

The Daily British Whig

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SECOND SECTION.

CHRISTMAS BOOK SUPPLEMENT

MOVEMENT AMONG PUBLISHERS

There is a movement among American and Canadian publishers to spread their activities over the whole year instead of concentrating on the fall season. Of course the idea in pouring such a flood of new books into the market at this time of the year is to take advantage of the fact that a popular novel or a work of general literature is often selected by Christmas shoppers as a suitable gift to send to a friend. While it may be conceded that there are some people who buy books only at the Christmas season, it does seem unfortunate that there should be such an immense output at this time of the year. Budding authors are hit hardest of all by this custom, for the book-buying public, embarrassed by the prodigal array of new titles, is apt to select a book which carries a well-known name. It would certainly be a move in the right direction if people could be educated to take as keen an interest in the new books of May or July as those of December.

ESTABLISHED WRITERS MUCH IN EVIDENCE THIS SEASON.

Novels this year seem to be as numerous as usual and many of the most prominent makers of fiction hope within a week or two to be in the hands of their friends. Among the works by English novelists, "This Freedom," by A. S. M. Hutchinson, has already attained an enormous sale; it has great merits and serious defects, but whatever may be said in criticism of its melodramatic conclusion, it is always interesting. Another English novel, a remarkable piece of work in view of the fact that it is the maiden effort of a young Brighton clergyman, is "Tell England," by Ernest Raymond. This story will be read long after "This Freedom" is forgotten. Two exceptionally interesting romances of adventure are John Buchan's "Huntingtower" and Jeffery Farnoll's "Peregrine's Progress." "The Cathedral," by Hugh Wampole, "The Rustle of Silk," by Cosmo Hamilton, and "Lillian," by Arnold Bennett, are sex novels of the higher grade by writers who are masters of the art of fiction.

STORIES BY AMERICANS.

Nearly every established writer in the United States is out with a new novel this season. The most-talked-of story is "Babbitt" by Sinclair Lewis. This is a much keener satire than "Main Street," and is being read with gales of laughter even by the American boosters whom it ridicules. It gives a distorted view of American city life, but it is enormously clever. It says much for the good-nature of the American people that they are taking it as a joke instead of as an insult. Among other well-known American novelists who appeal for your patronage this season are Mary Roberts Rinehart, Joseph Hergesheimer, Dorothy Canfield, Alice Brown, Ellen Glasgow, Owen Johnson, Rex Beach, Edith Wharton, Irving Bacheller, Ernest Poole and Willa Cather. "One of Ours," by the last-mentioned writer is a character story of Nebraska farm life and is a very distinguished performance.

OFFERINGS IN CANADIAN FICTION.

By actual count the total number of stories by Canadian writers this season equals that of last year. Among the authors of established reputation who figure in the list this Christmas are Sir Gilbert Parker, Robert W. Service, Basil King, Robert J. C. Stead, H. A. Cody, W. A. Fraser, J. Murray Gibbon, F. W. Wallace, Canon Heeney, Marian Keith, and Luke Allan. Several new writers, including Frederick Bending, author of "The Shadow's Edge," Dr. Beaumont S. Cornell, author of "Renaissance," and Harold Horn, author of "Mortimer's Gold," present creditable first efforts in fiction.

CANADIAN WORKS OF GENERAL INTEREST.

As will be seen by the lists on another page, books of a general character by Canadian writers outnumber stories. Among these works honorable mention should be made of "The Black Candle," by Judge Emily E. Murphy of Edmonton. This is a careful study of the traffic in drugs, opium, morphine, cocaine, etc. The rapid increase in the number of those addicted to the use of such drugs is startling. From her experiences in the court in Edmonton, Judge Murphy has become alarmed at the number of young people in Canada, who are being ruined because they have been tempted to experiment with cocaine. Her book is full of tragic interest and should be read by every legislator, magistrate, preacher and teacher in this country.

Another book of outstanding merit is Professor Cyrus Macmillan's "Canadian Fairy Tales." This is really a companion volume to his "Canadian Wonder Tales," which was published two years ago. In this large and beautifully illustrated volume the McGill professor has gathered together stories that were told by Indian mothers to their children long centuries ago. They demonstrate that the Red Indian of North America had a lively imagination. This book is destined to become a Canadian classic.

