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VANCOUVER'S CHIEF-OF-POLICE.

JAMES ANDERSON.

Who, as Inspector of Detectives had contributed an article on

CRIMINAL IDENTIFICATION BY FINGER PRINTS

(Published in this issue)



THE CHILD AND THE STATE: AN 'APPEAL FOR THE NAMELESS'

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THE CHILD AND THE STATE

AN APPEAL FOR THE NAMELESS.

(By Emily Wright).

Since the depletion of the male population through the ravages of the recent world war, attention has been called to the birth-rate and the percentage of infant mortality. The British Commission is disturbed over the fact that the upper and middle classes of Great Britain are rearing only small families. For social or economic reasons, or from insufficiency of domestic help or from sheer indifference to the continuance of the human race, these classes of society are not contributing their share to the population of the country. The lowest class is being left to replenish the nation. Thus, those people who have either made the least struggle in life for advancement, or who have sunk in the trial for it, possess the largest families. This is causing much anxiety, for a preponderance of those who may inherit the quality of unstableness when confronted with adversity, whose mental faculties are stunted, and whose physical needs have been neglected is not desirable. The perpetuation of this class would tend to weaken the blood of the race and lower the standard of mental and physical efficiency.

The Commission recommends that on the one hand the young people should be educated in the laws of sex hygiene and kindred subjects, including the duties and privileges of parenthood, and on the other, that the environment of the lower classes should be improved, in order to give that doubtful method a chance to offset the inheritance of the physical and moral defects of their class.

This is all very laudable, but children are being brought up, in Canada as well as Great Britain, with the idea implanted in them that trouble and expense forbid the rearing of a large family. Much education will be necessary to bring the rising generation to see that their duty lies in plunging themselves into a state of genteel poverty for the sake of the Empire. Something more than lectures will be necessary. Large families are beautiful in theory—and in reality, too, if funds are sufficient—but Commissions are apt to forget that they are a tremendous source of worry, however much there may be of love, when there is only one pair of hands to do the housework and nursing, and one income with which to provide the necessaries of life. When food and clothes are increased in price, they are increased for the whole family—not for just one as in the case of a bachelor. The appeal, which is being sent forth to the United Kingdom and the Dominions "for the women of the Empire to save the Empire by securing its continuance for the fulfilment of its beneficent mission in the world," will have to be accompanied by some practical help. Unfortunately, employers do not pay according to the size of the family. Efficiency only is what counts. In building up the "nation's capital of men and women," why should parents become poorer? Children are the assets of the country and beyond a given limit their expense should be borne by the country. There are still several methods of taxation left which would go far towards equalizing the burden. By this means those who are spared the duties and tasks and sacrifices of the married would bear a little of the responsibility of bringing up the nation's children.

With regard to those people in the lowest scale of society, the position, which exists in most large cities, is extremely difficult. If they ever had the initiative to struggle to provide for their families, their environments and an increasing family are sufficient to have defeated them. Unlike the middle classes they are apathetic as to what becomes of their children. Religious and charitable institutions have done a splendid work, but, at last, there is a possibility that

the government might intervene. Improvement of their environments is undoubtedly necessary, for a certain amount of material endowment helps the spiritual and moral well-being of man; but the real change must come in arousing the spark of Divine within him into a living reality, replete with its ideals, ideals which man must always have and ever strive after if he would elevate his character. The strength of these people, at present, lies in the number of their children. The Empire needs children, but not such children as these! Nevertheless, they are, unconsciously, by force of their numbers, demanding their "rights" from the government of their country. The fault is none of theirs that through ignorance and privation they have not a chance to live decently.

An Appeal for the Nameless Child.

We now come to a phase of the subject which, though unpleasant, forms a part of the life of the nation and has to be faced, namely, that unwanted, despised, dishonoured atom of humanity—the illegitimate child.

That we are in the twentieth century of the Christian era and so little has been done in the great, civilized English-speaking countries of the world for the solving of this problem is deplorable. The British Commission regard it as a "national problem urgently calling for a solution." The facts are that in Great Britain the number of illegitimate children is not decreasing and that mortality amongst them is double that among legitimate-born children. In the United States thirty-four thousand of them are born annually. In Germany the problem grew to be really alarming previous to the war; but with the fall of the dynasty came the emancipation of women, whose leaders realised that this prob-

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lem was theirs and demanded that the new government should give it their attention.

We are not dealing with the unmarried parents of these children nor discussing the inequality of censure; but, in passing, we might say that the mother has to endure much—mentally, physically, socially—for the possession of what should be a "priceless treasure." Is not the punishment that comes from within enough, without having to bear the contumely of her "sisters" who in their smug self-righteousness look scornfully upon her humiliation? The severity of the sentence which conventional Christians mete out to her of a single fault may help to preserve the purity of home life, yet, in itself, this severity is responsible for untold anguish, and is the means of hurling many a good girl into a life of degradation and sin.

However, we are more nearly concerned with the fate of the children. You mothers who have felt the loving arms of your darling about your neck and its sweet kisses upon your lips, who have pressed its soft cheek against your breast and tended it carefully day and night, have you ever thought of the plight of these others who are deprived of their full share of love and never know the meaning of the word father? Born into a world where there is no one to welcome them, where even their own mothers are wondering before they are born how best they will be able to get rid of them, what chance have they? Over-ready to yield to alluring advertisements, or to take the advice of unscrupulous people, many of these mothers part with their babies—and incidentally with all the money at their command. In their desperation for concealment, they surely cannot realise that when they give their baby into the care of an "institution" or a "baby-farm," they are, in many cases, virtually signing its death warrant. In spite of laws formed to prevent the evils of baby-farming, who has not read from time to time of the sickening horrors hidden under the roofs of such places? The neglect, the starving, the disease, the slow killing of these little ones are only occasionally brought to public notice when in some glaring case too many deaths per year take place. Recent investigations made in the United States have disclosed a condition of things so overwhelmingly horrible as to be almost unbelievable. In one "institution" there, over eighty out of every hundred received die. Can you imagine the scenes in that place of baby torture? We spare you the details. Words seem so futile. But if those tiny, helpless tots have consciousness, their baby souls must appeal to Heaven to deliver them from so loveless a world as this.

Canada, like the rest of the British Empire, is woefully lacking in legislation for these little innocents, who surely are the least to blame for the position in which they find themselves in society. The whole system of dealing with the matter is wrong, and public opinion will soon be compelling the government to legislate these nameless children into the "rights," of which their parents have deprived them. The time has come when they must be freed from the stigma of bearing the sins of the father.

Several European nations are attempting to deal with this difficult problem. The general idea is to make the child a member of the State with the right to its protection and privileges, the child will be entitled to the name of its father and the latter will be required to support it as if it were legitimate—all of which might easily be adopted by Canada. Other suggestions, farther-reaching than these, are being placed before the public, many of them, of course, being extremely debatable. The main point is that those who are advocating the rights of the nameless child are viewing the subject from an angle different from that of the men who made the laws for men. They are endeavouring to eliminate selfishness—the curse of humanity—which is at the root of the evil and permeates the whole of it.

In the event of the impossibility of the personal super-

vision of the mother, some other mode of adoption should be established than that of "institutions" or "baby-farms." The latter are very often kept by women in the lowest grade of social life, and consequently the children are reared in an atmosphere of degradation. That these places are under local observation, and that the law requires the registration of children received is not enough. We would suggest that the State should have the supervision of the babies, that the State should find homes, Christian homes where they would be assured of a respectable bringing up, that the State should collect the maintenance money from the parents according to arrangement and distribute the required sum of money for the up-keep of the children. In short, they would become the wards of the State. There are many homes of small families where the mother would be glad to take the baby and bring it up with her own, under such conditions. Indeed, there are hundreds of unmarried women who cannot hope to marry, but within whom the maternal instinct is strong, who would welcome the opportunity of making a home for three or four children and bestowing their love upon them.

This is essentially a woman's question. We must banish prejudice and let our own true womanly selves act. For humanity's sake, we appeal to you who may read these lines to let your influence and your power be felt. For the sake of our Christian religion, which has taught us to have a proper regard for the sanctity of human life and to place an inestimable value upon an immortal soul, we appeal to you to heed the cry of the nameless innocents whose case calls loudly for justice.

DONNEGAL.

With soul black as a cloud,
And cursing God aloud,
Fled Donnegal.

Far from haunts of men,
To wild sequestered glen,
Sped Donnegal.

Beside an azure lake,
His burning thirst to slake,
Knelt Donnegal.

Within that mountain bowl,
He gazed and saw the soul,
Of Donnegal.

The outlaw thus betrayed,
Drank not, but knelt and prayed,
For Donnegal.

