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(Continuing "Westminster Review," Vancouver)

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VANCOUVER, B. C., SEPTEMBER, 1918

No. 6

THE SOCIAL, LITERARY AND RELIGIOUS MAGAZINE
OF THE CANADIAN WEST

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"Though he must have seemed careless, my husband appreciated your interest in advising him to make an investment and a family protection by Life Insurance. He did not mean to be indifferent, much less discourteous, in his treatment of your letter, only he was so much taken up with that business experiment that he just put off writing.

"After his sudden death last month, we found among his papers a pencilled note of a reply he evidently intended sending at the time, saying he wished to arrange for a policy for \$5,000.

"Good as his health then was, he recognized that auto and other accidents are happening every day, and he also meant to take advantage of that disability protection.

"Five thousand dollars, or even half of that sum, in cash, would have been such a help to me; but now I see nothing for it but to go home to mother with the children, and myself help to support and educate them by taking a position.

"It is all the more sad when I think of how near Dick came to making the reasonable provision and protection for his home you so earnestly advised. I do not like to blame him, but it is such a pity—for the children's sake, if not for mine—that he put off what was really a first duty."

READER, ARE YOU STILL "PUTTING OFF"?

If you wish information to be given you on this subject, privately and at your convenience,

Write Today

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Confederation Life Association

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THE BRITISH COLUMBIA MONTHLY

(Continuing WESTMINSTER REVIEW, Vancouver)

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Editorial

"A COSTLY BUT UNDECIDED STRUGGLE"

AS this magazine is put to press, there is let loose from Austria the latest Peace-Kite. In the studied wording of the message reference is made to "the path of negotiation" and to "a costly but undecided struggle." Because at the outset the Central Powers deliberately turned aside from "the path of negotiation" and deliberately planned war, they will now find that their allied opponents are determined that, so far as human agency can make certain of it, the struggle having been "costly" beyond computation in other than material things, shall not be left "undecided".

The thing mostly to be feared now or later is that the Germans, finding they cannot gain their ends by force, may, as the day of reckoning and of invasion of German territory draws near, appeal to or rely upon the exercise by the Allies of that generosity towards a submissive or defeated foe which is of the essence of chivalry.

But nations containing men who will deliberately count on the humanity of their opponents towards the lower creation, and so (as an incident recently reported revealed) place an infernal machine behind a live kitten, nailed to a door—confident that a British or Allied soldier would seek to release the poor creature, and in doing so himself undergo a terrible death—are not fit for the privileges of civilization, and need to be placed under subjection and supervision more than the wildest "savages" of which the world has record.

By this time even Britain must know that to treat the Germans with mistaken leniency at the end would be the next worst thing to letting them win the war.

* * *

THE OBJECTION TO THE WORD "RELIGIOUS"

Progressive changes in the name of this Monthly have not changed its nature or its ideals of service, and, as we have made clear again and again in the past seven years, in seeking to cover the field of "The Social, Literary and Religious Magazine of the Canadian West," it has laid itself open to serve Church interests, particularly in British Columbia, and had men representing several denominations (outside the R. C. Communion) writing for it. In that connection we have frequently had occasion to consider the qualifications, limitations or restrictions which many folk—business men and others—place on the word "Religious."

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It may be worth while, therefore, to ask why it is that so many people seem to have objection to that word. Perhaps on examination or analysis it will be found that objection is based not on the real or root meaning of the word, but on some associations that have come to be connected with it—because of its abuse here and there by individual persons or sects.

To be "religious" does not involve wearing a "go-to-meeting face," much less being sanctimonious, nor does it involve an ostentatious thrusting of church or "religious" affairs into the foreground under all circumstances. Primarily, to be religious means to have a lively sense of the limitations of humanity and an ever-present realization that ere any life "gain its heavenly best, a God must mingle with the game": in other words, to have a sense of the daily dependence of the human soul upon the divine to make this life, or any other, "worth living". That feeling of dependence may be a very real one, though not openly acknowledged, for, to many hearts, each morn's awaking may bring the return of a consciousness of the insufficiency of human effort, left to itself, even regarding this life's lot.

With religion and "religious" too many people seem to link restrictions and mar-joy associations. Whereas, on the contrary, it should suggest fuller development and expansion of life, a continually-strengthening reliance of the human on the Eternal, whose Works and Personality, if they speak of many majestic and far-reaching laws, also involve fathomless Love.

For the love of God is broader
Than the measures of man's mind,
And the heart of the Eternal
Is most wonderfully kind.

These and other lines from F. W. Faber's fine hymn—which has somehow unfortunately been omitted from the Canadian Presbyterian Hymn Book, but is a favorite in the Churches of the Old Land—are well worth pondering, and commending to earnest souls troubled by doctrinal doubts or other questionings concerning religion and the acceptance of dogmatic theology stronger in the letter than Christ-like in the spirit.

* * *

FOR "NATIONAL SERVICE"—A WEEK ON A FARM

To the business or professional man, whose lot is ordinarily in the city, a week or more on a farm may be specially commended in these times in the interests of "National Service". Those who are fortunate in having farmer friends to whom they can be useful, may incidentally enlarge their own horizon, as to the manifold work of the farmer as well as his attractive independence.

To the enterprising farmer the work on the farm is never-ending. This is true apart from the land-clearing, which, in British Columbia, may itself be a life-work for any man. Each season brings its own work affecting the land and the stock and the products of the farm. In addition the daily routine of "chores" (milking, stock-feeding, etc.) must be regularly attended to if all is to go well.

Even after much tree-felling, stump-blasting and pulling, there is the "burning" to be prepared for and attended to in season; a "snake" fence

has to be changed here and there to give at once new pastures to the stock and protect the growing potatoes, turnips, etc., from them. In an increasing number of cases in British Columbia, "threshing" may be arranged and (as happened the other week in a district not thirty miles from Vancouver) the as yet rare occurrence may be experienced of taking part in a threshing for some hours or days involving the introduction of an "outfit" such as many Prairie farmers keep busy for a week or two at a time.