In the historical field, a Canadian work of unusual interest is J. W. Daffoe's "Laurier: A Study in Canadian Politics." This is a combination of biography and comment on recent political history in Canada, by one who has not only had the privilege of knowing Sir Wilfrid Laurier personally, but who has watched the course of Canadian politics from the inside, so to speak, as editor of one of the great dailies of this country.

H. G. Wells has been busy during the last year boiling down his "Outline of History." The result is "A Short History of the World." Because of its brevity and its splendid illustrations, this work will probably be as popular as "The Outline." It is not an abstract or condensation of that very clever book, but a more generalized history planned and written fresh by one of the most industrious authors in the old land.

A MONUMENTAL WORK.

There can be no doubt whatever that the most remarkable publication of 1922 is "The Outline of Science," edited by Professor J. Arthur Thomson of Aberdeen University. This work has been issued in four volumes and is just as readable as "The Outline of History," by H. G. Wells. It is a tour de force of the first quality, for it embodies the history of science in general and what might be called the sub-sciences which crowd the university curriculum of to-day and which speak to us all of the wonderful secrets of creation and of man's conquest of natural forces.

THIS YEAR'S OFFERINGS IN POETRY.

The most valuable book of poems published this year is Thomas Hardy's "Late Lyrics and Earlier." The dean of English novelists and poets, one of the few survivors of that golden age of literature, the Victorian period, is now an old man of eighty-two years of age. But his faculties are still unclouded and in this volume of verse he has given to the world what may be called the most vital book of song that has ever been composed by a man of genius in his sunset years.

Two volumes of Canadian poetry of exceptional merit are the late Marjorie Pickthall's latest offering, "The Wood Carver's Wife and Other Poems," and Isabel Ecclestone Mackay's "Fires of Driftwood."

LORD ERNLE'S DEFENCE OF NOVEL-READING.

No one to-day condemns a soldier for carrying a novel in his knapsack, or attempts to create political capital out of a statesman's pleasure in the perusal of prose fiction. But the encouragement of mental and moral offensiveness is still one of the charges levelled against novels. As general propositions, neither accusation can be established. Mental vigor has often been combined with the love of prose fiction. Samuel Johnson, the incarnation of sturdy common sense, was, as Bishop Percy told Boswell, devoted to romances of chivalry, and retained his love of them throughout his life. Equally difficult would it be to establish a general charge of moral enervation. England is justly proud of the stimulus to heroic self-sacrifice and endeavor which is afforded by her national records of golden deeds. Yet, it must be remembered that, for at least half the world, the great actors and scenes of prose fiction are more real and familiar than those of history. English novels, as well as English history, teach by examples. They are not necessarily "schools of vice." Compounded, as Caxton says, of "chivalrye, curtesye, humanitye, hardynesse, love, cowardyce, murdre, vertue, and synne," they may equally entice to virtue.

THE SEASON'S BOOKS IN REVIEW

In spite of the fact that this has been a quiet year for business both in the old country and in America, there has been only a slight diminution in the production of new novels. There are not so many works of general literature in evidence and there is a marked decrease in art books and editions de luxe. Altogether, however, the great publishing houses of England, the United States and Canada have turned out an immense number of volumes, more than enough to satisfy every taste. Evidently the publishers are of the opinion that even in dull times people keep up the reading habit, in fact gratify it more sedulously than in those periods when the tide of business life is in full flood.

The object of this annual book supplement is to stimulate the interest of Canadian newspaper readers in books as sources of enjoyment and general culture. At the Christmas season we take the opportunity

book will prove an inspiration or at least be a decided intellectual incentive to the recipient. And it need scarcely be said that Canadian books, especially works of history and biography, will foster and encourage Canadian ideals. For these and other reasons, therefore, the circulation of books as Christmas presents might be regarded as useful and helpful missionary work.

The editor of this supplement has made a selection from the huge output of new books. It is, of course, absolutely impossible to make mention of all the good volumes that are published. Moreover, owing to the fact that the majority of new books of the fall season come pouring in to the editor's hands only a week or so before this issue goes to press, it is impossible to give a careful criticism of the merits of each volume. In most cases all that can be done is to give a brief indication of the nature of the publication. Following the usual custom, books by Canadian authors are given precedence in our list. It is to be hoped that buyers of books this Christmas will take a special interest in our own literature, but the editor knows that he speaks for Canadian authors in general when he urges discrimination on the part of the public.

