

Volume X.

Number 6

PUBLISHED AT VANCOUVER, B.C.

Westminster Review

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



Our Ideal:

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

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But probably we do need to record that formerly, when we printed from thirty to fifty pages of literary matter, we did so, not that our business or advertising department warranted such action—for it did not—but because we sought to set a standard regarding the SOCIAL, EDUCATIONAL, LITERARY AND RELIGIOUS INTERESTS we seek to serve.

We hope, as our advertisement section is enlarged, to be able gradually to increase the size of the "Review." You will therefore see the force of our asking you to **Give Special Attention to our Advertisers.**

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The
Westminster Review

Published at Vancouver, B. C.

Mailed Direct to Subscribers for a Dollar a Year (in advance)

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The Rt. Hon. Earl Grey, ex-Governor General of Canada, in a holograph letter to the Editor of the "Westminster Review," says:

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—Burns.

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WESTMINSTER REVIEW

D. A. CHALMERS, Managing Editor

Published at Vancouver, B. C.

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

VOL. X.

FEBRUARY, 1917

No. 6

Editorial

"Hold-Ups" in Business

"It's a hold-up; that's what it is!" These words were used last month by the chief of one of the largest businesses in British Columbia. The representative of this Review was interviewing him for the first time to raise the question of advertising the commodity of his company in this Magazine, and the words quoted were applied to an advertisement of their goods appearing in a certain distributed publication of recent origin.

The chief, who is a big man so far as money-making business is concerned, was good enough at that first interview with him, to promise to consider our request later, but (no matter what his goodwill may be worth) it has since been suggested to us—by a public announcement—that a question may arise as to the validity of our accepting such advertising, even were it to be offered to us. Publications as well as business men may have reputations which are more valuable than big trade profits.

We believe readers will agree with us that the words of that manufacturer, though it evidently did not so occur to him, imply a regrettable admission on his own part, and prove that, while he may be a man whose business arrangements bring big trade profits, he is not necessarily a big man.

It is the weakness which (among other things) so consents to be "held up," and thereby gives at once to "trade pull" or other undue influence what other businesses may do upbuilding work for years to earn, that leads honest workers in every line of service to ask almost despairingly at times—Is honesty practised in some business quarters only so long as it is the best *policy*?

* * * *

South Vancouver and the Liquor Question

The short contribution of "B. M. T." in our last issue, bearing on the influence of the liquor element in the recent contest for the Reeveship, seems to have been even more warranted than the writer knew at the time. His strongest point was that the help of the liquor men had just managed to carry Mr. Russell through to victory. It has since been revealed that from the temperance point of view the situation is far more serious than was manifest at that time. The new Government has put on the Licensing Commission a man, who, to put the case as mildly as possible, does not possess the confidence of the people in the municipality, and his appointment was made in the face of strong protests from the Social Service Council. Since the appointment was announced, a further protest has been sent by that body to the Government. It is stated that the office was withheld from the new commissioner until he gave

the assurance that no licenses would be granted, and if this be true, no further proof is needed of his unfitness for the position.

In answer to the article in the "Review," we understand the Reeve, in an interview given to the Vancouver "Daily World," stated that he does not intend to grant the license cancelled by his predecessor, and this assurance might gladly be accepted but for the fact that further information has reached us which warrants us in again urging the Social Service Council to watch very carefully the new Licence Commissioners.

* * * *

An Honorary or Salaried City Council?

Vancouver is fortunate in having as Mayor a gentleman who so commended himself to the community in his first year of office that he was returned unopposed for the current year. He seems to be supported by an equally satisfactory Council. Many who are glad to recognize the administrative qualities of these gentlemen, however, may—if they are candid, and speak or write without fear or favour—question the wisdom of the recent action whereby the salaries of the Mayor and Aldermen were increased.

We should prefer to see progress made in another direction. As was noted in this magazine two or three years ago: "Vancouver is still a young city, but surely it is old enough to have among its citizens men of unimpeachable integrity who, by fair means and business capacity, have grown prosperous with the city's growth, and who would be willing as well as able to serve the city as Councillors and Mayor for the satisfaction and honour of being of use to the city or country which made their prosperity possible."