It is pleasant to find that in some cases the hard-working pioneer farmer, who literally "opened up the country," is, in his latter days, beginning to reap a little of the "rest after toil" that is his well-earned due. The horse and buggy are giving place to the more expeditious and convenient motor car; the labour-saving machine "Separator" has been installed for years; butter-making methods improved; and a beginning at least made towards better methods of bringing producer and consumer nearer—to the benefit of both alike.

Much still remains to be done towards making land-clearing conditions tolerable, and lasting fame awaits the enlightened, enterprising and patronage-free government (whether in being or to be?) which shall introduce land-clearing machinery on a scale and under an arrangement which will make that initial heavy work less of a back-breaking burden to the settler or rancher.

In these days, when it would be a "National Service" to see that no fruit is wasted, the provincial or municipal governments should see to it that no farmer or fruit-grower in outlying districts is discouraged by the loss of fruit from lack of transportation facilities, or from (what must be even more trying) lack of speedy and reliable handling of the goods at the market end.

To citizens who can arrange it, we suggest that they seek to give at least a week's service on a farm in every season of the year. Even if they work for friendship alone, they will reap a recompense in that change of occupation which is more than rest—which involves real refreshment of body and mind, and—in the measure in which they can take interest in Nature and enter sympathetically into the lives of others—inspiration of heart.

A week of strenuous work on a farm may be commended, not only in the interests of "National Service," but as a tonic for overwrought citizens.

Notes and Comments

Rev. R. G. MacBeth, M.A.

GAMBLING

A FEW months ago a lot of people were righteously indignant because some Christian Chinamen circulated a petition asking the Vancouver authorities to suppress gambling in Chinatown. They claimed it was more or less of a libel on the city and a slur upon the general administration of law. Anyway, some claimed that gambling was an inveterate habit with the Chinese and that there would always be a certain amount of it in the purlieus of the underworld section. And now, from

an exclusive residential district of the West End, there comes the shock of a double murder in a gambling den which apparently has been in operation for months, and which has been frequented steadily by quite well-known and prominent citizens. This condition of things is not as much to the discredit of the police as some would make out. The police could easily get into serious trouble if they conducted a campaign of espionage against private residences, and it is quite possible to exonerate the police from blame in connection with a house whose real character was not suspected by the next-door neighbor. But the whole thing is extremely to the discredit of the citizens who, under the guise of business and civic standing, are hiding the real character of the gambler and the thug. Nothing is more utterly subversive of right conditions than the contemptible mania for getting something for nothing, which is all too prevalent amongst us, and which, we are sorry to say, is catered to by many under the general excuse of extending business and contributing to patriotic funds. It is a shame if we cannot look after our gallant soldiers and their dependents without resorting to the cheap gambling methods, which are not only immoral, but an offence in law.

* * *

THE SKID ROAD

BUT the city can hardly expect to be taken seriously in the matter of suppressing gambling while it allows the unspeakable and nameless iniquity of the "Skid-road" to run its course at the Exhibition. Technically, the concern may manoeuvre so as to be outside the reach of the literality of the law, but the whole thing is built up on the idea

of creating in the youthful passer-by the desire to get rich without exertion. In the end, of course, the concessionaires flourish because of the ease with which they part fools from their money—and these harpies, with full pockets, betake themselves out of the country with all they have gathered from people who cannot afford to lose anything in this terrible day. It may be said that these passers-by should not enter into the skin games that are running on the skid-road, but much of the responsibility must rest upon the city which permits these peripatetic plunderers to lead the unsuspecting into temptation. No one could pass through the wretched row of shouting, perspiring, swindling criers of their games without feeling humiliated at the thought of all this being paraded, by permission of the city, before the eyes of the boys and girls of the city and country, and all for the sake of a few dollars. Clean amusement and clean sport are worthy means of providing recreation, but why should a decent community be insulted by the presence of an outfit which does not minister to either the mental, physical or moral needs of its people? Let the city clean its own doorstep. And then it can go after the lawbreakers with more grace.

* * *

STEFANSSON

THE presence on the Coast of the famous Arctic explorer, Vilhjalmar Stefansson, after five years in the Frozen North, was dwarfed by the overwhelming interest in the war, but it should not be overlooked. Arctic and Antarctic exploration has been full of tragedy, romance and pathos. The utility of it has never been demonstrated, but it has

ministered to the heroic element in men and has kept alive self-sacrifice in many lives.

* * *

OUR OWN LADS

THE Canadian Club had a delightfully human day when it wisely arranged to have two of our own Vancouver boys, Duncan Bell-Irving and Ian Gibson, youthful veterans of the Great War, tell their experiences on a recent occasion. The crowd of men (augmented by an assembly of ladies in the gallery) was large. They were not expecting finished oratory and impassioned declamation from these gallant lads, and they did not get these things, but the whirlwind of applause that greeted the speakers, that punctuated their remarks and that burst

out impulsively at the close of each address, showed that Vancouver has a strong strain of emotion and heart in her make-up. The boys told their story like heroes and gentlemen, using a plain, lucid, self-effacing style, in which chaste language and simplicity were the prevailing characteristics. But the very sight of them, bearing on their bodies the cruel marks of battle, brought a suspicion of tears into the eyes of strong men, in whose defense the young aviator and infantryman had fought against the enemies of freedom. Canada must live up to high ideals if she is to be worthy of the sacrifices made by all these wounded survivors and by the deathless army that lies under the wooden crosses in Flanders and France.

A University Summer Session

By R. Sparling, Principal, Aberdeen School, Vancouver, B. C.

THE question of how and where to spend a summer vacation comes up for decision by every teacher with due regularity. Sometimes it is felt that an entire change and absolute rest are needed, and with this end in view we go to camps and summer homes at points along our coasts or beside the shore of inland lakes. Some teachers travel and visit other lands to see points of historic interest, or it may be to pursue investigations. Since the outbreak of the European War, many teachers, realizing the necessity of helping the nation in the work of conserving its food supply, have spent the whole or a part of their vacation in working on the farms. All of these are very laudable indeed, and should always be greatly encouraged, but it has been strongly impressed upon my mind that, during times like these, teachers owe to the public and to themselves obligations of a character coming more closely in touch with their especial work in relation to the community, as well as to the education of the children.