The books of the season are here-with classified under the following headings:

- I.—Fiction by Canadian authors.
- II.—Fiction by English authors.
- III.—Fiction by American authors.
- IV.—Books for boys and girls.
- V.—Biography and History.
- VI.—Poetry.
- VII.—Humor.
- VIII.—General Literature.

CANADIAN.

The Return of Blue Pete, by Luke Allan. (McClelland & Stewart, Toronto).

This is a sequel to "Blue Pete," an action story that was well received last year. Once more we ride with the half-breed cowboy across the western plains and once again we meet Boy Mahon of the Royal Mounted who has thrilling adventures following the trail of a gang of horse thieves.

The Captive Herd, by Grace Murray Atkin. (McClelland & Stewart).

The hero of this story, a headstrong, self-sufficient man of the world, seeks fame and fortune in New York. Unscrupulous in his methods, he becomes an outcast and is redeemed by his love for a young Canadian girl, the heroine of the story. He becomes amenable once more to social conventions, or in other words he rejoins the captive herd.

The Key of Dreams, by L. Adams Beck. (McClelland & Stewart).

A love story of the Orient. The heroine is called the key to all the dreams, stories and legends of the mysterious east. A second volume

by this author is entitled "The Ninth Vibration." These short stories have for their settings the mountains of northern India and are full of mysticism. Some of them were first published in "The Atlantic Monthly." This new Canadian writer has a fine style, and is specially strong in description.

The Shadow's Edge, by Frederick Bending. (Hodder & Stoughton).

This is the first story from the pen of a new Winnipeg writer. The hero is a young member of the Mounted Police and the story is staged in the Le Pas country. A bandit, who is a fugitive from justice, a polished but villainous New Yorker, his confederate, a dishonest mining engineer, a man of mystery, and two eastern girls on a visit to the north country, are the principal characters. The action part of this story is exciting, but the author overdoes the old device of providing a long-lost father for the heroine.

The King's Arrow, by H. A. Cody. (McClelland & Stewart).

For several years Rev. H. A. Cody, of Fredericton, N.B., has been intending to write a story of the U. E. Loyalists who settled in the wilds of the maritime provinces. At last he has fulfilled his purpose and has produced a narrative which will have keen interest for young people in all parts of Canada. He writes of Indians, the rebel slasher, of Dane Norwood, the "King's arrow" as the colonists called him, and Jean, his sweetheart.

Renaissance, by Beaumont S. Cornell. (Macmillan).

This is the first novel by an Ontario medical man, who wields a remarkably good style. The scene is laid in old London. It has to do with the conflict between capital and labor. The hero is a young scientist who gets into touch with a Russian Bolshevik who plans a revolution in England. The doctor, assisted by his servant, Dhu Singh, is able to defeat the plans of the enemies of society. The plot of the story is interesting, but the use of telepathy and psychic forces detract somewhat from its plausibility. The story is, however, a promising performance.

Caste, by W. A. Fraser. (Hodder & Stoughton).

This is one of the outstanding novels of the season. Mr. Fraser lived for many years in India and this story tells of the plottings of Mana Sahib against Colonel Hodson, the British representative in the native state, the life of which is so accurately depicted in these graphic chapters. Two other characters, portrayed with great skill are Captain Barlow and Bootea, a native girl, whose love for this officer led her to desert Ajeet Singh. She risked her life to save Barlow, and she and the British officer have some thrilling adventures.

Pagan Love, by J. Murray Gibbon. (McClelland & Stewart).

This story, one of the best of the season, is interesting for several reasons. It is the record of a strange partnership of a young Scotch immigrant in New York and a keen Czech-Slovak, who has become a millionaire publisher of foreign language newspapers which circulate among the working classes. This remarkable character has many enemies, for he has made a practice of double-crossing his fellowcountrymen. He advances the young Scot to a high position in his publishing house and surprises him by paying him as high as a thousand dollars a year for writing a series of passionate love letters. Just when the happy Scot has piled up a substantial bank account, trouble breaks. New York gunmen invade his apartments and he finds he is involved with his employer in a highly emotional crisis. Mr. Gibbon springs a great surprise on his readers. I have never read a story quite like this, especially in its revelation of double-crossing in the labor world. It is humorous, intriguing and tragic by turns.

