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"BE BRITISH," COLUMBIANS!

Is "Politics" a Science---Or a Game?

By Emily Wright.

If the motto of this magazine were not "Fearless, Fair and Free," this article would be very much easier to write. The Editor, however, will not suspend the middle word, not even at election times, which does not seem fair at all. For the most part in all countries, the motto of all election campaigns comprising all parties has been, is, and always will be, "Fearless and Free." Not that any candidate would publicly acknowledge this. We never knew of one who did not time and time again avow, how "fair" he was to his opponent. Personalities are never used, unless the opponent starts first—which, of course, he never does. To be perfectly fair in politics at election times seems to be an impossibility for the party politician and, we should like to know, where is the candidate who is not a party politician, in some sense? A campaign without conflict would be a poor affair indeed. The public expects to have some "fun"—and it is rarely disappointed.

Now "politics" has been defined as the "science of government," as having to do with legislation, judicature, and administration. In this deep, broad, responsible sense it is given the superior appellation of "Political Science." We send representatives to the Legislative Assembly and expect them to do serious work on our behalf—broadly speaking, to bring in legislation for the development of the Province in every particular, to pass necessary laws for the betterment of social life, to work out pressing problems to solution in order to keep pace with the onward trend of civilization, and to re-establish returned soldiers in a satisfactory manner in civilian life. The application and administration of such legislation is practical politics. In this sense, then, is "politics" a science.

But no one would suggest that in election campaigns "politics" continues to be a science. It becomes a game with the spectators seeing most of it.

Liberals hide their mistakes and shortcomings in pages of advertisements extolling their unprecedented regime, hoping that the Conservatives will not find them out, whilst the latter, ignoring their past sins of commission and omission, too clever in the game to be bluffed, pounce on each good thing which the Liberals think they have done and expose it in its true colours to the public's delight or disgust! And so the game goes on.

We do not propose to comment on the Liberal programme for they do not seem to have one. However, this does not matter much, because they tell us that they have "lots of legislation in their minds." This is somewhat of a relief, for we feared from their attitude that every thing had been done and they were now resting upon their laurels.

The Conservatives, on the contrary, have thirty planks in their platform, some of them being exceedingly heavy and long. Indeed, the whole structure is so huge and vast that if they are returned to power they are bound to accomplish something. There does not seem to be one single thing omitted from their programme. During Mr. W. J. Bowser's brief term of office, as Premier, he undoubtedly put through some good legislation, and by putting "Women's Franchise" up to the electorate, he gave the men of this Province the privilege of giving the vote to women—but we shall come to this later.

One of the Liberal advertisements sets out seven pieces of legislation which the Liberal Government claims to have passed for the benefit of women. Then the following words appear: "Previous Governments Gave You **Nothing**." Now that last sentence is part of the political game. To the uninformed—and there are many—these words would make a strong appeal. Previous governments gave women nothing, because women had not the power to make them. We must

say that we have been unable to discover anything especially superior in the ethics of this government, which would lead us to suppose that they would have transcended all other governments by passing legislation for women's benefit, solely from a sense of their magnanimity. Women now have the power of the vote, and this, together with the evolution which is world-wide for the betterment of social and industrial conditions, is responsible for the new legislation for women. It is highly probable that any other constitutional government would have done as much. The Liberals were fortunate in being in power during these first years of the enfranchisement of women.

The advertisement also tells us that, "The Oliver Government gave women the Franchise." This, too, is another part of the game which was indeed well-played about four years ago, but the public was not deceived by it. We should hardly trouble to refer to it, but that the Liberals are endeavouring to make political capital out of the fact that they took unto themselves the credit which was really Mr. Bowser's and the male voters' of British Columbia. The latter actually cast the ballot in favour of giving women the franchise. The Liberal Government dare not do other than abide by the will of the voters. There was no room for broken electoral pledges on the part of the succeeding government, concerning the franchise, or we might have had a duplication of the "militant suffragist" for whom the broken pledges of the British Liberal Government of 1906 were directly responsible.

Several pieces of progressive legislation for women have been placed on the Statute Book. These in themselves would have stood the Liberals in good stead without resorting to petty subterfuges, which really do them more harm than good. Some of them are not much different from the previously existing laws, some of them are far from being perfect, but they are all steps in the right direction.

Is the "Mothers' Pensions Act" Misnamed?

One of the finest things they have accomplished is the "Mothers' Pensions Act," which, by the way Mr. Bowser says the Liberals "grabbed" from his platform. Just about the time that discussion was taking place on this subject, one of the noblest sentiments ever given utterance to was, "There are no illegitimate children." Mrs. Ralph Smith repeated this and was cheered to the echo. We read it in the newspapers, and were thrilled to think that at last there was some one with a real touch of the "human" in the House at Victoria. We thought that some measure of help was about to be given to mothers, even though they were unmarried. But we find that Mrs. Smith might just as well have exclaimed, "What a glorious sunset!" for all the good that has been accomplished by the expression of such lofty sentimentalism. The Mothers' Pension Act is misnamed. It should be called "The Widows and Deserted Wives' Pensions Act." Every one must know that the biggest part of the responsibility of a so-called illegitimate child rests upon the mother. There are methods by which she may obtain, if she so desire, some material aid from the putative father, but very little at best. If she is deserted by him, what happens? She does not come within the scope of Mothers' Pensions. Mrs. Smith repeats, "There may be illegitimate parents." Taking for granted that this is so, an illegitimate mother is as much a mother as any other kind. But this intensely "human" government does not think so. When Mothers' Pensions were being considered they drew the cloak of respectability about them; they stood aloof and refused to help the girl who, either through her folly or man's perfidy, is left, stranded, with a little baby in her arms. They

Page Two

have branded her as "illegitimate" and have put her outside the pale of mothers. They have meted out to her, her deserts. She must bear the consequences of her sin without any material aid from them. They have ranged themselves on the side of the Pharisees of old, who suggested that a certain woman should be stoned—this, after nineteen hundred years of Christianity.

So much for our "humaneness." It does not amount to much when we analyse it. We cannot rise out of the beaten track, we cannot broaden our vision. Nevertheless, we would ask, "Is it too late to amend that Act? Is there no one on any platform with sufficient courage to take up the case, at least, of the deserted unmarried mother, who is making a noble effort to atone for her mistake? Will our women representatives devote their attention and energy to this question?"

The problem is bristling with difficulties, but that is no reason why it should be studiously avoided. Something can be done without legalizing sin.

We have taken two legal opinions and both agree that an unmarried mother cannot claim under this Act. There is a clause, however, which states that an application may be made by others than those specifically mentioned, to the Mothers' Pensions Board for consideration. But this does not apply to unmarried mothers, for there is absolutely no provision made for any other than married women in the application forms; consequently, the unmarried mother—whose child this humane government is so anxious to save and to bring up as a respectable citizen, posing as it does to give it an equal chance with the legitimate born child—must perforce cast herself upon charity. Such is the manner in which these things are managed and covered. It is on a par with the statement, "There are no illegitimate children," which is being used to deceive the people into believing that British Columbia has solved that most vexed question. There has only been one tiny part of it dealt with, the so-called illegitimate child still cannot claim its father's name, it still cannot inherit from the father; to be brief, it is, in great part, just exactly where it was before this new legislation for women and children was passed. The big broad question which the women of Europe, United States and Eastern Canada are taking up, has not been touched.

But it is all a part of the political game—each party making the most of its opportunities, one side underestimating, perhaps the work of the other; and that other, overestimating its own work, which is very natural after all.

Nevertheless, until the time comes when political opponents will play the game fairly, to continue to play it in its crudity is better than to sink into an apathy that will prevent the taking of any interest whatever in the affairs of the country.

When the Mistake is Yours, Help Correct it

Sometimes as soon as you give the operator a telephone number from memory, you realize you have called the wrong number. The first impulse is to hang up the receiver, but, you should wait and say to the other party, "Beg pardon for calling the wrong number." Then everybody feels all right about it.

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The Vancouver Art League and The School of Arts and Crafts

Thomas Allardyce Brough.

In the opinion of some able thinkers the generation of youth blossoming into manhood just before the outbreak of the Great War contained an altogether unusual number of individuals of the brightest promise, men destined, it seemed, to lead in a great forward movement that would add its cubit to the stature of modern civilization. Of this noble band a shattered remnant alone survives. Of the host of others the white crosses row on row along our far-flung battle line all too vividly tell the tale.

The golden promise has been blighted, but all is not lost, and it remains for those who survive to take up the task we fondly hoped would be undertaken by abler hands than ours. We may perhaps see, when clearness of vision is again vouchsafed as after the rolling away of the smoke of battle, that something, something worth while, has been achieved.