A CHANGED ATTITUDE

Within recent years the general educational attitude has been undergoing marked changes. The scientific method of approach to the study of problems has become so general that we are coming to realize that educational training and fitness for teaching are by no means static but rapidly changing. Problems, which have too long been treated by both the public and the teaching body with absolute indifference, or in a half-hearted

manner, or, in many cases, with contempt, will not down. As a result, investigations are being set on foot to study the whole educational question in its relation to the social, industrial, economical and spiritual needs of the community. The increased attention given to child study has led to the educational emphasis being shifted from the course of study to the child. It is now being felt that an experimental study of genetic psychology will aid us greatly in framing curriculums, devising methods of instruction and evaluating the results of all our educational efforts.

With a desire to study still further some of these problems, the writer decided to spend a portion of his vacation by becoming a student at the University of Washington, located at Seattle.

BRIEF HISTORICAL SKETCH

Shortly after the Territory of Washington was formed, steps were taken to provide for a college for higher education. In 1855 Seattle was chosen as the site of the future University. In 1851, the Denny Party landed from the schooner "Exact" at Alki Point, West Seattle, and became the founders of the future city. The name of the city perpetuates the memory of an Indian chief, Seathl, whose band resided some distance south of where the pioneer settlement was made.

In 1860, the University was organized. It was opened in 1862, and incorporated the following year. Hon. A. A. Denny, the pioneer settler, donated a tract of land of about ten acres for university purposes. The Territorial Legislature set aside "two townships of public land." As the Territory of Washington was formed in 1853, it will thus be seen that the question of providing facilities for higher education was taken up at a very early date. In 1860, the population of the Territory was given at 11,507. For many years the University was a small affair, but a beginning had been made. The settlement of the country was very slow, but "the infant college struggled on and filled a necessary want." The annual budget, taken from the report of 1887, may prove of interest:

President's salary	\$2,000
One Professor	1,200
One Professor	1,000
One Professor	1,000
One Instructor	600
One Librarian	300
One Janitor	250
TOTAL	\$6,350
Fees Expected	2,500
BALANCE	\$3,850

The number of students in attendance that year was 168. Loans were made to students who were financially unable to complete their courses.

In 1889, Washington Territory became a State. The population had been rapidly increasing of late so that the census of 1890 gave the number of inhabitants at 349,390. An agitation for the enlargement of the Uni-

versity was now begun. After considerable controversy, it was decided that a new site should be secured. In 1891, 335 acres of land, fronting on Lakes Union and Washington, were secured. This has become the permanent location. About the same time, the people residing in the eastern part of the State succeeded in securing from the State Legislature a bill establishing the State College at Pullman. This institution was primarily intended to give instruction in agriculture, mechanical arts and natural sciences. It has degree-conferring powers. In recent years much discussion and agitation have taken place in regard to the relations existing between the two institutions. In their work there is felt to be considerable overlapping. It would appear that the college at Pullman should confine its work to what was the original intention of the State Legislature. In 1892, the attendance at the University had reached 362.

The holding of the Alaska-Yukon Exposition on the University campus in 1909 gave the college a number of buildings that had been constructed with that purpose in view. At the present time, about thirty buildings are in use. The site of the first institution, embracing the land between Seneca and Union streets and east of Fourth avenue, is still held by the trustees, but is under a long lease. This property is now very valuable, and when the lease expires the University will come into possession of a very large endowment.

The growth and development in recent years have been very rapid. Two years ago nearly 3,400 students were in attendance. Last year, owing to the war, the number has been about 2,500. Financial problems give some worry. More buildings are urgently needed. The library, which now contains about 81,000 volumes, needs enlarging, as well as a new and permanent building. The museum, now housed in the Forestry building, requires additions in order to make it more representative of the State.

COURSES OF STUDY

The courses of study offered cover a very wide range of subjects. The various departments, or colleges, include: Liberal Arts, Science, Education, Engineering (Chemical, Civil, Electrical and Mechanical), Mines (Coal, and Metal Mining), Fine Arts (Music, Drawing, Architecture), Forestry, Pharmacy, Law, Library, Commerce, Journalism and Post-Graduate. Space will not permit of a detailed description of all of these courses. It will be sufficient to say that one of the features that proves so attractive to students is the large number of elective courses offered. The historic academic course is well maintained. The courses offered in English, History, Philosophy, Modern Languages and Natural Sciences are very full and comprehensive. The School of Journalism, which offers courses in Reporting, Advertising and the Short Story, is proving to be very popular. Special attention is given to Physical Training and Gymnasium work. The work in Sociology is very complete. The social problems and the social effects of industry, social legislation, reform, social justice, international relations, poverty, crime, morals and public health receive special attention and are included in the courses given. A course specially commended is "Social Effects of the War and Reconstruction." The department of Home

Economics is well equipped and largely attended. The newer courses in Economics are rapidly winning favor. A course in Civic Administration is to be added.

COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

In 1917, a school of Business Administration was established. The object was to meet the growing demand for scientific training of men and women entering upon a business career. The need of such training grows out of our industrial competitive system and the necessity for more accurate and scientific methods in business following the war. This school has been raised to the status of a College. The courses include Business Organization, Corporation Finance and Employment Management.

In connection with the department of Economics, a new course, to be instituted at the opening of the fall term, will be watched with great interest. A general movement has for some time been gaining ground in the United States, looking towards the bringing together of the forces of Labor and Capital, which at present are so antagonistic to one another. Specialists in their departments have been selected, and at specified centres, Seattle being one of them, courses will be opened for the study of industrial problems and a thorough survey of the present economic system. This is called the War Emergency Course on Employment Management, and, if space permits, a supplementary article may be published thereon.

THE SUMMER SESSION

For some years a summer session has been maintained. The University is now in continuous session, and a student may thus proceed to his degree after three years. The summer session is an integral part of the work of the College. The work done counts on any course of study undertaken. The session consists of two terms, and opens about June 18th and continues until the end of August. This year, work was offered in thirty-two departments, and more than two hundred courses were open to students of the summer session. Upwards of one hundred professors and instructors were employed, and over 1,100 students were in attendance.

