Sixteen Canadian Writers Have Been Crowned by the French Academy of Letters

BEST ANIMAL STORIES

Oldest Living Canadian Poet Now a Resident of This City; A Center for Authors

No less than sixteen Canadian writers have been crowned by the French academy, since 1880, when Louis r'rechette won the Montyou prize of 19,000 francs. Mrs. Francis Reeve, addressing the pupils and teachers of Crescent Heights High school, in connection with the book-week program yesterday, stressed this little known fact to the glory of Canadian writers.

"If such honor were bestowed upon Americans," said Mrs. Reeve, "it would be proclaimed the length and preadth of the United States, and wherever the American tongue could chant the tale of her talented sons. Although confining her fifteen min-

ate address mainly to present day living Canadian authors, she began by pointing out that Canada possesses a remarkable literary history which goes back quite three centuries. Our bibliography, in fact, opened in 1604 with a book of poems by Marc Lescarbots, inspired by and dedicated to the then new colony of Port Royal-Annapolis in Nova Scotia. "To the French," said Mrs. Reeve,

we owe the traditions we have. The names of Charlevoix, Bebaud, Ferland, raillon, and de Gaspe, besides many others, stand out. The last Canadian o be crowned by that supreme literary tribunal, the French Academy, was Henry D'Arles, who revised and published Edouard Richard's 'Arcadie.' "The Golden Dog."

Mrs. Reeve defined William Kirby's 'Golden Dog' as a Canadian classic "Can you conceive," she asked, "of any more romantic or thrilling background than old Quebec, with its seigneurs. indians, gentleman adventurers, priests and sisters of mercy, and the stream of people from all parts of the world rickling into the new land."

Before turning to the new writers she called attention to the recent republication of Major John Richardson's 'Wacousta." This book created a furore in London while Thackeray was a boy and Dickens still alive.

Founder of American Humor

She also recalled the fact that our own Haliburton, author of "The Sayings of Sam Slick," founded the school of American humor.

Writers of Our Own Time

"Coming to the writers of our own time" she said, "Louis Hemon, though born in France, was saturated with he lore and the history of his adopted Canada. His 'Maria Chapdelaine' is a classic. It is as beautiful as a spring morning. It is as pure a piece of literary work as 'Marie Claire,' a book which a few years ago deeply stirred the literary world, and the author of which was a humble little seamstress of Paris. Louis Hemon also earned his living in a mean capacity. He was a laborer on an Ontario farm, and while walking from ada. He leaves Canada because of the one farm to another, he was run over y by a train. He was buried as a tramp. "Marjorie Pickthall attained fame



Y.W.C.A., chicken pattie tea, Parkers', 3 p.m.

Armistice chapter I.O.D.E., bazaar Capitol tea rooms.

L.A. to A.C.T., ten eard party, H. B. S. 8 p.m.

Cercle Franco-Anglais, dance, Sandstone hall, 9 p.m. Scarboro Avenue L.A., bazaar,

285 Eighth avenue west. Crescent Heights Horticultural society, whist drive, Robinson and

Linton hall, 9 p.m. Class No. 23, National Presbytermn S.S., sale, 704 Center street.

Lend-a-Hand Society, rummage sale, vacant store opposite city hall market, 8 a.m. Smart Set club, dance, Penley

Academy, 9 p.m. N. End Community club, dance, 8.15 p.m.

and recognition only a few years before her untimely death.

"Canada's poets make a slender but a rare list. I put Wilson MacDonald first, because I consider him the most interesting and versatile of the poets and one of the greatest, also because he is the only Canadian poet living in Canada, who makes his living purely from his poems. He does not write saccharine verse. He may be said to be the only satirist among Canadian poets. He possesses somewhat of the same dramatic fire of the English poet, Masefield, and in some of his songs, we hear the pure, lark-like notes of a Keats or a Shelley. He is also a composer of unique distinction. I had the pleasure of hearing him sing and play his opera, 'In Sunny France,'

and have never heard a wittier or more delicious musical comedy. Both words and music were written and composed by Mr. MacDonald. I have not the slightest doubt that some day his opera will set the world a-laughing and a-humming its irresistible lyrics and songs. "Tom MacInnes is a western poet of

significance. His most distinguished work is "The Fool of Joy." "Katharyn Hale's verses are airy fragile, errant wisps of fancy,

dainty as a breath of perfume. "Dr. Robert Norwood, at present of Philadelphia, but wholly Canadian, has written poetical dramas of rare charm and beauty.

"Bliss Carman, poet laureate of Canada, has lived to see the day of a popular recognition of his genius.

The Oldest Poet in Canada "Calgary is the home of the oldest and one of the greatest poets of Canada, Charles Mair, whose poem 'Tecumseh' you all know in High School readers.

Perfect Animal Stories "Among authors Sir Gilbert Parker

has an international reputation. His Seats of the Mighty' has the elements of greatness in it. "The three most perfect writers

of animal stories in the world are Canadians, Charles G. D. Roberts Ernest Seton Thompson, and Marshall Saunders, author of 'Beautiful Joe.' Oliver Curwood also writes stirring stories in which animals play a leading part. Whenever I see one of his preposterous ice and snow laden moving pictures of Canada, I question whether he can be really a Canadian. I believe he was born in the United States, though he writes of Canada, and he can tell a rattling good yarn.