Of course if the Dominion Government should decide not only to supervise the selling price of certain merchandise, but to go a step further and, with the view of eliminating unreasonable and millionaire-making profits, investigate the *cost of production* of this commodity or that, the conditions may be changed, and all offices which carry work with their "honorary-ness" would require to be salaried. That time is not yet—though possibly it may be nearer than some of the big profiteering money-makers imagine.

Meantime it is a commonplace to say that the men in salaried positions of any kind are (notwithstanding the high cost of living) the more fortunate in these days. In some businesses it is often a question whether anything at all will be left for "salary." While most citizens have to practice strict economy and keep fighting just to pay their way, it was inopportune for the city's representatives to increase their own incomes. Besides, if such action were in contemplation, it should have been revealed before the time of election.

PLEASE CHECK THE DATE BESIDE YOUR NAME.*

The date printed on your name label is a "record and receipt." We try to avoid any mistake, but our mailing lists are now many, and if after two months your renewal payment is not credited, kindly notify us. A Post Card will do.

Correspondence may be saved on both sides if subscribers observe the date when the renewal fell due. Many subscribers pay one year's renewal only when a second year is almost due, and then wonder at a second notice closely following the first.

Our rate is "\$1.00 a year in advance; \$1.25 a year in arrears."

O Hills of France!

O Hills of France, O Hills of France,
So strangely still and grey,
Why does the half-beclouded moon
Begrudge thee every ray?
Is it lest her revealing rays
Upon thy trench-cut brows
Perchance before the living's gaze
A spectral host might rouse?

O Hills of France, O Hills of France,
Ere yet the old year dies
Bid spirits of thy hero-dead
Before the living, rise,
Arise before us to refresh,
And in our souls instil
The purpose for which trenches mesh
The plain, the vale, the hill!

O Hills of France, O Hills of France,
Brief quiet broods o'er all
To-night, and from the hasty graves
Uncounted voices call
Lest we who yet the strife abide
Their sacrifice defeat
Of fulness, through being satisfied
With victory incomplete.

O Hills of France, O Hills of France,
Almost there burns a flame,
A sacred flame, along thy crests—
The souls of those who came
To prove that Honour still is dear
With Valour's patient glow
Faced rigours of the changing year
And death-storms of the foe.

O Hills of France, O Hills of France,
Where men of common mould
In their imperfect human way
Their hero-worth unfold:—
What time the patriarch of old
Upon the altar bound
His son for sacrifice, behold
Another offering found.

But mark upon War's altar now
A nation's best-loved laid;
No voice divine forbids the blow;
The sacrifice is made!
Before a race strong to endure
Such bitter sacrifice,
Such sacrifice supreme, be sure
A noble future lies!

—Pte. Don Munday.

France, New Year's Eve, 1916.

Our Education

II.—Civics in the Schools

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

If it is true, as I asserted last month, that our present system fails to develop the higher group instinct, there is urgent need for the introduction of some training which shall supply this deficiency. We are suffering throughout the province from *general inefficiency*. Our political humbugging and graft result less from conscious dishonesty than from incapacity. Oftentimes it is impossible to find the right man with the right training. There is no lack of honest men, but their education has not fitted them for public or business responsibility; they do not know how to be honest in public life!

At present public office is largely a reward for political support; training and qualification are scarcely considered. The best Party in the world cannot right this in a session. The only real cure is a system of education which qualifies both voter and office holder to exercise the social obligation wisely.

I would suggest therefore, that during the last (say) two years of school training a definite course in civics be undertaken by every boy and girl in the schools. The following rough sketch will give an idea of what I mean:

(1) Elementary teaching in modes of government—this would have reference to the history courses already taken.

(2) Outlines of British and Canadian Constitution and Government including a knowledge of departments, functions of cabinet ministers, Members of Parliament, etc.

(3) Outlines of law as affecting general citizenship, property, taxation, land, licensing, mining. (This could be adapted to locality.)