To link up the meeting of artists, educationists and other leading men and women of Vancouver, held in the Board of Trade rooms on Friday, September 24, 1920, with a great world movement may seem the hallucination of a visionary, but many who attended it, and experienced its inspiration, felt that history was being made, and that from this small beginning might come results at once momentous and far-reaching. The immediate outcome of the meeting was the formation of a provincial Art League and the taking of steps to establish a School of Arts and Crafts in the city of Vancouver.

For a number of years we have enjoyed the art display at the autumn exhibition, and also the exhibit held a little later in the art rooms of the Vancouver School Board building. The success of these has no doubt had much to do with the determination to take a long step forward, and establish a school where all of artistic taste and promise may enjoy the opportunity of developing their powers under the teaching and inspiration of competent masters.

Another factor in the movement must not be lost sight of. The Vancouver primary and high schools have been fortunate in the degree of attention given to drawing and brush work under the supervision of the talented art directors appointed by the board of trustees, and the hearty, even enthusiastic, co-operation of a devoted band of teachers. From time to time at the closing exercises of the schools, and at the annual exhibition at Hastings Park, we have seen products of the classroom that could not be surpassed by similar work in any other city in Canada. And the work of the day schools in this department has been ably supplemented by that of the night schools operated by the same board of school trustees.

Few children are potential artists, and our educational authorities were actuated by no such conception when the subject of drawing was added to the school curriculum. But drawing and brush work educate the hand, giving it steadiness and deftness, qualities of the utmost value in many a vocation in life; educate also the eye, training it as an instrument of correct observation; and, above all, educate the mind and heart through the hand and eye. These things being so, it is apparent that the placing of such a subject on the school curriculum is amply justified for the sake of every boy and girl.

But amongst the large number of pupils graduated annually from our public and high schools there are an appreciable number who have shown that they possess marked talent in drawing. Many of these would be glad to continue their study along this line year after year if they could attend evening classes taught by able instructors whose fee would not be prohibitive. Such classes might also be expected to

discover at rare intervals students possessed of more than talent,—gifted with genius itself. Genius may well be called a miraculous gift. Yet it may lie dormant if nothing happens to call it into active life. One of our foremost Canadian landscape painters was at the age of twenty a laborer in a brick yard. At that age his genius put forth its first belated blossoms through the inspiration and help of a kindly schoolmaster who had some little facility in the use of the pencil.

Not a few of the teachers for a school of art could be found at our own doors. Others might readily be induced to make their homes in a city surrounded by some of the greatest sources of inspiration to lovers of beauty. In addition to these we might sometimes enlist the services of eminent artists of other lands. From time to time persons of this class may be visiting Vancouver or passing through it, and it might often be possible to induce such to give short courses at moderate cost.

The benefit of artistic training would not be the selfish possession of the artists alone. The result of such training would be a contribution of the greatest worth to the whole community. To raise the standard of taste comes next in value only to the raising of the standard in morals. And morality and art should never be divorced; indeed the highest art is indissolubly wedded to conduct. It is impossible to elevate the standard of taste among any body of people without at the same time awakening in some of them at least, a passion for noble living.

But a School of Art should appeal to many who profess to

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care nothing for the cultivation of the more delicate sensibilities and the higher life. It should appeal strongly to the man who prides himself on caring only for the so-called practical. In these days art, without surrendering her exalted mission in calling out, developing and purifying taste, has become a handmaid to manufacture. For the manufactured product must not only have a utilitarian value—it should also be pleasing to the eye. Few buyers are so devoid of the sense of the beautiful that of two articles serving the same primary purpose equally well they will deliberately choose the one in which the element of taste has been ignored. Hence in a technical or vocational school care is taken to put the art department into the charge of highly competent instructors.

The technical classes of the King Edward high school of Vancouver are now about to be organized as a distinct institution, and they will soon be transferred to a building specially prepared for them. The work of these classes in the subject of drawing has always been of a high order and it will assuredly not suffer in their new home and under the new conditions. And although the School of Arts and Crafts planned by the Art League of British Columbia is not intended to be a department of the Vancouver Technical School, it will nevertheless prove an aid and an inspiration to all associated with that institution.

In some respects Vancouver is already the most attractive city in Canada. Every added source of attraction should be welcomed and encouraged not only because it will tend to draw the travelling public, but, of greater moment by far, it will help to induce a highly desirable class of people to take up their abode with us, making it the easier to build up and maintain a community animated by the highest standard of feeling and thought and life.

Robert Watson's New Book

"STRONGER THAN HIS SEA"

By Robert Watson. (McLelland & Stewart, Toronto.)

Readers of Robert Watson will welcome the latest work from his pen just issued and although, in scene and subject matter, it is widely different from the two novels already published by him, they will find in it the same qualities of brightness and liveliness of style that characterised those.

The writer has gone back to the country of his birth for his inspiration. The hero is a Scottish lad whose fortunes are followed from the age of "five past" through a somewhat chequered and tempestuous school life and young manhood which is made interesting by a somewhat idyllic romance in which the village lad has for his rival the handsome and debonair son of the laird of the district.

Todrick, the village dominie, is one of an old school of pedagogues that has fortunately passed away and his cruelties and injustice bring about a strike of the boys of Piershaws' School in which amongst the demands of the ultimatum pinned on the school gatepost were "no more than three palmies to each scholar every day" and "cushioned seats for the lassies."

Todrick's successor, Mr. Galt takes quite a different method in his teaching. He is everything that Todrick was not, encouraging his young charges in every way both for learning and for sport and so wins his way into their affections. At the same time he works on their pride and boyish rivalry to arouse a spirit of emulation. This has its result in a new zeal and application and the triumph of the school against a rival institution when Sandy, the hero of the tale wins a coveted scholarship open to competitors from both schools.

There is much "pawky" and delightful humour in Mr. Watson's portrayal of the boys of Piershaws'; and the description of the party given to the Sunday School class and their act-

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ing of William Tell and the apple is very happily carried out.

Sandy goes to college and does blacksmithing in the vacation and we have some interesting scenes around the smithy fire, notably the fight between him and Rogers, an old school mate who steals the MSS of a poem that Sandy has just written. The hero has the trick of versewriting and there is more than one lyric in the book. These of course, have their place in working out the plot of the story. This, although somewhat slight, is pleasing; and Doreen, the daughter of the village "vet" is a heroine who is worthy of the homage which she wins from the two suitors for her hand. R.A.H.

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The Wayside Philosopher

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FROM THE COURTS.

Whither are we drifting? When a Judge of our Supreme Court Bench, discharging his judicial duties in a most serious criminal case, in his judicial charge to a jury refers to certain witnesses as a "sweet scented bunch of jailbirds" there is a regrettable lack of dignity in his diction. Could one imagine a learned judge in Britain charging a jury in such language? By the way, why "sweet scented"? and why "a bunch?" It may be the jury understood this portion of the charge. Juries sometimes do strange things.

PROHIBITION.

The Prohibition referendum resulted in an overwhelming majority for Government Control. What the vote meant or its sufficient causes, are matters of conjecture. The explanation will no doubt vary widely with the views and information of the persons attempting such. It may be that the spirit of dissatisfaction or unsatisfaction with present conditions which has proved so fatal to Governments in their appeals to the electorate played a substantial part in defeating Prohibition.

Unsatisfactory conditions as to enforcement indubitably bulked large as a factor in determining the fate of the Prohibition Act. Some concluded it was unenforceable; others that better conditions of enforcement were more readily obtainable under different conditions of control. Others came to differing conclusions, but, mainly, against the Act.

The Government's adverse influence, no doubt, decided a number of its supporters against the Act. Nowhere did it receive support from the Government. On the contrary the Premier in his last three interviews with press representatives, during the days preceding the voting, drew attention to "the trouble the Prohibitionists had been to the Government." In one interview he gave the Act a blow as being "unenforceable."

Other facts of varying importance and effect entered into the situation. Outstanding among these was the "bone dry" heavenly condition made as an appeal to a people who a few short years ago consumed over 13 gallons of beers and liquors per capita. Hundreds who would have risked the Act with importation balked at a step to "bone dry" conditions in the immediate future. "Why vote twice; once to get a condition leading to a bone dry referendum if these people are right and sincere, and then, again, on such referendum. Kill it now!" was the argument which lined many a voter against the Act.

Whatever the reasons, the fact is clear, B. C. demanded a change. What is the present outlook? What should be done in the best interests of all? These are more important questions than why it happened.

With an election at hand the terms of the Act which will govern the sale of liquor in British Columbia for some few years, becomes a matter for the new Legislature. Prohibitionists must see to it well that their vote goes only to those who are genuine Prohibitionists where such are nominated. The political faith of the candidate can come in as a purely secondary consideration.