"Basil King is one of the finest writers Canada has produced. He has a long list of splendid novels to his credit. My favorite has always been The Wild Olive.

Members of a Calgary Family

"Arthur Stringer is both poet and He is versatile and clever. author. Periodically he migrates back to Canhard conditions under which the Canadian author must work. He leaves the U.S. because of the overwhelming nostalgia and homesickness that drives him back to his native land. Even when living in the States he is everlastingly slipping across into Canada, and a series of such visitations from arthur Stringer usually precedes a prolonged return to the harsh but loved home god.

"Jules Tremblay, poet, novelist, essayist and critic, recently published a fascinating brochure on Canadian Literature of French Expression. Mr. fremblay is the National secretary of he Canadian Authors' association. He has written several novels and volumes of poems, but most of them are in the French language.

"Frederick William Wallace has written splendid sea stories. 'Wooden Ships and Iron Men, 'Blue Water,' 'The Viking Blood' 'Salt Seas and Sailormen.' These are some of the titles by the foremost writer of sea stories in Canada.

Favorite Woman Authors

"Of course we all have our personal preferences in books If I were asked to name the woman author of Canada whose work I admire most, I would be inclined to say Mazo de la Roche, who wrote 'Explorers of the Dawn,' a thing as charming as Kenneth Grahame's 'Golden Days.' But after hav-

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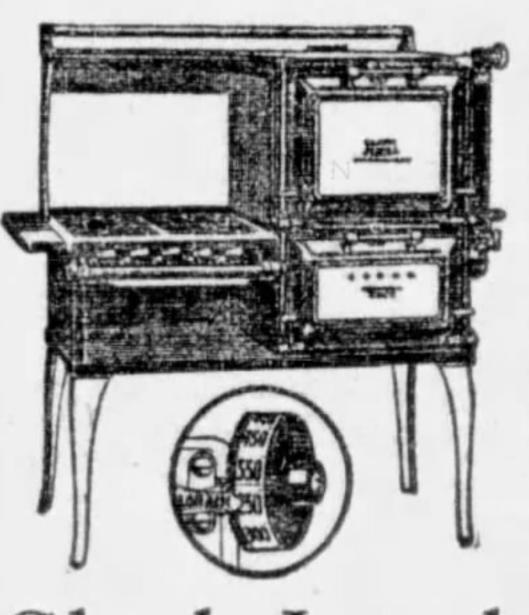
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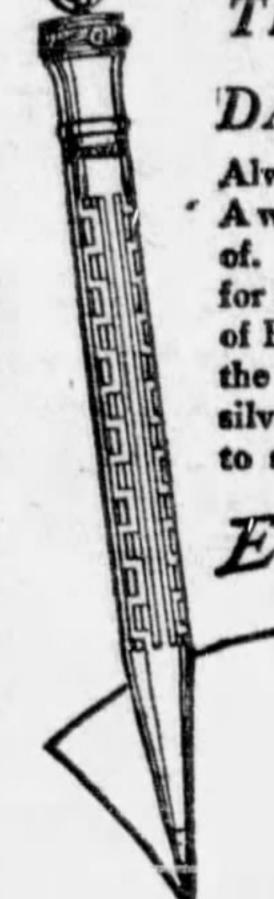
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lady who resides in Vancouver, and his book, 'Formosa-Past and Present.' | d who writes beautifully I have read only two of her books: "The Ninth Vibration' and 'The Key of Dreams.' Also I should put in my little gallery Laura Goodman Salversen, whose novel 'The Viking Heart,' is a great work. "'Emily of New Moon' is a delight-

ful book by L. M. Montgomery.

Popular Men "Murray Gibbon has written some stories of our Canadian Rockies, Hopkins Moorehouse, the author of 'Deep Furrows,' the story of the Canadian Grain Growers, is a born storyteller. Arthur Heming is both artist and author. His unusual stories of outdoor life have brought him deserved fame. The author of 'D'Arcy Convers' is Canon Bertal Heeney, encumbent at St. Luke's, in Winnipeg His writing has made him many friends, and his charming personality has greatly added to his popularity. W. A. Fraser is another one of our popular novelists. Born in Nova Scotia he has lived a great part of his life in India and most of his stories are laid in that land. Archie P. McKishnie should have been included in the three premier writers of animal stories. Mr McKishnie is a great writer on the subject of wild life of today. He has made an intimate study of the creatures of which he writes. The Mc-Kishnies are a very well known literary family, Jean Blewett, the wellbeloved Canadian authoress, being a sister of Mr McKishnie.