(4) Outlines of Municipal law, powers of Council (with reference to local situation.) Under this head might be included, Outlines of Public Health by-laws, knowledge of local water and sewerage scheme, elements of town planning.

The whole subject could be made interesting by educational trips, abundant use of pictures, plans and models. The children should be required to write essays based upon experience of such trips: and encouraged to advance suggestions for civic and political improvement. In some schools a citizens' Parliament under the speakership of the Principal might be a beneficial organization. The results of such a course would be:

(1) Greater respect for law and order on the part of children; respect for property; and therefore a higher standard of honesty.

(2) Each school would be a source of civic improvement and not a menace to its district as sometimes happens now.

(3) The rising generation would have a high ideal of citizenship, and this would result in the æsthetic, moral and economic improvement of the city, since the ideal would be backed by a knowledge of the How and Why.

(4) We should ensure a supply of properly qualified citizens for public office and an electorate less easily fooled than is at present the case.

CONGRATULATIONS!

To Premier Brewster and Hon. M. A. Macdonald for having fulfilled their pledges with reference to the social evil. All right minded people will appreciate the move. This is no time to be wasting men- and women-power by recruiting prostitutes and their organizers. To those who argue it always has been, and therefore always must be, it is sufficient to reply, so has murder and robbery, but that would not justify a State in an attitude of acquiescence.

The Devil Arrayed in Printers' Ink

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

We gather from Holy Writ that His Satanic Majesty is a "quick change artist" in the matter of apparel and disguise. Now his make-up is that of a roaring lion and again he is arrayed as an angel of light. No doubt he is mightily efficient in either guise, but for downright devilish-effectiveness commend me to his Twentieth Century attire of printers' ink. Arrayed in this garb he deceives the very elect.

The great Apostle Paul warns the young minister Timothy against certain propagandists who, holding a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof, creep into houses and take captive silly women. But even the far-sighted Paul never dreamed how their power of working harm unwittingly would be increased by Gottenburg. Our door-steps are flooded with questionable literature; a deluge of it comes through the mails, while many an oily-tongued visitor insinuates a catchy-phrased pamphlet into the home of the unwary. A sample of these insidious religious pamphlets was handed to the present writer the other day by a parishoner, *miserare me*, and has caused his wrathful soul to make this deliverance.

The pamphlet in question is on the subject of theosophy. It is undoubtedly very cleverly written for the class of people it is intended to reach. The point of contact is the all-engrossing subject of the great war, its cause, and the future of those who make the supreme sacrifice. The pamphleteer, wielding the pen of a ready writer, cunningly plays upon the susceptibilities of his readers like a skilled musician upon his harp. In turn he strikes the note of curiosity, of intellectual pride, of fear, self-interest, sympathy, scorn, ridicule, till the whole gamut of human passion is set vibrating. The Scriptures, too, are invoked to prove the writer's contentions. Let no man lightly depreciate the consummate ability of these propagandists against the Christian faith to reach and hold the popular interest and attention.

We briefly outline the argument of this popular expositor of the cult. The term "theosophy" means "Divine wisdom." But this wisdom is not supernatural. It is simply scientific, without, however, the limitations of ordinary science. Among its ancient advocates, besides the Indian scriptures, are the priests of Babylon and Chaldea, the religion of Egypt, such sages as Plato and Pythagoras, and above all, the Christian New Testament. From Hinduism it adopts the philosophy of pantheism. There is only one life, and therefore one consciousness. Paul affirms that in God we live and move and have our being. The Christ says that "Outside God not a sparrow falls to the ground." "How could it," asks this perverter of scripture, "when there is no 'outside' for it to fall in?" Then man is a living spirit placed in a universe governed by the "Law of

Consequences." This leads to the doctrine of "reincarnation." "Whatever a man soweth that shall he also reap." Therefore he is reaping in this life the harvest of the good and evil of his pre-existence and is sowing now what he will reap in future reincarnations. Of course the author doesn't tell that Hinduism, from which this doctrine is borrowed, teaches that the sinner must pass through 8,400,000 forms of subsequent existence in men, animals and even plants in order that his evil deeds may be expiated, and he at last be absorbed into Nirvana, the nearest possible approach to extinction. Our theosophical friend takes a fling at the mediæval conception of Heaven and Hell and substitutes a diluted form of the Catholic purgatory, which he calls the "Desire world." He does not pursue this interesting subject *ad nauseam* but refers those interested to other pamphlets of the cult on the same subject.