D'Arcy Conyers, by Beryl Heeney. (Hodder & Stoughton).

This is a story of Ontario life. The first and best part of the narrative has for its background country scenes in the Gatineau Valley. After stormy school days the hero goes to Montreal to be a clerk, falls in with bad companions there, gets into serious trouble, becomes a fugitive from justice, assumes another name, and finds a job as a farm hand near Barrie. Canon Heeney is a great lover of nature and brings us into intimate touch with the beauty of earth. He shows also in every chapter his interest in the spiritual side of life.

Mortimer's Gold, by Harold Horn. (Mussac).

This is the first attempt at story-writing by a new Ontario author. (Continued on Page 22.)



CAROL C. COLE
Author of "Velvet Paws and Shiny Eyes."



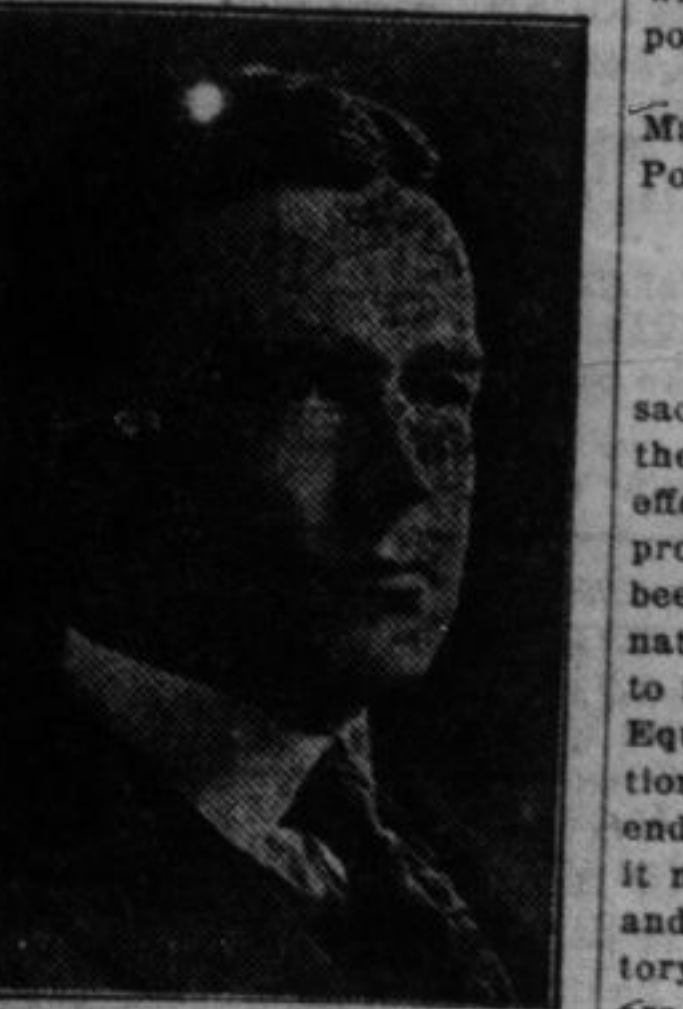
BASIL KING
Author of "The Dust Flower."



O. E. McMILLAN
Author of "The Making of a Premier."



HORN HORN
Author of "Mortimer's Gold."



FREDERICK BENDING
Author of "The Shadow's Edge."



JUDGE EMILY E. MURPHY
("Janey Canuck"). Author of "Seeds of Pine" and "The Black Candle."



F. W. WALLACE
Author of "The Shack Locker" and "Sail Seas and Sailormen."



MARJORIE PICKTHALL
Author of "The Wood Carver's Wife."



