grey levied such a tax yearly it could have during the boom years secured sufficient revenue to provide all the buildings and equipment it now can furnish without losing either the discount on the bonds sold or the interest charges necessary to carry the bonds. I do not criticize the boards so



acting. They only did, to a less extent, what school districts, municipalities, etc., were doing throughout the Province on a larger scale. I seek to point my moral by quoting where it will be realized my criticism is one of methods, not of persons. By gathering in good years, school districts could relieve in poor years by taxation for only necessary expenses for the year. Once introduced, properly followed and applied, there would be no trouble with such a system of finance.

Some would, no doubt, object to the change. The electors might even interest themselves in this phase of educational work as it affected them. One advantage would be that the ratepayers realizing they were actually paying something would or might attempt to see what they were getting for their money. Instead of 20 or 30 attending a meeting called to discuss the school work of a district, we might then get a really decent attendance for such a purpose. I would sooner face a meeting of every elector in a district, mostly or entirely hostile, than see the usual apathy that prevails.

Magazine space is not unlimited so I must proceed to my next subdivision.

*4th—Introduction of Methods for Giving Those Interested in Education Some Means of Making Their Interests Felt in so far as the District in which They Live is Concerned.*

Again I refer to New Brunswick. In the Act governing education in that Province not only has the Inspector a chance to make a school board do its duty, but so has the ratepayer. Speaking from memory, I believe three ratepayers of a school district in that Province can, under certain conditions, require the school board of the district to engage a teacher of not less than a certain class and can further (though I am not absolutely certain of this, not having the Act before me) require such board to procure a teacher of a higher class than that formerly employed.

This provision has been most useful. I shall never forget a school meeting in one of my home districts, where three ratepayers contested the action of the school board in engaging a second-class teacher. The other ratepayers supported the board. For most of the afternoon the battle of words raged but the three would not yield. At length one of them announced his intention of invoking the Act if their wishes were not respected. The fight was over. The school board was compelled to rescind its action and procure a first-class teacher. For three or four years the fight waged, the opposition growing less and less determined till the district finally accepted the policy of a first-class teacher and is now proud of its decision and of the record of many of its pupils. in the scholastic world.

Let us have some similar provision so that those interested in their children can give them a chance no matter what the majority in the district may be content to accept.

[Note:—Article III, which we hope to publish in the next issue, will deal with "The British Columbia University."—Editor.]



## Western Canadian Church Notes

### Baptist

[By Rev. G. R. Welch]

#### *Evangelism and Finances.*

Some folks think these are poor running mates. Said folks' conception of religion is so ultramundane, so detached from things earthly, that it reminds one of a disembodied spirit. These good people usually bring no joy to the finance committee's heart nor overwork their pocket-books in favor of the Lord's treasury. God still feeds His prophets by the ravens but the latter, these days, take the form of the duplex-envelope. The saner and more Scriptural view is that the spiritual and the temporal are Divinely joined together in holy matrimony and whom God hath joined together no man should put asunder. The Bible puts them in relation of cause and effect: "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse . . . . and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of Hosts, if I will not open you the windows of Heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it"; "Honour the Lord with thy substance and with the first fruits of all thine increase, so shall thy barns be filled with plenty," etc. These typical passages give the drift of Bible instruction on the important bearing of our money contributions upon the outpouring of the Divine blessing. First the sowing, then the reaping is the Divine order. These remarks are intended not as a homily on the stewardship of money but by way of gently breaking the news that the activities of the Baptist Churches of B. C. during the last month have been along one or other, or both, of these lines. Some churches have laid the emphasis upon evangelism which is bringing an aftermath of blessing in the way of increased liberality on the part of the church membership. Others have reversed the order and emphasized the consecration of wealth as an indispensable factor of worship resulting not only in relieving the church of financial anxiety but in a deepening of the spiritual life and of the spirit of evangelism. Typical instances are two Vancouver churches, the First Baptist and the Central Baptist.

"The every member canvass" system of facing the current and missionary financial obligations of the churches has been in operation for some years in the Eastern provinces of Canada and in the United States. Also it is not altogether new on the Pacific coast. But if more generally operated by the congregations of all denominations the writer of these notes is convinced it would result most beneficially to the financial interests and general efficiency of the churches. But to get the best results close adherence to the regular plan, which has been carefully worked out and tested by long experience, is necessary. At the First Baptist Church seventy men on Sunday afternoon, April 16th,



after being solemnly set apart for the service by their pastor's prayer, in couples visited every home connected with the congregation. Dr. Campbell reports the response of the people to be most hearty and the joy of the canvassers to be past telling. We gladly pass this on hoping it may help solve the financial and evangelistic problem of other churches in these difficult days.

