

Volume XI.

Number 1

PUBLISHED AT VANCOUVER, B.C.

Westminster Review

*The Social, Educational and Religious Monthly
of the Canadian West*



Our Ideal:

Social Betterment, Educational Enlightenment,
the Upbuilding — in City and Church and State
— of Christian Government, and the Develop-
ment of Spiritual Life

CONTENTS

Beginning Volume Eleven

An Easter Prayer

Dominion of Canada War Loan

Prominent B. C. Pastor Called to Calgary

Our Education: III.—The Need of Health Culture

The Bookman Says

R. G. MacBeth's Notes and Comments

After the War—What?

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To present subscribers NOT IN ARREARS (and others paying their arrears as notified recently by letter), who at this time send not less than one year's renewal subscription—at the One Dollar a year "in advance" rate,—we shall forward, free, at our expense, a copy of "Steps Into the Larger Life."

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WESTMINSTER REVIEW

D. A. CHALMERS, Managing Editor

Published at Vancouver, B. C.

SUPPORTING SOCIAL BETTERMENT, EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS,
AND RELIGIOUS LIFE.
INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

VOL. XI.

MARCH, 1917

No. 1

Editorial

Dominion of Canada War Loan

We call the attention of our readers to the Dominion of Canada War Loan, which they will find advertised in the special insert stitched into the middle of this issue.

To people who have been accustomed to the speculative rates of interest in Real Estate and other uncertain ventures, or who have grown rich by large commissions on contracts or big percentages on goods manufactured or sold, the Government's rate of interest may not seem large. But such investments have all the certainty and security of the State behind them.

That is the last and lowest incentive that need be cited to the truly patriotic who have money to invest. The first and strongest reason is that those who have money to invest *owe* its investment as a duty to the State. Others are investing in the service of the Dominion and the Empire what money cannot buy—their health and their lives.

Next to the good God who gives life and health and the means whereby we live and prosper, men and women—whether or not they recognize it—owe their surplus to the Country and the Empire, and in one way or another every one must, if necessary, give all to the State. In Canada we are still asked to give voluntarily in men and money: but should the leading statesmen hold it essential, there can be no question that the Dominion and the Empire have the right to commandeer the wealth as well as the service of every citizen.

We trust that the citizens of Vancouver and the West will give their money as they have given men of military age—in a proportion to the population which compares favorably with any other part of the Dominion. At the same time we believe most of our readers will hold that, in giving to the State, as to the Church, the question for each one should be—not, how much is my neighbor giving, but—*How much can I invest?*

Beginning Volume Eleven

In beginning volume eleven with this number, we are reminded that the "Westminster Review" is qualifying for a place among the "Old-Timers" of Vancouver and the West. Reference (for the notice re Dr. Fraser) to the issue for December, 1912, with its 48 pages of literary matter, has impressed us anew with the fact that war conditions have caused curtailment so far as the size of the Review is concerned. But we have had repeated and cumulative evidence demonstrating that the magazine has now an assured place in the community, and may claim, indeed, to be "The Social, Educational and Religious Monthly of the Canadian West."

At the same time we are still far from realizing our ideal of service in the Review. We shall not be satisfied until, with the return of normal conditions of life and work, increased advertising business enables us to

increase to nearer the capacity of former years the space given to each of the social, educational, literary and religious interests we seek to serve.

Serving All "Denominations"

Sometimes we have felt that if all the people of the Churches in British Columbia alone were fully awake to the field of service this monthly is seeking to cover in the West, there would not be a home in the Province wherein resided a Church member (of any "denomination") which did not receive the Review by mail. There is no doubt such an excuse as "We take the Denomination's paper published in Toronto." "But surely," we may rejoin (with all respect to older Eastern Canada), "Vancouver and the Farthest West are not *always* to wait on Toronto or any other city for their publications any more than for anything else worth while?"

We have on our part sought, according to the limitations of space, to give publicity to Western news notes concerning the various denominations, and this section, in common with others, shall be extended as the people of the Churches let isolation and reserve give place to the practice of co-operation and community spirit.

Educational Interests

With the passing years we shall also be pleased to be of fuller service to all educational authorities of the West in so far as they place progress by "educational enlightenment" before the advancement of exclusive interests.

Articles on Community Servants

Articles bearing on the revelation and improvement of actual social conditions in city and country alike shall be given a first place, and we are arranging to publish a series of short sketches concerning "Community Servants." In this connection we hope to publish biographical and other notes concerning men who, though not necessarily "in the public eye," or otherwise advertised, are serving "their day and generation" worthily and effectively in the commercial, civic and other spheres of activity. In the quest of "subjects" for such sketches, we shall not be guided by any man's politics, reputed wealth, denominational connection, or professional or money-making prominence; but primarily by the consideration—Is he a Servant of the Community? In each case we shall seek to secure the use of an engraving of the "subject" of the notes.