Years later, 'midst the stones,
Were found the bleached bones,
Of Donnegal.

His bones alone were there,
For God had heard the prayer,
Of Donnegal.

George Hopping.

GEO. T. WADDS
Photographer

337 Hastings Street West
Vancouver, B.C. SEYMOUR 1002

ACROSS CANADA BY THE NATIONAL

(Jottings by the Way).

By a Special Representative of the B. C. M.

There are said to be some places in Ireland today where it is not safe to acknowledge oneself a "Nationalist." However that may be, it is not only safe, but eminently comfortable and enjoyable to be a "Nationalist" in Canada when one has a transcontinental journey to make. Learned economists may differ as to the theoretical wisdom of Government ownership, but the ordinary traveller after even one experience of the new Canadian National line, will be content to believe that in practice the Government can meet the traveler's needs quite as effectively as can any privately owned corporation.

Leaving Vancouver at a convenient evening hour, from the palatial depot on Main Street (a pledge, we trust of the ultimate adornment of the whole reclaimed area of old False Creek flats) one enjoys a quiet hour "slowing down" after the bustle of departure.

The city slips by in glimpses of tramcars, vistas of gleaming streets, wet pavements reflecting and multiplying the lights; a minute or two at a busy junction, then the rumble of the heavy train over a great steel bridge, where one senses rather than sees the murky flood of the mighty Fraser; then the quiet and dark of the country, the rain drops still pattering on the car windows. One looks up to see the smiling face of the genial porter, and presently with curtains hung and lights subdued, one snuggles down in a most comfortable berth, the seasoned traveller to a sound night's sleep, the novice, perhaps, to listen to the noises of the speeding train, and far into the night to watch the fleeting lights that pass.

The morning's first light finds us following the beautiful valley of the Thompson, presently skirting Kamloops Lake, (an enlargement of the river), at the upper end of which the train stops for a moment close to the buildings of the Tranquille Sanitarium, where kindly welcome, encouragement and help are dispensed to many sufferers from the great "white plague". Then on we go to Kamloops, through a beautiful valley thickly dotted with fruit ranches, many of them irrigated, and producing, we are told, some of B. C.'s finest fruit. At Kamloops Junction the line swings up the valley of the North Thompson, and until midday that river is kept in view. One is struck by the numerous Cascades and waterfalls, representing vast resources of water power waiting to be harnessed to the wheels of industry and commerce. Here and there old fashioned log houses remind us that in this district we are nearer the primitive modes of life—far from the busy metropolis; while swaying wire bridges, crossing the river at intervals recall our own Capilano Canyon. In the afternoon we cross and recross the head-streams of at least five important rivers. A magnificent lumbering country, with great valleys of huge cedars, as yet untouched by the axe of the lumberjack. Later the mountains become more rocky and rugged and presently we are shown just where Mount Robson "lifts its majestic shoulders fourteen thousand feet, (more or less), into the clouds." This last phase may sound like poetic exuberance, but unfortunately, it is sometimes a sober fact, and we have to draw upon our remembrance of a former visit beneath more sunny skies, and imagine that, beyond yon grey impenetrable wall of cloud and mist those "majestic shoulders" aforesaid, really do "rise". Lucerne, the highest point on the National line is not far from Mount Robson, and ten miles farther on we cross the provincial boundary, and so "to bed" in Alberta.

The second morning one must rise betimes to get a little relaxation at Edmonton, where a fifty minute stop is scheduled. Already the mountains are left far behind, and the rolling grass country, dear to the heart of the stock-raiser, is in ev-

idence. In the station-yard at Edmonton, a real cow-boy performs various "stunts" with his lariat, roping a passing cyclist, throwing the rope into a whirling loop and jumping untouched through the loop, all much to the delight of an interested audience at the car windows. Out of Edmonton, East, the train runs to Winnipeg over the tracks of the Grand Trunk Pacific, stopping only at divisional points to change engines and crews. The day and night between these points will seem monotonous to some, especially perhaps to those who find delight in the varied scenery of mountain, stream and forest, with which B. C. abounds. But behind the seeming monotony of grass-land, summer fallow, and stubble is the romance of the world's daily bread. For here is the granary of an Empire! Time and again, as far as the eye can reach, we see row upon row,—mile-long row, and longer—of wheat in the "shook". Occasionally a late harvester is busy with the binder laying low the last of the standing grain. Much more often a hurrying group of teams, waggons and men, strive to keep supplied the hungry maw of a noisy "thresher" that, belching forth a dusty flood of straw and chaff from its long, chimney-like blower, upon a fast growing "stack" on the one side, pours a steady stream of clean golden wheat into the great grain-waggons, that, like army supply trains, "trek" across the prairie to the nearest elevator.

Who can help being stirred by such a sight! What visions it calls up! Think of the scores of huge elevators that store this golden flood, the hundreds of trains and ships that transport it safely over land and sea, the thousands of mill wheels

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that turn ceaselessly, day and night, to grind it into the finest flour, and the uncounted army of bakers and cooks that there-with feed a world of men and women and little children! A day and a night the speeding train needs to cross the wide-spread harvest fields of Alberta and Saskatchewan, and a good part of another day is gone before one sees the last of Manitoba's prairie farms! Small wonder that the eyes of land-hungry, war-tortured European peoples, turn more and more wistfully toward the golden "Land of Promise" in our Canadian West.

Six hours in Winnipeg our schedule allows, a very pleasant release from the strain of ever-changing landscape, the luxury of cushioned seats and the enervating relaxation of days of travel. The busy city streets soon revive one's sense of personal responsibility, more or less benumbed by the watchfulness of the porter's care; a glimpse into a store or two with their hurrying crowds of shoppers, each intent upon his own affairs, brings to life the home-seeking instinct, that grows into a sort of lonesomeness as one notes the thousands of unfamiliar faces, and realizes how much one can be alone in a crowd. And so the hours quickly pass and presently we make our way again to the commodious and well-equipped station of the National lines, and are soon comfortably "located" for the second lap of our journey. Right on the stroke of the clock, the long train pulls out and away we speed over Eastern Manitoba's prairie stretches, and before evening has fallen we have crossed the boundary into old Ontario.

The road runs far to the north of the beaten track near the great Superior, and almost a whole day is spent crossing the broad "hinterland" of newest Ontario, as yet the haunt of hunter and trapper, and the paradise of the summer sportsman. A settler's cabin here and there, with perhaps the beginning of a little farm, suggests the coming glory of this newly opened country. We amuse ourselves trying to pronounce the weird Indian names emblazoned on the noticeably new station buildings. Minatree, Ombabika, Opemisha, Opatatika and many others perpetuate the tongue of the red man who fished and hunted, fought and loved among these lakelets and hills and rocks. On another station board the name "Cavell" reminds us that the great world war was already history when these station names were being chosen—so new is this route. In the evening Cochrane is reached, a very busy railroad town, fast developing into a thriving commercial centre, nearly five hundred miles north of Toronto! Here our train leaves the main line of the Canadian National, and turns south on the last lap of our journey. Through the night we pass Liskeard, Haileybury, Cobalt, names that the world over suggest the hidden hoards of silver and nickle whose development is helping to give Canada her rightful place among the nations. Morning finds us at North Bay, and the rest of the journey is a pleasant succession of thrills, as one after another, scenes long ago familiar but half-forgotten in our Western wanderings, come to view again. The hours swiftly pass, and almost before we realize it we are running through seemingly endless lines of freight cars in the West Toronto yards, and the brakeman is calling in the car "Union Station next stop. All change!"

And so the journey ends and one is proud to think that we have a Canadian National Railway that can give us such care as we have enjoyed through the last five days and nights—a Railway destined to play no small part in the building up and unification of our National ideals and the development of our National resources.

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Lily of France Corset of plain pink coutil has an extremely low top with elastic insert, long hips and is lightly boned; a splendid corset for slender figures—\$9.00.

Lily of France Corset of dotted pink material designed with low bust and short hip, has short lacing in front, six hose supporters and is neatly finished at top with ribbon and lace. This is a highly desirable corset for short figures—\$13.50.

Lily of France Corset with an elastic top all round is provided with V gusset to give ease and spring in the shoulder—a long skirt model designed so as to confine the heavy hip and thigh with grace and comfort and to accentuate long slender lines. This corset is in pink brocade—\$16.50.

Lily of France Corset of pink brocade has low bust and long skirt is well boned throughout and is very attractively finished. A splendid model for average figures—\$21.00.

Other good models in Lily of France Corsets at \$7.75 to \$32.50.

—First Floor.

Criminal Identification by Finger Prints

By James Anderson, Inspector of Detectives — Now Chief Constable, Vancouver.