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

We purpose giving more extended notice to the College of Education. This department is so organized that the student, on entering the University, shall begin to think of the profession of teaching. During the first and second years the main work in education is not emphasized. This work is largely academic, and great liberty is allowed in selection of subjects. The special and intensive study of the course occurs during the third and fourth years. The degrees of Bachelor and Master of Education are granted upon completion of the respective courses.

At the summer term, eighteen courses were given in this department. Some of the more important were: Principles of Education. In this course was included a consideration of the fundamental principles of education, based upon biology, psychology, neurology and ethics.

Educational Sociology dealt with the social foundations of the school system. The various social factors entering into the education of the individual were considered. The educational function of typical social

groups, the family, play, community and state, the application of applied sociology in school administration, discipline, the programme of studies, class-room methods, student activities and the importance of vocational guidance, formed a course of practical help.

A great number of High School principals and teachers attended the course in High School organization and administration. Very complete courses were held in Child Study, Methods of Teaching, History of Education, Comparative Education, Advanced Educational Psychology, Industrial Education and School Administration.

"Adolescence and the High School" was perhaps one of the most popular courses given. The following outline, taken from the College Bulletin, will give some idea of the topics dealt with: "Youth, the period of greatest possibilities and greatest dangers; ways and means of safely guiding through this period; a critical consideration of the physical, intellectual, emotional, moral and social characteristics of the adolescent; and the educative activities suited to this period of secondary education; a comparison of the various characteristics of the child and the adolescent, and the type of education suited to each period; an evaluation of the content of some typical phases of the curriculum of the High School to determine their adaptability to the adolescent period; also the educational value of the subjects of the course of study."

A special course on Supervision of Instruction afforded consideration of the vital elements in the supervision of teachers, school work and school children. The methods of rating teachers as worked out in some twenty cities were considered. Discrimination was made of the essential and the non-essential features of subjects taught.

The course in Educational Measurements is designed to familiarize the teacher with the standardized scales and tests now used in measuring educational efficiency. The method of administering these tests, scoring, presenting and interpreting the results was very fully gone into by the professor in charge, who is the author of several of these tests now used. The various measuring scales for evaluating, Reading, Spelling, Arithmetic, Writing and Composition were fully considered and applied. These school measuring tests have passed the experimental stage and are now being widely used.

We found the School Survey a most interesting and instructive course. The School Survey is the outcome of the modern study in sociological problems of the city and city life. The object of this movement is not one to endeavor to find fault with a system or with the administrators of it, although the weak points in both will inevitably be found. The purpose is to consider the educational facilities of a community in relation to the various social factors entering into the civic life. The function of the school system in its relation to the social needs of the pupils is always strongly emphasized. Another object is to ascertain how far the school in its organization, course of study and general adaptability is meeting the needs of the community.

A study was made from some typical surveys that have been made in various cities and rural districts. Each student selected some topic or

special phases of education, and made a report on his or her investigations. Some topics selected were: School grounds, buildings, equipment, school sports, school activities, libraries, the Junior High School, industrial education, supervision, promotion of pupils, retardation of pupils, course of study, method of employing teachers, tenure of engagement and salary schedules, and the teachers' relation to other community activities. The literature on the School Survey is now quite extensive and should find a place in every educational library. While most of the important surveys of schools have been made in the United States, some have been made of Canadian school systems. The most thorough have been on the school systems of Ontario and Saskatchewan. Both of these were made by Dr. Foght of the Bureau of Education at Washington, D. C. It might be of interest to state that British Columbia's system of Municipal School Boards, instead of separate Trustee Boards for each school district, is fast finding favor with American educators. County and township systems are being gradually organized.

The College of Education offers an excellent opportunity to teachers, inspectors and superintendents, supervisors and others who desire to keep abreast of the educational system and advancement of today. The day of self-satisfaction and self-complacency is rapidly passing. A negative attitude to new problems and conditions can no longer be maintained or tolerated.

It has occurred to the writer that when the University of British Columbia can see its way to establish a College of Education a great advance will be made and a direct benefit conferred on the teachers, inspectors, and others engaged in educational work, who desire to pursue some definite course of study or investigation in the ever widening field of education.

The University of Washington appears to be admirably meeting the educational wants of the people of the State. It certainly offers, in its variety of courses, facilities to the greatest possible number of its young people.

We found the work very pleasant as well as helpful. The city of Seattle at the present time offers an excellent field for study of civic and social problems in addition to those of education. The companionship existing amongst the student body was all that could be desired. The various professors were diligent and always ready to render assistance and counsel. I would commend a course such as this to all teachers who can avail themselves of it. The writer is firmly of the opinion that it was the best vacation he ever spent.

THE ROAD TO HAPPINESS

A little gate, a narrow path—
 Ah, how was I to guess
 Would some day glimmer thro' the
 years
 The Road to Happiness?

A little house, with little rooms—
 So small it seemed to me!
 Ah, how was I to know how small
 Paradise could be!

—*Elsbeth Honeyman.*

Mrs. Browning and the Poet

By Rev. A. L. Fraser, B.D., Smith's Falls, Ont.

IT is an interesting study to go through a poet and ask what his theology is, or his politics, or his attitude to childhood, or his interpretation of nature. It would be interesting, for instance, to look at the poems in which Mrs. Browning has the figure of a child—a very familiar figure in her verse. Some of the very best things ever said in childhood's defence—and not said in vain—were said by her.

In this paper, however, I wish to look at a few poems in which Mrs. Browning speaks of the poet. Needless to say, she had a high idea of art. Some people in this utilitarian age ask, "Cui bono?" They think that the artist in marble or canvas, in sound or speech, is uselessly spending his time. What is art's justification? In "Hiram Power's Greek Slave," one of her sonnets, Mrs. Browning has these strong words:

"Pierce to the centre
Art's fiery finger—and break up ere
long
The serfdom of this world."

Art not merely pleases, it refines and elevates. But coming back to poetry, Mrs. Browning goes so far as to call God a poet.