Book Section to Be Maintained

In former years we had "The Book Shelf" section, and published reviews of books. We hope to revive this section—which, indeed, like several others, has been suspended only owing to the limitations of time and space.

The Subscription Rate

Notwithstanding advice given about increasing the subscription rate, we shall not, if we can possibly avoid it, increase the *in advance* yearly subscription beyond the dollar rate. We are, however, seriously considering changing the "Terms of Subscription" so far as the payment "in arrears" is concerned. The desire of the management is to give the best value possible in a monthly journal mailed to the homes of the people for one dollar a year, and we ask subscribers to co-operate with us not only by advertising and recommending the Review, but by paying their own subscriptions *in advance*.

"Play the Game"

One of the disappointing experiences of the work has been to find subscribers here and there so inexcusably careless regarding their subscriptions and their overdues as to require several notices before attending to their arrears. Even then—and with return envelopes sent—some delay. If we are to do our utmost to continue to supply subscribers—and Western Canada—with a monthly journal devoted to the "Ideal" noted on our cover, we think we may fairly expect all subscribers to "play the game" by recognizing the "Terms of Subscription" which are printed in every issue.

Though we value every subscriber, we have no wish to continue sending the Review to any against their wishes; and if their interest or capital wanes so far that they cannot invest one dollar a year in such a magazine, surely it is a reasonable stipulation that notification be sent, with payment of arrears (if any) to the publishing office. The mailing of every copy, city and other, is *prepaid* by us, and when we are left, in many cases, to pay postage in advance for the better part of a year or more, it becomes, in the aggregate, a heavy tax over and above the cost of production. If, in addition, we have to send several communications before payment is made, such subscribers (even when they pay the "in arrears" rate) are practically taking the magazine free of charge, as the work and expense involved are really more valuable than the amount collected.

We trust every subscriber who can say to himself "This means you!" will now,—even if it must be "once and for all," pay his subscription arrears. We must be just to the obligations of the Review before we are generous to well-meaning but careless subscribers.

Appreciation

Will those numerous subscribers and readers who from time to time send in letters of compliment, encouragement or practical interest in the work of this publication, accept this acknowledgment and expression of appreciation? Under present conditions it is simply impossible for us to respond to such communications in the way they merit.

AN EASTER PRAYER

Like the sorrowing women who came to the Tomb
Where our Lord in His death-sleep lay;
So our hearts are bowed down with sorrow and gloom
To-day!

And the stone which lay at the mouth of the Tomb
Was a burden which darkened their way;
So the darkness of bloodshed and war is our burden of gloom
To-day!

But they found when they came to the Tomb,
That the stone had been taken away;
May the Angel of God come and lighten our gloom
To-day!

And they learned that the Lord from the Tomb
Had risen in splendid array;
May He rise in our hearts and dispel all our gloom
To-day!

Vancouver, B. C.

—David James.

Rev. H. W. Fraser, D.D., Called to Calgary

As this Review is being prepared for the press, we learn that Knox Presbyterian Church, Calgary, has extended a unanimous call to Rev. W. H. Fraser, D.D., of First Presbyterian Church, Vancouver. According to Presbyterian form, before Dr. Fraser can accept, the call must first come up before or "go through" the Westminster Presbytery.

Dr. Fraser, who has been over twelve years in Vancouver, is one of the best-known public men in the community. First Church, Vancouver, which formerly benefitted by the opportunities and privileges which fall to the "down-town" church, has latterly had to face the disadvantages and difficulties that follow changed or changing conditions. Reorganization with a view to the establishing of an "Institutional Church" has been under consideration, and though the war and other conditions have so far prevented the General Assembly from carrying through such a change, it is probable that some such development will ultimately take place.

One of the healthiest organizations connected with First Church in Dr. Fraser's time was the "Men's Club," nearly all the sixty or seventy members of which have gone overseas with H. M. Forces, and six of whom have already given their lives in the cause of humanity.

