

Vol. IX.

No. 1

OUR IDEAL

Social Betterment, Educational Enlightenment, the Upbuilding—in City
and Church and State—of Christian Government, and
the Development of Spiritual Life.

Westminster Review

Published at Vancouver, B. C.

February, 1916

CONTAINS:

Beginning Our Ninth Volume

The Educational System of British Columbia
Article I.

The Pulpit and the Press

Western Canadian Church Notes

The Lucas Case Criticism

The Coming Election in British Columbia

Organizing for Prohibition

A Competition for Adults

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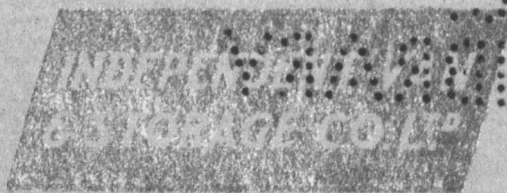
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WESTMINSTER REVIEW

(Originated as Westminster Hall Magazine)

A Social, Literary and Religious Monthly

VOL. IX.

FEBRUARY, 1916.

No. 1

Published at 1600 Barclay Street, Vancouver, British Columbia.
D. A. Chalmers - - - - - Managing Editor

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Editorial.

The Pulpit and the Press

It was a happy idea of the Vancouver City Ministerial Union to invite the editors of the local daily papers to meet them at luncheon. These informal functions of the Ministerial Union are usually held at the Y. M. C. A., whose obliging officials, (though the building is not equipped for such undertakings) cheerfully and gratuitously give the accommodation and the service.

At the recently opened "Soldiers' Club," where representatives of the pulpit and the press foregathered, men in khaki left nothing to be desired in the serving of lunch, but the auditorium proved none too warm in the weather experienced that January day, and most of the company were glad to secure overcoats to keep the outer man comfortable after the inner man had been satisfied.

Excepting one case, the editors or representatives of the dailies did not take the ministers as seriously as might have been expected. Dr. S. D. Scott, of the *News-Advertiser*, attended, prepared to give the clergymen a little of their own medicine, as he had a written address, which, however, was notable for its wit and humour, and must have reminded many of how excellent a writer Dr. Scott is when left free from the claims and restrictions of party politics.

Mr. Makovski, in speaking on behalf of the *Province*, was personal, reminiscent, and interesting, and Mr. Sheppard for the *Sun*, (who was in khaki) made one wonder if "The Press" is ever "toasted" at public functions in this country, as he made an unexpected revelation as to his inexperience in speech-making. In some parts of the Empire, even a young reporter may have now and then to reply to the toast of "The Press."

In his remarks Mr. Nelson, of the *World*, who was accompanied by a lieutenant of his staff, struck an agreeable note in referring to character counting in a newspaper.

If the newspapermen did not make the most of the opportunity, perhaps the need for more intimate acquaintance was suggested on the other side also. In introducing the speakers, Dr. Unsworth referred to Mr. Nelson, who is now managing director of *The World*, as "the latest fledgling in journalism," and formerly "advertising manager" in the *News-Advertiser*; whereas we have reason to believe that Mr. Nelson, though perhaps less of a journalist than others, was probably the most experienced all-round newspaperman present, and prior to taking charge of the *World* was business manager of the *News-Advertiser*. It was noticeable that he afterwards spoke of "his colleague, Dr. Scott."

We find that the editor of the Labour paper, the weekly *Federationist*, has called attention editorially to the fact that he was not invited by the ministers to join them at the luncheon. Judging by

what that editor indicates he would have given them, and also considering the limitations of the speeches (apart from Dr. Scott's prepared address), it is perhaps unfortunate that the ministerial invitation was not made more comprehensive. Journalists engaged in weekly and even monthly publications, have usually had "daily" and other press experience which might qualify them, on occasion, to say something worth while even to the pulpit. Indeed, it goes without saying that the value of a publication ought to increase the further it gets from the unavoidable rush work on the "daily."

We imagine however, that the City Ministerial Union had to face the question—"Where shall we draw the line?" and naturally decided that the editors of the dailies were the men who might best link up the pulpit and the press.

It may be suggested that at another time, whether or not the Ministerial Union thinks fit to extend the invitation to include the editors or representatives of all publications in the city, a topic for address or discussion should not only be arranged beforehand, but it should be made clear that it is expected that the representatives of the Fourth Estate will take the clergy as seriously as the ministers expect to be taken when the pulpit addresses the pew and the press.

Congregational Business Meetings

Some months ago we mentioned the fact that only from six to seven per cent. of the members of the Men's Canadian Club of Vancouver were present at the annual business meeting. It would be interesting to know the actual percentage in attendance at the annual business meetings of congregations. It is to be feared the figures would be very disappointing. From observation of one city congregation and a report of another, we know that 10 per cent. of the recorded membership seems to be about the maximum representation.

We question if such a percentage can be reckoned healthy representation of any society or organization at a business meeting which is an annual one. In Church and State alike laudatory references may be heard of our democratic institutions, but too often it is to be feared that, through indifference on the part of Church members or citizen voters, as the case may be, we drift into a form of government that suggests an oligarchy.

In organizations of all kinds there are usually a number of people who find it advisable to leave others to do the thinking and planning; but perhaps there is a larger number who through indifference or laziness leave the management of affairs to others. It is always easier to stay outside an official body and criticize its conduct than to stand in and "lend a hand."

Just as Christian communicants should be ashamed to be absent from a pre-communion or preparatory service without the best of reasons, so every member of a Church ought to be ashamed to be absent from the annual business meeting of his or her particular congregation.

The Coming Election in British Columbia

Many citizens no less than many church members in British Columbia need awaking to their responsibilities. A country as well as a church usually gets as good a government as its active individual members or citizens deserve. If in politics citizens allow any political party or clique to organize influences affecting the electorate which do not leave every man free to vote according to his conscience and his intelligence, no complaint need be made if government by a self-seeking oligarchy follows; and sometimes, with a clever and ambitious or merely audacious man in the group, an oligarchy may easily become practically an autocracy.

Every citizen who has a vote has some measure of responsibility for the government of the country or province in which he resides. If men recognized that only by the toil and suffering borne by former generations has our race attained to the state of freedom and "manhood suffrage" we enjoy to-day, perhaps the vote would be more highly valued; but too often it seems that, like other benefits got, not through personal effort and acquirement but by inheritance, the vote is valued lightly by many.

We wish we could have welcomed women voters in the coming election; but who knows?—if men of the right type are returned to form a government this year the women of this Province may have a vote in the British Columbia election next following that of 1916.

Organizing for Prohibition

There is some reason to anticipate that while Provincial Prohibition is still under discussion, Dominion-wide Prohibition may be enacted. In any case British Columbia prohibitionists did well in getting Rev. Dr. Matthews from Seattle in January, if only to emphasize the need for thorough organization. While most of the men connected with the movement in this Province are no doubt disinterested and earnest workers for this great cause, it is regrettable that there should have been changing of officials, and that any chairman should even think fit to mention the avoidance of division in the forces.

The ways of politicians in this country are past finding out, and it sometimes seems as if no public movement can be carried on without disagreeable questions arising regarding funds or some conflict of personalities. The fact is that in work affecting the most ideal kind of service in the State—no less than in the Church—there is always a danger of differences or antagonisms arising through members of the human family thinking more of themselves than of the work undertaken or the end to be attained.

Many people believe that if a referendum could have been arranged in British Columbia last Fall, the cause of Prohibition would have been carried by an overwhelming majority. The delay—

whoever may be to blame for it—has given the liquor interests time to organize and engineer, and more or less tiresome wordy discussions have tended to confuse the issue.

—We venture to suggest that in the process of more fully organizing their forces for battle, the Prohibitionists see that they select for the platform men of proved ability as public speakers who not only feel strongly on the subject, but who can express themselves in tolerable and vigorous English; and also men who will put aside every other interest or issue, whether relating to position, business, or party politics, and put the Cause first and foremost every time and all the time.

* * * *

The above paragraphs were written independently and without any knowledge of conditions other than what might be gleaned from the daily papers. There has since been held a meeting of committees at which, as a member of the Editorial Committee, the Editor of this *Review* was present.

Without touching on anything confidential that passed at that meeting, we would respectfully venture to offer the following suggestions in connection with further organization and practical work:

(1) That meetings of all the central committees for such purposes as that held at the Y. M. C. A. on the 9th February might with advantage take place every two or three weeks.

(2) That no man should be enrolled or expected to take part in organization or committee work in any district of the city or province unless he is prepared, under all circumstances, to put Prohibition before Party.

(3) That it should be understood clearly that no members of any executive, however prominent or capable, should act independently or without due consultation with and commission from the whole official body.

(4) That as finance is required in every case—if only for necessary printing, clerical and secretarial work—every member of the community who manifests an interest in the movement, should be linked up with the organization not only by the registration fee of a dollar, but by the payment of some sum monthly, and that this theory be put in *practice* in all districts.

(5) That economy in administration of funds be coupled with the keeping of a record which will show all debts and disbursements.