One of the most important branches of an up-to-date Police Department, and one on which a great deal of responsibility rests, is the Bureau of Criminal Identification, the work entailed being, for the most part, the protection of the public generally against the inroads of crooks of many callings, who eke out a precarious livelihood by preying on the gullibility of unsuspecting citizens.

These crooks rob residences, steal pocket books, forge names on cheques and other documents, and by many unlawful means become a menace to society and the public at large.

Such undesirable members of the underworld are duly tabulated, indexed and filed and all their past operations are recorded.

The work involves notes concerning their characteristics, modus operandi, associates, present location in penal institutions, their re-appearance and activities at their old familiar games, their re-arrest and convictions or dismissals in other cities.

In this age of progress and adaptability, where the hunted, in most cases, have the advantage of the hunter, the most modern methods have to be adopted to cope with the ever increasing cleverness of the crook, and a fresh study is necessary to counteract his ability and vigilance in getting away with his loot and transferring his operations to another district or city, should he be successful in making a rich haul.

The Methods of Former Years.

In former years the police had to depend mostly on meagre descriptions of the culprit, such as his height, color of hair and general appearance, and it is a matter of record that no two men or body of men or women can give the same description of any one person, or agree upon his or her height, probable weight, etc.

As time went on, much progress was made in identification methods. Photos were taken and now form what is known as "The Rogue's Gallery." Those photos have proved a great help in rounding up suspected persons and still form an important adjunct in the identification of criminals.

Photos, however, are oft times misleading, and a change in styles, the addition of whiskers or shaving off a mustache pre-

viously worn, makes photos rather unreliable when depended on entirely.

It was in 1880 that Professor Bertillon, of the Paris Police department introduced his famous antropometric system of identification, by measuring certain parts of the human body, namely height, arms outstretched, trunk, head length, head width, length of right ear, left foot, left little finger and left fore-arm.

The Bertillon system was widely adopted and did considerable service in identification matters, but, owing to the latitude allowed, or rather pursued, by those responsible for the accurate measurement of prisoners, and the complexity of filing, the system has not shown the infallibility claimed for it although many institutions in the United States must of necessity still depend on this old system for old records.

A System That Saves Uncertainty.

All this uncertainty, however, vanished when Sir Edward Henry introduced the present system, the finger print system, and now we have the real, positive and infallible means of identification, for, "The finger print never varies, never can be duplicated."

Every human being on the earth's surface has upon the digits of their own hands ten signatures of their own special identity which can never be forged or duplicated by anyone in the world.

There are no two finger prints alike, even the impressions taken from the different fingers of the same person are vastly different.

If one looks at the under surface of the first joint of his thumb and fingers he will observe a network of hair-like lines, which turn and twist and revolve around, and, when that part of the finger or thumb is brought into contact with ink, blood or any liquid substance, then pressed on paper, certain filigree patterns are produced—every pattern complete in itself and with its own details and characteristics.

There are a great variety of these patterns, and, with the method of classification in use, these are segregated into groups, having numerical values, according to their location on the various digits. These patterns are given names, Arches, Loops, Whorls, Composites and Accidentals, the last

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two named being composed of mixed patterns, the whole being summed up in a formula under which they are filed.

Unlike the Bertillon method, there is no uncertainty in the Finger Print System of Identification. The expert has only facts to consider, and can only report on his formula simply what he finds.

In making a comparison the lines of identification are either there or they are absent, and the simplicity of the system is its chief asset.

Patterns Persist from the Cradle to the Grave.

If two prints are identical in every hair line and every particular, they were made by the same person; if they are different they were not made by the same person, and any of these combinations of patterns can be located in a few seconds if properly classified and filed, no matter under what assumed name or names the finger print form may arrive, the expert searcher can produce its duplicate if he has it, in the short space of time mentioned, and, no matter how many years after the first set of prints have been taken, the Ridges, Bifurcations and all the characteristics will be found to be identical, for the same patterns in all their detail, persist from the cradle to the final disintegration of the body.

Only recently the writer found a duplicate in all its perfection after eleven years. A prisoner whose prints he had taken in the early part of 1909, was again arrested in 1920 under an entirely different name, and identification was established beyond doubt by this method.

So it is that a man in custody with a past record, and whose finger prints have been then taken, submits with great reluctance to the operation being again performed, as he knows full well that his identity can be proved so that his unsavoury past will be disclosed, and perhaps taken into consideration by the trial judge when sentence is passed.

Photos may be misleading but the accused man knows and dreads the merciless accuracy of the finger prints, and gives any city having an up-to-date bureau a wide berth.

The Attitude of Prisoners.

It happens, however, that, after having been identified, the majority of prisoners usually enter pleas of guilty and save the Province many thousands of dollars by avoiding a trial by jury, and incidentally a long wait in jail, at the expense of the government before that trial would take place.

With finger prints being exchanged monthly with the largest cities in Canada and the United States, the Vancouver Bureau of Identification has gained an enviable reputation in the Criminal Identification world, identifications being of daily occurrence and a closer check of all undesirable visitors to the city is made possible by the large number of prints received from outside points.

In addition to the enormous amount of work which all this detail renders necessary, many identifications have been made and convictions secured from latent prints taken from impressions left on glass, etc., at the scenes of crimes by careless burglars.

A Case in Point.

A case in point was a finger print mark left on a glass case which had been rifled of its contents after being taken from an antique store on Granville street, Vancouver. The empty case was found in a lane at the rear of the premises burglarized, and, on being brought to police headquarters, a rather well-defined though not complete finger print was found thereon.

This was photographed and enlarged, the print corresponding in every detail with that of a man arrested for another offence, who, on being confronted with this evidence, realized the hopelessness of his defence (as also did his attorney) and a plea of guilty was then entered in the burglary charge, for which he was promptly sentenced.

(Continued on Page 14.)

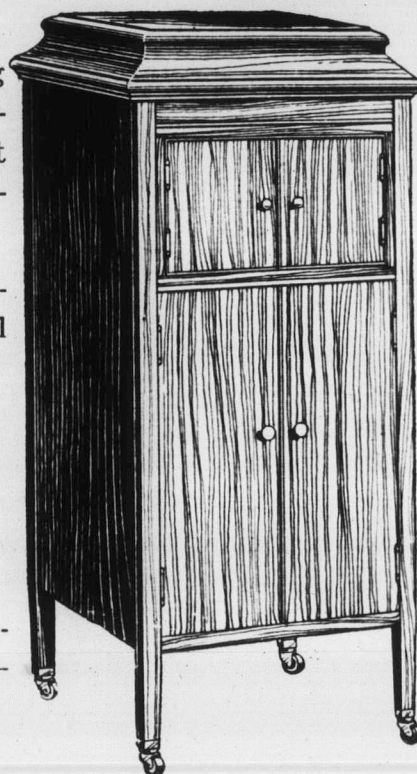
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The Wayside Philosopher

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INAPT SAYINGS.

At the Hon. Mackenzie King's Vancouver meeting our Attorney General was peculiarly unfortunate in his language, or else his expectations are not particularly happy.

From one statement we can infer that he expects to wander in the political wilderness under King's leadership for many weary years.

From a second we can infer that in the forthcoming Federal election, be it when it may, the Liberal party are going down to defeat. As long as defeat is the fate the Liberals meet not even the most ungenerous opponent will begrudge their going down "with colours flying" because "nailed to the mast."

Be more cheerful in your outlook, Mr. Attorney General, or Mr. King will seek comfort in other quarters.

But the Attorney General is not alone in his inaptitude or his pessimism. What of the Moderationist advocate who advises us that he is discharging "my Parthian Shaft." Prohibitionists, at least, will rejoice in the fact that this man is admittedly running away.

VANCOUVER'S MILK SUPPLY.

One of the most unfortunate matters in local experience is the change in the Vancouver milk situation by which the milk is graded and four presumed grades of milk are placed on the market at varying prices.

That any grading of milk on the scale or plan arranged for by the Dairies and notified to the Public is dishonest, goes without saying.

In the production of milk there could be no such range of difference between the milk of the poorest dairy's cow a farmer could afford to keep and the best.

The grading then, is not a natural one, but is artificial. In order to carry out such a classification, there can only be an abstraction of food value by the dairies in the lower grades of milk offered. No dairyman or farmer can increase, the food value of a cow's milk. What experience teaches to be the fact is that the two lower grades of milk are denuded of a great deal of food value by some process of which the dairymen, no doubt, are fully advised.

The serious feature of the situation is that many of our children depend for their nourishment on dairy milk. At the present time their parents must pay 14 or 16 cents per quart for milk which is lacking in nourishment and which, except for the small quantity at the top of the bottle, means a weakening of the vital force of any child partaking of it. Such a situation should call for immediate and drastic action by the properly constituted authorities.