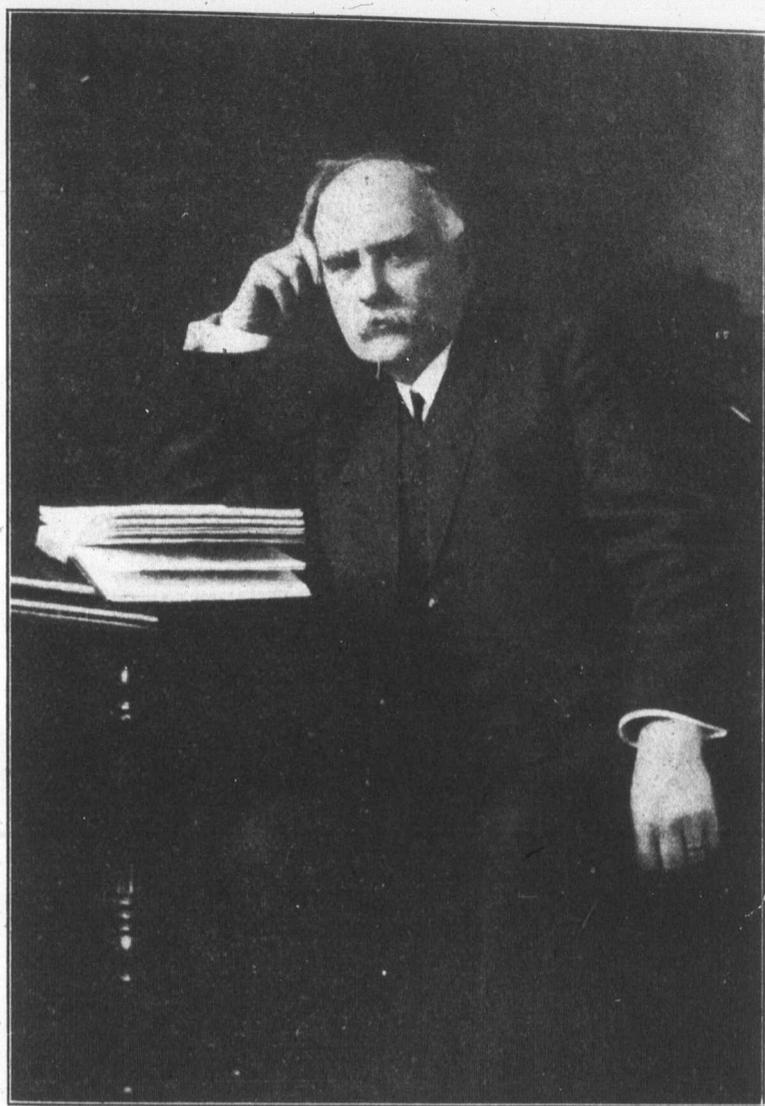
In recent conversation with Dr. Fraser on the subject of the down-town problem, he remarked: "The war has made a tremendous draft upon both our membership and attendance, as First Church was in a very real sense a young man's Church. The continued change in the environment of the Church has complicated the work very much and made it absolutely imperative that the Presbyterian Church in Canada should come to the relief of the situation—or be content to lose the years of labor put into this Church." Dr. Fraser believes the General Assembly should help in the solution of the situation. He thinks the Churches are often short-sighted and make the mistake of "letting the devil seize hold of the ground, after which they will go to work and put in a little mission." "If" (instead of tolerating such a course), "the Churches would keep the Church itself in the forefront—possess the land rather than capture it—they would save themselves a lot of trouble, and save the Lord men and women too."

The ministerial ranks of Vancouver and the Coastland will be the poorer for the absence from them of a man of Dr. Fraser's experience and personal worth, but Vancouver's loss should be Calgary's gain. Though changed conditions have doubtless given Knox Church, Calgary, its problems also, it is one of the best Churches in the West, and its equipment is in every way up-to-date. The membership is in the neighborhood of one thousand.

Dr. Fraser's many friends in Vancouver and the West will wish him years of increased usefulness at the other side of the mountains. A thirty hour rail journey is not far as distances are reckoned on this Continent, however, and no doubt the Coast cities will see and hear him from time to time.

Dr. Fraser was the subject of the second article by D. A. Chalmers, published under "Ministerial Miniature; the Man and His Message," in this magazine in December, 1912. It may be in place to quote a few passages from that article at this time:—

"If you come to Vancouver or the West with any interests above real estate and money-making, you can hardly help hearing about Dr. Fraser; which is another way of saying that he is a man who takes a very broad view of the place and power of the christianity of Jesus Christ."



REV. H. W. FRASER, D.D.

Dr. Fraser seems to believe, wisely as many nowadays hold, that to be a practical christian a man must be interested in all social questions, and in the varied relationships of life. While not countenancing or encouraging that species of advertisement which seeks to display announcements of sensational subjects for discourse, the pastor of First Church is not a man afraid to deal deliberately and plainly in a discourse with any social or moral question which he recognises as vitally affecting the welfare of the community.

