

BOOKS, LITERARY NOTES, ETC.

(By WINNIFRED EATON REEVE)

In a recent number of the Top-Notch Magazine there appeared a "Canadian" story by an American author. The story is entitled "The Terror of the North." The following description will amaze and amuse Canadians, and give some idea of how Canada is described in American fiction.

"The man who carried the mail from Regina to Saskatoon cracked his whip over the shaggy backs of his six huskies and peered into the encompassing blackness. It was somewhere near midday, but almost as dark as midnight, for masses of blue-black clouds hid the sun, and a storm was raging in the heights of the north."

Not to be outdone in description of Canada, another American author, one who writes with skill, pictures a baseball match at Guelph, Ontario, watched by a stolid audience of Indians and squaws in blankets and feather head-dresses.

Victor Lauriston, the Canadian author of "The Twenty-first Burr," draws attention to the fact that Indians of that sort in Guelph would draw a bigger crowd than a baseball match, for "the baseball germ in the Royal City is so old a resident that the place is pretty well immunized. The Guelph 'Maple Leafs' toured the States in the days when the great American pastime was still young."

Mr. Lauriston, in a recent letter, tells of a personal experience with an American editor in New York to whom he was trying to sell some stories whose locale was Chatham, Ontario.

"A neighbor of yours writes for us quite a bit," said the editor.

"A neighbor! Who is he?"

"Douglas Durkin. You're from Chatham, aren't you? Well, he lives right near you."

"Durkin lives in the west — near Winnipeg."

"That's not far from Chatham, is it?"

"Oh, no. Only about a thousand miles."

On February 8 Calgary will have an opportunity of seeing Canada's poet laureate in recital at the Central Methodist church. This may be the last time that an opportunity will be afforded Calgarians of seeing Canada's best loved poet, Bliss Carman, for his health has been poor of late years, and the traveling exacts a heavy toll from a man of Mr. Carman's age.

"Oh, did you once see Shelley!" Those words still throb with the eager hero worship of the poet that wrote them. The time may come when others will ask us whether we had actually seen Canada's Carman.

It is said that the Normal school, from which a large attendance had

been expected, have invited the Normal school of Carbon to come to Calgary for a dance on the night of the poet's recital. An effort is to be made to induce the Normal school to change their invitation to read "recital" instead of dance, or to bring their friends to hear the Canadian poet prior to the dance.

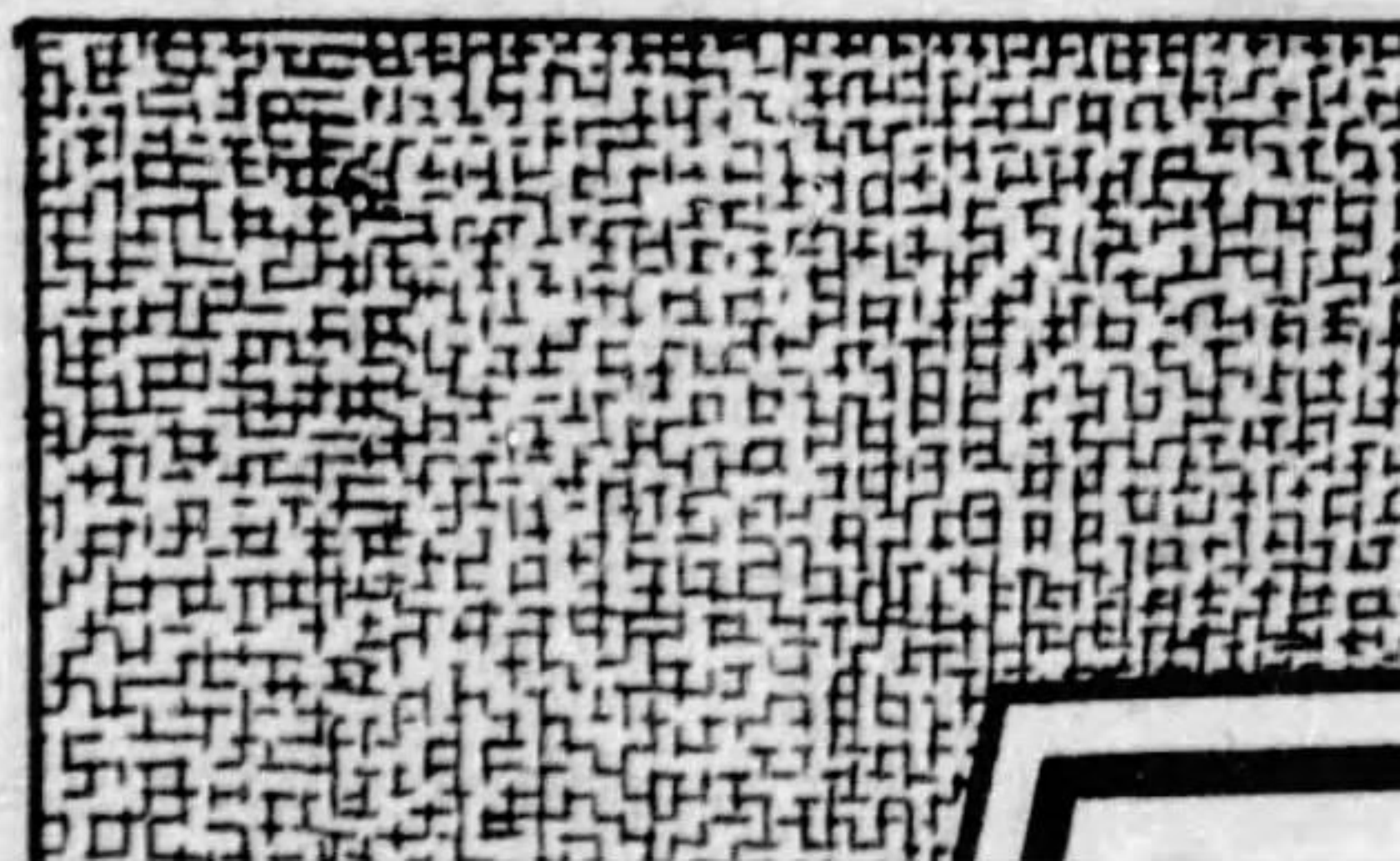
Mrs. McClung, in her address before the local council of women at their recent banquet, pointed out that the coming of the Canadian poet to Calgary was an event that should be noted by all who are lovers of poetry and are patriotic.

Wilson McDonald, the Canadian poet, was a recent visitor for a couple of days in Calgary. While here he attended the Gladys Attree special performance of exhibition dancing, and expressed a deep interest in the Little Theater movement in Calgary. Mr. McDonald is the author of an opera entitled "In Sunny France." It was put on in Toronto by Hart House, the "Little Theater" of that city, and ran continuously for a couple of weeks, playing to capacity audiences. It has also been put on by other Little Theaters, and is now being rehearsed in Moose Jaw, under the auspices of the local council of women.

Mr. McDonald, as soon as he learned of the Little Theater movement in Calgary, immediately offered his opera for an initial vehicle for the association. Besides giving his opera to the newly formed association, Mr. McDonald is willing to come to Calgary and personally rehearse the piece, as he has done in other cities. Besides writing the libretto and lyrics, he is also the author of the music, and composed the dances, and he plays one of the parts himself.

This generous offer may well appeal to the association which is to be formed some day this week at an open meeting to which the public is urged to come.

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