Not to become wearisome, I simply mention some of the Christian doctrines that are twisted to serve and buttress the author's argument. Regeneration, Immortality, Sanctification, Divine Immanence, Vicarious Sacrifice, Social Solidarity, Retribution. Certainly no Christian theologian would recognize these familiar friends in their new service and uniform, but the unsophisticated are more easily hoodwinked. Theosophy, as expounded in the pamphlet, is a mongrel hybrid compounded of poor philosophy and worse religion, based on mutilated Hinduism and perverted Christianity. One wonders how anyone could be led away by such sophistries and religious vagaries, but as the immortal showman said, "the public love to be fooled."

Our purpose in writing this is to remind our religious leaders it is time to wake up. We do not advocate fighting fire with fire, but it may be wise policy to fight ink with ink. Moreover, if the people were better supplied with good, wholesome literature they would be better fortified against the cheap and nasty trash that is leading so many astray. Did I hear the Editor of the "Westminster Review" exclaim, "Amen?"

Sonnet

A blind man whom I knew learned all the lore
 Of wireless. Often in his bed at night,
 Receivers on his ears, he sat upright
 And caught the messages the fluid bore
 Anon, from ship to ship, from peak to shore
 With wondrous wizardry. At will, he might
 Throng his mute chamber's gloom with voices bright,
 Be with the wind's faint whisperings *en rapport*:
 So, many a one there is, might well be seared
 By sordid circumstance; each day to whom
 Comes with monotonous, soul-vexing strain:
 Yet, ear and heart attuned he doth attain,
 Serene, like this lone blind man in his room,
 To read life's hidden meanings and be cheered.

—Robert Allison Hood.

Vancouver, B. C.

Notes and Comments

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

Ralph Smith

The death of the Hon. Ralph Smith has removed a well known and able man from the public life of the country. He was in a unique sense of the words, a self-made man, and his career should be an encouragement to every young man who, in the presence of handicaps, has a worthy desire to serve his generation. Mr. Smith began in a coal mine in England, when a mere boy, and rendered remarkable assistance to the labor movement both in the Old Land and Canada. It is true that the very men he tried to benefit most did not always appreciate him, and I recall his declining to continue a speech in the old City Hall here some fifteen years ago, owing to interruptions from a little coterie of extreme Socialists. Nothing has been a larger detriment to the cause of workmen than their own disposition to become suspicious or jealous of one of their own number who rises in public life. Just when he gets into a position where he can do most for them, they begin to find fault with him. Even John Burns, champion of the dock men, was assailed by his former supporters because he was receiving the salary of a minister of the Crown. Ralph Smith retained to the end his great interest in the condition of the manual workers, and that his consistent fearlessness won the approval of the general mass of them was evident from the tremendous vote he received at his last election in Vancouver. A sturdy, manly type of a man was this coal miner who became a strong figure in our House of Commons at Ottawa, and who, though passing away just as he was entering on his duties as a member of the Provincial Government, had made a distinct place for himself in the public life of the Dominion.

Woodrow Wilson

President Wilson has disappointed those who were saying that he was deficient in strength, for he has given the adroit and tricky Bernstorff his walking-papers, and stands fully prepared to take any further steps that may be necessary to preserve the freedom of the seas. Those who knew President Wilson's upbringing were quite sure that he was not lacking in vertebral column. We think that even though the United States was not a signatory to the famous treaty which guaranteed the neutrality of Belgium, Wilson should have protested in the name of humanity against the brutality of the Hun. In that and the Lusitania case his judgment was wrong in our opinion, but the leader of a hundred millions of people has many things to consider. Like other human beings, he has his faults, but events will show that he has courage to act when his judgment approves.

