

The Governor-General

Leonard McKenna

During the present year, a book was published by an author of renown, a statesman of note, a man whose varied career has been brilliant, and whose leadership has added so much to the lustre of his life that to-day he is, perhaps, the most interesting among prominent men. In "The King's Grace" John Buchan has so written about the events of the present reign that his style, his arrangement of matter, and his special attitude in treating his subject, have made him a favorite novelist. It is as such that we welcome to Canada the representative of His Majesty, King George V.

In the city of Perth, Scotland, John Buchan was born on the twenty-sixth of August, eighteen hundred and seventy-five. His father, a much esteemed minister of the Free Church, and his mother, a cousin of Mr. Gladstone, were descendants of an old Border family. There young Buchan was reared, among the beautiful and peaceful scenes of a country manse.

His education was acquired at Glasgow University and Brasenose College, Oxford. It was while attending Oxford that his future as an historian was hinted, for he took first class honors in history and philosophy. Moreover these great distinctions were but the beginning of his achievements. He also won the Stanhope historical prize and the Newdigate prize for English verse. As a debater he proved his mettle in the lists of the Oxford Union and had the distinction of being appointed president of that great debating society.

When he had completed his university studies, the idea of entering politics came to him. In nineteen hundred and one, he was called to the English Bar and, in the same year, he went to South Africa as secretary to Lord Milner, the then High Commissioner. While there, he travelled very much and, as he says himself, "fell eternally in love with the country." Here too he was converted to Cecil Rhode's dream of a united British Empire. In nineteen hundred and three, he returned to England and the English Bar, working with Sir Robert Finlay. In nineteen hundred and seven, he became a partner in the firm of Thomas Nelson and Sons, publishers. At this

juncture, his career became diverted definitely toward literature, but his great literary endeavours rendered his statesmanship none the less significant. Hand in hand with his labors as a novelist, he has been Director of Information under Lloyd George, Curator of the Oxford University Chest, Trustee of the national library of Scotland, and a member of Parliament at Westminster for the Scottish Universities.

As a novelist, John Buchan is best known for his brilliant tales of adventure. He has been called "the greatest romancer since Stevenson." His writings include all kinds and types of literature. "The Thirty-Nine Steps," "Greenmantle," "Mr. Standfast," and "The Dancing Floor" have established for him an outstanding place in the realm of fascinating story-telling. Biography seems to be the field in which he excels. His lives of Julius Caesar, Sir Walter Raleigh and of Oliver Cromwell are classed among his most outstanding works. Indeed, the whole of his literature is permeated with that high quality that has won for him the wonderful reputation he possesses.

The Great War brought to him his greatest opportunity to serve his country. The London Times sent him to the front as a correspondent in the spring of nineteen hundred and fifteen. After surviving many of the terrible battles of that awful time, he was recalled from the front to fill the supremely important position of Director of Information. At the end of the war, his ability and service had won him recognition in three armies. He was an officer on the Headquarters Staff of the British Army; a Lieutenant-Colonel of the Crown of Belgium and of the Crown of Italy. It was this war service, which enabled him to write his "History of Brasenose College, Oxford," and "South African Forces in France."

Some time ago he wrote: "I have three ambitions, one in each sphere: to write a full life of General Robert Lee; to make the best literature accessible to the poorest purse; and to do a little to help bring about a full understanding of America with the British Empire." Such is the man whom we welcome to Canada as our vice-regal representative; a man who has been decidedly a leader in many fields; a man who has devoted his life to his country and to the Empire; a man whose capacity as a statesman will enable him to be an unfailing guide of our Dominion

in an important and critical epoch. May good results attend his efforts! May God grant that he, in his new career, be happy and successful!



What is well done is done soon enough—*Du Bartas*

Good name, in man or woman, dear my lord
Is the immediate jewel of their souls.

—*Shakespeare*

The vocation of every man and woman is to serve
other people.—*Tolstoi*

There is another and a better world.—*Kotzebue*

Love truth, but pardon error.—*Voltaire*

If there were no God, it would be necessary to invent
Him.—*Voltaire*