It might be difficult to suggest, offhand, a remedy that could not be evaded by some method of trickery, but if the dairymen were compelled to sell as their lowest standard and at the lowest price now fixed in their scale, a milk which should equal in food value the milk of the average Holstein cow, (itself not the most valuable food producer) there would be some guarantee that our children would get proper nourishment from any milk purchased under this regulation.

One has only to contrast the milk offered for sale by any of the Vancouver Dairymen at 14 or 16 cents per quart with the milk of an average cow to see how greatly the people are being robbed under the present conditions.

We interest ourselves greatly (and rightly) in the health of our children. Will our interest carry us sufficiently far to meet the present intolerable state of affairs.

THE PROHIBITION REFERENDUM.

Before this reaches print the referendum on Prohibition and Government Control will have been held. From the writer's standpoint it is to be hoped that the Prohibition Act will have been sustained. Whether it is or not some interesting features of the campaign are worth noting.

First, in the referendum issue we have to observe a concrete legislative Act placed in opposition to a theory. True the Moderationists suggested a partial method affecting only the party administering the traffic if Prohibition were defeated. The Premier of British Columbia refuses to accept their suggestion but confines himself to saying that the government and it alone will dictate the provisions of the Government Control Act if it should be necessary. It will be interesting to note how many intelligent electors in British Columbia are willing to go blindfold into the unknown.

Second, we had, particularly on the Moderationist side, a number of speakers whose only experience with Prohibition was in British Columbia mostly under war time conditions. What Messrs. Ian McKenzie, J. H. Senkler, B. G. Walker, H. McVety, Mrs. Crossfield and practically every other Moderationist speaker knew from personal experience of the workings of the Prohibition Act is a decidedly interesting question. "Nothing" is the best answer. On the other hand Rev. J. Richmond Craig and one or two other Prohibition speakers were equally devoid of experience in actual conditions in Prohibition territory other than B. C. conditions.

Third, we had the resultant confusion of the issues. We had the "Bone Dry" issue thrust into the fight and the Prohibition Act treated not as a preventive of liquor selling and drunkenness, but as a step to a "bone dry" referendum or legislation. Against that we had the "personal liberty" issue of the Moderationists. We had other equally farcical cries from the same source.

Fourthly, we had the amusing repetition of attempted defences of alcohol and the use of liquor as a beverage which have done duty in so many anti-Prohibition campaigns during the last 35 years; questions raised that were definitely settled by authentic and official medical and scientific investigation and determination in some cases at least 15 years ago.

It was somewhat hard to believe that men like Capt. Reid, Rev. Messrs. Hooper, Perrin and others, would be uninformed on the question they sought to discuss. In the past ignorance like theirs has caused the public to deny the cause for which they fought. (May British Columbia electors have been equally sensible.)

Lastly, we have had the Bible involved on behalf of Moderation and we have had the Marriage Feast at Cana of Galilee, Paul's "little wine for the stomach's sake," etc., brought in to prove that Prohibition was worse than Government Control. Apart from the evident fact that the parties quoting had never seriously studied their quotations the absurdity of their relating their quotations to such an issue is to apparent to merit discussion.

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"BE BRITISH," COLUMBIANS!

Vol. XVII.

OCTOBER, 1920.

No. 1.

Both Sides Surprised

Explanations of all kinds will likely be given of the extraordinary vote recorded in the plebiscite throughout British Columbia. We believe that a good portion of the big majority probably voted not so much FOR the alternative as AGAINST the social conditions created by the Act.

If it be the case, as one earnest citizen phrased it, that one result of the conditions created by the condemned Act was that "Society was just seething with deceit and hypocrisy," it may be that the route of further social reform in the use of liquor will be found in other ways.

Without wishing to be in any way associated with a "prophet of evil," we hold it quite conceivable that many citizens and homes may learn anew by harrowing experience that all who become addicted to using intoxicating liquors in excess, begin as "moderate drinkers," and are, to that extent, "moderationists."

Among the thousands who voted in the minority, many may have questioned whether it was advisable to attempt at this stage to enforce a total prohibition Act, and yet have voted against "Government Control and sale" with the conviction that such a course was likely to put any Government into a position sure to prove testing to the strongest.

NOW SELECT YOUR GOVERNMENT.

Accordingly, notwithstanding the result of the plebiscite, we dare to repeat the question—"Who wants Political Publicans?" There is too much reason to believe that under the Party system both parties, by the very basis of their existence, methods of working and conditions of success, come under obligations to men, individually and in groups, so that, from "Cabinet" members down, merit and special fitness are seldom the main, and almost never the only basis of consideration in the award of Government positions; which are usually regulated by the amount of political "pull" that can be exercised through "service to the PARTY."

Such is the inevitable sequel to the party system, to which some folk think, and strong party men say, there can not easily be any alternative.

LET POLITICIANS PASS—AND STATESMEN ARRIVE

Yet if the governing of a country is as much a "business" as that of any big corporation or national concern, why should not the people seek to have it composed of men who are, by business experience and acquired social position, best qualified to "represent" them?

An election in British Columbia is a certainty in the near future. After having tried (in office, of course) representatives of each side, the independent citizens of Brit-

ish Columbia would do well to consider selecting a "slate" of leading citizens and business men (with or without party affiliations) whose integrity and capacity are unquestioned, and find out how many of them agree that the time for mere "politicians" has passed or is passing, and that the hour is ripe, or fast ripening, when "Statesmen" with a vision backed by practical experience should "arrive?"

In each party there are no doubt a few men whose ability and experience should not be overlooked. But the sooner we have Proportional Representation and the pick of the BEST for government business and statescraft, the better it will be for this **British Province with the World-influencing location.**

A CHARGE AGAINST THE NEWSPAPERS.

"All the newspapers are interested in is what they can get out of a candidate. . . . Here you never get a blessed thing from newspapers except by advertisements they are well paid for."

These words were spoken this month by an ex-Alderman of Vancouver at a Bureau meeting of a leading organization. Between the sentences quoted he added that he would say that before the representative or Editor of any paper.

It happened that no newspaper representative was present, though one came in to the meeting as it was about to close.

The criticism carried with it an implication, if not a direct statement, that the papers were not interested in a candidate's platform or civic service unless in so far as these contributed to their coffers.

Many may hold that the charge is too sweeping. Though it goes without saying (in British communities if not in those of the United States) that magazines are in a different class from "papers" we should not like to believe that our kinsmen of the Dailies can all be so stigmatized with truth.

"WHAT'S IN A NAME?"

It is perhaps unfortunate that the smaller but by no means unimportant municipalities adjacent to Vancouver City,—"South Vancouver" to the south, "North Vancouver" across Burrard Inlet and "West Vancouver," also across the Inlet and nearer Puget Sound, should have been so named. As the words must naturally suggest to strangers, Vancouver, South, North and West, respectively, as portions of the one city.

It is probable that they will all become so in fact within a generation—when there have been completed (1) the absorption of South Vancouver; (2) the Second Narrows bridge; (3) the First Narrows tunnel, and (possibly) (4) a ten minutes suburban circuit service by aeroplane, etc.

LIGHT AND SHADE IN VANCOUVER'S "WEST END."

Meantime, in dealing with things as they are, we think it well to emphasize that it is more than time that the civic powers—that be in Vancouver City should give attention to the lack of light and the superabundance of shade that obtain in various streets and blocks in the city's West-End.

The season when, so far as man's understanding of climatic changes and conditions is concerned, we must still undergo occasional experiences of fog, is almost upon us again, and the poorly-lighted blocks and dark lane crossings are an incentive to "hold-ups." Here and there there are street blocks with only one electric light at an end, while many untrimmed trees, often so close as to tend to obscurity even after autumn has justified its continental name of "The Fall," may remind the reflective wayfarer of marked passages in Shakespeare such as:

"How often times the sight of means to do ill deeds
Makes ill-deeds done!"

Let the Vancouver City Lighting Department wake up!

STREET NAMES AND HOUSE NUMBERS?

In the same connection it is timely to advocate some clearer method of marking the names of streets and avenues. Shortly after reaching Vancouver an old country student, on finding the street marking method in vogue—of cutting the names in the concrete pavement, asked (in anti-prohibition days) if that system was for the convenience of citizens who felt their way home in the dark?

But why should not Vancouver City lead in a street-name-lighting system?

Then while the city looks after the corporate interests, citizens individually might be asked to give attention to some number identification system. A light on the verandah which showed the number of the house, would have the double advantage of increasing the light in the street or block and otherwise enlightening the callers or enquirers unfamiliar with the neighbourhood.

MR. BOWSER AND THE RESOURCES OF B. C.