(6) That no man, whatever his public position, or past record in business, in temperance work, or otherwise, be encouraged to accept or retain any office if he is not specially qualified for it, or if other business obligations prevent his giving the time and attention required for the thorough discharge of the duties of the office.

(7) That paid officials be appointed so far as necessary for management and for the thorough overtaking of organization work. In selecting these, preference should be given to men who are not only life-long temperance or prohibition advocates, but who have experience in organization work and have been in touch with public life—though not necessarily men of experience in connection with any political party.

(8) That due recognition be given to the fact that the Prohibition Party is fortunate in having a Vancouver daily paper supporting the cause. That at the same time the fullest use be made of all other newspapers and publications in the province, as it may be assumed that the press generally—unless it be “tied” to the liquor interests, as saloons have been known to be tied to breweries—will seek to be fair in the news reported and publicity given concerning the prohibition movement.

(9) That the dilly-dallying methods and manoeuvring tactics of politicians be avoided, and, through careful and thorough organization, a straight appeal made to the people of the province for support in carrying the campaign to a successful issue.

(10) That unless the present or any other possible British Columbia Government is prepared to give the Prohibition Party “a square deal” and a decision on the basis of a simple majority of a clean and untampered-with electors’ roll, the whole organized strength of the men and women behind the prohibition movement be directed to placing in power in British Columbia a Government—no matter of what party name or composition—which will recognize that we live in a democratic country, part of the British Empire, in the twentieth century, and that under the British Crown a Government’s duty is not to manipulate and manoeuvre for place and power, but to carry out the will of the people.

The Lucas Case Criticism

An up-country correspondent and former subscriber takes us to task for our criticism of the Lucas libel case. We are not informed on what basis of knowledge or authority or under what inspiration (if any) this gentleman takes exception to our comments, but we welcome his communication because it suggests that he has a wholesome respect for judges and courts.

Our correspondent may be surprised to know that upbringing and residence in another part of the British Empire and some professional experience in a Supreme Court there, have so strengthened within us a similar respect, that, though our vocabulary is adequate for most purposes, we found it somewhat difficult to express in King’s English the impression left upon us by what we heard in Court concerning the case mentioned.

Far be it from us to question or impugn for a moment the fitness or honour or unbiased attitude of any judge acting under the British Crown; but we believe that any journal may with candour criticize any judgment passed by any court in these realms.

We wish our correspondent to know that so far from seeking to be “contumacious” in our review of the case, our expression of criticism was modified by former legal experience and training which taught us to hold all British judges as “above suspicion,” and all courts as entitled to respect not only from journalistic critics, but even from those against whom they may decide cases.

In our criticism of the Lucas libel case we believe we made one mistake: we accepted the judgment as final, as it indeed was—for the time being. We do not know what the procedure would be in British Columbia if such a case is appealed, but we hope it is permissible to express the wish that it were possible for that case to be referred, as might be done in Scotland, to a court of four or five other judges—corresponding to what is known as the “First” or “Second Division” of the Court of Session—the Supreme Court there. Then might follow a “hearing,” when the evidence taken in the “Outer House” or lower court, would be reviewed by counsel on each side and commented upon by the four

or five judges individually. If such procedure could be followed in this case, we think it would be impressed upon our correspondent—and others—that judges no less than doctors, may differ.

We do not profess to know much about the multitudinous arguments that can be raised legally as to evidence admissible or inadmissible, questions allowed or disallowed, in such a case; but we are confident that such a "hearing" or discussion would be refreshing and perhaps surprising in its results.

Judges may be the noblest and most learned of men, with motives most lofty, but like ministers, editors, and others—up-country and elsewhere—they are human, and consequently liable to err in their rulings, which in any case are usually open to be appealed and also to be revised or reversed.

The "Children's Page" Commends Itself

The editor of the Children's Page, opened last month, prefers to remain anonymous, but we believe this new feature with its stimulating of interest in Bible stories, will commend itself to every home in which there are young folks; and we are sure the work of that editor will be none the less valued or effective though his name does not appear.

In connection with the opening of the page in our January number, it may be interesting to note that not only did it at once call forth responses from town and country, but one of our city ministers, who has been following some such method in addressing the children of his congregation, reported that for a lesson one Sunday he read them the Children's Page of our January number.

Two Prizes Awarded

For the first competition in January replies were received from Vancouver city and also from the interior of British Columbia. As one answer from the interior was not only correct, but had been mailed immediately on receipt of the Magazine, two prizes were awarded, the prize-winners being:

1. Gladys Paterson, 1100 Haro Street, Vancouver, B. C.
2. Doris McKay, Rosedale, B. C.

A Competition for Adults

Helps and Hindrances in Modern Church Life

Apart from the encouraging response given in last month's competition, we have for some time purposed asking our adult readers to note for publication their views concerning *Helps and Hindrances in Modern Church Life and Work*. Contributions should not exceed 500 words. A book prize shall be awarded for the contribution adjudged most likely to be useful, and we hope to find space for a number of them. They should be addressed to the editor and marked "Church Life Competition."

A Eulogium from the Lammermuirs

NOTE:—We have received many compliments about the December Magazine, but as this communication is the first received directly from Rev. Thomas Gillieson since he left Vancouver in 1912, we have sought to find space for it at once.

Mr. Gillieson, who is a graduate of Westminster Hall (1911), was for some time Minister of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church Vancouver. At the organization meeting of the original "Westminster Hall Magazine" he was kind enough to nominate the Managing Editor of this "Review" for the editorial staff, but the latter (being then under arrangement to do church pioneering work in Northern British Columbia), declined the honour and nominated Mr. Gillieson. He acted as one of the associate editors during the six or nine months this publication appeared as a college magazine, and by his attitude and advice during a critical transition period, helped to ensure the magazine's entrance upon its career of wider—and widening—usefulness.

In this issue we believe evidence will be found that we are anxious to maintain the standard of excellence set in the Christmas Number, and that the worst the publication now suffers from is "growing pains."—[Editor.]

The Manse,

Cranshaw, Duns, Scotland.

It is a dangerous thing to attempt to rescue a word from having a debased and sinister connotation and set it forth again on a career of decency. Such a word is "stimulating," often lightly used. In Scotland it has strong associations with drink. In Canada that adjective has been redeemed. When I say that the *Westminster Review* keeps me in touch with the West and raises many memories of the dear days there, I have by no means exhausted my vocabulary of appreciation for your Magazine. Let it not be forgotten that I, your humble servant, and now the minister of a quiet hill parish in Scotland, was present at its birth and bowed over its cradle. But now it is grown up—become apoplectic indeed in its last issue. I always find it beyond being instructive and newsy. I assert that I find it inspiring—I will not say "stimulating," although that is what I mean. You reach, Mr. Editor, your high-water mark in your Christmas production. You do well to mark it a red-letter day by the fine toned red of the covers—to an old man of the true blue days a trifle lurid I allow—and you suggest the veins of gold within by those same covers. I knew that James of the Robertson Memorial was an artist—why, one of his works faces me from the walls of my study here—but never till now did I know that he was a great poet. I might have guessed it though, from his preaching.

Bernard McEvoy is a stranger to me no longer, for across leagues of sea and land I discover a community of the spirit with this artist in the music of thoughtful words. Oh, yes, you have quite reached the apex of achievement in your No. 5, Vol. VIII. You cannot but go forward and prosper, my child (this to the foundling I nursed through its teething) if you maintain the standard of your last edition. While resident on your side of the Atlantic the irony of the Post Office administration often appeared to me singularly appropriate to some of the products of the press—"Registered as second-class matter." This libel can no longer be attached even to the outside of your *Review*. To read it is like meeting old friends again, for there are many names familiar to me in the roll of representative men who send Christmas messages. The spirit evoked is so sane and savours so much of your big environment, "colossal of the country," one might say; there is such a wonderful interpretation, a savouring of the sense of the times that could only come from the clean, fresh, golden West.

There is an exuberance about the life out there that must triumph for it will never accept defeat. This war in Europe with all that it is inculcating of patience and sacrifice is restoring that principle of adventure to our homeland's life and outlook.

From my innermost being I thank you for your precious pages so cheering, enterprising, sound, so excellent.

WESTMINSTER REVIEW

(Originated as Westminster Hall Magazine)

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SUPPORTING SOCIAL BETTERMENT, EDUCATIONAL PROGRESS,
AND RELIGIOUS LIFE.

INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

VOL. IX.

FEBRUARY, 1916

No. 1

The Educational System of British Columbia— A Viewpoint

ARTICLE I.

[By C. N. Haney, M. A.]

(In writing this article I must not be understood as reflecting on the work of the past nor on the present Superintendent of Education for whose work I have a hearty appreciation. Above all I do not wish to make the subject a political football. I offer my ideas freely for approval, criticism, supplement or amendment, in the hope that those interested will give the situation serious and efficient consideration whereby the way will be opened to a proper systemization of our educational efforts and the correction of those present faults which may be shown to exist. I appeal to all interested in education, particularly those fortunate enough to have had University training).

