

## Mr. Stevenson's Manifesto

Cazenovia, N.Y., Feb. 15/24.  
Editor, Canadian Bookman,  
Toronto, Ont.

It is not so very long since I told you of my feelings of loneliness in the literary sense, being away from Canada and not wishing to lose my style in the whirl of Americanism in poetry.

May I be permitted to say that "The Canadian Bookman" is already answering my own particular problem. It is growing upon me that the thing I wish to preserve, namely, whatever purely Canadian spirit my work may have, is being fired to jealous pride in Canadian literary opportunity and native Canadian themes.

The focus of my feeling is certainly present in "Manifesto for a National Literature" by Lionel Stevenson. I have read it three times and will read it yet three times three, I do believe. Kindly convey my compliments to Lionel Stevenson.

Yours truly,  
Wallace H. Robb.

The point of this reference to Lionel Stevenson's article in the February issue is strengthened by the orders received for extra copies of the February issue on the strength of the "Manifesto for A National Literature."

## A Protest

4004 Sixth St. W.,  
Calgary, Feb. 5th, 1924.

Editor, Canadian Bookman:

I beg to ask for space in the Canadian Bookman for this letter.

A certain author had her first book published during the last Fall season. Reviews in fulsome praise of this work began immediately to appear in several of the newspapers and publications. A creditable work for a first book, it was nevertheless, in my opinion, praised out of all proportion to its merits. Considerable wonder was expressed by many authors as to why this novel was being singled out for special notice. I stumbled upon the answer.

The author, revealing a singular insensibility, which might be excused on the ground of inexperience as a writer, told me that she had engaged a certain "critic" and was paying him 15 per cent of her author's royalties. He revised her book, sold it to the publishers—and this is what seems to me the inexcusable part—proceeded to write numerous reviews of it. One of these reviews was given a spread in the International Book Review of the Literary Digest; several appeared boldly over his own name; several were printed anonymously. It was in the nature of things that other reviewers reprinted his very well written reviews and again others followed in his steps and expanded laudatory columns upon the work. This "critic-agent" also praised the book in public addresses and boosted it in bookstores.

I hold that this is not legitimate criticism. I declare it to be unfair to other writers. It is just as if the author herself were writing her own reviews. I have had over twenty novels published, and I never paid for a single review. My work has been condemned or praised, according to the opinion or mood of the reviewer, but never have I in any way inspired the reviewer. I would not thank a critic to praise a work by me because I was a personal friend. The value of criticism lies in it being wholly uninfused and unbiased. There is justification for publicity work put out by the publishers; but there is no excuse for an author especially hiring an "agent-critic" to write her reviews.

If a new author can "put it across" in this way, what chance have older writers, who have spent a life time endeavoring to make a place for themselves in the literary world? The

competition is not fair. The race is won before it is run.

I told the author of the book in question that I did not consider this sort of thing was honest. She justified it on the ground that her agent actually believed in the book, and that, in fact, it was because of his enthusiasm and admiration, he had taken it up and pushed it. She also claimed that several books had been launched in the same manner. If that is true, Canadian literature is in a sad state, I must say.

Sincerely,  
(Onoto Walmna)  
WINIFRED REEVE.

## Calgary's Little Theatre

By Charlotte Gordon.

CALGARY now has its Little Theatre Association and even before the enrollment of members, over a hundred names have been signed up applying for membership. A committee of thirty-five of Calgary's most prominent residents are now at work.

It is planned to invite H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, as an Alberta land-owner, to become Honorary Patron. In recognition of the untiring efforts of Mrs. Winnifred Reeve in this movement, she was unanimously elected honorary president.

Judge Roland B. Winter has been appointed president and W. A. Lincoln vice-president. Mrs. Potts is secretary and Mr. Hedley B. Hill, manager of the Bank of Commerce, is treasurer.

Mr. Oliver who has had thirty years' experience in the world of the theatre in England, has been elected chairman of the personnel committee and Mrs. A. J. Gordon will have charge of the publicity committee. There will be three classes of members—patrons, honorary and active.

The movement was started by Mrs. Winnifred B. Reeve, well known author of "Cattle," "Sunny-San" and other novels. She invited about twenty of her friends to an informal luncheon and meeting, laid before them the details of a plan to form an Association for Calgary. An open meeting was then called and the unexpectedly large audience revealed the interest taken in the project by the residents of the Foothills. The Association was formed under the name of "The Calgary Little Theatre Association." This name may be changed to the "Calgary Community Theatre."

## Calgary Literary Contest

The Calgary branch of the C. A. A. have inaugurated an essay competition in the Calgary schools. Seven prizes are being awarded to the students who turn in the best compositions on Canadian Authors and Their Work. The two best compositions will be given prominence in the Calgary newspapers.

As a result, accommodation in the reference room of the Public Library, after school hours, is now at a premium. Scores of students of the High schools have been studying the history and work of Canadian Authors which gives promise of a new interest in our literature.

## WILLIAM McFEE'S

An Engineer's Note Book

Essays on Life and Letters  
\$1.00, Postage Extra

For Sale at all Bookstores or by  
Mail from

**ROBERT A. HICKS**  
Publisher

Four Christopher St.  
Greenwich Village, N.Y.

Just Published—

a Monumental Work

**"PRINCIPLES OF  
ADVERTISING"**

By Daniel Starch, Ph.D., Graduate  
School of Business Administration,  
Harvard University.

An authoritative volume describing  
the very latest, scientific advertising  
methods.

Net, \$5.50

Published by

**A. W. SHAW COMPANY**  
Care, Haven and Erie Streets  
NEW YORK CHICAGO LONDON

The World's Largest Line of  
**DICTIONARIES**

(ENGLISH AND FOREIGN)

Published by One House.

ALSO

Business, Reference and Text Books,  
Diaries and Address Books.

**LAIRD & LEE, Inc.**  
CHICAGO

**"Writing of To-day"**

By J. W. Cunliffe, D.Lit., and G.  
R. Lomer, Ph.D.

Third and Revised Edition

\$2.00 Postpaid

This book will be sent, postpaid, for the  
price with the privilege of nominating a  
new subscriber for "The Canadian  
Bookman," thus giving double value.

Bookcraft Publishing Co., Ltd.  
22 Adelaide St. W., Toronto, Canada

**IF YOU WISH YOUR**

Manuscript of Story or Philosophy neatly  
and correctly typed, according to rules that  
must be observed to ensure acceptable con-  
sideration by Editors and Publishers Pre-  
ferred, write G. Henry Cole, 225 Market  
Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario.

Privacy and Integrity Guaranteed