In the last issue we had a reference to the versatility of the Attorney-General, Mr. Farris, who happens to be a member of the Vancouver Kiwanis Club. In the meantime, it was interesting to find that Mr. W. J. Bowser had been invited to address that organization on the "Resources of British Columbia."

One feature of the meeting (at luncheon) was the happy way in which Mr. Roy Long, Kiwanian President, who is, we understand, attached to the "other party," introduced the speaker of the day.

Lawyers, like ministers, have an advantage over other business or professional men, in that their regular work keeps them more or less in practice in public speaking, and tends to that measure of confidence—not to say assurance—that is itself so important an adjunct to effective speaking that it may sometimes lend to forcefulness in utterance a merit not due to the matter. But when, as in the case of "Roy", we have a lawyer with literary leanings, enthusiastic in his exposition of the ideals of Service and Fellowship, and devoted to making the Club he heads a real power in the community, we have a citizen of whom still more should be heard.

The difficulty that Independents have with political Party men is that often they become so "hide-bound" in their attachment to their own party that they will allow nothing but merit to belong to their own men, and little but the reverse to be attached to those on the other side. Politically, Mr. Bowser lacks not for opponents and critics as well as friends.

But any stranger who heard him expound the possibilities and outline the resources of British Columbia could not have avoided being impressed as the ex-Premier warmed to his subject, and convinced that here is a man who believes in British Columbia, and who with his strong personality should yet do good work for the Province, whether among the "Ins" or the "Outs."

Like Premier Oliver, Mr. Bowser visited the Peace River country during the past summer, and he had much that was of interest to say of that vast territory,—which is no doubt destined to have a steadily-increasing connection with the Pacific Coast.

A NOTEWORTHY REPORT ON ELECTRIC RAILWAYS.

Foresight in community welfare is not met with as often as hindsight but a report made recently by a commission sitting at Washington, D. C. shows a unique and uncanny ability to read the future of a modern city's transportation facilities.

In the summer of 1919, President Wilson of the United States, in response to a request from his secretaries of commerce and labor, appointed a commission to inquire into the conditions of the electric railways of the country, which conditions had become so serious owing to a variety of causes that the public was suffering a disruption of their service. The president appointed Charles E. Elmquist, president of the national association of Railway and Utilities Commissioners, as chairman of the commission and a number of leading figures in public affairs as members thereof. This commission recently made a report and while it pointed out the causes for the condition of electric railways of which there are 44,835 in the United States and of which 8612 miles have been abandoned or junked or are in the hands of receivers, the commission rendered a constructive report intended to replace the electric railways as efficient, progressive carriers, fulfilling an important public service.

That electric railways are essential to community development, that they must expand with the growth of communities and that their credit must be restored are several of the conclusions arrived at. Of the causes which have brought electric railways to their present condition, only passing mention can be made. The report does not absolve past managements from responsibility for financial excesses nor present managements from their duty to give efficient service. But it points out that fixed fares, special taxation and automobile competition have been large contributors to the financial condition of this public utility.

Having made these observations on causes, the commission turns its back upon the past and looks to the future of cities which depend upon electric railways for transportation and recommends the elimination of public antagonism as a means of restoring credit, so that electric railways may attract new capital for extensions and improvements. It recommends also that labor give its full co-operation, that labor disputes be settled voluntarily or by arbitration so that the transportation service of a city should not be subjected to paralysis.

A chapter of the report is devoted to the subject of regulation but it is not to question the advisability of regulation so much as to recommend the mode of regulation, which it declares should be flexible enough to enable the railways to obtain revenues sufficient to pay the entire cost of the service rendered, including the necessary cost of both capital and labor.

On the whole the report is constructed always with the object in view of securing for the public the necessary service. "The first essential" it says, "is service to the public. Due recognition of this fact will secure to the investor a safe return upon his investment and to the public uninterrupted operation."—Reviewer.

Provincial Election Coming

The Provincial Legislature has been dissolved and an election will be held on Wednesday, December 1, 1920.

The Liberal administration appeals to the electorate for re-election in the firm confidence that the record of the past four years of safe, sane and progressive administration of the affairs of British Columbia has met with the approval of every man and woman who has the best interests of the Province at heart.

The future policy of the Oliver Government will be to continue its progressive work in every department with the idea of developing the vast natural resources of British Columbia for the general benefit of the people.

VOTE For Liberal
Candidates
December 1

The Origin of the Y.M.C.A.

By I. Macdonald.

One of the great institutions which have marked the growth of city life is the Y. M. C. A. With the industrial revolution in England, toward the middle of the last century, there sprang up the urgent need for a foster parent that would care for the moral and spiritual welfare of the youth of the nation in its migration from rural to city life.

Foremost among the men to grasp this situation was George Williams, a young man engaged in the drapery business in London. Williams was a native of Dulverton in Somerset. At the age of sixteen he became converted, and four years later, in 1841, he took up his abode in London, where he gained employment as a clerk in a dry goods establishment facing St. Paul's Churchyard. After a few years diligently spent in seeking the spiritual welfare of his fellow workers—some eighty in number—he organized in 1844 a society known as the "Young Men's Christian Association," the name being suggested by his room-mate, Christopher Smith. This association was designed to be "A society for improving the spiritual condition of young men engaged in the drapery and other trades."

The constitution of the Association provided that its membership should be composed of those who gave decided evidence of religious conversion, and to this end prayer meetings and Bible classes were established in fourteen different business houses in the city and in January, 1845, a special missionary was appointed to young men.

Thus at its inception the Y. M. C. A. was essentially a religious organization. Young men of no religious profession might enjoy the privileges of the institution upon payment of a small fee, but were barred from any participation in its management.

One year after its organization, in 1845, apartments were rented which included a library, reading-room, restaurant, social parlors, etc. Educational classes were provided and a lecture course established which became in time the most important lecture platform in London.

In 1894, on the occasion of the Association's jubilee, Williams was knighted. Though he is generally credited with being the organizer of the first Y. M. C. A., the idea of such an institution seems to have originated with David Naismith who at an earlier date had founded city missions in London and Glasgow and in 1824 established the Glasgow Young Men's Society for Religious Improvement, "a movement which spread to various parts of the United Kingdom, France and America: later the name was changed to the Glasgow Young Men's Christian Association."—(Enc. Brit.)

Whether because of its twenty years' start or not, the institution appears to have taken a greater hold in Scotland than elsewhere in Britain, as in 1910 there were two hundred and twenty-six associations there as against four hundred in England, Ireland and Wales.

It was not until 1851 that the work of organizing the Y. M. C. A. commenced in North America, the first association of the kind being established in Montreal and later in Boston and New York. The association was destined to meet with spectacular success in America.

"North America contains approximately one quarter of the total number of associations in the world, one half of the total number of employed officers, and three quarters of the total value of buildings and equipment."—(The Enc. of Social Reform).

Although Germany lays claim to more associations than any other country, the Y. M. C. A. has admittedly reached its greatest development in the United States where "the associations have been built on a broad basis and worked with enterprise and business skill. Thus they have been able to se-

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cure the generous support of many of the leaders of commerce. America has over 1900 associations, and the total membership is 456,000. In Greater Britain the associations are numerous and flourishing, and Canada has 35,000 members. There are many active associations in Switzerland, Norway, Denmark and the Netherlands and indeed the Y. M. C. A. is now well known all over the world. Even in Japan, China and Korea there are 150 branches with a membership of nearly 12,000. The value of the association buildings all over the world is £11,940,00 (America £8,900,000; Greater Britain, £1,912,00; United Kingdom, £1,128,000).—(Enc. Brit.)

A great expansion took place in the development of the Y. M. C. A. during the War and doubtless the above figures might be greatly enlarged upon at the present date.

In 1855 its sister institution, the Young Women's Christian Association, was started in England by two ladies almost simultaneously. In the south of England Miss Robarts organized a prayer union "with a purely spiritual aim," at the same time that Lady Kinnaird was beginning "the practical work of opening homes and institutions for young women in business" in London. These two branches were united in 1877 under the name of the Young Women's Christian Association, whose object runs parallel to that of the Young Men's Christian Association, viz: "the all-round welfare—spiritual, moral and physical—of its members and its guests, and the provision of such comforts as will benefit the young womanhood of our great cities." Its total membership is well over half a million.

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Fruit Picking in B. C.

From a Picker's Point of View.

It was my fourth season at fruit picking and on my first morning as I looked over at my nearest "bunk" companion, I wondered how we would "mix" this year. As I had worked before for the same farmer I knew fairly well how things had to be done, so that I had not to contend with the fear of the unknown.