In dealing with our educational system in British Columbia I hardly need to state that like others in Canada it has not resulted from any scientific study of our wants and requirements, but is the outcome of the individual efforts of those who now and heretofore have interested themselves in the subject of education. Topsy-like, "it has growed" and we owe its excellencies to the accident of circumstance rather than to careful, thoughtful planning. All honour to those who amid the stern duties of pioneering, responded to the call of something higher than the material needs of their daily life. They have done well and deserve our heartiest thanks. That they did not better was no doubt due to their life conditions.

Now, however, that, in part at least, our pioneer days are gone and we have in some respects "arrived," is it not time that we gave our educational system some of the careful attention we are devoting to Industry, Commerce, Agriculture, Mining, and other less important matters? Does it not stand in need of revision? Can we not improve it if not mould it according to permanent principles?

In my opinion, it needs revision from two view points: (1) the administrative and (2) the aim or ideal. Let us consider these seriatim:

ADMINISTRATIVE

I find on considering this phase of the subject the first grave defect of the system consists in the constitution of our Educational Council composed as it is of the Departmental heads or Ministers of the Crown. That the Minister of Education should be a member of that Council is perhaps axiomatic, but one need not go beyond the present incumbent to show that such a situation does not always promise greatly for educational welfare.

That the other Ministers of the Crown should be members of this body is, in my opinion, most unwise. During the temporary absence of a minister his work is added to that of a minister in some other department. No one will contend that the problems connected with our land question are not serious enough to command the entire attention of the Commissioner of Lands. That our agricultural situation will tax to the utmost the energies and abilities of the Minister of Agriculture will be readily admitted. Shortly it may be said that each department is in itself a sufficient problem for the Minister responsible for its administration. What possible advantage then can education receive by having an Educational Council so composed?

What then is the result of the constitution of our Educational Council? It is that the entire burden of properly caring for educational development falls on the shoulders of the Minister of Education, but at all times, and especially under present conditions, lies almost entirely upon the shoulders of the Superintendent of Education. No one man in my opinion can possibly evolve a proper educational system especially when, as has often been the case with our Superintendent of Education, that man is burdened with certain administrative work which lessens his opportunity of attending to the general requirements of the situation.

It is my belief that each University represents an individual educational viewpoint peculiar to that institution, while in the main teaching the same subjects as other universities. Oxford and Cambridge stand for distinctive types of education, just as do each of our recognized Canadian Universities. To secure the greatest possible number of these educational types in our educational Council without making it unworkable is, I think, the wisest and best plan. One suggestion, a purely tentative one, would be the formation of an educational Council composed of the principals of the University and of the different colleges of British Columbia, together with the Minister and Superintendent of Education, and the Principal of the Normal School. Another tentative suggestion would be the creation of an educational Council of Seven, of whom the Minister and Superintendent of Education would be two and the others chosen for outstanding educational worth. With such men as Dr. John Mackay, Prof. Henderson, and others in our midst a suitable Council would not be hard to select.

The British Contribution ; or Maritime Preponderance in the War

[NOTE:—This translated article and its introductory note were prepared by arrangement for the "Westminster Review." Just after the proofs were passed by us for the printer, we found that, through misunderstanding of instructions given by Mr. Downie to a representative of another publication, the article was published elsewhere. Nevertheless, because of the importance of the subject, we decided to retain the article.—Editor.]

[From the French of Monsieur Henri D'Avray in the *Revue Hebdomadaire*, (translated by Fanny E. Downie, Vancouver), and dedicated, with compliments, as an answer to Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett (Somewhere in Australia) with an Introduction by D. D.]

A talented and charming journalist entertained Vancouver audiences the other week in a platitudinous pessimistic and recriminatory sort of way. He was preceded by a valuable publicity, and burdened with a heavy lantern, a large map, a fine conceit of himself, and a deep grouch against the Managing Directors of the British Empire. We met him with some interest and listened to him with mingled curiosity, impatience and regret. He discouraged the timid. He emphasized the obvious. And he is now on his way to Australia to tell the brave people there how needlessly they have sacrificed the children of the soil; to show them how many blunders may be made in a subordinate military campaign; to augment his own importance by distributing reproaches to all those above him; and, in short, to prove to his public, at this inopportune moment, with how little ability a great Empire may be governed.

According to this discouraging young wiseacre (of foreign extraction) "the war is going to be a kind of draw. No great victories can ever be gained by either side. It is to be a species of stalemate." Furthermore, we are "told," the war is to be won "not by military, but by moral forces." And as we are now engaged in recruiting forces here and in Australia, in order to win the war, those moral forces are probably the kind he would have us send. He has a method, I suppose, for raising those moral forces and leading them. So had Henry Ford. Every other amateur strategist and drawing-room diplomat is ready to prove that Joffre should have moved faster, and that the diplomacy of Sir Edward Grey is a failure. As if any one of us who know the Balkan Peninsula, did not know that it is easier for a Kaiser to put his foot into that corruptible nest of rattlesnakes than to get it out again.

But we are an amiable and a patient public in this corner of the Empire. We listened lately, without protest, to a wealthy German woman from New York (who is now exhibiting on the Ford circuit in Europe) telling us, in the same way, how very little Britain had done and how badly reforms were needed there, and all the other shortcomings of our country. Will they listen as patiently to Mr. Ashmead-Bartlett on the same tone in Australia? I doubt it. Let us wait and see.

But meantime the only object of presenting this article here, which in the too faithful translation of an amateur may lose some of its fine force, is to contrast the large view, the firm confidence, the enlightened and characteristic generosity of a distinguished Frenchman, who takes high ground and sees the whole field, with the petty, harmful criticism of a carping co-patriot, recalled from his one narrow peninsula and with regard to a campaign that has now been abandoned.

For a man, or a nation, that does much is sure to do something wrong, and for that wrong must suffer the censure of those who do little or nothing at all. We must recollect, however that war is not a parlor game: that it is always possible to take one trick, but not so simple to win the rubber; and that it is impossible to make an omelette without breaking some eggs. But now let Monsieur Henri D'Avray speak for himself.—Donald Downie.

If one regarded merely the pomp and circumstance of battle, it might seem that, up to this moment, the navies of the Allies have played in the actual conflict, only a secondary role. On closer observation we perceive that it would be a serious error to hold to that superficial opinion.

True, we know little and that imperfectly of all the exploits accomplished at sea. For those exploits are widely scattered over a space of fifteen months and dispersed in all the waters of the globe.

And again they have been published by communications so extremely laconic, when they have not been altogether suppressed. Fur-

thermore they have been unfortunately eclipsed by the spectacular and incessant combat carried on over thousands of miles of battle front on land.

But admitting even that the naval engagements fought during the first few months of hostilities might be considered in the nature of skirmishes, it is none the less certain that their result has been to put an end to the war of corsairs from which the Germans hoped for consequences so decisive.

Since then, thanks to the incessant watchfulness of the British fleet, peace reigns on near and distant seas, where the flags of all nations float in security—save and except the German. It is only in a limited corner of a European sea, and that corner growing gradually less, that navigation presents the slightest risk, and that from a policy of ferocious piracy, from which the ships of neutrals and belligerents have equally suffered.

We have seen that the immediate entrance of the whole combined British and French maritime forces into action, at the very outbreak of the war, had a prodigious repercussion in every domain, military, political, economic and financial.

It was formerly said that "the storm-beaten ships of Nelson, which the grande armée of Napoleon never saw, stood nevertheless between that army and the Empire of the world." This expressive phrase can with equal truth be applied to-day to the great British fleet.

No one sees it; but it inspires the Germans with such fear that they dare not venture from their dens; or when rarely they have sneaked out, it has only been by night, and with every precaution to evade the vigilant guardians of the British coast, and to take precipitate flight before them.

If England had not exercised this indisputable domination in the North Sea and in the Channel, the German fleet would have held at their mercy all the French coast and ports from Dunkerque to Brest. For the French fleet, concentrated as it was in the Mediterranean, pursuant to the entente cordiale, could not have returned in time to bar the route to the enemy.

In that event, neither the military science of the General Staff, nor the heroism of the troops, could have prevailed against the long planned machinations of the Germans. A letter seized among the papers of a spy, in Paris, is very suggestive on that point.

A personage closely related to a reigning German family, announced there to his comrade the near approach of war, and confidently predicted that the action of the German Imperial Marine would cause some surprising sensations. But all those beautiful predictions have pitifully come to nought.

The embarrassing presence of the British fleet, mobilized, constituted a sufficient threat to extinguish all Teutonic hopes in that direction.

And so the French fleet could remain in the Mediterranean undisturbed and quietly proceed with the transport of troops from Africa, whose timely arrival contributed so powerfully to give the Allies the decisive advantage in the great arresting battle of the Marne. Since that time the same Mediterranean fleet with some three hundred units has continued to perform a severe and valuable service.

It shall be known in time the part that it has played in the blockade of the eastern coasts of the Adriatic; and some echoes that have reached us of events at the Dardanelles prove that the French marines, true to their traditions, have vied with their British confreres in heroism and valour.

In England there is no lack of appreciation; nor is it forgotten there that the French marine has co-operated in at least the same proportion on the seas as the British army has co-operated on land.

It is difficult to estimate clearly at present the far-reaching consequences of the maritime supremacy of Britain.