*Doing One's Bit at Home.*

It is an inspiring sight to see such a battalion as the 72nd, to which Vancouver said farewell the other Sunday morning, and many another leave the homeland "to do their bit" at the call of Empire and civilization on the battle-smitten front of France and Flanders. May God bless and keep our soldier boys. We know they will give us abundant reason to be proud of them. But "they also serve who only stand and wait." The churches are being sadly depleted by the constant drain made upon their manhood by this all-devouring war. Like the horse leach's two daughters the cry of the army is Give! Give! One and all make the terrible sacrifice uncomplainingly but it creates a difficult situation for those whose duty it is to fight on shorthanded at home. The world's work must be done in war as well as peace. The regular interests and activities of the churches, home and foreign missions, social service, etc., are just as necessary for the conservation of civilization as is the successful prosecution of the war. Without the incitement of excitement and the spell of glory or hope of reward many a church member with brave face but bleeding heart does his daily duty in the work of the Kingdom for the reign of righteousness and lasting peace. When the full story of these times is written not a little of the credit for the better world that we hope to see will be due to those who did "their bit" at home.

*Changes in Pastorates.*

There is a tendency in the weaker churches to short pastorates. This month records the following changes: Rev. F. G. West leaves the Broadway West Baptist Church, where he has rendered excellent service in the way of organizing and consolidating a new cause, to take up the work at Nanaimo. Pastor W. H. Redman is laying down his work with the latter church to supply North Vancouver. Nanaimo has been a rather difficult pastorate the last two or three years and Mr. Redman has seen the church safely through a trying period. Other changes are being contemplated but are not yet consummated.

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**Methodist**

[Rev. A. E. Roberts.]

April 30th is the closing day of the financial year for all Methodist churches in British Columbia, consequently there have been some



strenuous meetings of finance and other boards and reports are being made up, with many sighs of despair, and yet with many a sign that the generosity of the people has not diminished, but that everywhere those who have been supporting the church during the prosperous years are continuing their gifts in the hard times, according to their shortened ability.

During the month of May the annual district meetings will be held when the full reports from the circuits will be presented, and these will be followed by the Annual Conference gathering, which this year meets in Mount Pleasant Methodist Church. The programme of the Conference gathering has been published in the official organ of the Church, *The Christian Guardian* of Toronto, and will also be published in the *Western Methodist Recorder* of Victoria. Among the visitors from the East will be the Rev. S. D. Chown, D. D., the General Superintendent of the church, who will preside; Rev. T. A. Moore, D. D., General Secretary of the Department of Social Service and Evangelism; Rev. C. E. Manning, Associate Home Mission Secretary. That important body, the Stationing Committee, will meet on May 22nd, two days previous to the meeting of Conference, and will have many problems of supply to settle. Among the Vancouver pulpits that will be changed are Grandview, where Rev. F. W. Langford is leaving to take post graduate training; Robson Memorial, where Rev. E. Manuel has completed his four-year term; Grace, where Rev. A. N. Miller has also completed the pastoral term, and Eburne, where the pastor, Rev. J. H. Wright, has enlisted in the 131st Overseas Battalion.

The enlisting of Methodist ministers continues. In addition to Mr. Wright, mentioned above, Rev. C. E. Batzold, pastor of Carman Church, Sardis, has enlisted in the 231st, and is at present in training with that battalion in Vancouver. Rev. F. Bushfield, of McBride, has also joined the colors, and many of the probationers attending College have either joined, or have signified their intention of doing so as soon as examinations are over. Loyalty and patriotism are watchwords in the church at present, and the Honor Rolls of the Methodist churches contain very large lists of names. This is as it should be as our prayers are more effective when backed up by personal sacrifice.

### Presbyterian

[By Rev. J. Richmond Craig]

There is a tendency, in some parts of the Dominion, to regard the Synod of our Church as the fifth wheel of the machinery. Not so, however, in British Columbia. It is in fact, one of the gatherings that many of our men look forward to, and take great interest in.

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All the meetings are usually well attended. Nor was the Synod of 1916, held in First Church, Victoria, any exception in this regard. The "Roll Call" is interesting even to the man on the outside of things ecclesiastical, but it is much more so to the men who are doing the "Outpost Duty" in our Province. They like to hear it; it lets all know who are present, and how things are with them, and so the Synod unanimously resolved to retain, as part of the opening procedure, the time honored "Roll Call."