"God is himself the best poet," she says in the "Dead Pan," and in the "Vision of Poets" she calls God the "chief poet." Let us run through a few of her poems, then, and see what she has to say about poetry.

First, she says that poets alone appreciate this world. In a poem called "The Earth and Her Praisers" we have the old earth appealing to men:

"That I may shake my hills in
infiniteness

Of breezy laughter, as in youthful
mirth,

To hear earth's sons and daughters
praising earth."

She appeals to a little child who is too intent on chasing squirrels to appreciate the earth; then to a lover; then to a student, who even shuts out the sunbeams from his study! Then she appeals to a bereaved man, who is now only interested in its graves. None of these can do it justice. But when the poet comes, with "his sense of lonely power," with his "lips which words of fire overflowing have burned white," and exclaims

"O God's earth!"

then streams and winds and mountains and skies—all had their praises sung. Then in her sonnet, "The Poet," she tells how God would as soon tire of the beauty of the world as the poet would, whose heart is always the child-heart filled with wonder.

Secondly, she takes care to distinguish the true from the pseudo-poet. In a "Vision of Poets"—a poem which testifies to the compass and thoroughness of her reading—we have those poets who wish to claim the honours of poetry, but are not willing to pay the price. In this beautiful and powerful poem we have the false poets, who are not willing to "give their hearts up," summoned to meet the great masters on song, Homer, Pindor, Aeschylus, Dante, etc. Mrs. Browning shows that she believes in the future of poetry:

"Herein is room, and shall be room
While Time lasts, for new hearts
to come,
Consummating while they consume.

"What living man will bring a gift
Of his own heart, and help to lift
The tune? The race is to the swift.

"So asked the angel."

And they came, and are pictured
in their different attitudes, then to
the angel their spokesman said:

"Thus

O angel, who hast called for us,
We bring thee service emulous—

"Fit service from sufficient soul;
Hand service, to receive world's
dole;
Lip service, in world's ear to roll
Adjusted concords.

"And if we labour, it shall be
As suiteth best with our degree
In after-dinner reverie."

But when they saw the faces of the
true, dead poets, they shrank and
paled away, and the erstwhile dis-
satisfied poet, to whom, and for
whose benefit, all this is shown, is
satisfied, and he says:

"I only would have leave to lose
(In tears and blood, if so He choose)
Mine inward music out to use."

The whole poem is a study, finely
executed, of the patience which the
poet must have, and of the ends for
which he must toil.

This is also dwelt upon in another
touching bit of work, "A Lay of the
Early Rose." A little rose thinks
what a great thing it would be to
ante-date its companion flowers and
get a start of them, then all, it
thinks, will do homage to it.

"For I would lonely stand,
Uplifting my right hand
On a mission, on a mission,
To declare the coming vision.

"Upon which lifted sign,
What worship would be mine!
What addressing, what caressing,
And what thanks and praise and
blessing!"

And the little flower gets its wish
and gets a start, but alas! what a
fate! It is overlooked, and the earth
saw this lonely little thing and
thought it was snow caught by a
bush.

"Halla, thou world-wide snow!
And art thou wasted so?
With a little bough to catch thee
And a little bee to watch thee?"

And the poet who looked at the pre-
mature rose's fate moralizes thus:

"Verily and thus
It chanceth eke with us
Poets singing sweetest snatches,
While that deaf men keep the
watches.

"Vaunting to come before
Our own age evermore,
In a loneness, in a loneness,
And the nobler for that oneness.

"Holy in voice and heart—
To high ends set apart!
All unmated, all unmated,
Because so consecrated."

This poem was written before she
married Robert Browning, but it
would suit him. He did not feel wor-
ried even if people did not read him.
One thinks of that wonderful sen-
tence in one of A. B. Davidson's
sermons: "It is the greatest of all
powers to be independent of outward
recognition." The Aberdeen granite
is in that sentence!

Thirdly, Mrs. Browning gives us
the poet's dynamic. What will keep
a man working at his art? What
keeps the bird singing? The people

who are spellbound? No! The bird delights to sing—the nightingale will tell its plaint to the dusk, even if no one hears but God. Listen to Mrs. Browning:

“O shame! to poets’ lays
Sung for the dole of praise—
Hoarsely sung upon the highway
With that *obulum da mihi*.

“Shame! shame! to poet’s soul,
Pining for such a dole,
When heaven-chosen to inherit
The high throne of a chief spirit.

“Sit still upon your thrones
O ye poetic ones!
And if, sooth, the world decry you,
Let it pass unchallenged by you!

“Ye to yourselves suffice
Without its flatteries.
Self-contentedly approve you
Unto Him who sits above you.”

Fourthly, for her the poet must be in touch with life. The “Poet’s Vow” reminds one of Tennyson’s “Palace of Art,” and the story recalls “Elaine.” Mrs. Browning shows that the poet needs to keep in touch with life. Matthew Arnold was fond of saying that poetry was a “criticism of life,” and any reader of Mrs. Browning knows how she dealt with life—its hopes and fears and sorrows. Her poetry is full of tears.

Fifthly, she admits that poetic expression is a difficult thing. In that fine sonnet, “Self-expression,” she says:

“This song of soul I struggle to
outbear through portals of the
sense,” and she often recurs to this
idea. Song came easy to her, and
probably her greatest fault is care-
lessness—not taking time to finish
her work.

To close, I would simply say that
she had a high notion of her art. It

permeates that touching poem on
“Cowper’s Grave,” or that little gem,
“The Poet and the Bird”:

“And, when I last came by the place,
I swear the music left there
Was only the poet’s song, and not
the nightingales.”

And “Lady Geraldine’s Courtship”
shows that the power of song was in
the eyes of one of more value than
money or station. And who can for-
get the delightful picture of the
young woman reading to blind Hugh
Stewart Boyd:

“But the reader’s voice dropped
lower
When the poet called him blind!”

