

OUR LONDON LETTER

By ELIZABETH MONTIZAMBERT

THE average Canadian visitor to London for a short holiday or on business spends his or her time partly in shops, partly in a motor in search of sunshine, and perhaps a few days in one of those historic houses where gracious hospitality is so often and so generously dispensed to the overseas traveller.

There is little opportunity in a short visit to estimate the curious way in which Canadians have gradually become absorbed into almost every phase of London life, but a little investigation shows that they are to be found in an extraordinary number of occupations measuring their skill against the dwellers in the older land, or in the friendly rivalry of sport or merely enjoying the opportunities for learning and amusement in the greatest city in the world.

Unlike Americans in London who cling together and form American clubs and build American houses of business such as Bush House, Canadians prefer to intermingle as closely as they may with English life. The Canada Club exists primarily for this purpose and has no club hours nor fixed meeting place for its pleasant dinners which have been honored by the presence of the bearers of the greatest names in English life. The brief and well-meant attempt at a club for Canadian men in London was short-lived, partly for the reason that Canadians generally prefer to frequent clubs such as the R.A.C. the R.A.F., the British Empire Club or the Sports Club where they may get into contact with a wider aspect of life over here.

The natural rendezvous for the visiting Canadian is the sumptuous home of the Canadian High Commissioner and Mrs. Larkin. Every Tuesday afternoon when she is in London, Mrs. Larkin receives any Canadian who finds his or her way to 94 Lancaster Gate and her frail health which sometimes interferes with public engagements is never allowed to prevent her warm welcome to the stranger. Miss Aileen Larkin shares with her mother that most attractive instinct for paying special attention to visitors.

A great deal of quiet hospitality is dispensed by the Agents-General for the different provinces, Messrs. Lemieux, Noxon, Pauline and Howard, whose number has just been increased by the arrival of Mr. Herbert Greenfield, ex-premier of Alberta, who has been appointed commissioner of immigration for Alberta, and Mrs. Greenfield.

Mrs. Amery, wife of the Secretary of State for Dominions and Colonies and sister of Sir Hamar Greenwood, is a Canadian holding a position in London whose importance it would be difficult to over-estimate. Her weekly receptions where she exercises her great gifts as a hostess in arranging an opportunity for overseas visitors to meet English people of note, are of a definite service in empire affairs.

Mrs. E. R. Peacock is another Canadian hostess who entertains a great deal in a very delightful way at her home in Curzon Street as well as at the country home near Ascot where she and her husband have charming week-end parties. A young and beautiful recent addition to the ranks of Canadian hostesses is Lady Minto who has gracefully performed the duties of a great position with tact and kindness.

Lady Beaverbrook is another Canadian who adds to the possession of beauty the faculty of never forgetting her old friends, and during the tour she organized last year of the New Brunswick

school teachers she proved that she was an excellent after-dinner speaker as well. Lady Beaverbrook had just returned from an extended visit in California and Canada. A complete list of Anglo-Canadian hostesses in London would be a very long one. Lady Mount Stephen, who entertains both in her town house in Carlton Gardens and at Brantridge Park, Lady McLaren Brown whose talents as a hostess are equalled by her gift of oratory, Mrs. Ernest Stuart who has so ably seconded her son in the wide hospitality he has always shown to Canadian visitors of note, Mrs. Sale, the Canadian wife of the Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company, Mrs. Lloyd Fleming and Mrs. C. R. Hegan, are only a few among many Canadians who make a visit to London a very pleasant thing for their compatriots.

Since Miss Sophia M^{rs} Nabb married the seventh Earl of Albermarle, the number of Canadians who have married Englishmen and settled over here, is very great. Among them are Lady Gould Adams and her sisters Mrs. Crompton and Mrs. Pemberton, the daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Riordan, of St. Catharines; the Marchioness of Donegal, nee Twining, of Halifax; Mrs. Dudley Mills, nee Joly de Lotbiniere; The Countess of Minto and her sister the Countess of Haddington, nee Cook; Mrs. Arthur B. Bradshaw, nee Price, of Quebec; Mrs. H. E. Wimperis, nee Parkin; Mrs. Dominick Brown and her sister Lady Hull, nee Dobell; Lady Dashwood, nee Eaton and many others.

There are also a great many Canadians who for one reason or another have decided to settle down in England. It would, of course, be impossible to give a complete list. Their presence undoubtedly adds to the intermingling and better understanding of the problems of both countries. Some of them are in business over here, some are retired army officers like Gen. Sir Dudley Ridout, Maj. Gen. Sir Henry Burstall, Gen. Herbert Nanton, Maj.-Gen. Sir George Cory, and Col. Hamilton Gault, M.P., who is now actively engaged in English political life. Among the other Canadians in London whose names are not mentioned elsewhere are Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Reford, Mr. and Mrs. Folger, Mr. and Mrs. Sankey, Lady Twining, Mrs. Vernon Eaton and her sister Miss Fitz Randolph, Col. and Mrs. Reid Hyde, Miss Cornelia Sewell, the Misses Stevenson, Mrs. Grasset Baldwin, Mrs. Britton Schuyler, Mrs. Howland and her three daughters, Mrs. Wharnerford, Mrs. Biggar and Mrs. Easton, Lady Peterson, Lady Mackenzie.

Canada cannot, perhaps, however much she would like to, claim Miss Lena Ashwell as a dyed-in-the-wool Canadian, but as she laughingly expressed it the other day she likes to call herself a "Half Canadian", and she never forgets her associations with our country. In the preface to that very original and able book, "Reflections from Shakespeare" Miss Ashwell gives a charming account of her early days in Canada, when as she says, "We had no servant, and were used to scrubbing, cooking, baking, washing and ironing. How we enjoyed every minute of it!"

Miss Ashwell's splendid work in organizing concert-parties for the soldiers in France and in directing several theatrical companies, "Once-a-week players" to give the people in the London suburbs the chance of seeing good plays at a low cost, is not as widely known as it should be and Canadian visitors to London would do well to

See also page 46



Lady Evelyn Fitzgerald, wife of Captain, Sir E. Fitzgerald, of London, England, and daughter of the late General Charles William Drury, C.B., of Halifax, N.S., and sister of Lady Beaverbrook, lately a visitor to Canada