W. A. FRASER
Author of "Caste."

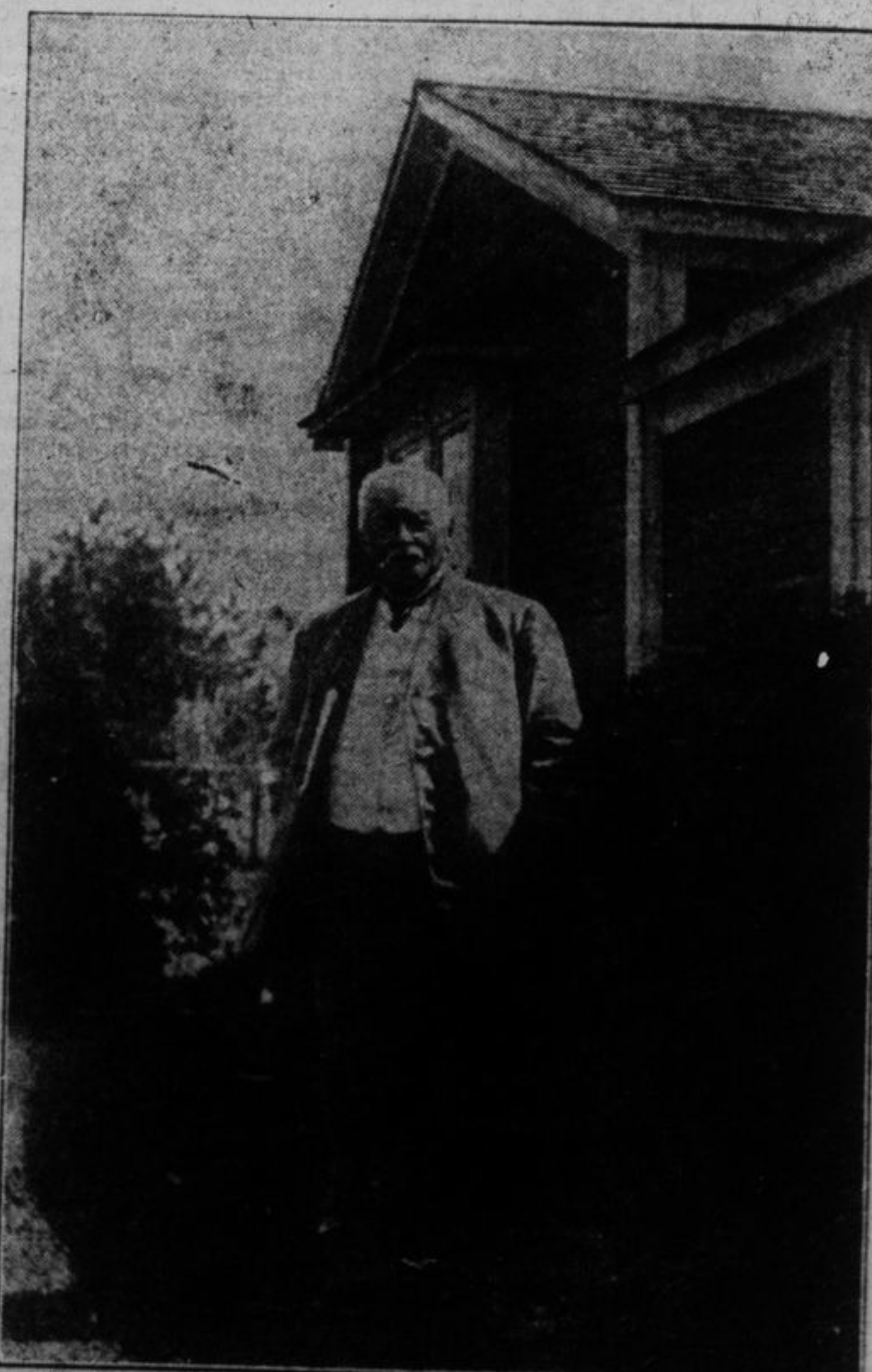


ALFRED CARMICHAEL
Author of "Legends of Vancouver Island."



DR. WALTER E. TRAPROCK AND
SNAK
From "My Northern Exposure."

of reminding our readers that they can not only practise economy by buying books as presents for their friends, for every one will agree that when compared with most merchandise new publications are comparatively inexpensive, but in reality they can become apostles of culture by sending good books to friends at home and abroad. "Why not books?" is the title of a circular sent out broadcast by the National Association of Book Publishers of the United States. This is a practical question at this time of the year and it ought to be suggestive to the intending shopper who wonders what will best please his or her friend on Christmas morning. Books are always acceptable presents and the donor has the satisfaction of knowing that they will not be tossed aside, as so many Christmas presents are, after a cursory glance, but will be in the hands of his or her friend on pleasant winter evenings, and will ultimately have a place on a library shelf as a permanent reminder of the act of friendship. And it is just possible that the influence of a good



CHARLES MAIR.
Canada's oldest living poet.