While I adjusted my overalls I knew that I was saying "goodbye" to their spotless beauty. We started work at 7 a.m., so we had to be up about 6 a.m. to make breakfasts and tidy up. The raspberries were beginning to ripen fast, but just at first most of us did not pick more than a crate a day. In the height of the season we picked much quicker. We had a "carrier" tied round our waists, in which was a basket. When the basket was full it was put into a tray with a handle. After we had filled two trays we took them to the packing shed, where we got our cards "punched" for the amount picked. The dinner hour was at noon, and, as there was not much time for cooking, the meal was generally simple.

The hours always seemed hottest and longest in the afternoon but we were very fortunate as we had tea taken out to us about 4 p.m. We all gathered then in the packing shed and when the mosquitoes were at their worst the scene was quite funny. As of course we had to remove our mosquito veils for tea drinking, we learned to be quite expert in the matter. There was generally a "smudge" lit, but it did not seem to affect the mosquitoes as much as the humans.

As there was quite a variety of fruit on the farm we often had a change in our work. Raspberries, blackberries, strawberries, loganberries, cherries, plums, etc. claimed our attention. There was a well near our shack, grateful thoughts of which linger in remembrance for it was the coldest of water on the hottest of days, and the path leading to it under the trees was edged with ferns, some of which were "maiden-hair."

The prettiest thing that I saw while in the country was a humming bird's nest. It was hidden in a blackberry row. There were two little birds in it and it was most wonderfully made. One very hot Sunday, our employer kindly hired a car and we went for a ride. We were taken round by an island which had suffered from the Fraser river being in flood, and a good many of the roads were under water. The cattle were mostly standing around "smudges" burned for their benefit.

Our work day generally ended at 6 p.m., though when the fruit was very plentiful we worked later. As the season was short I was only there about six weeks. My working days were about five weeks and I cleared \$50 in that time. But I am also richer for the friendships made, and for happy memories that remain.—"Picker."

PIERRE OF THE NORTH WOODS: A Romance

By Robert B. Forsythe, Cranbrook and Victoria, B. C.

Chapter II.

"You do not know the new trapper in the Gulch?" Jacques asked some evenings later when he had stopped to smoke a pipe with Pierre at his cabin.

"Non, I thought mebbe he be your friend," he continued. "He ask so many question what like you look, how you talk, until I say b'gosh you ask more question than a woman—oui," concluding his speech with an emphatic movement of his head as of one who has sounded all the vagaries of the opposite sex.

"And then?"

"And then he say he come out to see you."

"And he will come?" Pierre asked glad to meet a friend of Jacques.

"If M'sieur Pierre does not mind so plenty," he say and he bow so low and look so solemn that I laugh."

But the visit of which Jacques had spoken was delayed for there followed a week of storm, of snow-flakes swirled into deep windrows until scarcely the tree tops looked forth upon the wastes of snow and the only access to the still world of whiteness was through the shuttered window by which Pierre was glad to escape from his entombment.

"It is the trapper in the valley who will suffer mos'," Jacques remarked, relieved to find Pierre once more in communication with the outer world.

"And you think he will not be safe?" Pierre asked.

"He will most likely starve unless he have plenty to eat in the cabin. There is much snow in the Gulch and the cabin almost buried at any time, is now under one beeg mountain of snow. He is new to the woods."

The danger of the new trapper of Devil's Gulch being thus a certainty Pierre and Jacques set forth to relieve the interned man as speedily as possible. Secure in his woodsman's sense of locality Jacques succeeded in locating the cabin and the work of relief began without delay.

Little by little the Snow King gave ground and when the roof had been cleared the outline of the cabin was disclosed, they burrowed with the dilligence of beavers for the entrance.

Their efforts were at last rewarded. The door swung open admitting the light from above into the semi-darkness of the room.

From the bed of skins in the corner a very weak voice spoke.

"La Diable. Ha' I thought he would come but—M'sieu Diable I haf had so little to eat last week, so very little, I shall be a light burden to you. Ha' Ha' Do you not thank me?"

"Mon Dieu," exclaimed Pierre, advancing into the room. "It is Prosper—Prosper my half-brother," gasping with astonishment.

"The new trapper, thy brother." Jacques said with incredulity.

But Jacques, as he looked upon the face of the entombed trapper perceived that it was thin to emaciation and that the eyes were staring out from their sockets with a wierd ghost-like stare.

The voice of Prosper was so weak that the words were hardly recognizable as his gaze rested upon Pierre.

"Ha' who is this? Le Diable himself—the image of Pierre—fool that he was."

His eyes roamed unseeingly the walls of the room until fastening his gaze upon Jacques he went on:

"I fool them all, the old priest, Madeline, only Pierre he knew, he knew—an' he never tell. They were the simple folk, the infants-in-arms I call them. I grow tired of them and I leave them all. Then I go to visit Pierre and send him back

to the old priest who say he will never forgive me if anything happen to his Pierre and to Madeline, but non, non, I look in at the window and then I cannot go—I turn away in the snow to woods."

Wolfish hunger burned in the eyes of Prosper. In moments of consciousness he begged weakly for food, then lapsing into delirium he talked wildly of Pierre, the priest and Madeline.

Since the cabin was without food both Jacques and Pierre realized that if Prosper's life were to be saved no time must be lost and improvising a stretcher of poles covered with bear skins, crawling, sinking, stumbling under the weight of Prosper they brought him over the ridge and down the trail to Pierre's cabin on the knoll.

Here such aid as a trapper's cabin could afford was administered to Prosper but to the eyes of both watchers it was apparent after a brief time that Prosper was not rallying so far undermined was his strength by exposure and starvation.

On the afternoon of the second day, Jacques, bending over him observed that the delirium had passed and that he was looking about him with the wonder eyes of a child.

"Where is this?" he asked, his voice rising scarcely above a whisper.

Then, "Mon Dieu, Pierre, that you—mais oui, Pierre. I have been dreaming," making an effort to rise.

For a moment the intervening years seemed to slip back and once again as in boyhood Pierre was the protector of Prosper.

"It—it is—I, Prosper," he exclaimed, throwing his arms about the neck of the other.

"Non, non," Prosper cried, weakly repulsing him, "I am not worthy. I—Prosper—I was Le Diable."

There was silence for a few minutes then Prosper whispered: "It was I, Prosper, who stole the money and now Madeline she know—I boast—"

His voice trailed off into weariness and was lost amid the gathering Shadows like a little travelled path amidst the pines in the deep gloom of mountain valleys.

"I—I did—care for her—mon Pierre, but it was you—you that she love always."

The fireplace cast weird shadows throughout the room, strange idly moving shapes that stole across the room like the shadows which slipping from the mountain sides seek the valleys as day declines.

With his remaining strength Prosper sought to break the cord from which the silver cross at his neck hung. He looked meaningly at Pierre who bending over him caught the words:

"The cross—Pierre—the cross of the priest—he send—to you—"

Suddenly his hand was outstretched in greeting and he spoke as one who, looking far into the shadows, sees emerge a familiar form.

"Ah, mon Pere—c'est—toi. Thou hast forgiven Prosp—"

His hand fumbled weakly at the silver cross about his neck.

A pine knot fell clattering to the ashes sending forth its shaft of light to the couch where Pierre knelt by the side of his brother. Jacques glancing at the form of Prosper, perceived that he had slipped away upon the long lone Trail.

L'Envoi:—Thus did Prosper in his death find peace, and Pierre, by the death of Prosper, happiness. And when winter had passed and spring, trailing her mantle of green, stole gypsy-like through the wood ways touching here and there the drooping fingers of the trees until they flushed with buoyant life, Pierre, led by the impulse of his strong young life, journeyed back to St. Anne Du Lac, and Madeline did not wait for him in vain.

CRIMINAL IDENTIFICATION BY FINGER PRINTS.

(Continued from Page 6)

Another interesting case was that of three small finger prints left on part of a pane of glass which had been broken in a rear window when a New Westminster store was burglarized and a quantity of goods stolen. The prints were found by a New Westminster officer on his arrival at the scene of the burglary, and fortunately preserved, being later brought to the Vancouver station. On being photographed and enlarged, they were found to be identical with those of a Chinaman who had been previously convicted in Vancouver and whose finger prints were on file here.

The foregoing prints were well defined and the whole case was most interesting in all its details.

The Difficulty—Securing Clear Impressions.

The great difficulty is to secure anything like good, clear prints at the scene of a crime, as the culprit in his hurry to secure his booty and get away, usually smudges any impressions he leaves behind by undue pressure, or sliding movements of his finger tips, which renders the marks often indecipherable, leaving no basis for purposes of comparison or classification.