What should the attitude of a Prohibitionist be? Standing firmly on the ground that alcohol is a toxic without food value, he should keep that principle inviolate. Surrender there is impossible. Keeping this as his foundation, he should cooperate freely wherever possible with the hundreds of Moderationists who voted so with an honest desire to improve conditions.

Moderationists have a great responsibility. On them falls the burden of procuring and having properly enforced an Act that will be an improvement in resultant conditions over the present Prohibition Act. Have they estimated the influence that will be exercised in framing that Act on behalf of a well organized traffic that cares as little for Moderationists as it does for Prohibitionists and as little for law, order or decency as it does for either of these?

OUR PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS—A FORECAST.

In glimpsing some features of our present Provincial contest and estimating probable results, one always faces three difficulties: First the personal equation which renders one's efforts indecisive and partial because of natural defects and inwoven party and personal bias. Second, the impossibility of accurately judging the great silent vote that, after all, will be the determining feature of the contest. Third, the impossibility of relying on our press for any really useful and reliable accounts of events connected with the campaign.

One, therefore, has to judge as best one can, from such small portions of the field as may be within one's acquaintanceship.

Judging from such a view point, one first notes the large number of candidates offering. In part this is due to the removal of the necessity of a deposit by each candidate as was heretofore the rule. In part however, it would seem a widespread recognition of the fact that old party alignments and rules are largely a matter of history. Further, it is a recognition that the unsettlement of war has not subsided. Still fur-

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ther it is proof of the general opinion that conditions render possible valuable service to the public and the State.

A review of these candidates personally reveals the further fact that business leaders are conspicuously absent. For this they, themselves, are in a large measure to blame. Clearly they have failed to recognize their duty of public service and the duty to ensure the thoughtful elector a proper choice of candidates. The other part of the blame lies, in the manner in which candidates have had to reach the field, namely, either through party nominating conventions, or by personal offering of themselves under the best possible cover available to give colour to the claim that the controlling element was the public call for their services.

It cannot be gainsaid that as a rule the candidates are disappointing. Taking Vancouver City, we have weak tickets on both sides of the major-party fight. Name over those whom you consider the fifteen leading business men of Vancouver and see how many of them appear on either ticket. Where are the one or two leading bankers of our city? Where are our merchants, manufacturers, transportation men etc. At a time when a steady return to stable conditions is in progress, when opportunities to build and develop are open, we purpose to do so governmentally with purely, or almost purely, second class material untrained and unlearned in business.

In New Westminster we have a lawyer and not a business man on the Liberal side and W. Gifford on the other. Where is T. S. Annandale that he is not Conservative standard bearer? Where are the other business men of New Westminster? Wherever they are, they are not where they should be, that is on political tickets seeking to advise on political matters in these all too important hours.

Here and there we have constituencies which are exceptional in having good candidates on both sides. Such is Delta where Hon. John Oliver seeks to defeat Mr. Frank McKenzie the sitting member.

With the nomination day just passed, a forecast may seem absurd. No doubt many changes would be made in the following estimates, with later information. One fact stands out clear and indisputable, the Oliver Government is doomed. With Oliver and Farris certain of defeat, and Hart doubtful, the Ministers are in none too flattering a situation.

Some of the Government supporters, such as McGeer in Richmond and Weart in South Vancouver, have escaped defeat by retiring. Others are either seeking, as Independents, to defeat their former leaders, or striving desperately for re-election. Some like Micawber "as 'opes". Some cannot see anything but "darkness (of defeat) visible."

Take the Greater Vancouver constituencies. We have two sure Conservative seats, Bowser and Howe, with Warden a Conservative probability, Miss Patterson a possibility, and Mahon and Black "also rans." The only sure seat besides Bowser and Howe appears to be Joe Martin, with M. A. MacDonald a near certainty; a labor candidate, a strong probability and Mrs. Ralph Smith, the next strongest. Ramsay, McKenzie and Farris are no more than possibilities, if that, and Dougherty as a tail-ender. Richardson and Trotter seem likely labour factors in the campaign. The remaining candidates do not count.

Pearson should easily gain Richmond, while Hodgson seems a certainty in South Vancouver.

With a strong candidate, North Vancouver should be Conservative; with a weak one, Haines should succeed himself.

In New Westminster, Whiteside is the better man, has been a real independent and deserves the seat. Present indications however are that the Government slump will elect Gifford.

The following other candidates, judging from a distance, would seem certain: Stewart, Victoria; Money, Alberni; Sloan, Nanaimo; Stewart, Comox; Jones, Okanagan; Rose, Nelson; King, Cranbrook; Wilson, Rossland; Patullo, Prince

Rupert; Fisher, Fernie; Parsons, Columbia; Schofield, Trail; Pauline, Saanich; Jackson, Islands; McDonald, North Okanagan; Sutherland, Revelstoke; Barrow, Chilliwack; Hinchcliffe, Victoria; McKenzie, Delta; Pooley, Esquimalt; Ross, Prince George; McKenzie, Similakameen.

Liberal probabilities: Vancouver, 1; Victoria, 1. Conservative probabilities: Vancouver, 2; Victoria, 2; Cowichan, 1; Yale, 1; Independent, 1. Doubtful: Kamloops, Slocan, Omineca, Vancouver, 2; and North Vancouver. Unknown: Ymir, Cariboo and Grand Forks.

SUMMARY OF ABOVE ESTIMATE.

| | | | |
|------------------|---|---------------------|----|
| Sure of Election | } | Conservatives | 17 |
| | | Liberals | 10 |
| | | Independents | 3 |

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Conservative probabilities..... | 6 |
| Liberal probabilities..... | 2 |
| Doubtful | 6 |
| Unknown | 3 |

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Rev. A. D. MacKinnon, Ph.D.

An Appreciation by C. J. Spears.

[Note: Publication of the following contribution is timely. From the press we gather that Dr. MacKinnon in order to heal a division in Kitsilano Presbyterian Church has declined to accept a second "call" tendered to him by the congregation and signed by over five hundred persons of whom we understand considerably over four hundred are members.—Editor, B.C.M.]

"He seemed to be so much of a man." These words were spoken by a young man in describing how he had been first attracted by the ministry of Dr. MacKinnon. And undoubtedly they may be applied to him in their ordinary sense for, physically and mentally Dr. MacKinnon is at once recognized as an outstanding personality. Tall and well proportioned, his presence would dignify any pulpit in the land and on the testimony of a fellow-student of his who preached in Kitsilano some months ago, he towered above his fellows at college, intellectually as he did physically. Perhaps it was not in this sense, however, that the phrase was intended but rather that the human sympathy of the man was referred to. For in his preaching as well as in his general walk and conversation he shows himself one who understands human nature, in its joys and sorrows, its needs and difficulties. One notices this in some measure as he greets the people as they pass out from the morning or evening worship—here a welcome to a stranger—there a word for some member back after an illness or a journey—and ever some personal reference which shows that individual attention which all appreciate. But it has been by some special kindness or attention shown in time of trouble or distress so frequent in the trying years that are gone, that he has endeared himself to many friends in Kitsilano.

In considering Dr. MacKinnon as a preacher we must also consider the difficulties of his position during the past years. But it must be stated that many of the people of Kitsilano, including the present writer, had recognized in Dr. MacKinnon one of Canada's great preachers before knowing anything of the peculiar difficulties of his ministry. There is always something striking or original in his sermons that one can carry away and yet it is the old message that he brings. While he speaks of the mountain or the stream, or of the commoner things of the city or the home, one recognizes the Highland mysticism which uses these means to show forth the deep



REV. A. D. MacKINNON, Ph.D.

things of the spirit as did the Hebrew prophets of old. His occasional use of hyperbole may give the appearance of extravagance, but it serves to make the message remembered. He has the gift so essential in a great preacher of appealing just sufficiently to the emotion of his audience and then driving home his message. Perhaps the most striking instance of his mastery of the art of preaching was a recent sermon on "The Valley of Dead Bones" (Ezekiel Ch. 37.) How the horror of the subject was dwelt upon until one word more would have changed the feeling to disgust and the whole value of the study would have been lost. And then, just when the imagery became almost too lurid, the whole atmosphere was changed, as when the sun breaks through the thundercloud and the prophet's message of hope and courage was applied to our present day needs. At other times sentiment and pathos are used but never to the point of mere sentimentality.

To sum up, it may be said that the characteristic of Dr. MacKinnon's preaching is a simple, practical gospel message, delivered in an original, forceful and memorable manner.

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The Magazine of The Canadian West

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Vol. XVII.

NOVEMBER, 1920.

No. 2.

RENTS AND PROFITEERING.

In the course of a short article concerning rents published a year ago, in the B. C. M. for October, 1919, it was suggested that a government valuator might be appointed who, "if he were not empowered exclusively to fix rentals, might at least be authorized to act as arbiter when repeated increases are imposed."