A man of literary inclinations and with the temperament of the true lover of nature (as his little story "The Message" published a few years ago, itself demonstrates), he is, nevertheless, found in these riper years of his manhood and his ministry in charge of a large "down-town" church. That he is peculiarly qualified for such a post, no one acquainted with church life in Vancouver needs to be told. It is the uncommon thing for the present First Church with its large gallery and side extension, not to be crowded every Sunday evening the doctor is on duty; and the earnest worshipper, though a stranger, will not wonder at this when he gathers how broad are the pastor's sympathies, and how wide his outlook on life. The breadth of his sympathies and the bigness of his heart are revealed, as is often the case among men, by the scope of his unaffected prayers. In hearing these one is reminded that the petitioner has

a lively sense of the needs of the men who are "down and out," the sick, the sin-stained and the wandering.

The subject of our sketch is among the numerous company of working men who, notwithstanding the cheap sneers and jeers at ministers and churches occasionally indulged in by the ignorant or ill-minded, are tempted to work not a few days a week, but rather to continue in harness without due intermission seven days a week, and that for unreasonable stretches of time.

Mention has already been made of a little booklet published by the Doctor a year or two ago which was entitled "The Message; (a Parable)." One does not like Dr. Fraser the less for gathering from that story that William Cullen Bryant appeals to him. While we are mainly concerned with the "message" delivered by our subject in his office of pastor, we believe that a fuller idea of "The man and his message" will be obtained by the quotation of a passage or two from that little story of literary promise which he happens to have called "The Message." The short paragraphs we have selected may not only suggest something of the literary power of the First Church pastor, but reveal as natural to him a spirit of wholesome optimism.

"My brother," said the angel, "yours has been a hard experience, but do not lose heart. Never a night that did not end in a morn, and never a storm that did not break into a calm. Life is not over yet. For each and all of us creatures of circumstances there remains not merely what has been, but what will be. Even if storms do still await us, so, too, does the glad morn."

"Not for me," wearily sighed the flower; "my day is done, and I only wait the call that shall end life's transient dream."

"Say not so, my brother. Let not such dark thoughts find so much as a resting place in your mind. Life was never so strong, so rich in possibilities of good as it is for you to-day. Look up, not down; out, not in. Feel the sweet impress of the morn, and let its light and its love enter into your desolated heart. If you do, then from the depths of your own experience you will be able to draw waters of life for others, and a new song of trust and joy will go out from your life; a song that will sound throughout the universe of God, as when some pebble is dropped into the deep, to fling its utmost ripple against every distant shore."

And again: "However sad or desolate life may be, it still remains true; that earth has no sorrow that love cannot heal, and when life is full of love, trials and tribulations serve only to make the character richer, stronger, better. Without love, life is desolation."

This sketch would be incomplete, if it were not recorded that in addition to his other varied pastoral experience on the prairie and in the States, and of late years in Vancouver City, Dr. Fraser, earlier in his career, spent quite a number of years as a Missionary in China—an experience giving an education in itself.

It should also be noted that at one of the theological sessions of the Westmost Presbyterian College, Westminster Hall, Vancouver, he gave a short course of lectures on Sociology. He has also been Moderator of the Synod of British Columbia.

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And, faith, he'll prent it."*

—Burns.

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ISSUE PRICE 96.

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10	per cent	on application;
30	“	16th April, 1917;
30	“	15th May, 1917;
26	“	15th June, 1917.

The total allotment of bonds of this issue will be limited to one hundred and fifty million dollars, exclusive of interest at the rate of four per cent per annum. All payments are to be made to a chartered bank for the credit of the Minister of Finance. Failure to pay any instalment when due will render previous payments liable to forfeiture and the allotment to cancellation.

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Delivery of scrip certificates and of bonds will be made through the chartered banks.

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The interest on the fully registered bonds will be paid by cheque, which will be remitted by post. Interest on bonds with coupons will be paid on surrender of coupons. Both cheques and coupons, at the option of the holder, will be payable free of exchange at any branch in Canada of any chartered bank, or at the Agency of the Bank

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This loan is authorized under Act of the Parliament of Canada, and both principal and interest will be a charge upon the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

Forms of application may be obtained from any branch in Canada of any chartered bank and at the office of any Assistant Receiver General in Canada.

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by the Parliament of Canada.