Where, however, good clear finger prints are discernable to the naked eye, they are a source of extreme satisfaction to the expert, and quite the reverse to the thief, should his prints be on file in the finger print cabinet, for no evidence is quite so conclusive, or so free from any manner of doubt as the testimony presented by two prints made by the same person under different circumstances, and which could have been made by no other person.

Adaptability of the System to Modern Life.

With the adoption of the finger print method and its infallibility as a means of personal identification, its adaptability to many branches of industry and commerce is, in the writer's opinion, only a matter of time.

At present, because the mind of the public is apt to associate finger prints with criminals only, a feeling prevails that to have one's finger prints taken would be nothing short of being disgraced. This feeling would entirely disappear were the benefits derived from such a course realized in the ordinary life and business of the community.

Take, for instance, the matter of forging a name on a cheque. Were you to put your thumb print on a deposit slip when opening your account at your bank, and make a rule to duplicate the same on every cheque you issue or presented for payment, a forgery would be impossible, for, no matter how clever the forgery of the signature, without the finger print impression corresponding to that on the deposit slip the cheque would be worthless.

The same applies to all documents, insurance, wills, contracts, voters' lists, etc.; for who would presume to impersonate a voter at the polling booth if the finger prints of the real voter were in the possession of the returning officer, who could determine in ten seconds whether the would-be voter was the original or not.

Consider how many suicides there are who have been buried at the city's expense, nameless paupers, whose identities could have been established in a short time and sorrowing relatives had at least the sad satisfaction of knowing the worst had their finger prints been on record.

Commendable Action by the U. S.

At the entrance of the United States into the Great War every soldier and sailor was finger-printed and as a result the number of unidentified dead was reduced to almost nil—an outstanding example also being the loss of the "Tuscania"

many of the victims of that disaster being found with absolutely no sign of identification upon their bodies.

Under war department orders finger prints of all these victims were taken and their identity readily established.

In the U. S. during 1918, 40,000 unidentified dead bodies were buried, and during the same period fifty bodies were identified through the finger print method in New York.

Again, finger prints would be invaluable in the case of people suffering from loss of memory, who have forgotten their names, missing persons, children exchanged at birth, the entrance of undesirable immigrants and the like, and, although mostly utilized for the purpose of checking up past records and detection of criminals by the police, they would be equally a safeguard of innocence to those wrongfully suspected of crime.

Signatures can be forged, but the whorls, loops and waves which constitute the impressions of each person's fingers, when inked and transferred to paper, form a number of filigree patterns which cannot be forged by any other person in the world, for upon the fingers of every human in the world, irrespective of race, creed or color, are the indelible signs and signatures of their own identity.

When the Mistake is Yours, Help Correct it

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

If you hang up the receiver without acknowledging your error, the operator gets the blame when she tells the other party that "there's no one on the line."

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POOR RELATIONS

Thomas Allardyce Brough.

We are safe in saying that in every age and in every land the poor relation has been commonly considered an inconvenience and discomfort to his more fortunate kinsmen. And however successfully individuals may at times escape the mute appeal or the shameless importunity of the unfortunate, the community can not escape, but must meet the demand to the uttermost farthing. Our best and wisest are they who cherish a spirit of mercy and considerateness, and at the same time use every means to enable the apparently helpless to help themselves. In dealing with all who fail to measure up to the required standard the community in its action should suggest the superman in sympathy, helpfulness, wise guidance and control.

Careful investigation goes to show that in a province like British Columbia over three per cent of the population have come into the world handicapped, mentally deficient, if not worse. Economically the members of this class tend to remain throughout life a charge upon others. This is serious enough. But when we are assured that although numbering under four per cent of our entire population they nevertheless furnish from thirty to sixty per cent of the inmates of our jails and asylums and of our unfortunate sisters of the street, the problem presenting itself to every thinking person is truly appalling.

What is the cure? There is none. We may, indeed, "minister to a mind diseased," and bring about alleviation and improvement, but science is helpless to bring to average efficiency a mental outfit congenitally defective. Keeping this in mind we can still do much.

We must in the first place guard the portals of our country much more jealously than we have guarded them in the past. In 1911 Canadian born British Columbians numbered forty-three per cent of the population: fifty-seven per cent were born elsewhere. In our insane asylums the Canadian born numbered only twenty-eight per cent, while the strangers within our gates furnished a quota of seventy-two per cent. This is a single example: more are not needed. In the second place we must take what measures we can to prevent our present generation of defectives reappearing in years to come to swell the numbers that each generation, whatever precautions we may take, will continue to furnish for itself. And having thus reduced our burden to a minimum we should for our own sake as well as for theirs, do all that is humanly possible for these unfortunates.

But we can do nothing for them until we discover who they are and where they are. Mental experts should be appointed by the provincial government to make regular surveys of the entire province, and record the name and circumstances of every mentally afflicted person. Then each such person should be kept under sympathetic observation, and should be properly cared for and directed. In many instances this could best be done by the friends of these afflicted ones. When there are no friends who will interest themselves the province must itself play the part.

For the children we should do most, and fortunately for

many of them we can do much. Those for whom nothing can be done in our schools should be taken care of at home, or placed in institutions where they should be made as happy as possible, the more capable ones being employed in the simpler forms of manual labor.

For the higher types among defective children much can be done in school when placed in classes by themselves. To place them in classes with normal children is a mistake. It is unfair to the normal children, for it will tend to retard and discourage them. It is unfair to the defectives themselves, for it will prevent their receiving much special care and training. In classes of their own they may be taught in an elementary way many things usually taught to normal children. And, what is more important, they may in classes of their own depart from the ordinary courses of instruction, and take such work as may better fit their own special needs. More time will be required to develop proper social instincts, so that they may maintain a right attitude to their associates in school, and to those they meet with in the outer world. There must be much manual work, for through handwork they can most easily improve and develop the limited intelligence that nature has bestowed on them, and by handwork most of them must in later life earn their bread and butter.

Another matter must receive our most careful and sympathetic attention. Reflecting for a moment on the lack of balance likely to result owing to the gulf fixed between the chronological age and the intellectual development of persons of this class, and remembering what has been said previously in this short article, it is not surprising that numbers of these boys and girls should appear in our juvenile courts, and that in some instances the same boys should appear again and again. Juvenile courts are designed to meet a very real need, but I am sure that with some of their charges the judges feel that they have reached a point where they are helpless to do more. A boy of normal intelligence who has taken the first false step may be reasoned with and admonished kindly by a wise and sympathetic judge, and at once or after a short period of detention he may be given his freedom. Such a boy may never appear in court again; his one false step may prove an effective warning in all his after years. But we can not expect a boy of defective intelligence to realize strongly and vitally that he is guilty of any serious wrong. Hence he is likely to repeat his offence as lightly as before, though perhaps with greater secrecy and cunning. In other words his act is not so much a crime as a manifestation of disease, and should be treated as such.

Here the need for an institution apart from the public schools becomes manifest. In fact for the two classes of offenders who appear in our children's courts there is need for two classes of institutions. There should be an institution to receive only those who possess normal intelligence, but who are chronic delinquents, and there should be another sort of institution to care for and train the mental defectives who go astray. If possible these latter should usually be

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placed in safe keeping after the first offence. They are likely to receive only harm by being permitted to return to their old surroundings. I am convinced that many young men who are classed as incorrigibles and hardened criminals before they are out of their teens are really defectives who have been misunderstood, and through misunderstanding and mistaken kindness have been given the right of way on the path that leads to destruction.

Defectives who show no tendency to crime can be safely looked after and trained in the special classes of the public schools until the age of adolescence is reached. The training now provided should enable them to master those vocations by which they are to earn their daily bread. Many will become quite proficient in some simple form of useful hand-work, rendering themselves independent of the help of friends in the matter of support, and in spite of their handicap may become an economic asset of the community.

But these years of adolescence are a most critical period, and especially so for the girls. If the parental home can not be depended on for careful supervision and control they should be placed in community homes where they can be kept cheerfully busy at useful work until at least these formative years are past. These community homes should not be classed with the detention homes for girls who have shown strong tendency to crime or immorality. For such girls separate institutions should be provided, where they will have no chance to lead the innocent astray, and where the best can be done to meet their own peculiar needs.

When the adolescent period is safely passed it may be found possible to permit individuals to leave these custodial and training institutions to make their homes with responsible persons who will give them the care and oversight they need. But the superintendent employed by the province should still have oversight that we may be sure that for their welfare everything is being done that can be done.