Those consequences are so varied and affect neutral nations no less than belligerents. Because that supremacy is silent it is none the less efficacious; and yet neutrals may easily lose sight of its importance. They are apt to imagine that the British fleet is reduced to a merely passive role in the great drama of the war.

But they deceive themselves. It is that fleet itself which imposes inaction on the enemy, and neutrals have only to congratulate themselves on that result, for whatever activity has been allowed for a time to the German marine has been in a large measure employed at the expense of neutrals.

For naval warfare in the German conception of it—for they are as yet novices in that line of combat—has been characterized principally by cowardice mixed with boasting and seasoned with falsehood.

Their exploits have consisted of the immersion of floating mines, fatal to so many neutral ships; of the torpedoing and sinking of passenger boats, freight boats and fishing smacks; and the cannonading of defenceless crews found stranded in neutral waters.

These feats of arms, which any other marine in the world would be ashamed to perpetrate, constitute however, the exploits upon which the German pique themselves with pride and satisfaction, and which they hasten to publish to the world, *urbi et orbi*.

The explosions of savage joy which these crimes excite in Germany, and the dithyrambic apologies for them by the leading journals of Germany, are sufficient to indicate to observant neutrals, what they might expect to suffer from a Germany, mistress of the seas. A people capable of laughter and jubilation in listening to their rude

music hall songs, glorifying the wreck of the Lusitania, and the taunting and torturing of its victims, gives a proper measure to the world of the sentiments of humanity by which it is inspired.

This odious teutonic savagery, responsible for the crimes committed in every country invaded by the German army, has ventured to the extent of its power to carry its cruelties into the majestic realm of the seas.

But the German marine shall be too short-lived, let us hope, to base its traditions upon those monstrous exploits which have promptly dishonoured it in the light of history.

That Empire, without faith and without law, which the allied nations shall bring to reason in good time, refuses to small neutral nations the right of existence and treats them all as parasites. But while the struggle goes on by land, Britain guards the sea and guarantees the freedom of traffic to those same neutrals, who see their commerce and their wealth increase thereby in unexpected measure.

If these neutral beneficiaries do not feel called upon to manifest any great excess of gratitude, they might at least, one would think, have sufficient perspicacity to recognize the source whence they derive so much direct profit and advantage.

Thanks to the watchful British fleet, it has become a mere commonplace to say that there is no longer a German flag visible anywhere on the seas or oceans of the globe. And even on the Baltic, which they thought a German inland ocean, and the last resort where they flattered themselves as secure, the British submarines are at present engaged in the most fruitful of hunting expeditions. To sum up, those silent sentinels, the British squadrons, prohibit to the Germans all the sea routes and cut them off completely from communication with nine-tenths of the world.

This sudden and almost total cessation of her large exterior commerce represents for Germany a stupendous loss. Of that loss we can form some idea if we reflect that in the course of the last peaceful fiscal year, the German exportations had reached the sum of more than twenty-five hundred millions of marks; and her importations had reached the figure of more than forty-eight hundred millions of marks.

The revenues of Germany are thus diminished annually by more than nine thousand million francs. She is thus forced to content herself with the products of her own territory, and to using the stocks which she had accumulated before the war. Each day sees, for her, the increasing impossibility of creating any new sources of wealth or of credit which might enable her to continue the war with any hope of victory.

And Germany has so keenly felt that the action of the British fleet has wounded her in such a vital spot that she has endeavoured to strike back with the same weapon. She imagined that with her

submarines she might succeed in operating effective and complete blockade of the British coasts. Her project was to isolate Britain from the rest of the world and to paralyze her vast commerce and commercial industry which constitute the most reliable base of the whole financial credit of the Allies. So much faith had they in their method, that the German press proclaimed loudly in advance that Britain, threatened by famine, should soon be compelled to seek an ignominious peace. But this scalp dance of their reptile press was premature.

They forgot the proverb that one should not sell the skin of the beast while he is still roaming wild in the woods; and that that was specially applicable to the skin of the British Lion whose whelps were rushing to take their part in the fray. The loud presumptuous German bluff ended only in the most humiliating fiasco, and in augmenting the book of German crimes by a few more ineffaceable pages of infamy.

The economic life of Britain has not been in the least affected by the blockade, made up of paper and pretence, against the English ports. Far from it. This abortive war against our commercial navigation, instead of diminishing our merchant marine, has had the effect of actually increasing its tonnage. After deduction of all losses, the British commercial marine, since the opening of the war, finds itself increased by 139,000 tons, the French by 31,000, the Russian by 92,000, and the Italian by 21,000 tons.

And while the allied merchant marines have received these augmentations, the commercial fleet of Germany has been diminished by 1,054,266 tons, being a loss of 20 per cent. That of Austria has been reduced by 81,952 tons, being a loss of 9 per cent. And it is worth while remarking that these figures were established on the 25th of August last, that is to say, previous to our recent and fruitful ship-hunting campaign in the Baltic.

The naval preponderance of Britain has enabled us to deal such blows to German pride as have touched the enemy in his most cherished and sensitive part.

For the German Empire has no longer a colony of its own, and it has been unable to lay violent hands on a single one of our valuable colonies, which it had coveted for so long, and which a rapid and decisive victory in Europe would have given it, as it hoped, the right to seize and demand.

It shall not have the Belgian or the French Congo, about which it had even the effrontery to speak, while huckstering for the neutrality of Britain; nor Senegal, nor our West Africa, nor our North Africa, nor Madagascar, nor Indo-China.

And not only have the East Indies and South Africa remained loyal to Britain, and failed to rebel as expected by Germany, but

they have brought, with Canada and Australia, the most magnificent support to the defence of the mother country.

Japan has taken charge of Tsin Tao, and Australia of the islands of Oceania. The Kaiser once declared emphatically, "Our future is on the seas." But he had not foreseen a future so brief. He had forgotten that nothing is durable which is founded on violence and contempt for honour.

The effect of the German fleet being powerless to act, means a Germany with one palsied arm, of which the best symbol is that atrophied left arm of a once terrible War Lord, who, if he had been forced to enlist, would not have been accepted by a recruiting sergeant for even auxiliary service. So Germany has been launched into the most atrocious of adventures, and Europe plunged in blood and fire by the act and order of a congenial monomaniac, who might justifiably have been claimed by a board of alienist doctors as a fit subject for their asylums.

Meantime, while the mussels and other barnacles may increase and multiply at leisure upon the keels of the boasted German dreadnoughts, the Allies continue to supply all their own wants from the teeming lands beyond the seas, and to receive delivery of all their provisions and purchases without the slightest danger or interruption—food, munitions, and all equipment and material of war. England has continued her exportations and her importations, guaranteeing to her a margin of profit amounting to the fabulous figure of 19,000,000,000 francs a year. Absolute control of the sea routes gives her, apart from this enormous revenue, the power to contract stupendous loans for her allies and herself. If the Germans were really the victors that (for the gallery) they insincerely pretend, why do they not avail themselves of the financial assistance of the American money market, instead of piling upon the heads of their own oppressed people loans and super-loans, of which they announce with so much fracas the incredible success?

In spite of all the dust in the eyes by which they think to blind neutral nations to the real facts, the Germans understand only too well, that so long as the ocean is prohibited to them, they are deprived of a great part of the essential means of resistance. They know also full well that, far from relaxing the blockade which is strangling them, Britain is now, in spite of all inspired neutral protest, tightening that mortal strangle-hold from day to day. Because they have ventured timidly at intervals into British waters to sink a few packets and fishing smacks, the Germans thought for a moment that they alone possessed submarines and knew how to use them. But, sure of her strength, Britain only raised her shoulders a little—and the price of her marine insurance. Then she quietly awaited her hour. First of all, without trumpets or drums, in fact without a whisper of publicity,

she proceeded to capture and to sink these pirates by the score and to gather them in her nets like so many oysters. She kept her own submarines for use, meantime, not against passengers, non-combatants, women or children, but against war vessels and transports of the enemy. And now she awaits a still more decisive hour. And that is something which short-sighted neutrals might do well to bear in mind.

The armies who fight are dependent on those who guard the seas, and it is by these that the victory shall finally be won. The maritime power of England shall reduce Germany to the point of exhaustion and despair. Let those who think they are wise take warning. Ferdinand of Cobourg, for example, who aspired to be Czar of the Balkans, and who had acquired the reputation of clear-mindedness as well as ambition, has this time shown a lack of perspicacity in forgetting that his great Kaiser had no access to the seas, and allowing himself to be hypnotized by the apparent success of the Germans on land. The ocean does not always separate countries, sometimes it connects them.

But in Europe, the great power that has lost the sea can never win on land. This wily Ferdinand made his choice too promptly. He has allowed himself to be deceived by Germany, who concealed from him her paralyzed side turned toward the sea, and dazzled him by those victories which have no to-morrow. The Sovereign of all the Bulgars, who, more German still than Balkan, desired only to be deceived, has rushed to his ruin and drawn his people after him. With the aid of the Turco-Bulgars, the Austro-Germans have succeeded in their march through little Serbia and diminutive Montenegro. But that is not the denouement—though saluted as such in advance, according to their reckless habit, by the servile central official press of our enemies.