In this connection it is interesting to note that an association was recently formed in Vancouver to take up this subject and to plan action in one direction or another to prevent what is, in many cases, nothing short of profiteering.

It should be remembered, of course, that property owners had an exceedingly testing time during the war. Those who managed to retain their holdings may not, in some cases, have had the taxes returned from them. But as most homes suffered more than business losses, it is not reasonable to suggest that the losses on property should now be made good by letting owners take advantage of the present situation in house-shortage and big-building-costs to secure—or wring—from tenants as much as double the rental of pre-war times.

Some method of applying a brake must be found if living conditions are not to become well-nigh intolerable for many whose incomes have not expanded with the H. C. of L.

JANITORS AND "GRAFT."

Related to the subject of rents as affecting apartment blocks there is reason to believe that in some cases the freedom of tenants is being interfered with in a way which is certainly not "British." If "an Englishman's (or Britisher's) home is his castle," surely he should have some say as to who is, or who is not to call there?

Complaint may not reasonably be made if apartment house janitors are allowed to take some steps to see that "pedlars" of various descriptions follow the forceful continental injunction to "Keep out!", but on the other hand, janitors are taking too much upon them if they say that the representative of this dairy or that green-grocery shall not enter the building.

It is alleged that in some cases at least, janitors give the right of way to their blocks to certain dairymen and others only; and that, in return for that exclusive selection, (which the tenants are compelled to accept willy-nilly), the janitors are given provisions of one kind or another gratis. If that be true, it is not only wrong in principle, but it is a safe deduction that the tenants will have to pay indirectly for the favours given to these care-takers.

Such methods, if tolerated or practised, can only be characterised as deserving of that hateful word "graft," and tenants who believe in British freedom and fairplay should resist any attempts at dictation in regard to the men or concerns with which they choose to do business.

WHY NOT RELEASE W. C. FINDLAY NOW?

When W. C. Findlay was sentenced to imprisonment in connection with the Government Liquor Scandal, this Magazine suggested, among other things that he was a young man who had no doubt been greatly tempted, and (no matter who shared the credit or the blame for his appointment) put prematurely into a position likely to test the strongest of characters, riper in years. That Findlay made a serious mistake goes without saying, but—

"What's done, we fairly may compute
But know not what's resisted."

In any case many a man's punishment for a public mistake is not to be measured merely in terms of the time of imprisonment inflicted. To such an one as Walter C. Findlay, the condemnation of "guilty" must itself have been sore punishment, to say nothing of the added sorrow from knowledge of the anguish inflicted on the family and friends.

No righteous judgment on earth or elsewhere can be vindictive. Whatever citizens as prohibitionists or anti-prohibitionists may say, there is a sense in which W. C. Findlay was the victim of a public experiment in liquor-laws; and without wishing to ignore, much less condone the breach of trust, we believe any powers that be would now win general approval if they ordered Findlay's release.

We do not know if the time of his sentence has nearly expired, but we have reason to know that if it were necessary to show further cause why clemency should be exercised without more delay, that might readily be done. But considering Findlay's own suffering alone, we believe that he should now be set free and given a second chance.

THE WAYSIDE PHILOSOPHER AS ELECTION PROPHET.

With that freedom of expression of opinion which the B. C. M. believes it right to allow any regular literary contributor, we passed the notes and comments of the Wayside Philosopher as sent in this month, but that does not mean that this Magazine necessarily endorses the opinions expressed or agrees with the forecast given.

As a matter of fact we do not think the wayside Philosopher's anticipations are likely to be correct. There are those who hold that, as in the last Provincial election, we shall see a complete turnover in the results, so that the leader of the Opposition (Mr. W. J. Bowser) will again become Premier with a strong party majority. But perhaps the more general feeling is that the Oliver government will be returned to power with a decreased majority.

Whatever the result may be when the whole Province is heard from, it is open for every Vancouver voter to vote for his own six for Vancouver City. Apart from these party folk who follow the injunction to "vote the straight ticket," there is certainly to be an embarrassment, not of riches but of choice, in the number of candidates for the letters, M.L.A. or M.P.P.

GOVERNMENTS AND ELECTION EXPENSES.

It may seem utopian to suggest such a thing in this year of grace 1920, but why should not any statesmen who emerge in or from either political party, or from none, introduce and work for a bill to provide that all legitimate election expenses of candidates (nominated and supported by a certain minimum number of electors) be paid by government, as a part of the proceedings as necessary as the provision of voting booths and ballot boxes?

TO MAKE CITIZENS VALUE THEIR VOTES.

Then we often hear it said, if only we could waken all the electorate to so value their votes that every person would vote. It is a reasonable assumption that the exercise of the franchise, like some other things in life, is lightly valued by many because it seems to cost nothing. Such people remember little and care less as to how the right was earned by those who have gone before.

But just as there is greater need than ever for supervising the entry into the British Commonwealth of adults from other countries, so we may hold the time ripe for safe guarding and enhancing the value of the vote. Without advocating too drastic measures, we believe that some check should be put on the voters' lists so that the citizens who, while in health and at their homes in election times, do not exercise the franchise, should be compelled to show good reason why their right to vote should not be suspended for a time.

NEW EXECUTIVE FOR VANCOUVER CANADIAN CLUB.

The annual meeting of the Vancouver Canadian Club conflicted with another important meeting, but according to the Press, an entirely new executive was selected this year. This course is to be commended.

Attendance at the comparatively small "Nomination meeting" (always held shortly before the annual one) and at the Annual Business one itself for a period of years, gave an observer occasion to note a tendency, in this organization as in others, to fall more or less into a system of group government.

It is therefore refreshing to find such a club—which is primarily non-partisan and patriotic, and whose membership is based on citizenship alone—giving evidence of its democratic character.

It was interesting to note that while Mr. Murrin has, in regular course, become president, the new vice-president is the Bishop of New Westminster. As the Bishop, so far as we have observed or gathered, has not been prominent in connection with the work of the Club, his appointment is all the more worthy of note, as according to almost invariable custom, the vice-president of one year becomes president the following year.

ROBERT WATSON'S LATEST WORK.

As "the Magazine of the Canadian West," the B. C. M. makes no apology for giving more than ordinary attention to a book by a British Columbia or Canadian author.

Not that British Columbia or Canada lacks writers of outstanding merit, and also of promise, but because we believe that literary interest, like many other things, should "begin at home." And while the British Empire is our "Home" in the wider sense, Canada, and British Columbia particularly, is the part of it with which this Magazine is particularly concerned in development and service.

Also, let us reiterate and emphasize, that we are influenced towards such a course because we believe that one article, one Magazine, and especially one book, may reach a larger company of people than most preachers or teachers—or even politicians—ever get an opportunity of addressing;

and that when reading is done OF CHOICE, it is difficult or practically impossible to set a limit to its influence.

Robert Watson's third book, "Stronger Than His Sea," can be unhesitatingly recommended as a gift book for young and old. Already two independent notices of the book, by two of our literary contributors, are forthcoming, and as they are short, we are following the unusual course of publishing both in this issue. Without wishing to make a third "review" the editor thinks it right to commend Mr. Watson's latest work in this column also. Those who remember the struggle with the sea so well told in "My Brave and Gallant Gentleman," will be apt to assume from the title "Stronger Than His Sea," that there is another stirring episode of that kind in the book.

As the title of the story may leave the reader with the question—Does he mean his "sea of troubles?", it may be of interest to note that we understand Mr. Watson got the suggestion for the name from these lines by Arthur Stringer:

I threaded a course unbuoyed and black,
 To that Port where shone no light for me;
 Where, wrecked if you will, but unappalled
 I shall know I am stronger than my sea.

The proof reading seems to have been more hurried than has been the custom with his former books. It is a reasonable surmise that one or two typographical errors have got passed by being made when corrections in the same lines were having attention. It may also be assumed that the publishers were anxious to have the book "out" in time for distribution for Christmas, and so they may be forgiven this time—provided they are more careful with other editions, which will likely be called for in this case, as has already been done with this writer's first story "My Brave and Gallant Gentleman."

A BRITISH EMPIRE CITIZENS' LEAGUE?

Vancouver as the largest city in British Columbia, lacks not for Societies and Organizations of various kinds. Indeed, while appreciating the spirit that prompts the maintenance of ties with other districts, it may be held that when "Shires" or Counties, as well as the national institutions of any Nation within the Empire, seek to form societies of their own, there is a danger of a multiplicity of minor organizations absorbing energy and interest that might be much more effective if centralised.

British Columbians, as citizens of this great Dominion, and dwellers in that part of it AS FAR SOUTH AS THE CHANNEL ISLANDS and with ports ice-free all the year round, may have no unimportant share in the spread of British Empire ideals throughout the world.