In many minds the question of cost will at once arise. To ignore this consideration would be only folly. The expense will not be small. Efficiency and morality are not to be purchased at bargain counters. But to neglect these unfortunates is at once unchristian and poor citizenship, and in mere dollars and cents is in the end infinitely more expensive. Efficiency and morality are costly, but inefficiency and immorality are far more costly. It is still true that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

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TRAITS AND STORIES OF DOGS

(By Bert Finch)

1. The Popular Toy Dog—Pomeranian.

Thirty years ago this breed of dog was of much larger size than at present. At shows many years ago, I have seen Pomeranians as big as Field Spaniels, and weighting forty pounds, and now these little animals—full of fire and noise—often weigh only two pounds.

As may be inferred, this dog takes its name from its native land, Pomerania. It is a descendent of the Spitz and Samoyede of the Arctic Circle, breeds of which must have been taken in early days across to Pomerania.

In selecting a dog of this class, dog-fanciers should get a small dog, with good length of Harsh Stand-off coat of a solid colour, of black, orange, wolf-grey, or chocolate, the most popular of all. Other features to look for are a foxy head, small ears, fineness in bone, with tail carried over the back. The age should be not over three years.

Among dogs for which the owners have refused as much as \$5,000, the writer has seen "James of Southport," "Brooklyn," "Gold Speck," Dr. Brown's wife's late champion, "Jo Jo," of Manchester. These, of course, were in pre-war times.

Before the war the writer himself had a large kennel of pure black imported Pomeranians at Edmonton, Alberta, and several of them were big winners in Britain and also in Canada.

Among owners and fanciers at Victoria, Nanaimo, and Vancouver, who have first-class specimens of this breed are: Mrs. Elsted, Strathroyal Kennels, 871 Hornby street; Mrs. Palmer 3851 24th avenue west; Mrs. Colbeck, Vivian Kennels, 20th avenue east; Mrs. Browning, Richmond street, New Westminster; Mrs. Dorrel, of 935 Drake street; Mrs. Elcock, 1940 54th avenue east; Mrs. Briggs Seymour street; Mrs. Downie 1720 6th avenue east; and Mrs. Davies, Broadway, Vancouver. Mr. Percy Hickling of Nanaimo should also be mentioned in this connection.

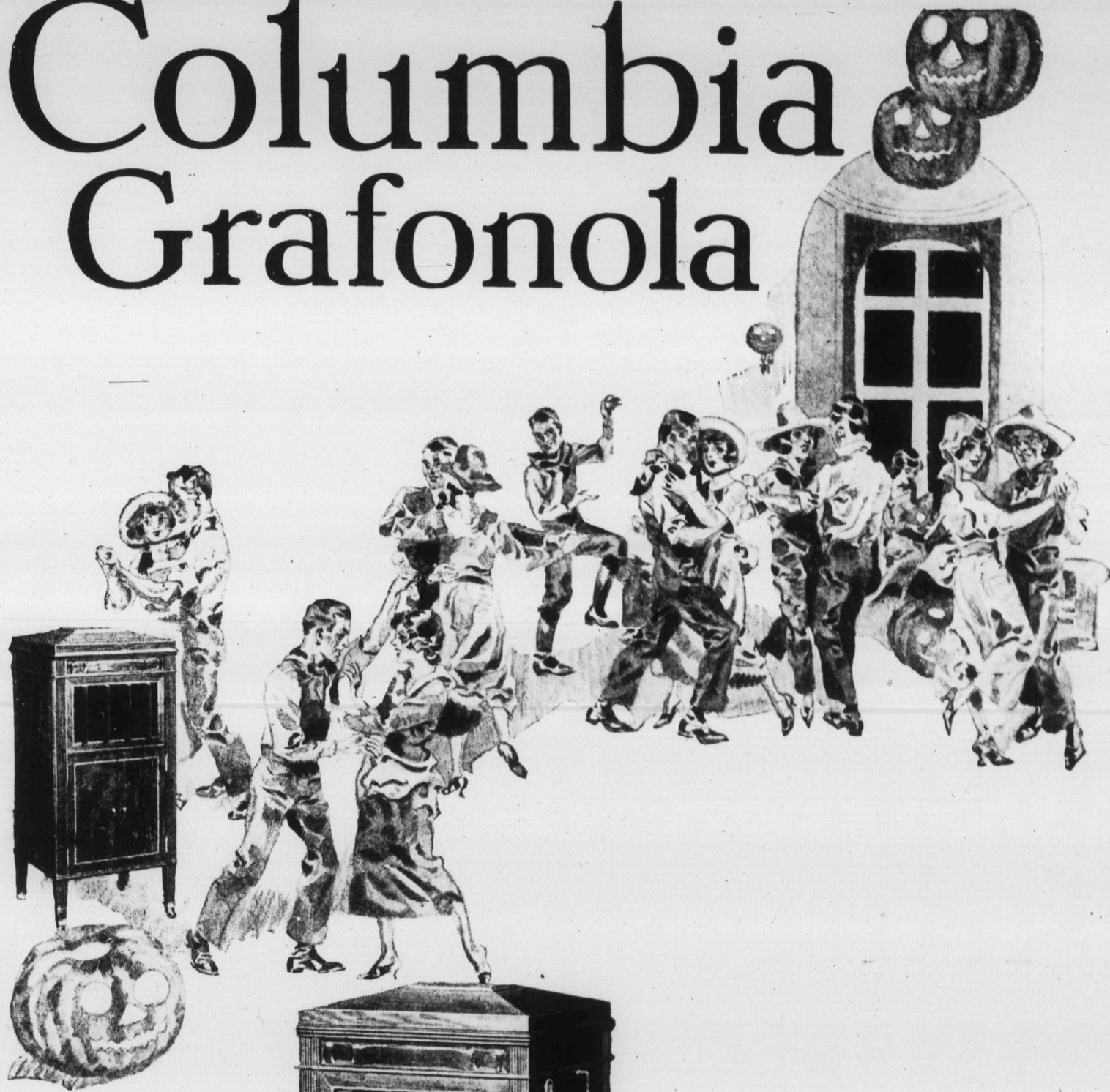
The Pomeranian is a very "yappy" dog, barking with all its strength at the least noise, yet very devoted, intelligent and attractive.

Canine interest has grown since the late war, in which dogs did remarkable service on the battlefield. By way of testing the interest of its readers in "Man's best friend in the animal world," the B. C. M. is arranging to give a corner to notes and comments of this kind, and the writer of the above, who is well known as an expert in knowledge of dogs, invites queries and correspondence in connection with them.

Authenticated dog stories will also be welcomed, and as far as possible, published.

As this issue was being closed for the press the B. C. M. was favoured with an inquiry as to space from the representatives of the Liberal Party. Elsewhere we have made clear that, notwithstanding the alleged dangers of government by groups, we prefer a selection (and election) of MEN before PARTIES. Nevertheless, alertness and enterprise are commendable in all spheres of activity, and we refer our readers to the well-worded introductory message on page ten.

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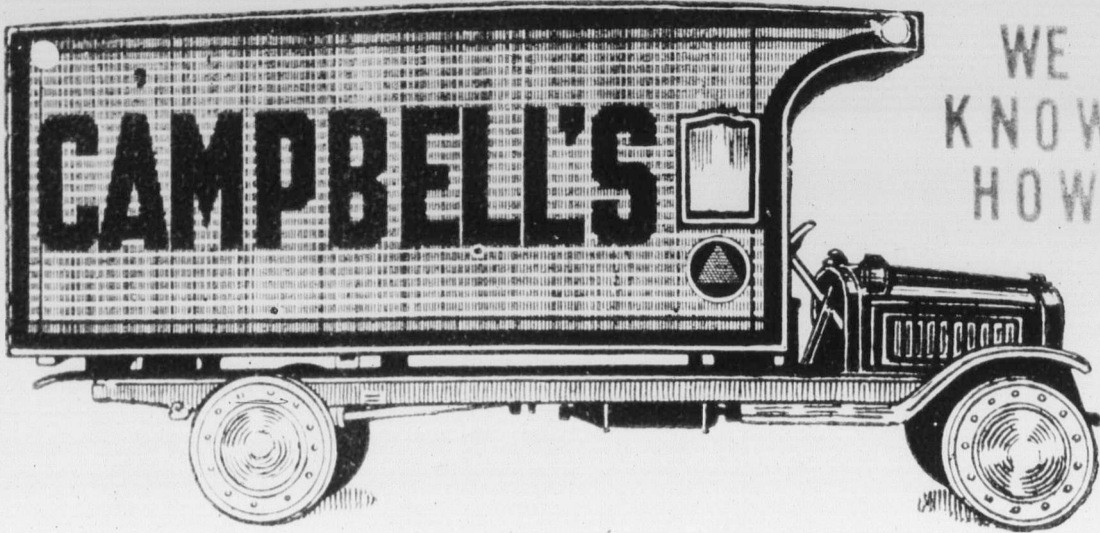
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