In this war—without exception almost—dynastic influences and interests are directly opposed to the national interests of peoples, and compromise them. One by one, the nations have been subordinated and led astray by the false shepherds in whom they have had the folly to confide. On the other hand, the great democratic nations—England, Italy and France—sincerely desiring peace, were found preaching it at the outbreak, with the most ardent and the most dangerous conviction. It was those monarchs, however, who were insufficiently limited and controlled by their nations, who contrived and designed this war, in which history shall forever see the most monstrous assault upon civilization, and the most criminal enterprise against humanity.

Against aggression, long decided on, by those dynasties and military castes, in those two empires of prey, the Allies are defending their liberty and their existence. And by the same stroke of defence they are making war upon war, fighting for justice, and even for the emancipation of those people themselves, who are ranged against them. They, who of all those peoples are the most deeply deceived

by their chiefs, shall, perhaps, be the most terrible to those leaders in their awakening. They shall then understand all the extent and the horror of those crimes, in which their masters have rendered them accomplices. And upon those masters they shall revenge themselves, on that day when the British fleet shall have crumbled down the monstrous edifice of Prussian despotism.

Notes and Comments

[By the Rev. R. G. MacBeth, M. A.]

Down in my native Province of Manitoba they have been doing things of late, in the Halls of Legislation. Bilingual schools are being abolished, compulsory education is going on the statute book, a referendum vote is being taken on the temperance question, and women are given the franchise. A few years ago some of these items would have been looked on as revolutionary, and all of them deal with questions of great moment.

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Bilingualism in public schools has been and is a problem of much concern to politicians in several provinces. It has all come out of weak-kneed dealings with the Province of Quebec, which we were supposed to have conquered in 1759, but which on account of its solid vote has practically been in control of Dominion affairs ever since Confederation. On the other side of the International Boundary our cousins were wiser. States like Louisiana were about as French as Quebec, but Louisiana had to go into the American Union and accept the English language, the public school and the land tenure of the United States. None of these things were accepted by Quebec and the consequence has been incessant turmoil. The bilingual clause in the Schools Act of Manitoba provided that if there were ten children of French or other language than English in a school the teaching would be bilingual in that language and English. In some cases it might be German or Ruthenian or something else, but it all arose out of the demand for French. If this is to be a British country, let the schools be taught in the English tongue. Our people are reaching the limit of their patience and the incendiary speeches of Bourassa and Lavergne in the hour of the Empire's agony may lead to startling changes in the British North American Act, the Imperial Statute which is the Constitution of Canada.

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In giving the elective franchise to women, Manitoba is in large measure leading the procession in Canada and the other provinces will follow. In municipal affairs women who are property owners have had votes but there seems no good reason why men alone should have

the right of control in the wider spheres where the laws that more largely govern life are enacted. A salic law is a relic of barbarism which would have prevented the illustrious reign of Victoria the Good, and its principle is out of keeping with a Christian civilization. And we see men every day whose dissolute habits and crass ignorance constitute an eloquent argument against men's monopoly of law-making and the exclusion of intelligent and home-loving women therefrom. Let the good work go on. Women can vote without neglecting their homes as well as men can vote without neglecting their business.

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The task of recruiting is going steadily on in Canada, and British Columbia is doing its valiant share. While it is quite true that every one cannot go to the front, the fact is that men of service age who are not in khaki are under the painful necessity of explaining themselves. There is a universal hope that, as H. G. Wells says, "This war will end all war," but those who are most bitterly opposed to a militaristic constitution of things see that in order to end militarism the unholy compact of which Prussia is the life, must be crushed with no gentle hand. In the face of our need of more men there must be no shirking. And in the presence of the great necessity for the conservation of resources the huge economic waste of the liquor evil and the excessive sporting and pleasure-loving habit of some classes should be sternly repressed.

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Our new City Council in Vancouver has put on the municipal harness and the indications are that the Mayor and Aldermen will take their work seriously and keep the tugs tight. There will be some "hard sledding" as the teamsters on the prairie used to say, some places where the footing will be difficult, but we believe our new team will take us through all right. The fact that the Council is smaller will deepen the sense of personal responsibility which is always a good thing. Perhaps the oddest outcome of the elections was the effort of some to reckon the gains or the losses for the political parties. What has municipal government to do with political parties unless we expect to lay down Conservative pavements and Liberal sidewalks?

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It is noticeable that the Church throughout Canada and the Empire is becoming more and more a place of appeal to men to enlist for the defence of liberty. It is equally noticeable that ministers' sons are in excessive proportion amongst those who are donning the uniform. The Church is no advocate of war in general, and there is no surer evidence of the righteousness of our cause than the facts just quoted. There is a decided feeling that the real question at issue just now is the existence of Christian civilization.

On the Delights and Dangers of Versatility

[By Bernard McEvoy]

There is a popular saying, the tendency of which is to dissuade us from attempting to become proficient in too many departments. A "Jack of all trades, good at none," has been held up to us from childhood as a personage we should not try to imitate. The most respectable people have advised us against versatility, and have emphasized their warnings by cogent examples, pointing us to the history of clever fellows who, after passing desultory lives, died without leaving a sixpence behind them. From their point of view this argument is unanswerable. There was Tom Handicap, for instance. He did well at school in every subject. He was really brilliant, and such a charming boy that everyone was predisposed in his favour. He was articled to a solicitor, and it seemed certain he would rise in his profession. Then he began to write verses; and some of them were immediately accepted by editors of more or less obscure newspapers. His mother even gave it out that they had asked for more, which will show to the experienced that the youth's initial literary efforts were made on behalf of a comparatively circumscribed public. His first poem had been inspired by the funeral of his aunt, and was of such a melancholy and appropriate character, that as the old lady had left a considerable sum behind her, the surviving relatives felt that they could do no less than have it printed in the most artistic style and forwarded to the entire clan. The only people who did not praise the poem extravagantly were those who were so distantly connected with the deceased that it was the only legacy they received. It must not, however, be supposed that Tom Handicap's first printed verses were inspired by any pecuniary expectations. They were the natural expression of the feelings of a sensitive young person alive to the influences of Nature and of things around him. But there is no doubt that the commendations of his friends led him to think that he was rather out of the ordinary, so that dreams of fame visited even his waking hours. It was not till he had submitted poems to one or two of the more important magazines and got them promptly back, that the "genial current of his soul" received the check of a distinctly lower temperature than that to which he had lately been accustomed. It was soon after this, that a visit to the Royal Academy fired him with the notion that he could paint. He had been a hopeful pupil in the drawing class at school, and he was certain that he could do better than some of the worst pictures exhibited. He bought some paints, and his attic bedroom began to smell of turpentine and drying-oil. He did some really very fair pictures, and found he could give them away to his admirers with the greatest ease. As he had now, so to speak, two strings to his bow—poetry and art—he began to be esteemed as a clever fellow, although in the law office where

he was articled, his performances did not in any way exceed those of far less gifted pupils. With regard to his paintings it may be said that as a rule his beginnings were generally more hopeful than his finishings. There was a certain stodginess about his foliage, and his foregrounds were laboured and ineffective. It was at about this period that he heard of a man who had sold an invention of his for a large sum to a manufacturing firm. Now Tom had always had a sort of instinct for machinery, and considerable inventive faculty. Moreover an uncle of his was in the electrical business. It was not long before young Handicap, in the intervals of law, poetry and painting, had constructed an electrical contrivance which his uncle, who was given to flamboyant utterances, said was destined to revolutionize a certain branch of electro-mechanics. But I have not mentioned Tom's talent for music. Everybody knew of that. Why, to hear him, who had never learned a note, play the piano, was to realize what a star performer he might have been if he had begun earlier and devoted proper attention to the study of it. He could "vamp" an accompaniment for anybody, and being good-natured he was frequently called upon to exercise his gift. There was nobody whose company was more valued than Tom's at social gatherings. His amateur conjuring, and tricks with cards were of themselves always sufficient to assure him a hearty welcome.

All these varied accomplishments served to pass the time very pleasantly. If his work at the law office was not enthusiastic, it was at least regular. And there were times when he seemed to see in a flash the best solution of a knotty legal problem. Nevertheless, when the time for his examinations came, although he and a friend worked almost day and night for a week reading up for them by the aid of strong coffee, poor Tom failed to pass. And now, as a middle-aged man, he is the managing clerk of the office in which he was articled, instead of being a member of the firm. As the father of six or seven children he has sometimes found a difficulty in making both ends meet.

Nevertheless, in spite of this cogent example, there is something to be said on behalf of versatility. For example, it cannot be denied that man is a versatile animal. He is not as the horse or the mule, whose capacities are only to eat, to pull, and to carry. He is evidently intended to do a great number of things. Most well-bred members of the human species, and when I say well-bred I intend no reference to aristocratic lineage, have in them the roots of all the arts and sciences. The reason that these remain in most people rudimentary, is that there is a tendency on the part of the system under which we live to dwarf and repress most of them from birth. A perfectly well-developed and well-educated man should be able to do almost anything. He should be able to run, jump, row, cut trees down, make a chair, a table or a watch, write verses, speak in several languages,

paint pictures, carve statues, play the violin and defend his country in time of danger. There are at least one or two examples of this kind of man now living.