Let herself speak last:

“The poet hath the child’s sight in
his breast,
And sees all new. What oftenest he
has viewed,
He views with the first glory. Fair
and good
Pall never on him, at the fairest,
best,
But stand before him, holy and
undressed
In weekday false conventions, such
as would
Drag other men down from the
altitude
Of primal types, too early dis-
possessed.
Why, God would tire of all His
heavens as soon
As thou, O Godlike, childlike poet,
didst
Of daily and nightly sights of sun
and moon!
And therefore hath He set thee in
the midst,
Where men may hear thy wonder’s
ceaseless tune,
And praise His world for ever, as
thou bidst.”

Church Life and Work

By D. A. Chalmers

THE CHURCHES AND THE WAR

WE are of those who would like to see the divisions of Christendom healed, and who would fain believe that one of the many side issues of the great war may be a helping towards that consummation. But it is impossible to overlook the criticisms which have questioned the "neutrality" of the Pope and the more or less well-founded grounds upon which they seem to be based. The other month we observed that in the editorial notes the magazine of the Established Church of Scotland, which is surely a broad, tolerant church, had a reference to "the cloven hoof," reflecting on the Roman Catholic Church and the war, and the *Presbyterian Witness*, published in Halifax, Canada, had a lengthy critical and condemnatory article on the same subject.

Latest of all we observe that our own Western Canadian churchman, Bishop de Pencier, Vancouver, was reported to have made a complimentary reference to the work at the Front of the Roman Catholic priests, and to have added that he did not like to see mud thrown at such men.

It is beyond question that there are many heroes among the chaplains of all the Churches—and probably among the representatives of all religions—so that there is little or no occasion to criticise individual clergymen. But we believe that even Roman Catholics will be found who will admit that the attitude taken towards Belgium by the Holy Father at Rome would stand some explaining. Considering the measure of authority which the Church of Rome seeks to exercise over all its adherents, and its aspirations after "temporal power," it hardly meets the case to claim, as has been done, that the Pope's overlordship has to do only with spiritual affairs.

We may believe that all the nations, and the most enlightened of the Allied ones among them, are meant to learn much affecting their own lives and governments from this terrible strife, but all the same, if ever there was a war in which the "ape and tiger" elements in humanity sought of set purpose to dominate the world by brute force, scientifically applied, this surely is such an one. And the treatment of Belgium by Germany at the beginning left no sane man outside Germany an excuse for withholding condemnation of Germany's action or for quibbling regarding the atrocities committed on the inhabitants of a country which asked simply to be left alone in their guaranteed neutrality.

There is also the allegation with reference to the influence of the Roman Catholic Church in connection with the defeat which befel the Italians, and it has been stated that after that defeat the priests of the Church were not allowed in the front line trenches in Northern Italy.

* * *

A NEW UNION PROPOSITION

Why should not Presbyterians and Anglicans unite? is the latest question. Many may hold with the writer that these two "denominations" are nearer in some ways than one or two other recently negotiating Churches.

If the attempt to force Episcopacy upon Scotsmen caused a reaction, resulting in adherence to bare walls in church buildings, and, for some generations, an uncompromising hostility to the introduction of any "kist o' whistles" or other instrumental music in divine worship, surely independent common sense has long since taught all non-conformists that if there is any building on earth which merits beauty internally as well as externally it is "the House of God."

Similarly, though "extemporaneous" prayers (which wise ministers usually prepare in thought if not in written word) may provide large scope for devotional exercise of mind and heart, an intelligent interest in the English language would itself lead men to recognize the beauty of many of the prayers in the liturgy of the Church of England.

The regrettable thing about prepared prayers, however, is that the minister's conduct or capacity in preaching and otherwise may suggest that the intellect mainly, if not alone, has been exercised in the composition.

If "the heart's aye the part aye that mak's us richt or wrang," it certainly is true that without the heart being exercised, prayer becomes little better than "sounding brass or tinkling cymbal". Prayer, whether from a pulpit or elsewhere, if without the heart of the speaker inspiring it, is only a form of words, and, as Macbeth said in his pitiable plight:

—"words fly upward, thoughts remain below;

Words without thoughts never to heaven go."

Yes, by all means, speed the day when Christendom shall more and more unite its forces and so help towards "the Parliament of man, the Federation of the World."

* * *

VACATION "SUPPLY" AND THE MID-WEEK MEETING

St. John's Presbyterian Church, Vancouver, was specially fortunate in its "Supply" during the vacation of Rev. Dr. W. H. Smith, when Rev. Leonard McCain, of Boston, officiated. Mr. McCain is a Canadian, an able and scholarly preacher, with a clear and pleasing delivery. At the mid-week meeting he combined expository teaching with a conversational conference on the subject under review. This method, involving questions and answers, has much to commend it. Anything that will in more ways than one draw out Church people, especially staid Presbyterians, is worthy of note, but perhaps some people in all the Churches need to be reminded that a healthy interest in Christianity, involving attendance during the week at a meeting for discussion or prayer, does not, any more than the Sunday services, necessitate the putting on of solemn looks or long faces. It should be as natural for the traveller on Life's highway to give an hour's thought to themes bearing on the main purpose of the pilgrimage and its end, or the life beyond it, as it is for an ocean traveller to be interested in the voyage or to think of the country to which he is destined.

* * *

WILL ST. ANDREW'S FOLK CALL A MINISTER THEY "HEAR"?

Among the ministers officiating at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church was Rev. J. McCartney Wilson, now of Calgary. When Mr. Wilson came to Canada six years ago, he visited Vancouver, and, if we remember aright,

remarks were made about his fascination for the St. Andrew's folk when he "supplied" in the absence of his namesake of recently-departed memory. We have reason to know that Mr. McCartney Wilson's appeal to many of St. Andrew's people has not grown less with the years, but—he has been at Calgary only nine months.

Mr. McCain, of Boston, also officiated at St. Andrew's one Sunday. No sensible outsider would venture to advise so strongly-manned a Session as St. Andrew's, but it may be permissible to hold the opinion that it would be a good thing for any leading congregation in the West if they could prevent a man like Mr. McCain accepting the call of another States' city church, such as we understand was recently given to him. Western Canadian churches need more men of strong and attractive personality, who give the impression that the work of the ministry, rightly valued and duly attended to, is in itself big enough for them.