Social Service

Exhibits and lectures by experts in social service work have been much in evidence lately. And great praise is due to all who study social conditions with a view to improving the surroundings of people. But we venture to think that the persistent effort made to eliminate the individual by merging him in the community has its dangers as well as its fallaciousness. Anything which tends to dim in men the sense of personal responsibility will in the long run be detrimental to human society. It is when men in corporations and organizations retain their full sense of individual accountability that the best results will be reached. Notwith-

standing the millions of men that are engaged on the battlefield, most of us agree with Sir William Robertson Nicoll when he says that the war has helped us to a "re-discovery of persons." In the words of the old apostle, "Every one of us must give account of *himself*." That helps to keep us all straight.

National Military Service

It is only the thought and the hope that the present may be the last war between the civilized nations which keeps many from avowing their belief in some form of universal military service even in our democratic countries. If every boy had some military training with obligation to serve when called upon, the authorities could exercise judgment and allot places to men in the work of the Empire at a time of crisis. Under a purely voluntary system the flower of our youth go out to the slaughter, and the unfit remain behind. This bodes ill for the future. But our hope is that war, which is hideous and detestable, will not be any longer possible on the present scale. The nations have all learned their terrible lesson, and their ideal for the future should be peace.

Prohibition

The most notable thing in the public life of the Old Country just now is the strong under current that is making for the prohibition of the liquor traffic. And the outlook is that the traffic, though bulwarked by centuries of sufferance and enormous "vested interests," will have to go. The example of Canada is being quoted constantly. And the speech from the throne the other day in Ontario, with the declaration as to the immense benefit which that province has derived from prohibition, will be another battery added to the forces that are thundering at the gates of this gigantic iniquity.

Laws Against Vice

The Mayor and the Chief of Police of Vancouver have been to Victoria to secure, through the Department of the Attorney-General, larger powers and better laws by which to deal with such glaring vices as gambling and the social evil. In some considerable degree these laws are a matter for the Dominion rather than the Province, under our constitution, but each province can help enormously by such laws as they have the power to pass and by suggesting amendments to the Dominion authorities. The whole matter is one of immense importance and Vancouver is fortunate in having at the present time two such men as Mayor McBeath and Chief McLennan, both of whom are devoted to the moral ideal of a clean city. The Chief has surrounded himself with a splendid police force, and if conditions are not all that could be desired, it is the fault of the legislation and not of the men who enforce it. Amendments have been suggested which will be a great improvement on present laws. The biggest task in most modern centres is the fight for purity, and the men who make and administer our laws should have the whole-hearted support of all good citizens.

Farmers' Conventions

In recent years we find farmers who, partly on account of their living at a distance from each other, were not easily organized, now coming together in conventions. This will no doubt lead eventually to the elimination of some of the middlemen in our cities and a more direct market between the producer and the consumer. And this in turn will lead to a back-to-the-land movement that would be of great value to the country. Agriculture is not only the most ancient, but it is the foundation industry of human society.

Western Canadian Church Notes

(By Rev. J. Richmond Craig)

The induction of Rev. E. Gilfillan Thompson, M. A., into the pastoral charge at Eburne on Thursday, the 15th inst., was a happy and interesting event. The church was crowded with an enthusiastic people, despite the inclement weather conditions. The addresses given by Drs. Smith and Logan were acceptable and practical. The whole arrangement of this induction service was different from that which seemed to prevail at previous ceremonies of this nature. A good chairman and a competent moderator help wonderfully. "Muddle out somehow" used to be the slogan in Westminster Presbytery. But that day has passed into history. We congratulate Eburne congregation upon their choice, and we thank them for showing us how properly to "induct" a minister.

A call has come to Rev. Gordon Melvin, B. A., of St. Stephens, New Westminster, from Walkerville, Ontario. Mr. Melvin has been Convenor of Home Missions in this Presbytery for some time, and he has been more than a mere figurehead in office. He does not belong to the "old brigade" in church life. He is aggressive and progressive, and is a persevering student, thoroughly alive to modern issues. He has a few failings, but even these, like the old prototype's, lean the right way. We will say no more, but as is the wont of everybody now-a-days, we'll "wait and see."