\* \* \* \*

"You are very unlike your brother in some ways," said one of our leading Canadian Divines to Rev. Joseph McNeill, brother of the world famous Evangelist, Rev. John McNeill. "Yes, in some ways, I am," he replied. "We are both the same in substance, but we are not just equal in 'power and glory.'"

And something might be said along this line about Mr. William McNeill, the "other" brother, who is the esteemed chairman of the Board of Management of Westminster Hall. He may not have the "glory," but he certainly has the "substance and the power."

His pithy and practical presentation of the claims of the Hall at the Synod was one of the features of the meeting. A business man always makes a good job of a hard time story. "*As long as the spiritual capital of the Church is at par we need not fear.*" In such clear ringing tones as these, Mr. McNeill assured the Synod that for the future of our great Church we need have no undue anxiety. "Poverty has always been akin to Presbyterianism; if every man and every Church would do their 'bit' we'll muddle out all right. It is a habit we have."

\* \* \* \*

The stirring appeal for "native-born sons" for the ministry, by the pastor of the church in which the Synod convened, Rev. John Inkster was timely and to the point. His reference, however, to "imported ministers" was not to be taken as indicating that he despised the men who came from "the Highlands and Islands." No, no! Perhaps he was thinking of neutrals and hyphenates—at least we hope so.

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And so, in the words of the honored minister of Ladner, happy sessions were passed with "memories of the past, and visions of the future."

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The addresses by Rev. Hugh Ross of Seattle, Mrs. E. P. Miller, Miss Jessie Duncan, of India, Principal MacKay and others were stimulating and encouraging. The large congregations in the evenings gave inspiration to the speakers, and their messages gave us all a wider outlook on the work of our great Church.



## Anglican

[By Ven. Archdeacon Heathcote.]

*The War and the Church.*

What effect the war should have upon the church and through the church upon the nation, is a matter of earnest thought to all Christians at the present time.

The church in the Old Country is being organized for a mission of "Repentance and Hope," under the guidance of the Archbishops.

The preparations are being made with the utmost care. In July last a number of carefully chosen, and experienced men were called by the Archbishop of Canterbury, to meet and spend quietly several days, in which to pray and deliberate upon our present life and its spiritual needs and then to give him such counsel as God the Holy Spirit should put into their hearts. In October these men submitted a report recommending some "National Mission" or "Appeal throughout the Land." The archbishop then invited all the Diocesan bishops to confer with himself and those who had drawn up the report. The result of this is now made known. In the words of the Primate: "It is not proposed to organize on a vast scale what are ordinarily known as Parochial Missions. What we aim at is something different. We want to stir our great centres of population to realize what they are missing when they leave on one side the church and its social message, its moral message, its message for days of stress. Our effort is to be essentially a Mission of Witness. Let no one speak or act as if what we were doing was to prepare for an Autumnal effort, to make it—and stop there. The new start that we strive for, the new spirit that we pray for, are to be, please God, not passing things."

A strong central council of eighty-five persons (men and women) has taken the organization of this effort in hand. "The aim is to bring about in the truest, deepest, most abiding sense, a 'newness of life'."

In Canada, the Archbishop of Rupertsland announces that the various Dioceses will work independently but that it has been thought well by the bishops in counsel to aim at "Parochial Missions" being held, and this is likely to be contrived in many Dioceses.

The "unique opportunity" is with us. As to how best to take advantage of it, we must look for Divine guidance. In British Columbia the Dioceses will work as units. Kootenay has already arranged for several Parochial Missions. In the Dioceses of Caledonia, Columbia, New Westminster and Cariboo no plans have been matured, or if so are not generally known.

In Vancouver the clergy met together each Monday morning in the weeks between Christmas and Lent, for the special purpose of praying for guidance, a message, and the power to give it.





Manyhomes, B. C.,

May, 1916.

Dear Cousin:

Only a short note to answer your enquiry about a Range.

Yes, you are right, it was the GURNEY-OXFORD CHANCELLOR RANGE we bought last year, and it has proved in every way satisfactory. You will make no mistake in selecting the CHANCELLOR. The never-failing hot-water supply would please your husband, and you would find that feature A CONVENIENCE FOR ALL HOUSEHOLD PURPOSES.

Glad to think that our experience may be of benefit to you and help you to THE RIGHT AR-RANGE-MENT.

Ever yours,

ANN O. THUR-KITCHENER.

P. S.—By the way, I see from the daily papers and the WESTMINSTER REVIEW that the Vancouver Office of the GURNEY Firm at 566 Beatty Street, offer to mail a booklet we found useful, called "STOVE PROBLEM SOLVED." Send them a card—or phone Seymour. 7596 for a copy.

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