ILLNESS OF REV. A. E. COOKE

People of all the churches, and perhaps even opponents of his political views and expositions, would extend sympathy to the Rev. A. E. Cooke, if the facts were more fully known of his heroic fight against illness, personal and domestic.

We understand First Congregational Church, Vancouver, like many another, has had its responsibilities and difficulties through changing sites and war conditions. But, after accepting its call the other year, Mr. Cooke made a notable effort in consolidation work, which ill-health has interrupted. Opinions may differ as to the ministerial methods employed to attract or hold congregations, transient or other. Mr. Cooke usually seeks to make his sermon subjects fit topics of the times, and when he has been in ordinary health—or working as if he were—he has drawn big crowds to First Congregational Church.

As mentioned in the press, certain associates recently gave him a testimonial of practical friendliness, and, notwithstanding serious sickness, he has continued to strive to overtake his ministerial obligations. The wounded warrior does not need to apologise to the stretcher-bearers: there are other battlefields than those of shot and shell whereon it may be as much a duty to accept "first-aid" as to give it.

We have gathered from various quarters that the fight is being well maintained by the Congregational pastor, and we are sure that all who like to see a man put himself into his work—even though they may differ with him as to methods or courses—will be ready, if given the opportunity, to demonstrate their sympathy practically.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, VANCOUVER

The recommendation that the pastor, who may now be appointed to First Presbyterian Church, Vancouver, should be placed for a term of three years at least, is a good one. Among the ministers who recently officiated there was Rev. J. W. Robinson, who combines earnest preaching with much experience in practical christian work. Mr. Robinson, who recently published a book of addresses, to which reference may be made elsewhere, is well supported in his church work by Mrs. Robinson, who was formerly a trained

nurse. It is questionable if his Prairie charge—which is one of standing and importance—would be willing to release Mr. Robinson, but there is good reason to believe that he is the type of man who could do excellent work at First Church in these days of change. Though it is not right to reckon any minister's wife a kind of second pastor to the congregation, in some central or "downtown" city churches the assured qualifications of the manse lady for practical and sympathetic work among the people is an asset of incalculable value.

All who know anything about the brave battle some of the First Church "old-timers" have maintained in specially trying times and peculiar circumstances, will wish that the best may be sent to them in these unsettled and unsettling days.

* * *

A NOTABLE PRESBYTERY MEETING

The early September meeting of the farthest west (mainland) Presbytery, which, though it meets most frequently in Vancouver, inherits the name "Westminster," was notable in more ways than one. Rev. Mr. McCrae, of Victoria, spoke effectively of work among the Hindus; an important motion affecting the filling of the vacancy at First Church, Vancouver, was brought to the attention of the Presbytery; Rev. Mr. McDiarmid, speaking for the Home Mission Committee, emphasized that there was an opportunity for wise leadership in connection with the re-arrangement of fields; the idea of supplying autos for outlying appointments was well discussed, and led to Mr. Mitchell (Aitcheliz) making a refreshing speech connected with his field experience and overflowing with spontaneous humour.

Rev. A. E. Mitchell, Vancouver, and Rev. Principal MacKay spoke on what is to be known as the "Forward Movement." "The Assembly's resolution" on the subject had many points of which more will no doubt be heard. The form in which one matter in that connection was brought before the Westminster Presbytery merits more attention than our space permits it to have at this time.

* * *

REV. JAS. CARRUTHERS CALLED TO POINT GREY

Point Grey Presbyterian Church, near Vancouver and in the direction of the big University to be, in the opinion of some folk missed a good man when they somehow failed to secure or hold, after his graduation, Rev. Wm. Scott, B.A., now of Korea. Now, however, that rising suburban church is to be congratulated on its having had the sagacity to call, and the good fortune to secure, as its minister Rev. Jas. Carruthers. No sensible men belittle training in the ministry any more than in other vocations, but the best of ministers are so primarily by *nature*, and Mr. Carruthers is one of that type. To know him at all is to like him; to come to know him better is to love the man for his real brotherliness and big-heartedness. Long life to Point Grey pastor and people alike—and together!

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HOW DUTCH THEOLOGY IS INFLUENCED BY GERMANY

The following statistics collected by a Dutch magazine will show how greatly Dutch theology is influenced by Germany. Some have wondered

why so many ministers in Holland see the great war through German spectacles. After reading the following, that becomes plain.

The theological study books used at Dutch universities are made up of the following percentages:

	GERMAN	DUTCH	FRENCH	ENGLISH
At Amsterdam	84	7	0	7
At Utrecht University	49	16	11	21
At Leiden University	63	25	0	5
At Groningen University . . .	47½	22½	12½	12½

Combining all, the proportions are as follows: 62, 18, 6, 11.

It is to be hoped that after the war we shall hear less of German Theology and more of Christian Morality.

Dominion Day Celebrations in Holland

By Rev. Wm. Thomson, Minister of the English Reformed Church, Amsterdam

FOR the first time in history Canada's National Holiday was celebrated on a large scale this year in Holland. The Maple Leaf is much in evidence along the promenade at Scheveningen, Holland's chief seaside resort, and on the streets of The Hague, the residence of the Queen of the Netherlands. Officers and N.C.O.'s of the 48th Canadian Highlanders, of the 7th, 8th, 13th and other Canadian regiments, move about in The Hague as if they were at Toronto, Winnipeg or Vancouver. The Colonial Group of Exchanged Prisoners of War, Acacia Street, The Hague, is chiefly made up of men from the land of the Maple Leaf. They cheerfully fraternise with their colonial brothers from Australia and South Africa. Little wonder that Dominion Day was not allowed to pass by unnoticed. At Scheveningen the national holiday of Canada was celebrated under a cloudless sky and a hot sun and with just sufficient breeze to stir the many flags on the grandstands. Long before 2 o'clock, the official hour of commencement, the roads leading to the sport grounds were streaming with people. By 3 o'clock the ground was packed, many Dutch people having availed themselves of this opportunity of seeing the first game of baseball. About 4,000 were present. Many notable people attended — Sir Walter and Lady Susan Townley, Mr. J. W. Garrett, the American Minister, the French Minister, the Italian Minister, the Belgian Minister, the Serbian Minister, the Roumanian Minister, etc.