Hitherto, apart from the group organisations referred to above, we, as Canadians, may have been apt to take a good deal from "across the line"; and all honour to our cousins of the United States, who, with characteristic energy and enterprise give worth and weight to so many movements. But we venture to suggest that the time is ripe for the formation of a society or League, the first objects of which would be the maintenance of the best in our British inheritance, and development thereupon.

The interests of an Empire Citizens' League would naturally begin at home, and as an organization it would concern itself not only with the type of men selected for civic life and work, but with policies put forward for social betterment. Ultimately, such a League of loyal citizens, independent of party sect or faction, could share in the work of world-permeation of those ideals for which thousands have been willing to die, and for which it sometimes seems many find it much harder to live.

The B.C.M. invites an expression of opinion on the subject.

Armistice Day, 1920

It is told that a number of celebrated artists were once asked to paint a picture representing Peace. Each produced what he conceived best expressed the idea, but all gave way before the painter whose picture portrayed a great torrent of water dashing over boulders and leaping down the mountain side, while in a forked branch of a tree overhanging the torrent a bird was sitting securely in its well-built nest.

The story of the unveiling of the Cenotaph in Whitehall, and the burial of the unknown soldier in Westminster Abbey on the second anniversary of Armistice Day recalled to mind that picture.

Amongst the innumerable company in the heart of Old London, waiting for the coming of the remains of the unknown hero, who represented thousands of others who gave life itself that the day of Peace might dawn, surely there were few who did not realise the uniqueness of the event. As the gun-carriage, with its significant burden, came abreast of the King, and he saluted, the hearts of all who beheld the scene, must have been deeply stirred.

The uncovering of the Cenotaph, and the laying upon it by the King of the laurel wreath, followed by the two minutes silence, expressed eloquently the value the British Empire placed upon human sacrifice.

It may never be known to whom came the thought of laying in the burial place of Kings and the greatest of our Empire's great, the body of an unknown soldier, but the Empire's whole-hearted homage in response, through its representatives, bears unquestionable testimony that at heart the British Commonwealth is righteous and its allegiance to God unshaken.

An Empire that demonstrated in such a beautiful and impressive manner its recognition of the spirit of sacrifice and its attitude towards the Unseen and the Eternal verities, even while facing perplexities of Unrest, change, and threatened upheaval, surely has, as its Home, the Abode of Peace.

—M.R.C.

Have You Read Page 2 of Cover?

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CONCERNING LANTERN SLIDES

There is no longer a Lantern Slide Agency at the office of the B. C. M. This notice is published for the information of inquirers to whom it is impossible for the B. C. M. office to write individually. The agency has been valued, but it has been conducted on the basis of SERVICE before BUSINESS, and conditions have not justified its continuance.

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Vancouver Conventions and Candidates

(By a Candid Critic).

For information and enlightenment concerning the public men and affairs of British Columbia, the B. C. M. representative attended the Vancouver nomination Conventions of both political parties and also made a point of hearing the party candidates at their first meeting.

The Liberal Convention on Monday night and the Conservative one in the same hall (Dominion) on the Tuesday could not but leave very different impressions with the independent observer. The candidates nominated and selected at each meeting were, in type as in number, notable in contrast. Regarding the Monday convention, perhaps the two dominant impressions left concerned the manner in which eager Chairman Conley wielded the gavel of office and the suggestions given by the renderings of the quartette who sung the praises of the re-nominated candidates in a verse for each one followed with a refrain beginning:

"Glory, Glory be to Honest John."

The sentiment was well meant, and however the words reflected on the head they did credit to the heart, of the composer whoever he was; though the chorus seemed to partake a little of a revival meeting song.

After the nominations seven of which were to be voted on for the six places, the Liberal nominees were asked to address the Convention, and strangers in the gallery exchanged views as to who would be the one left. The decision was not a difficult one to anyone who has observed how easily Western Canadian audiences are influenced by the "gift of the gab," and how impatient they are apt to become with anyone, however learned or able, who ventures to inflict anything of the nature of a written or rather closely-read address upon them. The candidate left out had evidently thought fit to prepare and write out his speech beforehand. The matter of it seemed rather good, and may be too technical, for such a crowd, and the premature applause indicated that the audience was in no mood for such a disquisition. It was more in keeping with the mind of such an assembly for a candidate to announce in brief, as Mr. James Ramsay did, that he stood four-square for the Oliver Government. To Independents this may be too easy-going a platform, but it suits the party voter, who too often needs little more.

But if the Liberals scarcely needed to vote on their nominations, the Conservative Convention on the Tuesday provided such a wealth of choice in the way of candidates—a score or more for the six places—that the balloting lasted till well-nigh 1 a.m. The number of nominations certainly proved that the Convention was being conducted in a thoroughly democratic way, and perhaps it was a pity that the Proportional Representation method of voting could not have been adopted.

Probably the Conservative Party is well enough pleased with the selection, but even before the selected candidates were heard it may have been open to question as to whether some of them would not fail of election, or at any rate miss many votes from "Independents" through their being a little known to the Vancouver public generally.

"Picking the Winners."

As the "Wayside Philosopher" has elsewhere in this issue exercised his option of anticipating the election results generally, we may follow suit, at least so far as our acquaintance with the situation permits. With the result of the recent Prohibition vote in mind, he would be a bold person (apart of course from the Party men themselves) who would predict with unqualified assurance, what will be the result of the election on December 1st. If many maintain that there will be a "turn-over" somewhat similar to that of four years ago,

probably a larger number of prophets hold that the Oliver government will be given another term, but with a decreased majority.

At the same time it is curious to reflect that five of the six members elected for Vancouver last time were attached to one side, the Liberal. This indicates that the Independents, who may have much to do with settling the results, are apt to swing round; and it is conceivable that the desire for a change may again assert itself with surprising results.

While it may be wise to leave the day to declare the results so far as the Province as a whole is concerned, it is open to us, and naturally inviting, to surmise what the results may be in Vancouver City.

Even with a suggested seat in a Liberal Cabinet likely to be open to her if elected, we are not so confident that Mrs. Smith will be at the head of the poll, if among the winning six. There is no question that she was elected last time largely, if not mainly, as the widow of Mr. Ralph Smith, and her own good-natured or jesting utterance from the platform of the Dominion Hall this month suggested that she was open to seek re-election as plain Mrs. Smith or Mrs. Somebody-else. Of course such a remark may attract and win more "good-sport" voters in "the gallery" class than it would repel in the "boxes" or the "pit."

It goes without saying that the partisans or "straight-ticket" voters on each side will support the lady in each case. The opportunity of voting for women members is still a comparatively new one, and if many men and women who vote independently are influenced by it, both ladies may be among the first six. Mrs. Smith's appeal to the electors at this time may have been qualified by her change of attitude from a declared "Independent," to a deliberate partisan. On the other hand, the lady on the other side, though a bright and promising personality, who, like most gentlemen in her profession, is gifted with confidence and practiced in speech, may be held, in the judgment of many, to be too young in years and experience to undertake such a responsibility.

In the circumstances, while we believe that "woman's place and power" may entitle her to a share in the honors and offices and work of the Legislature, we should not be surprised if both ladies fail to get a place among the first six. On the other hand if many of the women voters put sex before party or anything else, both ladies may be returned.

There is a question about "M. A." There seems to be no doubt that he continues to make strong appeal to many as an orator and may be also as a man. Even if it be taken for granted that he was at fault in connection with the matter which led to his resignation of the Attorney-Generalship, he seems none the less to have a considerable following which may in part be attributed to a clannishness (associated with the Scottish Highlands and Highlanders) that is apt to say "The clan first, whatever the argument"; and also in part to the exercise of a commendable chivalrous spirit on the part of some who do not believe in deserting a man because he has made a mistake, or who cling all the more tenaciously to their idol even if he be proved to have feet of clay.

"M. A.'s" personality may seem more forceful than attractive to many independents, and yet it would be a bad business for most humans in any life if they were given no "second chance."

When D. D.'s Differ—Who Shall Decide?

The quoted phrase about a second chance may at once turn our thoughts to the possibility of Mr. W. J. Bowser getting another opportunity to serve as Premier of the Province. Remote, as many may think that possibility, the writer of these

notes holds it timely to bear witness to the fact that while he had good occasion to know that Mr. W. J. Bowser was held answerable by reverend gentlemen and others, for much that was more than objectionable, he some time after last election had a lengthy conversation with an earnest D.D., not connected with "The Crisis in B. C." but well and favourably known in Vancouver and vicinity, who not only spoke in a most complimentary way of Mr. Bowser from long personal acquaintance, but who said his (the D. D.'s) one concern was as to whether Bowser would live long enough to be fairly judged; in which event that clergyman had no doubt he, (Mr. Bowser) would be better valued and would do good work for the Province.