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Subject to the payment of twenty-five cents for each new bond issued, holders of fully registered bonds without coupons will have the right to convert into bonds of the denomination of \$1,000 with coupons, and holders of bonds with coupons will have the right to convert into fully registered bonds of authorized denominations without coupons at any time on application to the Minister of Finance.

The books of the loan will be kept at the Department of Finance, Ottawa.

Application will be made in due course for the listing of the issue on the Montreal and Toronto Stock Exchanges.

Recognized bond and stock brokers having offices and carrying on business in Canada will be allowed a commission of three-eighths of one per cent on allotments made in respect of applications bearing their stamp, provided, however, that no commission will be allowed in respect of the amount of any allotment paid for by the surrender of bonds issued under the War Loan prospectus of 22nd November, 1915, or in respect of the amount of any allotment paid for by surrender of five per cent debenture stock maturing 1st October, 1919. No commission will be allowed in respect of applications on forms which have not been printed by the King's Printer.

SUBSCRIPTION LISTS WILL CLOSE ON OR BEFORE THE 23rd OF MARCH, 1917.

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, OTTAWA, March 12th, 1917.

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VANCOUVER, B. C.

Our Education

III.—The Need of Health Culture

(By W. H. Bridge, Cranbrook, B. C.)

The worst of it is, we are contented with it. Our general vision is so dull and common-place that the high and magnificent possibilities of this new nation in this excelling hour, appear as dreams to us. I do not mean to say but that we have much to be proud of. It is a fine thing that away back into the smallest and remotest of settlements the National School maintains a regular system of education. It is good to find the school flag chasing the real estate man to the very back of beyond! If we pick out faults it is not because we fail to see merits. The very achievements of our education encourage our hopes of yet better things. If we "knock" it is not that we like destroying paint, but that we wish to see doors of greater utility opened. This by way of a little conciliation to those who resent our critical attitude.

We ventured to make certain suggestions last month regarding the teachings of civics; we do not anticipate revolutionizing results, but we believe that the social qualities of the children might be stimulated by a sound knowledge of the *mechanism* of the community.

We beg to offer a further suggestion. Whatever view we take of the nature of the human personality, we admit that a healthy body goes a long way towards ensuring a healthy and moral character. What effort is made in our school system to tone up and maintain the health of the body of the child? We are not speaking of health as merely the absence of disease. Health is more than that: (and when will the doctors realize it?) Health is that fitness of the physique for the tasks of life which make those tasks a joy. Does our school system give the attention it ought to the practice of true physical culture—the teaching of personal hygiene?

We do not say the subject is unheard of in our schools, but we do doubt if it occupies the central place it ought.

Linked up with this matter of physical culture is the subject of sport as a factor in education. Even those who laugh at the Englishman for being a lover of sport, admit that his sporting habits and instincts are fairly useful qualities in times of crisis. It is the grim sporting instinct that has kept thousands of our Tommies sane in the hell of the trenches. It is something more than bodily fitness that the habit of sport maintains. It is the social sense it develops: the instinct of self-effacement for the sake of the team. And further, the power of acting fair under adverse circumstances. The sporting instinct saved the British people from the ignomy of a reprisal policy throughout the war.

Here then is our suggestion: Let every school of a certain size be supplied with a physical culture and sports master for the boys, and a similarly qualified mistress for the girls. Such teachers would need to qualify in knowledge of elementary physiology and hygiene of various physical culture systems; would need to be good sportsmen—and women: able to organize and train teams in the popular national sports. And above all would need to be men and women of highest moral character. Every child entering a school would first be medically examined and a detailed medical report with special reference to such defects as a course of hygienic culture might be calculated to remove, would be handed to the sports master. This would guide the master and safeguard the child

from the danger of unsuitable exercises. Furthermore, the sports master should be enabled to consult the medical adviser with reference to any health defect. Parents in every case should be notified previous to medical treatment or inspection. The closest co-operation of parents should be invited.

In small schools when such a teacher would be impossible as an addition to the regular staff, a duly qualified visiting master or mistress might be an expedient: or the regular teacher might qualify under special courses and receive additional salary for the work. The sexes would receive all physical training and instruction separately, and from a teacher of their respective sex.

But never mind the details! We want health, and sound social qualities, good citizenship. Let us make room in our system for the study and practice of health: let us develop the *esprit de corp* of our schools (and consequently of our cities) by proper development of the sporting instincts. It may cost us a few thousand dollars now: but in the increased efficiency of stronger bodies and cleaner minds it will render us a high dividend. One of the chief arguments for such an innovation would be the quickening of interest for school life it would develop in the children. The school which could be considered as a real play centre, would be easier to teach in and easier to learn in than the house of the unwelcome task.