If we examine the record of previous centuries we find still more wonderful outstanding instances. I need only mention Michael Angelo, architect, sculptor, painter and poet; Leonardo de Vinci, who, besides being a painter, was a mechanician of great ability and in fact could do most things, and Francis Bacon, who experimentally meddled with all things in heaven and earth. But with regard to the general rank and file of human beings the System under which we live acts very much as the horticulturist does who prunes a grape vine. There is a saying that no man should prune his own grape vine, the suggestion of which is that he is not able to prune it enough. The unbiased gardener, however, whose own the vine is not, has no such compunction. He boldly cuts about half the green berries away. He knows that those that are left will grow stronger and bigger as a result of the process. In like manner the system before alluded to deliberately cuts off the tender shoots of aspiration which in the young mind reach out flambuoyantly to all things in general. It wants to direct the youthful vitality towards something in particular. It says to the young person, "What do you wish to do or to be?" If the young person is so strangely constituted as to be able to give a definite reply to this question, the System immediately takes such measures as shall tend to repress and discourage everything else. It says, "Let this shoot grow—it will be strong." It cuts off the others with a sharp and derogatory knife. In a word it endeavours to produce one-sided men and women instead of perfectly-grown specimens. But as nature can never be entirely repressed, the innate desire of mankind to try its hand at everything, remains strong enough to produce audiences at concerts and playhouses, crowds for picture galleries, an adequate book market for authors, numbers of lovers of good architecture, and a variety of intimate appreciators of most other branches of human endeavour. The greater part of mankind, while suffering from an artificial atrophy similar to that produced by Chinese mothers in the feet of their female offspring, retains enough of its natural force to make the performances of what are called experts, worth while. Otherwise none of these experts would have any public to appeal to.

At this time of day it is of no use probably to run counter to the System before alluded to. We are the product of our age and circumstances. It is on this world and none other that our children must live, and therefore we are wise in repeating the old proverb and telling them that they had better not have "too many irons in the fire." For it must be allowed that while as we have said, the native untutored child of man is endowed by nature with many gifts and powers, there are but few who have the requisite amount of vital force to bring them

all to perfection, or the time required for the process. It is necessary in this connection to bear in mind the vast difference there is between amateur and professional excellence. We listen to a friend's singing of a favourite song while his wife plays the accompaniment, and to our mind he seems to touch the acme of performance and expression. It is not till we hear the same selection sung by the vocal idol of the concert platform that we realize the vast difference there is between that which is merely correct and pleasing and that which is truly excellent and paramount in its musical superiority. The main use of conjurers, sleight of hand performers, acrobats and other vaudeville artists, is perhaps not so much to amuse us, as to show us how far native gift combined with intense application and perseverance can go.

It seems therefore the path of wisdom of the many-sided and many-gifted to ask themselves whether they possess those qualities of vital force and resolute endeavour which will enable them to achieve excellence in the various departments that are suggested to them by their native make-up. At present the retrospect of many of them is cumbered by half-done things. But I think it will be conceded that so far as mere happiness is concerned the versatile people have the advantage over those who narrow down their interests to the one pursuit by which they make their living. It is well for everybody to have a hobby, and there is nothing more pitiable than the continuous ennui of those who, stranded on the shores of age or retirement from business, have no avenue of activity which they can pursue. It is well to have an avocation as well as a vocation.

Apart from the happiness conferred by versatility; and I can certify that the before-mentioned Tom Handicap enjoys life far more than any member of the firm with which he is connected who has retired with a fortune; it must be remembered that there are regions where the versatile man is in some measure monarch of all he surveys. In our new lands, the tempting spaces of which are being taken up by those who pour forth from the centres of congestion, the man of various faculties finds his proper habitat. He is discovered in every new settlement, where he is the refuge of all and sundry, as well as the living nucleus of progress and enlightenment in all directions. It is he who mends agricultural machinery, answers questions in horticulture and botany; gives first aid to the wounded, sends home sketches of his new quarters to his friends, celebrates each event of the budding community in verse. It is he who plays the organ in the clapboard church, and is on hand at the church social to oblige with a variety of amusing numbers. He photographs his lonely fellow-settlers, mends their wives' sewing machines, and starts the Literary Society. There are occasions when he may lament the fact that his variety of accomplishment was not recognized in over-specialized Britain. But he never regrets the impulse that brought him to the wider opportunities of a new world.

Western Canadian Church Notes

Presbyterian

[By J. Richmond Craig]

The spirited protest against "Undue haste in the translation of ministers from one charge to another," at last Presbytery meeting held in Chalmers Church, was refreshing. It was also in good time, and in good place. We are altogether too accommodating, when other Presbyteries come out after our best men. Of course, if a man wants to go, we should let him go, but his release should be granted, according to the "Blue Book," and not according to the dictates of the congregation calling him. That a warning should be sounded at the same time that such undue haste was liable to lead us into the by-paths of Congregationalism, was however surprising. Many of us think we have been meandering, off and on, in these "dangerous" ways for quite a while.

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We are, nevertheless, strictly Presbyterian, in some things. One of the Kail-yaird men writes somewhere of "The man in our Presbytery who moved the resolutions, and who never moved anything else." Westminster Presbytery has men who move resolutions. It has also men who do not. The resolutions at last meeting were to the point, though somewhat belated, and have had a salutary effect upon our constituency. It was high time that attention should be called to the degrading and demoralizing influence of the so-called Sunday Evening Recruiting Concerts in the city. It would be interesting to find out (if it were at all possible) just how many recruits such gatherings procured for the forces. Also the calibre of such recruits, if any.

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On the other hand, one of our Presbyterian Churches has, during the last month, placed on its honor roll the names of over thirty young men who have joined the colors as a direct result of the minister's appeal to the people. And they are all men of whom any church might well be proud.

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A young and promising student, after preaching in a famous divine's pulpit, ventured to ask the "beadle" what he thought of his "effort." "Well," replied the canny sermon-taster, "It was splendid, but you would have done better if you had begun just where you left off." This criticism might well apply to some of the halfhour talks that are being given at the Presbytery meetings on educational topics. They are all excellent, but somewhat elementary. Almost every minister has taken off the top sod: we want to hear from the man who has gone deeper down.

The report of the Educational Institutes as presented by Mr. H. Mackay was more than interesting. It was instructive. And the resolution moved at the North Vancouver meeting regarding Religious Education in day schools was most heartily endorsed. The average minister does not interest himself enough in the every-day training of the children. We sometimes blame the "Government," and not without reason. But we do not always follow up our criticism with something of a constructive nature. What plan of religious education have the ministers of British Columbia submitted to the Educational Department of the Province in lieu of that which at present obtains in the public schools?

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The Presbyterian luncheons are happy affairs, and always attractive. The one at Chalmers last meeting was no exception. The stories told are always purely Presbyterian, not dry and dusty, but piquant and pleasant, and the reminiscences delightful. Mr. Pidgeon's farewell talk will be long remembered.

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Do you remember how you earned your first dollar? was the question the late Pastor of St. John's had been asked. And he sure did. He had earned it threshing a "mow" of grain on his father's farm. The question and answer bring pleasant recollections of the past memories to most preachers' minds. The farm in Eastern Canada has certainly given its quota to the ministry. Is the British Columbia farm going to keep up the long established record? The man who can thrash oats with a flail, can surely learn to thrash sinners with his tongue.

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The call presented to Rev. R. G. MacBeth, M. A., by the congregation of St. Paul's, if accepted, will bring into the courts of our Western Church one of the "Stalwarts of the Covenant." Mr. MacBeth's decision will be awaited with expectancy, not only by the congregation calling him, but by the whole Church in the Province.

* * * *

The travelling expense fund, whereby the expenses of members are equalized, has proven a great boon to all. The scheme adopted by Mr. Kerr, the energetic minister of St. Andrews, New Westminster, has worked exceedingly well, and now that the esteemed pastor of Gordon Memorial Church, Edmonds, has been appointed official tax-gatherer for the ensuing year, its further success is assured.

* * * *

The question is often asked, "Why do not more elders attend Presbytery? Those who do attend are most vigilant, in season and

out of season, and deserve hearty commendation. But why so few? There must surely be *one member in each congregation* who can afford one day in two months to devote to the work of the Church. Our system is democratic enough, if only the people would exercise their privileges to the full.

* * * *

The plea for a chance to be given to the younger men of the Presbytery to do their "bit" on the committees was a strong one, and cannot be despised. Even a Presbytery can become fossilized. The peril of all churches, irrespective of denomination, is emasculation, not only in faith, but also in methods. We are striving to escape this peril. We will succeed, if our fathers and brethren recognize that this is the age of young men in the Church as well as elsewhere.