Whatever happens, and whether or not there is a "turn-over" of Independents again, in favor of Mr. Bowser and his party this time, it is reasonable to assume that he himself will be re-elected.

The soldier candidates provide another query mark. It is fitting that there should be representatives from among them and the people of the Province are to have an ample selection of such candidates, party and Independent. Mr. Ian Mackenzie on the Liberal ticket and Mr. Black on the Conservative ticket should each have claims on the Moderationists who are Independent; the first by his work for the cause and the second by his very strong platform appeal to them.

It goes without saying that Mr. Mackenzie, as a follower of the legal profession, can speak, but his strong delivery is too well maintained, and to his own countrymen from other parts of Scotland, his steadily impassioned tone tends to suggest a Highlander in a hurry. But whatever we think of his "Moderation" views, he seems a thoroughly earnest fellow, and if we had to choose between him and Mr. Black, we would give Mackenzie the lead. Only there happens to be other soldiers to consider including the quiet-spoken undemonstrative Colonel Warden—no orator, but a man whose sincerity and service (notwithstanding his conversion from Prohibition) will probably give him a place among the six.

Attorney-General Farris is subject to much condemnation on the one hand and commendation on the other as the result of the situation created by the condemned Prohibition Act. Our opinion is that Mr. Farris has been seeking to rise to the occasion in more ways than one, and though of course, we may all be greatly surprised, we believe he will be among the successful candidates.

Alderman James Ramsay's speech may have caused him to be dubbed by some folk "merely a rubber stamp," but as a business man and a serviceable citizen with aldermanic experience, he may have as good a chance to get sixth place as any one nominated.

What Say You—"Men-Before-Party" Voters?

Without any desire to pose among the prophets, we venture to suggest the following as a possible "return" in the Vancouver election—should the Independents consider men before parties:

BOWSER.

FARRIS.

WARDEN.

(?) MACDONALD.

A LADY CANDIDATE, OR AN INDEPENDENT.
RAMSAY.

The Independents are "too numerous to mention," and in any case will probably not have their dues until a Proportional Representation system of voting is introduced.

It is interesting to observe that while Mr. J. S. Cowper, the journalistic candidate, elected on the Liberal ticket last time, has dropped out, another journalist has come into the field as an Independent, or "Special interest" representative, in the person of Mr. Ashworth who is on the "World" staff.

As we understand Mr. Ashworth has been in British Columbia little more than a year, it seems somewhat daring of him to accept such nomination in a country or city where it is

some times suggested that ten-year old residents are comparatively recent arrivals. If however any Independent should have a chance on the basis of the "special interest" he represents, it is surely Mr. Ashworth; for his appeal in his representative capacity should be to every rent-paying voter.

On the other hand the organization concerned, whatever its present strength, is of such recent origin, that it has hardly had time to make its mission and its message widely enough known to ensure the election of its nominee.

We understand that though Mr. Ashworth has not practiced law, and therefore lacks the legal facility of address, he took a law course in the East, and as an earnest citizen and a journalist we should be glad to see him, even if he be held, or prove himself, only the mouthpiece of another body, given the position of the Independent.

Another Independent candidate worthy of more than passing consideration is Mr. W. R. Trotter.

From one source we hear it suggested that the inevitable or irrepressible "Joe" (Martin), who has also come out as an Independent, will have a chance. But many may hold that that gentleman is too much of a professional political dabbler, open for a cosmopolitan practice to be given a position in which ability for wordy warfare is in the long run, apart from the leading lights, among the lesser qualifications.

When we review the long list of candidates for Vancouver City it must be admitted that the "straight ticket" voter of each Party is saved a real mental exercise in not having to select his six.

On the other hand, the earnest Independents, who adhere to their British right to use their personal judgment in voting, not at the bidding of party leaders or special interests, but for candidates who individually appeal to them as capable Representative Citizens, have the satisfaction of knowing that, if the selection is a perplexing one their ballot markings have the greater influence and may indeed be the deciding factors.

ARMISTICE DAY

11 A.M., NOVEMBER 11, 1920

STOP! for a spell let busy traffic cease,

Let all the air a solemn stillness hold.

Remember "WAR"—then "VICTORY" and "PEACE,"

Words which mean more than "Profit," "Bought" and
"Sold."

Sheathed is the sword we Britons wielded long

And used so well; the dented blade

Crusted with blood, but still unstained by wrong

For many years—pray God! aside is laid.

But should a foe our liberties assail

Again they'll find the Empire not asleep;

Our sword—EXCALIBUR—will not us fail,

But bright, strong, sharp, again to life will leap.

But now a solemn silence for the dead,

For him who lies in distant foreign grave,

A sigh of sympathy for those who bled

But still adorn the land they fought to save.

Say—shall we grudge a hero his poor crust

When but for him OUR EMPIRE had been dust?

So, once a year—for many years to come

Our city sounds shall for a moment cease;

The distant waves to listening ears shall hum

A solemn Requiem—A Hymn of Peace.

"God help us do OUR destined work," we pray

"As THEY did theirs—we honor them today."

—FELIX PENNE in Vancouver Daily Sun.



MR. J. FRANCIS BURSILL.

Glimpses of "Felix Penne"

Probably to many people interested in journalism and literature the most recent glimpses of Mr. J. Francis Bursill, whose pen-name is "Felix Penne," would be associated with a sick-room, a serious illness and an ominous questioning as to the patient's recovery.

It must, therefore, have been with genuine satisfaction that he was found able to return to his journalistic work. And though, following the accident and his serious illness, his connection with a local newspaper experiment had passed, and we find him now associated with another Vancouver Daily—he having with re-strengthened life surpassed Jules Verne and voyaged from the "World" to the "Sun"—all who value the genuine and entertaining journalistic and literary raconteur will be pleased to know that Felix Penne, (like Lucian and Diogenes) is still with us, and, with care, may continue to lighten and brighten social and literary gatherings of one kind or another for years yet.

Too often men (and publications) wait till personages have "passed" ere they make complimentary or pleasant criticisms of them. All the more because "F. P." is back to duty, the writer gives place to a note or two which, so far as the will is concerned, would have been published long before the subject of them was laid aside by sickness or accident.

In different ways, Felix Penne is an interesting study, and may, without offense, be said to demonstrate that "one man in his time plays many parts."

As an up-to-date press reporter and reviewer Mr. Bursill's years and experience qualify him for a position second to none. His knowledge of journalism and literature is on a par with his wide range of intimacies in the newspaper world at the centre of the Empire and beyond, and extends over a period of more than fifty years. His fluency in oratory is unrivalled, and if the lengthening years and changed conditions of life are responsible for little idiosyncracies, these may well be overlooked or forgotten in the wealth of journalistic and literary worth that is inwoven in his personality.

To some folk who have heard Felix Penne pun and jest at functions of that local literary Curiosity Shop (of young and old), the "Vagabonds' Club," he might seem a fit subject for the part of that character in Shakespeare who in some impersonations, comes on the stage shaking with laughter and utters the notable passage beginning "I met a fool i' the forest."

A well-known professional and literary man, in a happily worded reference to Mr. Bursill (published when the latter was dangerously ill) suggested that he had all kinds of abil-

ity but commercial ability. And all those who believe in the life of thought and action—that is in LITERATURE and LIFE indeed—and who recognise that ultimately ideas and ideals must dominate dollars, gold dust, and all other kinds of dust, will sympathise with that part of "F. P.'s" make up.

With his experience and tastes, it is not surprising that Mr. Bursill is occasionally found on the list of literary folk who have leisure enough to provide entertainment and enlightenment in reviews concerning worth while reading and who do honour to authors of our own and other days by giving one of those Saturday evening lectures at the Vancouver Carnegie Library—the arrangement of which reflects so creditably on Librarian Douglas and the Board associated with him.

It is, however, in relation to the social side, or something akin to it, that not a few may, like the writer, cherish their happiest memories of "F. P." More than once we have heard him, sprucely groomed and wearing that jacket—is it of velvet fabric?—recite "My cane-bottomed chair." To other lovers of literature who may be disposed to esteem (for their works' sake) all real literary workers, it may seem a fantastic suggestion to make, but when we have heard Francis Bursill recite such a piece he has somehow suggested not only the times but certain types of literary worthies of other days who met, it might be in Edinburgh, but particularly in Old London in Coffee Houses or resorts made famous by the visits or patronage of celebrated "Men of Letters."