After the War---What?

(By Rev. G. R. Welch, B. A.)

The interrogative is from the religious point of view. This scribe will not attempt to give an answer. Lack of space and of the prophetic gift forbids. But many earnest, anxious souls here are asking the question, and others equally earnest and anxious, and also from the vantage ground of close touch with the war, are speaking of the trend of thought across the water that points to a partial answer. That the hundreds of thousands of returning veterans, God bless them! will mightily influence the religious life of their home-lands, goes without saying. They have looked death squarely in the face a thousand times. The artificial social and religious masks have been rudely snatched away, revealing the naked realities of the fact itself. From these facts with simple vigorous, and often undisciplined minds they will draw their own conclusions and formulate their own philosophy of life and religion. Custom and convention will go down before this rugged and virile force like a cardboard fortress before a modern concentration of artillery.

The chaplains at the front, if they are the right kind, have a unique opportunity of discovering the religious tendencies of the soldiers and of more or less shrewdly forecasting the effect of these upon the churches, and upon society after the war. We quote the opinions of two of these chaplains whose words we consider worthy of very careful consideration. They are both personal friends of the writer. The first quotation is from a letter recently received. My correspondent, Captain the Rev. H. C. Newcombe, is a former minister of British Columbia. The second is copied from a recent number of "The Presbyterian." It is by Captain the Rev. W. A. Cameron, of Toronto, at present engaged in special work in Britain and France with the Y. M. C. A. We leave "gentle reader" to draw his or her own conclusions from the thoughtful utterances of these men.

After describing the gracious and gratifying work being done among the 2,300 men with whom he is working, Captain Newcombe says: "What splendid fellows the most of these dear lads are! But what will the churches do with them when they get back? We fellows know no denominationalism in the army. We worship together, pray together, commune together, and no questions are asked. The Brotherhood of the army is a wonderful thing. And the men at heart are essentially religious. But how little the churches seem to understand them! Here are thousands of men, rough on the exterior, many of them, yet with a profound reverence for our Lord, approachable, self-sacrificing even to life itself for a comrade in distress, unselfish to the dividing of their last shilling, manly and brave in the defence of everything that we as a nation hold dear. And yet, Oh the pity of it! the churches have but little place for them because they fail to subscribe to certain hye-bound theological tenets. When will we wake up to the fact that it was not a church that our Lord came to establish, but a Kingdom, and in that Kingdom I am not sure that He meant that we must all pronounce the same "Shibboleth." I cannot write you all that is in my heart about this, but the churches back home should be made to realize that the 300,000 or 400,000 Canadian men who will return to Canada after this awful struggle is over will shape the destiny of the nation and of the churches for weal or woe for generations to come. And the first two or three years will be the most trying time. The terrific nervous tension under which the men are labouring, as well as that of the country in general, will be relaxed, and God only knows what that will mean unless the churches resolve themselves into a strong, steadying force. To do this they must have leaders. Leaders who are in touch with men as well as with God. Leaders who are not the slaves of mechanical organizations, of traditions or ruts, or fearful of enterprise in new departures. Men who are in touch with their times; who have caught the Christ vision of humanity at large; who are not afraid to do their own thinking, and to phrase their thinking in their own words. God multiply them for they are the greatest need of our times."

Captain Cameron strikes somewhat the same note. "Preaching over here has given me a new vision of what it means to proclaim the Gospel. My message can never be quite the same again. I think I have often failed in the past in not being direct enough. The soldiers demand a straight, simple, earnest Gospel. They care very little about ecclesiastical dogma and denominational differences. There is but one Church here, composed of all who strive to follow the Christ, and who believe in His power to strengthen and redeem human life."

Are these the words of Twentieth Century "Seers?" There is no question that the Church in this crisis needs sane, spiritual, vigorous and courageous leadership. Perhaps we need a religious dictator! Certainly the Church's and the State's watchword to-day should be "Preparedness."

Social Service Workers

Rev. Hugh Dobson, B. A., Field Secretary of the Social Service Department of the Methodist Church, concludes a two months' stay in British Columbia this month, and his visit has been an inspiration and an uplift, especially along the line of social service. He was the main-spring of the Social Welfare exhibits held in Victoria, Vancouver and Nanaimo, and the outcome of this work, it is hoped, will be an increased interest in the social well-being of the community. Certainly Mr. Dobson

did his best to make the Exhibits a real success; he is a hard worker, who does not spare himself. The Methodist Church has also a special interest in Rev. J. S. Woodsworth, who took such a prominent part in the Exhibit at Vancouver, and who delivered such interesting lectures there, and also at the University. Mr. Woodsworth is the son of a Methodist Minister, and himself started his career as a Methodist minister. He made a profound impression upon all who heard him.