Another Correspondent Writes:

The sincere sympathy, not only of the Kamloops Presbytery, but of the whole Synod of British Columbia goes out to the Rev. J. A. Dow and family of Enderby, whose home was burned to the ground a short time ago. Father and mother and son were badly burned, while a daughter, Helen, 13 years of age, was burned to death. Mr. Dow, whose first charge was in Gravenhurst, Ontario, is one of the strong men of our Synod. He was settled in Rossland for some years, then in Powell River for a time prior to his call to Enderby. He graduated from Toronto University in 1893, and from Knox College in 1896. It is earnestly hoped that the afflicted family will soon be completely restored and that the consolation of our Heavenly Father may be theirs in their sad bereavement.

* * * *

Rev. Alex. Mogee, one of our old time missionaries in British Columbia, is in charge of the North Bend Mission field, which comprises North Bend, Keefers, Lytton and Spence's Bridge, along the line of the C. P. R. The depletion of the student ranks through recruiting is calling all our experienced men available into the great missionary service of the Western Church.

The unusually prolonged severe winter is taxing ministers and missionaries throughout the province to maintain regular services at their country stations. The conditions are similar to that of early days in Ontario.

* * * *

Rev. J. H. White, of Eburne, (Chaplain of the 54th Kootenay Battalion), in a recent letter from Bramshott, says: "It is the same dull routine here as in Vernon. Drill from morning to night, bomb throwing, trench digging, bayonet exercises, anything that will train men to kill the Huns and kill them quickly. We will likely be here

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until the end of March, but nobody knows when or where we shall go, some say to Egypt, others to the Balkans, but it may be only to Flanders."

Methodist Notes

[By A. E. Roberts]

The visit of Rev. Hugh Dobson, B. A., Field Secretary of the Department of Social Service and Evangelism to the Methodist Churches of the Province, has been a feature of the work for the month past that has attracted much favorable comment. Mr. Dobson is a thoughtful and painstaking man, and his addresses have dealt with the problem of the Liquor Traffic from a scientific standpoint. He had with him a set of models, prepared in England, which illustrated his talks in a splendid manner and aroused considerable interest wherever they were shown. But perhaps the side of his work that will have the most lasting effect was the conferences he held with groups of ministers and laymen banded together for the purpose of working in the interest of the Prohibition movement. His statement of the work in other provinces and his clear vision of the needs of British Columbia were a helpful stimulus to the workers, and the view point of the men on the ground was made very clear to the visitor. The meeting arranged especially for women, and held in Mount Pleasant Methodist Church, was exceedingly well attended and Mr. Dobson's address on "Women and Social Progress" was much appreciated. A conference of the Methodist Churches of Greater Vancouver was held in Central Church, when over forty of the leaders of the work along social reform lines sat down to supper and then discussed the question of Evangelism, and the Win One campaign. Mr. Dobson's address that opened the subject was a comprehensive statement of modern evangelism and was quite thought provoking. The Methodist Church is well led in its department of social service by Rev. Dr. Moore, the General Secretary, Rev. Hugh Dobson, Western Field Secretary, and Rev. J. H. Hazelwood in the centre Provinces and Rev. W. J. Smith in the East.

* * * *

Rev. J. P. Westman, Sunday School Secretary, has been holding a series of institutes in various sections of the city of Vancouver, and in Victoria and New Westminster. The object of the institutes is not so much to gather a large number of people together as to get the earnest workers to discuss their problems and to suggest methods of work along various lines. The general plan was as follows: After the opening address four groups were formed, elementary division workers, who discussed "Activities leading to the Promotion of

Christian Life amongst the Juniors;" secondary division, whose topic was, "How to lead the pupils to a Pledged Discipleship;" adults and Young People's Societies, with the topic, "Work among Adults in promoting Christian Life"; and the officers, who discussed "How to develop the Spirit of Worship in our School and Society." The attendances have been good and the interest well sustained in each of these institutes.

* * * *

Three of the Methodist Churches of Vancouver have unveiled "Honor Rolls" during the past month; on Sunday, January 23rd, Grandview and Central Churches had very impressive services, Major Monk and Col. McSpadden officiating at the former, while Captain A. G. Spencier and Lieutenant Dalton spoke in Central. Nearly fifty names were on the Grandview Honor Roll, and twenty-two on the Central Roll. On Sunday, January 30th, Kitsilano Methodist Church unveiled their Honor Roll, Major Brock of the University, giving the address. There are over twenty names on this roll. These ceremonies bring to the attention of the people the call that our brave soldier boys are making upon those left at home, to think of and pray and give for them, and each Sunday as the congregation gathers, the names on the Honor Roll will be a silent reminder that a duty is owed to the boys at the front and prayers will be offered that God will protect and bless them, and give victory to the arms of the Allies.

* * * *

Another of the ministers of the British Columbia Conference has enlisted for active service in the person of Rev. W. P. Bunt, who has been pursuing Arts work at Montreal. He has joined the 148th Overseas Battalion and will likely go forward as a lieutenant as he is now taking the officers' course. Thus do ministers and people show their loyalty to the Empire.

Baptist

[By G. R. Welch]

These notes last month dealt solely with the Baptist Union of Western Canada, the annual gathering of which in the First Church of this city was then impending. That gathering has come and gone. Owing to the critical conditions of last year in both business and church life, not a few of our denominational leaders looked forward with dread to what the annual report of the churches would show. We gratefully record that most of our anxiety proved to be quite unnecessary, and shamefacedly we listen to the Master's reproof: "O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt?" There has been gratifying increase of membership by confession of faith and otherwise. While

the full amount of the budget was not raised, yet the burdensome bank overdraft was reduced by \$7,700. The Women's Board had a gratifying surplus and the Foreign Missions Board also reported a reduction of debt. While the financial situation still demands rigorous economy, yet the outlook is hopeful.

The congregations are to be commended for their liberality in such a stressful year. Brandon College has had an exceptionally good year and is entering upon a forward movement with especial emphasis upon the theological department. This college is in affiliation with McMaster University of Toronto. An encouraging feature of these union meetings was the evident spirit of mutual confidence and respect. The difficult times through which we are passing, the heavy burdens to be borne, and the uncertainty of the future has a tendency to reduce the factional spirit to the vanishing point. Increased harmony makes for increase of effectiveness. The only note of friction was the divided opinion among the women of the different provincial organizations regarding the advisability of earmarking funds for specific objects. The majority have ruled that this is not wise under the budget system and doubtless the minority will work harmoniously with this decision. The increasing effectiveness of the Baptist Union is due not only to the enlarging experience and increasing stability resulting from the passing years, but not a little, also, to the consecrated ability and zeal of the president, Mr. A. B. Stovel, who has been re-elected for his third term of office, and also to the wise and energetic leadership of the general secretary, Mr. C. R. Sayer.

Hands Across the Sea.

A fine human touch that awakened a sympathetic response at the recent Baptist Union meetings was the announcement that the British Baptists have increased their gifts this year to our Western Mission work one hundred and fifty per cent. Our confreres of the Motherland have thus given practical expression to the Apostle's exhortation to "look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others." When they across the water are themselves bearing such crushing financial burdens entailed by the war, their increased gifts are not only a delicate expression of the Motherland's appreciation of what Canada is contributing in men and money to the common cause, but also of the political and spiritual solidarity of the Empire.

A Five-Year Programme.

With sanctified foresight and enterprise our Western Churches have committed themselves to a five-year programme that will make for progress along all lines of religious life and activity if carried out with diligence and enthusiasm. We may unfold this programme at some future time.

Grouping of Churches

Owing to changed conditions locally, and also shrinkage of income, the Mission Board of British Columbia deems it in the interest of economy and efficiency to regroup some of the weaker churches in Greater Vancouver. In common with other denominations many promising causes were started in rapidly growing communities. The insatiable demands of the military situation, coupled with the industrial depression, have resulted in a serious exodus from these communities and their respective churches, so that the latter find it increasingly difficult to finance their work. A committee of the Board recently met with representatives of the churches interested and the outlook is hopeful for a wise and helpful solution of the problem.

Anglican

[By Archdeacon Heathcote]

The General Synod and the Athanasian Creed

One of the matters dealt with at the General Synod held in Toronto last September, was the Liturgical use of the Athanasian Creed. Judging by the letters and articles appearing in the Church papers during the intervening months, it appears that the decision arrived at by the Synod upon the subject is a matter of keen interest to the Church at large.

The Athanasian Creed is one of the most treasured documents of the whole Christian Church. The Anglican Church expresses her sense of its value in one of the thirty-nine Articles. Some portions of the Anglican Church still enshrine this Creed in the midst of one of the Services, other portions of the Church, while retaining the said Creed as a document have ceased to recite it in Divine Worship. The question that was raised at the Synod was neither the authenticity of the Creed, nor the value of the Creed as a statement of faith, nor the benefit to be derived by Church people from knowing the Creed. The one question raised was that of its use in the public service of the Church.

There is a feeling which can be found more or less throughout the Church that the Creed as it has come to us expresses a harsh judgment upon those who intellectually cannot accept the theological definition expressed in the Creed. Hence some people do not like to say: "Which faith except everyone keep wholly and undefiled without doubt he shall perish everlastingly," or "He therefore that will be saved must thus think of the Trinity," or again, "This is the Catholic Faith, which except a man believe faithfully he cannot be saved." In consequence the Revision Committee sought to give relief, and in the following way:

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Leaving the Creed as in the old book with the Rubric unaltered there was added the Lambeth translation of the Creed with permission to use it as an alternative. This translation omits the clauses which are objectionable. But the Synod rejected this solution on the ground that the printing of two Creeds would be confusing. After a day and a half of the most interesting discussion and debate the House seemed divided into two camps. On the one hand there were those who demanded the continued use of the Creed as it has been handed down to us, Condemnatory Clauses and all. On the other hand there were those who said we would like to use the Creed on account of its constructive value, but we cannot make these harsh judgments our own by reciting them.