Unsuspected Numbers in Calgary "Now my time is too limited to give you the names of all the Canadian poets and authors who are worth your reading, but before I close, I believe it will especially interest you if I tell you a little about the authors who are resident here in Calgary. Now, there are far more authors here than you would suspect. Not all of them have written books, but many of them are, nevertheless, writers of ability and great talent. I will tell you about the ones, however, who have achieved publication between covers. Admiral Como, whose articles on

world questions appear from time to is a rancher at Shepherd, and made a great naval record during the late Como possesses.

ing mentioned Mazo de la Roche, I of Admiral Peary's party in polar exwould swiftly add, L. Adam Beck, a peditions. His most notable work is

> "Ralph Kendal is typical of this to country. He might be one of the characters from his own stirring tales. You | s could not read any book that would c give you more pride and delight in this part of the country in which you live than Kendal's mounted police stories; 'Benton of the Mounted,' and 'The Luck of the Mounted.' There have in been many imitators of Kendal, and in the movies they have used his characters bodily in the other fellow's yarns, but Kendal's work has a place of its own.

"John M. Williams has written several of the most interesting books on music, used as text books. No doubt many of you are studying from them. When you sit down to the piano, it may not occur to you to look at the first page and discover the author of the book.

"Mrs. Elaine Catley, whose poems are now eagerly looked for, has had a book of poems published in London.

"Mrs. C. B. Waagen is better known for her unselfish work with the Red Cross, of which she is president. However, Mrs. Waagen besides being a book lover, has also written several stories, and her novel, The Wayside Cross' is due for publication this sea-

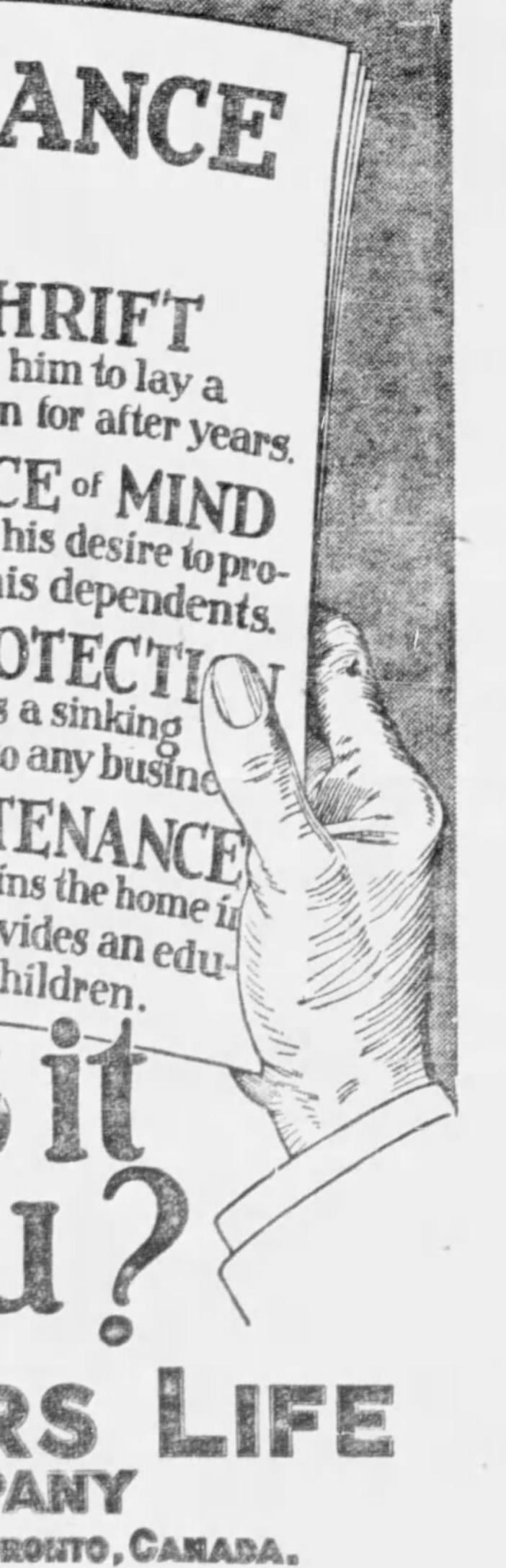
"Sir James Outram is the author of important books on Alpine subjects. All of you who love the mountains should read them. "Among the Calgary authors is Mrs.

Nellie McClung, whose name is a household word.

"I would have liked also to mention the few-the very few dramatists we have in Canada, but I have not the time. However I cannot close without saying that I consider Merrill Dennison, author of a volume of short one-act plays, entitled 'The Unheroic North, a unique genius. Wilson Mc-Donald made the comment that he has the most original mind of any of the younger writers of the east.

### NO PRESIDENT YET

The presidency of the Women's time, has written several books on Canadian club remains vacant, awaitscientific and technical subjects. He ing the arrival of Mrs. F. W. Stockton from the coast. Mrs. Stockton has been delayed by the necessity of havwar, I never saw so many medals and ing a minor operation performed bedecorations in my life as Admiral fore returning west. The retiring president, Mrs. D. A. Bruce, and nomin-"J W. Davidson, whom Calgarians ating committee of the club, hopes she know chiefly as 'High Mucky Muck' will feel able to take over the position of Rotarians is well known as a writer on her return, and state they will wait of travel articles and articles on Arc- until the end of January, if necessary, tic exploration. Mr. Davidson was one for her acceptance.



Calgary.

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