It is needless to recount the various events. Sufficient to say that officers and men felt at home, and will not soon forget how they celebrated their first Dominion Day in Holland. They hope they may soon be able to do so among their "ain folk," for while life in Holland is like Paradise compared with imprisonment in Germany, yet the cup of joy will not be full until they can shake hands with dear ones at home.

Old and New Books Worth Reading

"RANSOM," BY ARTHUR SOMERS ROCHE

Unless readers are situated so that they can give an hour or two uninterruptedly to a good story, they would do well to avoid "Ransom," just published by McClelland, Goodchild & Stewart.

As the result of a conspiracy, by a combination of fanatics and altruists, to wreck the prevailing financial system and to prove to the world that property and labour were the only true values, a millionaire is kidnapped, and while he still appears free, many exciting adventures befall him and other characters, including a young man and woman at the ever-interesting age. The story is full of action, the quickness and thickness of which are, if anything, surpassed by the rapidity of analysis by the Commissioner of Police and others concerned in the preventing of crime and the unravelling of the mystery which surrounds some of the characters till the climax is reached in the closing pages.

MORE OF "MY UNKNOWN CHUM"

ART, IDEALS AND TRADE

....What sympathy can a true artist feel with a state of society in which he is regarded by nine people out of ten as a useless member, because he does not directly aid in the production of a given quantity of grain or of cloth? Every stroke of his brush, every movement of his hands in moulding the obedient clay, is a protest against the low, mean, materialistic views of life which prevail among us; and it is too much to ask of any man that he shall spend his days in trying to live peaceably in an enemy's camp. When figs and dates become common articles of food in Lapland, you may expect art to flourish in a community whose god is commerce, and whose chief religious duty is money-making.....I do not wonder that artists, who have lived any considerable time in Rome, are discontented with the feverish restlessness of our American way of life.....

"A DANIEL COME TO JUDGMENT"—IN A SENTENCE!

After describing a notable companion, met at the Mineral Springs of Aix, the author notes: We were sitting in a *cafe* last evening, and, after a long conversation, I asked him what he should give as the result of all his reading and observation of men and things, and all his experience, if he were to sum it up in one sentence. "Sir," said he, removing his meerschaum from his mouth, and turning towards me as if to give additional force to his reply, "it may all be comprised in this: The world is composed of two classes of men—natural fools and d—d fools; the first class are those who have never made any pretensions, or have reached a just appreciation of the nothingness of all human acquirements and hopes; the second are those whose belief in their own infallibility has never been disturbed; and this class includes a vast number of every rank, from the profound German philosopher, who thinks that he has fathomed infinity, down to that young fop twirling his moustache at the opposite table, and flattering himself that he is making a great impression."

Abracadabra

The Wayside Philosopher

(All Legal Responsibility Assumed by the Author)

SIR CHARLES TUPPER'S remarks in regard to the desirability of Canada taking a more outstanding part in the councils of the Empire than she has been doing will find an appreciative response in every Canadian's heart. Let us play a part worth while and fear no consequences.

How good it would be if we had more men of Sir Charles' stamp in our midst! It may be alleged by some people that his language sometimes lacks that dignity that should characterize the remarks of any Canadian public man; and his judgment may be sometimes open to question in matters of local political interest; but that he is a man of thorough patriotism, intensely British and intensely Canadian, cannot be denied. British Columbia may well be proud to have him among her citizens.

Now that, barring the highly improbable, if not the impossible, it is evident to all that Germany faces defeat in the field of arms, let us turn our attention to the post-war problems that will in a short while be the present-day problems!

Suppose that we put ourselves in British Columbia in such a position that we could tell a visitor or an inquirer just what it would cost him to obtain a suitable site for an industry; what his expense in power, labour, etc., would be; where his market would be found and what it would cost him in marketing his goods there; wouldn't that seem like treating business in a business-like way?

Vancouver had a city garden epidemic this spring. Now let us know what the results were. How many failed for any cause to secure an increase? How many are too discouraged to try again? How many found an added usefulness to their lives from the work? Did any boy or girl, man or woman, glimpse as a result of their toil the great possibilities and demands of agriculture in British Columbia?

In the gardens of their souls, have our citizens laboured equally well?

BOOKS AND POETRY

Thornton Burgess books are and have been generally obtainable for some time. How many of our children are benefitting by them?

"Life, like a dome of many-coloured glass,
Stains the white radiance of Eternity."

Page Twenty-eight

In the attempt to be "up-to-date," let us not forget the books that have stood the test of time in their teachings and lessons.

"My life is a brief, brief thing;
I am here for a little space,
And while I stay I would like, if I may,
To brighten and better the place."

"For words, like Nature, half reveal
And half conceal the soul within."

"Many and sharp the num'rous ills
Inwoven in our frame!
More pointed still we make ourselves
Regret, remorse and shame!"

QUERIES

Can you place the above quotations?

What have you ever done to make British Columbia better and more truly known?

Whose life have you brightened since our last issue?

Are great areas going to be held by private interests while we are told there is a shortage of land for our returned soldiers?

Do you make life brighter for all by just "keeping on smiling"?

Do you remember that Canada expects us each day to do our duty?

Do you realize how great life is in British Columbia and what great works there are to be done here?

Have you learned that if we each do our little parts well that the great and grand will be done without difficulty by our community?

Have you yet recognized the "heart of Eternal Love" behind the horrors of war?

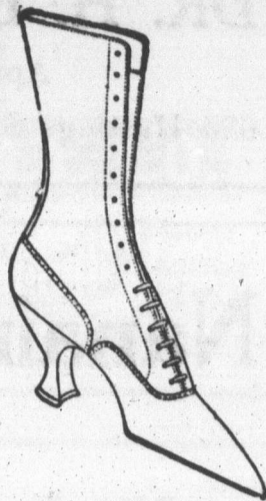
Can you distinguish between the "why" and the "wherefore" of Life? If not, why not?

Can you send me, care of the Editor, 1317 Haro Street, Vancouver, the name of the book you have enjoyed most since our last issue?

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