"Come what, come may," the B. C. M. thinks it timely to bear independent and voluntary tribute to this journalistic patriarch among us. Had we needed any reminder to publish such notes, it might well have been found in the verses by Felix Penne published in the Vancouver Daily Sun on Armistice Day, which we think it fitting to publish in this Magazine as an evidence that hearts in this Farthest West British Columbia were stirred with British Empire memories on that historic day with its ever memorable service in the Abbey.

As we consider that the book-lover and literary worker—the man who influences THOUGHT which it is well occasionally to remind a blustering world, PRECEDES and governs all worth-while ACTION—is no less an asset and benefactor to his day and generation than the big merchant, manufacturer or public servant (in politics or elsewhere), we venture to suggest that such men should be honourably pensioned by the State, or commissioned to look after literary records affecting the past and present in so far as they are likely to be of use and interest to the future.—(D. A. C.)

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The "Platforms" of the Premiers---Past and Present

NOTE: In harmony with the community service aims of the B. C. M. we invited Hon. John Oliver and Hon. W. J. Bowser to give us a short outline of "My Platform." It goes without saying that both gentlemen are "working overtime" in these days. As this Magazine is being made up for the press, the following message is to hand from Mr. Bowser, and we need scarcely note that it will not be our fault if Mr. Oliver's "Platform" does not get equal publicity. The one condition of publication is that it be received in time.—(Editor B.C.M.)

MR. BOWSER'S MESSAGE.

The policies, or platform, which I, as leader of the Conservative Party of this Province, am advocating may be found in the proceedings of the Conservative convention which was held in Vancouver in September of last year. As there have been new issues develop since that time I will, at the request of the *British Columbia Monthly*, explain my ideas on these subjects.

The citizens of this province have by their expressed will given a mandate to the Government of British Columbia to control the sale of liquor for beverage purposes, therefore I will outline, briefly, my interpretation of the desires of the people in this regard. While I appreciate that it is my views for the future, and not criticisms of the past that is desired by *The British Columbia Monthly*, permit me to remark that it is unfortunate that the Premier of the late government has not seen fit to outline the intentions of his party if elected.

In my opinion the men and women of the country did not by a majority of nearly 35,000 vote for a wide open or wet British Columbia but for a decent British Columbia.

In framing legislation we will endeavour to obey the mandate of the people. We will neither lean toward those who desire a wide open handling of the liquor question nor will we lean toward those who hold extreme views on the subject of Prohibition. We will purchase liquor of the best quality direct from the distillers, thus eliminating the middlemen's profit, and will retail it at a fair margin, consistent with good business. The people have asked for the privilege of buying liquor under government control, and the government which I expect to lead will in every sense control the sale of it. It will be a fair act, and I have no hesitation in saying that it will be strictly enforced.

There has been much dissatisfaction in the soldier settlement areas of British Columbia. The costs under the administration of the Land Settlement Board which have been piled up against these areas are enormous. It is useless to impose a burden on these men who so gallantly fought and suffered in the defence of the Empire which they can not hope to carry successfully. Immediately after being returned to power we will take steps to eradicate the unrest in Soldiers' Settlement areas. The Government will appoint a small committee of business men, who will meet with a committee to be appointed by the settlers in each area. The valuation of each allotment will be considered and a new price, satisfactory to both committees will be agreed upon. This price must be one that will allow of the settler being able to complete his purchase in a manner which will not be irksome to him. The difference between the actual price of the land and the money already spent on the Soldiers' Settlements must be borne by the taxpayers at large, and must be charged up to the wastefulness of the expenditures of the present government. It would be most unfair to charge the incompetence of the Administration to the men on the land.

In the platform drawn up at the Conservative convention of 1919, the principle of aid to municipalities was adopted. Since that time the Government have ear-marked, by legislation, a portion of the automobile licenses for highway construction. Some of the smaller municipalities, because of their local geographical position or other causes, would suffer under a system of division of the monies collected from

automobile licenses and moving picture taxes, while others would profit handsomely. Therefore our policy on the question of municipal aid has been remoulded and developed. It is that the profits from the sale of liquor, moving picture fees, income taxes, personal property taxes, game licenses and poll taxes will be placed in a consolidated fund from which a per capita grant will be made to municipalities in proportion to their population. In this way the smaller municipalities will receive the same fair treatment that will be accorded to the larger centres of population.

The original policy of loaning money to farmers on easy terms and long credits will be re-established in order to stimulate production. The benefits of that policy are already well known throughout the province.

In conclusion let me state that strict economy and efficiency will be demanded from all members of the civil service who will receive proper remuneration for their work and that the laws will be properly enforced without fear or favor.

"STRONGER THAN HIS SEA."

Another Review—By Ben Toon

The next time you venture into a bookshop, dear reader, stop and think before you venture to criticize the quality of the wares. At all events remember that the bookseller is a distributor, a middleman between publisher and public, and his stock, if he is a good business man, simply reflects the taste of his customers. Only a rich and philanthropic individual could run a bookshop on any other lines.

You have, perhaps, seen on the shelves of your bookseller, many books for the young of alien origin and bias. In scanning the pages of these volumes your taste has been offended, your prejudice strengthened. You have felt that something ought to be done about it, and your first impulse was to 'shoot the man at the piano.' But such an evil, granted that the circulation of such books is an evil, is not remedied simply by making a scapegoat of the bookseller, and, perhaps there are extenuating circumstances in the case of all concerned in the offence. The books are cheap, readable, and satisfy a normal longing. In everyday parlance the reader of such books might say—"It may not be a fine show but see the price of admission. It's all I can afford to pay."

Now in this as in all real or imaginary evils, the mind of man instinctively turns not to the improvement of taste, the elevation of the intellectual standard, but to the suppression of the thing he disagrees with. How much more reasonable than offhand prohibition is the provision of something better?

Take this new story by Mr. Watson. It is the story of a boy who from the time he is "five past" realizes his responsibilities as the man of the family, and becomes part-provider until later he bears the full load. Against all odds he wins and is always "Stronger than his Sea." Yet he is a human boy with the faults and failings of his kind. By dint of hard work, combined with high purpose, he becomes, not a merchant prince, nor a magnate of any sort, but just a veterinary surgeon, but a very good "vet.," you understand? He is also a good son and brother, old-fashioned enough for that, and so modest withal that he did not realize when he was "lucky in love" and had, as it were, to be led to the altar. By implication the story teaches the joy of clean living, and the glory of achievement for its own sake, which is a good gospel and worthy of all acceptance.

"Stronger Than His Sea" is a good, wholesome book, in which the halo of romance shines about the heads of some real and lovable people. In our opinion it is Mr. Watson's best book.

Mr. R. W. Douglas, Vancouver City Librarian

(By Robert Allison Hood.)

There is among booklovers a freemasonry greater probably than that found in any other avocation or pursuit. Mr. Clement K. Shorter, the editor of "The Sphere" bore testimony to this truth in an informal address delivered in Vancouver last year, after a tour of the United States, when he spoke of the pleasure it had given him to find the presentation of his card at any library was an 'open sesame' that secured him a hearty welcome wherever he went. The bookman is never at a loss with another bookman for something to talk about. They have hundreds of friends in common. It is true that as in freemasonry there are degrees of the craft, and the apprentice may not be able to follow the pastmaster with grip and password up through the higher steps, but there is always a common ground of sympathy on which both may meet. The appreciation of Captain Cuttle, Jean Valjean or Barrie's Babbie may be as keen with the one as with the other.

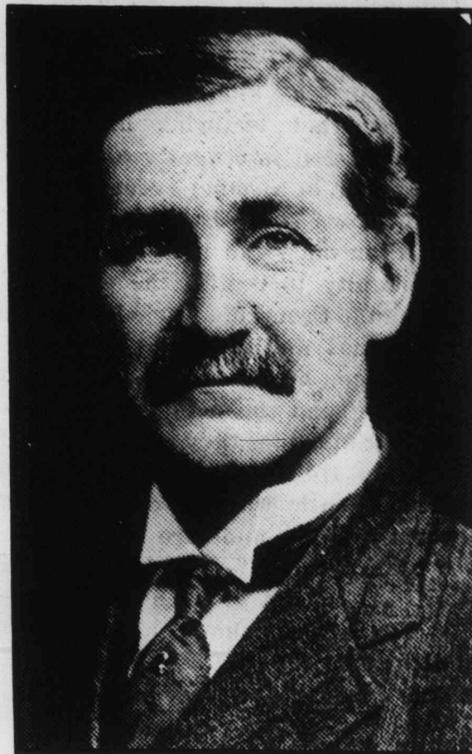
Mr. R. W. Douglas of the Carnegie Library is one who has climbed very high up in the mysteries and secrets of the gentle craft of the bookman and since his coming to Vancouver in 1911 to preside over the institution, his genial personality, and keen enthusiasm, as well as his wide knowledge and experience of books and library work, have done much to promote the love of learning and good literature, in the Terminal City.