We hear that the Mackay Brothers (R. G. and his brother on furlough from South China) at River Road are progressing favorably. We extend our sincerest sympathy to them in these days of sickness, and trust their recovery may be speedy and complete.

The Social Welfare Institute and Exhibit was well patronized by the men of the Presbytery. The lectures were of a high order and merited larger audiences. Many sermons along the lines of the institute were preached on the Sunday and much favorable comment has been passed thereon. Our college might do a little more practical work along this line, with profit to all.

A call to Rev. J. K. Unsworth, D. D., from Nanaimo, is being prepared and will be presented at the next meeting of the Victoria Presbytery. Dr. Unsworth was over in the city the other day, and he tells us that he likes the work in Nanaimo. The Coal City will give him ample scope for his "new" ideas.

We extend our congratulations to the Mount Pleasant congregation upon the celebration of their semi-jubilee. Rev. Dr. McMillan, of Winnipeg, will preach upon this auspicious occasion. The present incumbent of that pastoral charge, Rev. A. E. Mitchell, B. A., is steadily building up a solid cause there. An untiring worker, he is already beloved by a devoted people. As one of his oldest members put it the other day, "Maister Mitchell is an awfae man; he's aye on the pad." Being on the "pad" all the time, is the only way to build up a substantial and lasting work.

METHODIST MISSIONARY ANNIVERSARY

(By Rev. A. E. Roberts)

The Methodist Church of Vancouver observed Sundays, February 11th and 18th as Missionary Anniversary, and from the reports that have been received, the services were very successful, showing an increased

interest in missions, with a substantial increase in the amount given for this good cause. Among the visitors to the city were: Rev. Dr. White, Superintendent of Missions for the Province; Rev. G. W. Dean, of Salt Spring Island, who spent last summer as the Missionary on the "Thomas Crosby," the Methodist Missionary boat; Rev. G. H. Raley, Principal of Colqualeetza Indian Industrial School at Sardis; and Rev. Peter Kelly, of the Nanaimo Indian Mission. There was a general exchange of pulpits, and some representative laymen assisted by taking services. The result of the anniversary and appeal was most encouraging.

"Mak' Siccar" (Make Sure)

Note: The author of the following "lines" mentions that they were suggested by a story told by the Rev. Alex. MacInnes in the course of a recent address—to this effect:

"An old Scots Elder lay a-dying, while the winter storms were howling round his thatched dwelling. In great physical agony, 'the house of his earthly tabernacle was being dissolved.' Seeing the old man was nearing his end, his grand-daughter asked if she would read a chapter to him. In much bodily suffering he replied: 'Na, na, lassie; I theekit ma hoose in the calm weather.'" "The lines," adds the writer, "are an attempt to depict the story and some of its lessons in rhyme."

It may interest some of our readers to know that the author of the lines is the father of Mr. Andrew Milne, organist and music teacher, Vancouver.—Editor.

An old Scottish Elder on his death-bed was lying,
While round his thatched dwelling the storm-fiends were crying;
The blast of their thunders, man's efforts disdain—
Build your house on the "Rock"—storms rage there in vain.

A Bible unopened lay near to his bed,
"Shall I read you a chapter?" his grand-daughter said;
"Na, na, ma lassie; ma heid's licht's a feather,
But I theekit ma hoose i' the fine calm weather!"

"Plenty of time!" say the youth and the maiden,
"Our life's springtime with pleasure is laden."
"Plenty of time!" say the proud in their prime,
"It isn't convenient—there's plenty of time!"

Death knocks at the door of the young and the old;
He cannot by you or by me be "controlled";
So get your "hoose theekit" before it's too late—
You may be left shelterless—pitiful state!

It isn't the "time" when the senses are reeling,
To tackle the question, man's destiny sealing;
Now, is the promise, oh, *now* is the time;
Neglecting salvation is sin's blackest crime!

Can you bargain with Death, as to *when*, or to *where*
You may "hand in your checks" and pass over *there*?
Can you say, when you've come near the end of life's tether—
"I theekit ma hoose i' the fine calm weather"?

—George Milne, Glasgow.

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