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FILE 475

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St. Paul's Presbyterian Church

REV. R. G. MACBETH, M.A.
MINISTER

AUTHOR OF
"THE SELKIRK SETTLERS IN REAL LIFE."
"THE MAKING OF THE CANADIAN WEST."
"OUR TASK IN CANADA"
"PEACE RIVER LETTERS."
"THE ROMANCE OF WESTERN CANADA"
"POLICING THE PLAINS (IN CANADA)", ETC.

335 ELEVENTH AVENUE WEST

VANCOUVER, B. C.

July 12, 22

Dear Sir Arthur

When I met you here on your
victorious return from the front;
you were good enough to say that
you had known of me and my
work, I appreciated that very
much - as I enjoyed your great
address at the Canadian Club
in the Hotel Vancouver.

I would be very grateful if
you would read the enclosed
in regard to the proposed
publishing of my book "Policing
The Plains" which is looked
upon by men who know, as the
last word on this great subject.
You will note the reviews (Schacht)

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from the big papers in the Old
Country. Police Headquarters
in Ottawa have bought 100
copies for their detachments
all over the Dominion.

We in Canada have been
crying out for films and pictures
under our own flag - and about
our own people. There is an op-
portunity for men whose pa-
triotism is worth while. I think
this would be a good investment
in every sense. - It would appeal
to the heroic element in our young
people. There are scores of men
in Montreal in your circle that
could invest a few thousands
without any effort - and you
could reach them. Being able

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335 ELEVENTH AVENUE WEST

VANCOUVER, B. C.

To quote a few names like your
own and others would help the
Company - if men knew that you
had interest in it. The shares
are \$100 each.

I am not on the financial side
of this but I would like to see it
Capt. Harwood Steele is mainly the
man trying to put it through at my
request. I hope he will make some-
thing out of it. His father Sir Sam B.
Steele died in poverty in England after
42 years of service. Lady Steele has
a very small pension.

My people colonised this western land
110 years ago - we have worked and
fought for it - but have not made
anything out of it; Men and women
who are in big business should not
forget the pathfinders - Personally I am
used to frugal living but I would like to
make this contribution to the country's life

Yours very sincerely
R. G. Macbeth

CANADIAN FILMS.

It has long been a subject of regret and of some surprise that more enterprise has not been exhibited by Canadians in producing national moving pictures. With unrivalled scenery, a history exceptionally romantic, teeming with adventure, pathos and thrilling incident, all the ingredients for gripping pictorial dramatization are present, and yet this rich field has remained practically neglected, and we are dependent on alien producers, out of touch with the genius of the country.

At last a real attempt is to be made to remedy this defect. The Canadian Historic Features, of Vancouver, are about to produce a "made-in-Canada" film, which ought to supply the long-felt want. The subject chosen for the first experiment is founded upon the Rev. R.G. MacBeth's well-known book, "Policing the Plains," the graphic story of the North-West Mounted Police, which has been read and admired by all who love their country and its institutions and has received the highest praise from literary critics. Mr. MacBeth wrote from an intimate personal knowledge, and has produced a book of absorbing interest.

The story of the Mounted Police, as it will be presented in the picturization of this narrative, is the story of the settlement and growth of Western Canada. It is a topic which appeals to young and old alike, an epic of courage, of endurance, of virile achievement. The dangers and tragedies of the early days, the noble accomplishment of the great pioneers, the railway builders, the gold-seekers; the suppression of rebellion and the tracking down of criminals - it may well be believed, as the prospectus claims, that such things "properly portrayed as a living panorama, with the Mounted Police as the central figures, will dwarf into insignificance the fictional productions."

It is hoped that other works of prime interest to Canadians will be produced later, and all will wish for the success of the enterprise. If the company holds to its intention to produce a series of educational films of this character, presenting authentic history in a manner to entertain and impress itself on the minds of the audiences, it will be doing a serviceable work for cinema patrons, and at the same time will be contributing a to an important national movement. We have been too long fed from extraneous sources, and are becoming surfeited with that kind of diet.

(Hamilton Spectator)

Editorial

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July 20th, 1922.

Rev. R. G. MacBeth, M.A.,
335 Eleventh Avenue West,
Vancouver, B.C.

My dear Reverend MacBeth:-

Let me acknowledge receipt of
your letter of July 12th.

I am very glad a project is on foot to
use your book "Policing the Plains" as a basis for a
film. I can imagine nothing from a Canadian point of
view more interesting or more inspiring. Even outside
of Canada I am sure such a film would be very acceptable
and I wish Mr. Steele all success in his efforts to give
such a film to the public.

The making of these films is, of course,
a very costly project. It is not a matter of a few
thousands, but a matter of many tens of thousands and
I cannot imagine any set of business men taking it up
unless they were in such a business, nor would men invest
money in the project if the idea were to make this film
and this film alone. There are, of course, many wealthy
men in Montreal who give most liberally and generously
to all charitable and patriotic endeavour. This,
though, is not a patriotic thing and would be regarded
solely as a business venture and Capt. Steele would
have to impress them with the merits of the scheme. I
remember him very well and I am sure I wish you both
every success, for the project is a worthy one and ought
to succeed.

Yours faithfully,

Principal.

July 27-1922

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Dear Sir Arthur

I am grateful for your kindly letter, and appreciate your good wishes as expressed therein.

I still think, however, that this film is a patriotic project. It is intended that this Company shall put other historical and educational films on the screen. It is about time we ceased from being dependent on the United States for our films and for the interpretation of our history as taught by the screen.

Also, in other cities like Ottawa and Winnipeg and Saint-St. Marie ordinary business men, in their public spirit, have gone into the motion picture undertaking. But there were no pictures with such a prospect as this one

with sincere personal regard

Yours faithfully

R. G. MacBeth

Mr Arthur Currie
Montreal