Modest and unassuming as he is with regard to himself and his achievements, his career in his chosen line of endeavour has been much more extensive than many of his friends even are aware, and it has been all the more successful because of the fact that his energies have never been dissipated by excursions along other lines.

Even as a small lad in knickerbockers, after he had exhausted the family library, he used to take his gun and spend his spare time in shooting muskrats to sell their pelts for money to buy books. Mayne Reid, Ballantyne, Kingston, Dickens and Scott were his favourites in those days. More solid mental nutriment was supplied through the ordinary country school curriculum and the High School at Brant, through which he passed in due course. Here he came under the instruction and influence of Dr. Dion C. Sullivan and Charles B. Moore, two of the best teachers of their time in Eastern Canada.

After graduation, followed a course under private tutors, by which he prepared himself for matriculation at the University of Toronto. However, the fascinations of bookselling as an occupation were too strong for him to resist and instead of entering college he became engaged in a bookstore where he remained for several years. During this time, he was studying bibliography and reading extensively—science, religion, history, poetry and fiction and he completed a bibliography of Canadian books which circulated in the United States among the dealers in old and rare books. He also won the \$100 prize for the best short story offered by a Toronto periodical, "Truth," and contributed numerous stories and articles to "The Canadian Monthly" and various other magazines and papers.

In 1889, after an extended visit to England, Mr. Douglas went to New York to seek a larger field and entered the famous Brentano bookshop. Here he studied the American book world for several years, writing intermittently as his duties permitted. Leaving Brentano's, he essayed the publishers' domain and began to sell books to libraries. Here he had good opportunity to study the working of some of the largest libraries in America and to observe the different phases of the librarian's profession. Then he became literary adviser to a large New York publishing house. After reading manuscripts for them for some time, he was appointed editor of a



series of books published under the name of the "Commonwealth Library" to each of which he contributed an introduction. While engaged on this, he also brought out, "The Love Songs of Scotland," a book the production of which was a congenial task and which achieved considerable success.

This last venture resulted in a flattering offer to accept the position of editor and director in the publication of a remarkable and unique work, "Investigations and Studies in Jade." This had been designed and partially completed by Heber R. Bishop before his death. In his will, he had made provision for its publication, regardless of expense, and directed that it was to be the finest work of its kind in the world.

For three years, Mr. Douglas was engaged on this undertaking. Only one hundred copies of the book were to be made and these were to be distributed to heads of governments, a few great libraries and to the individual members of his family. The hundred copies cost just an even \$180,000 or \$1,800 each. Mr. Bishop had ordered his executors to destroy every scrap of material not used in the hundred copies and this was done. One can realise what a pleasure its editor must have taken in a task so congenial as this must have been.

On his completion of that work, Mr. Douglas accepted an offer from Messrs. Little, Brown & Company to become their Dominion agent and in this capacity he travelled periodically from Coast to Coast. It was on one of these trips that he made the acquaintance of certain members of the Vancouver Library Board, and later, in 1911, he was appointed City Librarian.

Since then under his direction, the library has grown greatly in size and usefulness and its circulation has been multiplied many times. It has fostered the love of good literature and provided the means for its enjoyment. The custom which Mr. Douglas started four years ago of having lectures on literary subjects every Saturday night during the winter months in the reference room has proved a boon to many. He himself delivers many of the lectures and outside speakers contribute to the course as well.

With an easy, fluent style and a genuine enthusiasm for his subject, he carries his audience along with him. The wide range of the poets and writers with whom he has dealt

in his various lectures and the interesting way in which he has treated them, bespeak the catholicity of his literary taste and acquirements.

The public appreciation of these lectures is well shown by the good attendances. They have certainly been a considerable factor in promoting an interest in the best literature as well as inducing an atmosphere, in the Reference Room where they are held, in which the reader and booklover is made to feel at home. The kindly and pleasing personality of the Librarian, whether lecturing himself or presiding merely, has made itself felt in a very real and effective way.

To have the privilege of a social evening with Mr. Douglas by the fireside in his own study is a pleasure that the writer has enjoyed more than once and it is there perhaps that one has the best opportunity to realise the extent of his attainments as a bookman. From his varied experience, he has many interesting stories and reminiscences of literary men and works. For instance, he had read the MSS of Jeffrey Farnol's "Broad Highway" and the publishers had asked his advice as to the number of copies they would be justified in printing for the first edition. He had splintered a lance with Andrew Carnegie over the authentic wording of a Scottish song. His library contains many choice and rare volumes and one sumptuously bound Elzevir "Horace" especially aroused the cupid-ity of the writer. After one of such evenings one recalled the statement in a letter from the Vice-President of a prominent Eastern publishing house that Mr. Douglas was one of the best posted bookmen in Canada and decided that it was well justified.

There has been some criticism of the Library and the Librarian of late, aroused by the Report of the recent survey made by two librarians from across the line; but as pointed out by the Report of the Library Board in reply, which completely vindicates Mr. Douglas' policy and directorship, the criticism arises very largely out of a wide difference in viewpoint between that of the Surveyors and that of the Board and the Librarian as to the main function of a public library.

To those who do not know Mr. Douglas this brief sketch may be of interest as well as to those who do know him and appreciate his work in Vancouver.

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DR. MOODY'S "VESEY VICEROY."

TRAITS AND STORIES OF DOGS

THE ENGLISH BULLDOG.

By Bert. Finch.

When in England before the war, the writer saw some of the best Bulldogs, as he visited most of the kennels with members of the Manchester and Counties Bulldog Clubs, of which he was a member. Heywood Marquis was one of the most wonderful sires that ever lived, and sired over 1800 dogs, including Champion White Marquis and Champion Roseville Blaze, and also the most perfect Bulldog in America today, namely, Champion Oak Nana.

In Vancouver we have very good specimens, among these are Vesey Viceroy, Dr. Moody's dog, Mr. Ed. Perry's Lobengula Jackson's Kingsway Squire, Dr. Sleeth's female Futurity and Real Lady, Mrs. Jones, Burnaby; Ben, Griffiths Buddy; J. Webb of Chilliwack, and Watson's Ashgill Countess of Nanaimo.

The Bulldog was bred for fighting purposes in the very early period to attack the Bull—holding the Bull by the nose. Bull-baiting was one of the chief sports around the 18th century.

The first dog show was held in 1859 in England, the weights in those days being divided in two classes between dogs over and under twenty pounds in weight. (A judge should be able to explain to any exhibitor his reason for putting down or up, any dog at show).

Fifty years later, in 1909, at Horticultural Hall, Westminster, London, 514 dogs gathered for the show, all Bulldogs of good class and quality.

Qualities of a Good Bulldog.

In general appearance the Bulldog should be low in stature with good square head and massive in proportion to the dog's size, with a well defined stop, good turn-up of under-jaw and well wrinkled head, face short with broad muzzle, body deep at chest, short with well rounded ribs, well coupled up with a roach or wheel back, tail set up on low and carried downwards, body should appear pear shaped.

A savage dog is undesirable, also a dog without expression. He should be active with a typical roll in his gait, sound in body and limbs and weighing about forty to fifty pounds.

These dogs are very great pals and they would willingly lay down their lives for their masters. J. Woodruff had one, Cheshire Oak, that imagined he had to protect him, and woe to the party who should unawares have tried to stop him. My own wife's dog, Champion Delton Beauty, once awoke us, saving us from a burglar who was about to enter our basement window.

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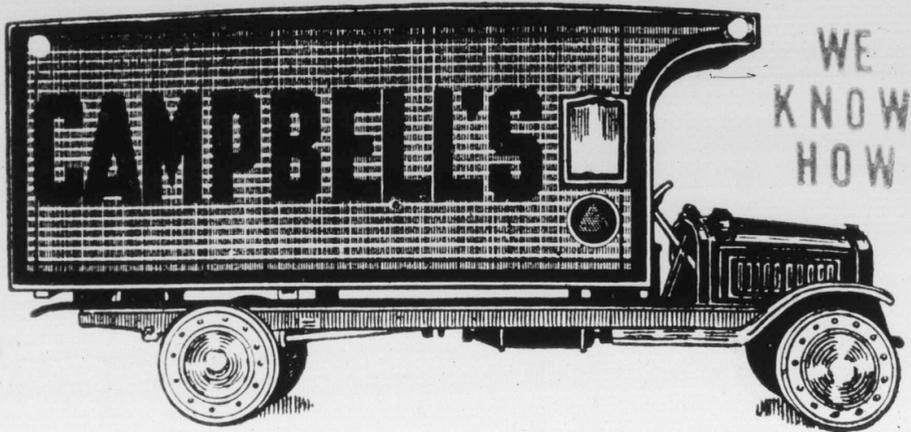
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