The solution found by the Synod was as follows: The verses which offended the scruples of so many people were to be indented in the printing, and the following note was to be printed above the Creed: "The indented clause may be omitted at the discretion of the minister from the public recitation of this Creed in Divine Worship." At the foot of the Creed a declaration is to be printed for the removal of doubts and to prevent disquietude in the use of this Creed, commonly called the Creed of St. Athanasius. It is solemnly declared:

"1. That the confession of our Christian Faith commonly called the Creed of St. Athanasius doth not make any addition to the Faith as contained in Holy Scripture, but warneth against errors which from time to time have arisen in the Church of Christ."

"2. That as Holy Scripture in divers places doth promise life to them that believe, and declare the condemnation of them that believe not, so doth the Church, in this confession, declare the necessity for all who would be in a state of salvation, of holding fast the Catholic Faith, and the great peril of rejecting the same: Wherefore the warnings in this confession of Faith are to be understood no otherwise than the like warnings in Holy Scripture; for we must receive God's threatenings, even as His promises, in such wise as they are generally set forth in Holy Writ. Moreover, the Church doth not herein pronounce judgment on any particular person or persons, God alone being the Judge of all."

The Prayer Book as adapted and enriched and finally adopted by the Synod has to be confirmed at another Synod before it can be considered final, but what has been done will be printed and published in the near future, probably before Easter, in the hope that in some congregations the work of revision may be put to the test of public use. This permission does not extend to the proposed new use of the Athanasian Creed.

The Children's Page

Our Brief Talk—The Patriot's Psalm

Travellers returning from a visit to Belgium now under the unwelcome rule of the Germans, tell an amusing story of the Belgian boys who evidently refuse to be downhearted.

A number of boys varying in age from fifteen to eighteen years, after pretending to do sentry duty, on the German plan, suddenly marched down in front of the Bourse. Wearing imitation helmets with carrot tops, and armed with broomsticks, they drew up in parade formation.

"Direct to Paris!" their leader cried, and they all did the goose step—backwards—up the hill.

Their fathers and mothers are not so light hearted, for they feel very keenly the loss of their freedom. Yet the whole nation—captive but not subdued—hopes, prays and waits for the time when their own government shall be re-established. It is the assurance of deliverance which helps them to endure patiently the oppression of the Germans.

The Children of Israel suffered the same cruel experience. Not only was their country invaded but the people were driven from their native land into the enemy's country.

An Israelite poet in one of the Psalms tells how the people mourned for their homeland and the enemy mockingly asked them to sing their national hymns. While captivity depressed the spirits of the Israelites, it aroused within them an intense devotion for their own country.

It is a sad experience to leave one's native land, even for a country where the people are good and friendly, but how much more trying it must be to live under the control of cruel strangers, as the Belgians are doing or as in the case of the Israelites to be led away into the enemy's country.

The boys and girls of Canada can serve their King and country as truly as the soldiers and nurses are doing. Good citizens make a country great. The next few years will be a time of preparation for citizenship.

Make a solemn promise to yourselves that you will be worthy citizens—obedient to the laws of the country—servants of the state. Whatever work you undertake, let it be not just done, but exceedingly well done. Unworthy motive or selfish ambition will find no place in the hearts of those who love their country.

The following words by Kipling may help us all to realize the true spirit of service:

"And only the Master shall praise us
And only the Master shall blame,
And no one shall work for money
And no one shall work for fame,
But each for the joy of the working
And each in his separate star
Shall draw the thing as he sees it
For the God of things as they are."

Find the Psalm which tells of the captivity of the Israelites. Copy it (it is not very long) and send to the Editor Children's Page, *Westminster Review*, 1600 Barclay Street, Vancouver, B. C. If more than one correct answer is received, the award will be governed by the neatness of the notes.

(For January prize awards see Editorial page).

Beginning Our Ninth Volume

Looking Backward

The beginning of another volume is a good time for stock-taking, and it is natural to look behind as well as ahead. As we took our readers into our confidence when the war began, we need scarcely remind them that the publication of periodicals has been severely tested by war conditions, and that to live through the past eighteen months has been held a creditable as well as a very difficult task. We are conscious that some issues of the Magazine may have appeared small, but we have usually carried considerably more pages of literary matter than our business department justified.

Regarding the business section it might be well to note that we have not sought directly or indirectly to make an appeal apart from the Magazine's aims and ideals of service. We have not asked any religious, political, or other society or organization to recognize or advertise this Magazine as its official organ, or medium. Nevertheless we have reason to be encouraged by the pioneer work of the past four years or more, and we believe as the people of all the churches in Western Canada recognize that this Magazine aims at being an independent monthly advocating interests and ideals common to all, and therefore in sympathy with all efforts towards social, educational and religious progress, we shall receive even larger support throughout the West.

We recognize the worth of many monthlies published in Eastern Canada and elsewhere, but we have all along maintained that there is no reason why Western Canada should depend on other parts for a monthly journal to voice or reflect the community life for the month, any more than it does for dailies, of which in Vancouver alone there are four.

Encouraging Words

The time and place are opportune to thank sincerely those many readers who, either when forwarding subscription renewals, or independently, have written to us words of appreciation and encouragement. We are oppressively aware at times of the limitations imposed upon us by business conditions:—for instance, so far as good articles were concerned this February Magazine might have been published earlier and made about twice as large in a literary way had we had only that side to consider. We wish however, to assure the readers referred to that their words of compliment and goodwill are not only appreciated but that they go far to encourage us in a task which is by no means as easy as the superficial observer may imagine. If as we know we are still far from realizing our ideal in the monthly Magazine we wish to send into every Western home for a dollar a year, such kind words prove an incentive and inspiration towards sustained effort.

Looking Forward

Whether or not the past "gains a glory from it being far," or only tests by its familiarity, it is always natural for men to look forward, and it is not uncommon for publishers of periodicals to acquaint their readers with their arrangements for the future. Though we have never lacked for plans affecting the development of this publication, we have so fully recognized the need for a solid foundation, and been so much absorbed in effort and enterprise concerning the construction of it, that we have not given time to sketching or submitting "proposed plans" for the consideration of our readers. Perhaps "our ideal"

as printed on our front cover page might be held sufficiently indicative of our programme.

But this we cannot make too plain: If an enlarged constituency has made this Magazine's life and progress possible in the past four years, it rests with our readers and those many others actively interested in all that is involved in the ideal referred to, to help us to give them and Western Canada a monthly Magazine which shall be more and more representative and in every way worth while.

Apart from our circulation outside this farthest west province, we believe every home in British Columbia which has any living interest in the ideal we seek to serve, may fairly be expected to support such a monthly publication. While we purpose enlarging the size of the Magazine as soon as the business department permits, we do not contemplate increasing our subscription rate—unless where postal rates may make that imperative. Our present subscribers—and readers everywhere—will therefore understand that every addition to our mailing list helps towards a condition which will enable us to provide bigger and better numbers.

In this issue we publish the first of a series of articles on the educational problem in British Columbia, and we believe these will be read with increasing interest. We hope to find space for other articles dealing with social and literary questions, and we may be able to arrange for a series of short stories.

Reliable contributors increase. To the regular contributors of church and other notes mentioned in our November issue, we are pleased to welcome this month Rev. J. Richmond Craig, who will be responsible for the Presbyterian Church notes. Mr. Craig, now minister of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Twenty-sixth Avenue, is a humorous and ready witted Scotsman (there are such) who has had a very considerable experience of the social and religious conditions in Canada, and especially at various points throughout British Columbia.

In thus reviewing the situation in beginning our ninth volume, we cannot do better than repeat what we noted in the first issue of our fifth volume, published in that period which for generations may be marked off as "before the war:"

"As the 'old-timer' among the Magazines of the Canadian West, we feel that our opportunity remains unrivalled, and the present management has increasing reason to contemplate the future with confidence Our faith is strong and unwavering that here, in this Pacific Coast land, our publication may live and flourish as an independent organ supporting social progress, active literary interests, and all that makes for political purity, healthful mental development, and the deepening of the spiritual life through the extension of Christward influences and agencies."

On the Way to the Front

Well over twenty former students of Westminster Hall are now at the front or in training for it. One of the latest to leave was Mr. W. R. Walkinshaw, who joined in December. He is now with the "46th Queen's Battery, Kingston, Ontario." In a direct communication he writes: "We expect to leave here for England not later than the 5th February. I am enjoying the life of a soldier very much—although there are many odious comparisons I might draw. Messrs. Fry, Arrol and Murray leave about the same time for Cairo as members of Queen's Medical Corps. I have found many good friends and kind hearts in Kingston—still I am eager to get away to the other side."

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