Notes and Comments

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

President Suzallo

An interesting visitor to Vancouver during recent days was President Suzallo of the State University of Washington, our nearest neighbor beyond the International Boundary Line. He is an Austrian by descent and an Italian by birth, but while he has the outward marks of the foreigner, he is thoroughly Americanized in sentiment and even in type of oratory. For it must be remembered that there is a distinct type in American oratory. President Suzallo gave some wholesome advice to the students of our own British Columbia University, assembled in Convocation Hall. He told them that God had given them brains, and that the State had given them opportunity to use them to advantage, but that the mere fact of "meandering through academic halls" would not prepare them for the battle of life. In speaking of civilizations he said that in the lower civilizations we had to control men by a club applied to the outside of the head, but that in the higher we put ideas inside their heads so that they would control themselves. The President is a good sample of the power of American civilization to turn its raw immigration material into its own brand of citizenship.

The Firemen

Perhaps one of the most unusual and regrettable of local happenings of late, was the wholesale and indiscriminate effort made to fasten accusations of pilfering at a fire upon the members of our city fire-fighting force. A thorough investigation by the Mayor and Council showed that there was no foundation for this extraordinary accusation, but for the time the charges were pending, it besmirched in a sense the whole body of firemen. Nothing could be more unfair and uncharitable than to throw out general accusations and thus placard a whole body of men on account of the supposed failings of a few. In this case even the few were exonerated from this unusual charge. But charges of that kind should be discouraged by citizens. The safety and well-being of the city depends much on her organized protective forces and it is well known that Vancouver is possessed of one of the finest bodies of firemen on the Continent. They should get fair play.

Prohibition Again

The mystery in regard to the prohibition vote of the soldiers in Europe still continues unsolved. That some unprecedented fraud has been practiced seems reasonably clear, but so far it has been impossible definitely to place the blame therefor. A half century of campaigning against the liquor business on this Continent has established the fact that it is the most unscrupulous and most debasing element in politics. In the case of British Columbia, where the liquor business is fighting with its back to the wall, it would do anything to turn the tide of battle. Backed by enormous sums of money, both at home and abroad, it has sought

in every conceivable way to avoid defeat. But it is wholly inconceivable that the Government of this Province will allow methods of that kind to prevail in connection with the deadliest and most heartless foe of the Empire.

The Bookman

It is worthy of note that Mr. Douglas, the able librarian of the Carnegie Library in Vancouver, is lecturing on great authors, and thus helping to create in people a thirst for the "wells of English undefiled." In this hurrying day of ours many are apt to be satisfied with a mere glance into the ephemeral columns of papers and magazines. These have their place but for the creation of mental strength and the true joy of intellectual quickening we must get away to the masters of literature who wrote not for the passing moment, but for all time.

A Noted Jurist

An able, upright and intensely conscientious Supreme Court Judge, who was well known in this Province, passed away lately in the person of Sir Thomas Taylor of Hamilton. Educated in the best schools in Canada and the old land, and trained in a strong religious creed, Sir Thomas became one of the best known and most highly respected of Canadian jurists. As Chief Justice of Manitoba he did much to give tone and dignity to the Bench in a formative period of Western history. He was absolutely above suspicion in every sense of the word, and I recall how a labor leader in Winnipeg once said in regard to a case going through the courts: "When Chief Justice Taylor gives his decision I will be satisfied because he cannot be influenced in any way to do anything that is not just." Sir Thomas was widely known and respected as an elder of the Presbyterian Church, as the ablest of her church lawyers, deeply devoted to high ideals, and most liberal in the support of all good causes. While resident in the West he was the close friend and trusted adviser of such great church statesman as the late Principal King and Dr. James Robertson. It is also of special interest to remember that the famous Manitoba School Question came before him for decision, and that the Imperial Privy Council upheld his judgment in that far-reaching matter.

A Railroad Muddle

The affairs of the Pacific Great Eastern Railway are to undergo the probe at the hands of a committee of the Provincial Legislature. There seems to be something to investigate, but the experience in Canada has been that investigations by committees which rush through the work in the middle of a busy session are for that and other reasons not very satisfactory. Both political parties have furnished glaring instances of this. Apart from this consideration, however, the main thing just now is to secure action that will lead to linking up the Coast with the Northern hinterland and the famous agricultural areas of the Peace River country. The matter of who builds the road is not the important consideration so long as it is well and properly done.

The Vancouver Institute

An excellent organization is the Vancouver Institute which is an association of several bodies for the purpose of arranging lectures in the University Hall on subjects of common interest. During the last winter Canada has received special attention with the result that a good many people discovered that much history has been made by the British people on this Continent. This young Dominion has a secure place on the map of the world.

The Bookman Says

The next generation will study with great zest and zeal the many phases of the great war. We are so near as to be overwhelmed by it. We try to forget about it in work and play, and to our shame are disposed to regard it as an undesirable topic for conversation. The fervour of the first stage has disappeared. The bookseller will tell you how the public eagerly read every magazine article and book it was possible to obtain in the early stages of the war, and then forsook the subject. Occasionally a novel or narrative such as "The First Hundred Thousand," and Palmer's "My Year of the Great War," has revived the interest in war literature, but never to the same extent as before.

As an investment the buying of war books can be strongly recommended. It is not an unreasonable prophecy to state that any book written by a capable writer on the war will be worth far more ten years from now than it is to-day, and its value will increase with the passing of time. This war is going to be a topic of conversation, a subject for thought and study, and a fruitful cause of book-making for many generations, but the books written during the progress of the war will be sought if only to get a reflection of the feelings of the people at the time. Already some important war books are out of print.

Books for the War Library

Mr. Britling Sees It Through.....	H. G. Wells
My Year of the Great War.....	Frederick Palmer
Between the Lines	Boyd Cable
The Undying Story	Douglas Newton
The First Seven Divisions	Lord Hamilton
The First Hundred Thousand.....	Ian Hay
The Vermilion Box	E. V. Lucas
Kitchener's Mob	Norman Hall

It may be rather a fantastic idea, but the writer cannot think of Germany these days without associating that unhappy country with "Red Wull," that strange creation of Alfred Ollivant's, whose history he records in his fascinating story, "Owd Bob," or, as it is sometimes called, "Bob, Son of Battle." "Red Wull" was a big hound of evil disposition, a terror to his kind, who lived in fear of him. "Owd Bob," a canine gentleman of decent habits and serene disposition, aroused his fiercest hatred. "Red Wull," caring for no man but his master, went his own vengeful, murderous way until the day came when the other dogs who had suffered too long his violence and the constant menace of his domineering and vindictive presence, vented their concentrated wrath upon him and he met his fate.

Will the tragic splendour of his downfall find a counterpart this year in the defeat of the terror of Europe?

(We shall quote in next issue the notable description of the final fight.)

NOTE FOR INTERESTED READERS

It is simply because the present income of the "Review" does not permit of our enlarging this number that we have had to hold over "News from the Front," "Church Notes," "One Woman's Way," &c.

Your practical interest in Readers and Advertisers will enable us to enlarge the literary section. In that respect we are seeking to do our part for British Columbia. Will you ask yourself,—How are you exercising "practical interest" in such things?

BOOKS FOR LOAN

The following books are in the Archibald Library at Westminster Hall, 1600 Barclay Street, Vancouver, B. C., and may be had on loan by ministers of the Synod of British Columbia:

Life and Times of Rev. John Wesley—three vols., by Rev. L. Tyerman.

Spurgeons's Sermons, 18 vols.

Modern Sermons by World Scholars, 10 vols.

Life of Dr. Geddie, by Dr. Geo. Patterson.

The Conversion of India (Smith).

India's Problems, (Jones).

Brief History of the Indian People (Hunter).

The Great Religions of India, (Mitchell).

India and Christian Opportunity, (Beach).

Missions in State and Church, (Dr. Forsythe).

Men and Missions, (Ellis).

Twenty-five Years in Honan, (Murdo MacKenzie).

In the Heart of India, (Taylor).

The Pastor and Modern Missions, (Mott).

David Livingstone, (Horne).

Hudson Taylor, (Dr. and Mrs. Hudson Taylor).

Thinking Black, (Crawford).

World's Missionary Conference, 1910, 9 vols.

The Church and the Changing Order, (Shailer Matthews).

Modern Problems, (Sir Oliver Lodge).

The Working Man and Social Problems, (Stezle).

Rural Life in Canada, (John MacDougal).

Housing Reform, (Lawrence Veiller).

Men and Religious Messages, 7 vols., (Congress Addresses).

A Living Wage, (John A. Ryan).

The Temperance Problem and Social Reform, (Rowantree and Sherwell).

Address the Librarian, at the Hall, (Rev. John A. Logan, D. D.)

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