THE BRITISH COLUMBIA HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

JULY, 1945

The

BRITISH COLUMBIA HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

Published by the Archives of British Columbia
in co-operation with the
British Columbia Historical Association.

EDITOR.
W. KAYE LAMB.
The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, B.C.

ASSOCIATE EDITOR.
WILLARD E. IRELAND.
Provincial Archives, Victoria, B.C.
(On active service, R.C.A.F.)

ADVISORY BOARD.
J. C. GOODFELLOW, *Princeton.* T. A. RICKARD, *Victoria.*
W. N. SAGE, *Vancouver.*

Editorial communications should be addressed to the Editor.

Subscriptions should be sent to the Provincial Archives, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C. Price, 50c. the copy, or $2 the year. Members of the British Columbia Historical Association in good standing receive the *Quarterly* without further charge.

Neither the Provincial Archives nor the British Columbia Historical Association assumes any responsibility for statements made by contributors to the magazine.

The *Quarterly* is indexed in Faxon's *Annual Magazine Subject-Index.*

The
BRITISH COLUMBIA HISTORICAL QUARTERLY

"Any country worthy of a future should be interested in its past."

VOL. IX. VICTORIA, B.C., JULY, 1945. No. 3

CONTENTS.

PAGE.

From "Tickler" to "Telegram": Notes on Early Vancouver Newspapers.
By Bessie Lamb 175

Pioneer Days in Pulp and Paper.
By Herbert Carmichael 201

Royal Commissions and Commissions of Inquiry in British Columbia. A Checklist.
Part IV.: 1921–1942. (Conclusion.)
By Marjorie C. Holmes 213

NOTES AND COMMENTS:

The Last Journey of British Columbia's Largest Canoe.
By E. M. Cotton 229

Leonard Norris: 1865–1945.
By Margaret Ormsby 232

British Columbia Historical Association 234

Contributors to this Issue 235

THE NORTHWEST BOOKSHELF:

Jefferys: *The Picture Gallery of Canadian History.* Vol. II.
By Helen R. Boutilier 237

Longley: *Sir Francis Hincks.*
By Margaret Ormsby 239

Parker: *Local History.*
By W. Kaye Lamb 241

THE MOODYVILLE TICKLER.

THE PIONEER ADVOCATE OF BURRARD'S INLET.

ENCOURAGE HOME MANUFACTURES ! !

VOL. I.—No. 1. MOODYVILLE, JULY 20TH, 1878. PRICE PER COPY, 50 CENTS.

The Moodyville "Tickler."

The present is decidedly an *age of civilization*. One of the chief signs of progress in this respect is the possessing a local paper. Moodyville, then, can now claim to be, what it really is, a go-ahead, prosperous, civilized locality. For here is the proof—here is its newspaper! But in this, its maiden issue, the Editor would *fain ask a more than ordinary* amount of indulgence from his readers. Written at odd intervals, during the wee sma' hours of the night, in moments hurriedly stolen from that sleep which one was so loth to renounce—when nought was to be seen but the fitful flash of the night-watchman's lantern, as he went his stealthy rounds—nought to be heard but the steady splash! splash! of the dripping water as it drops with its never-ceasing monotonous thud on the floor of the "Old Mill" (where the office of the "T[illegible]" is [illegible] time located), [illegible]wing scanty draught [illegible] but [illegible]tive melody o[illegible]

crops most likely to thrive in our native saw-dust, with full directions as to harvesting, &c. Interesting and so-called "live" information from "Special Correspondents" at the Logging Camps as to the prevalence of mosquitoes or otherwise, the state of the roads (if any), probable changes in the weather, stale, re-hashed articles on the Eastern Question and Chinese Emigration, with estimates of the computed strength of "Fell's Coffee" over Chicory,—all these items shall be dwelt upon in the length common to the other local journals of this Province, thereby enabling us to accomplish the feat of rendering the "TICKLER" as unreadable as most of its co-temporaries! The Editor, however, has decided to differ from the other journals in one respect, viz., in providing his readers with a full and assorted stock of local advertisements, believing that more pleasant and palatable reading matter can be found to exist. Intending advertisers will please [illegible] his matter and can r[illegible] assured [illegible]

Courtesy *Vancouver Daily Province.*

Facsimile of part of the first page of the first issue of the *Moodyville Tickler*, the first newspaper published on the shores of Burrard Inlet. The original—the only copy of the *Tickler* known to be in existence—is in the Vancouver City Archives.

FROM "TICKLER" TO "TELEGRAM": NOTES ON EARLY VANCOUVER NEWSPAPERS.

A 26-year-old lumber clerk in the long vanished sawmill at Moodyville, on the North Shore, was Greater Vancouver's first newspaper editor. Just sixty-seven years ago, after much burning of midnight oil, William Royde Colbeck managed to produce the first issue of a provocative little journal, the *Moodyville Tickler*. English born[1] and said to have been educated at Oxford, Colbeck had displayed his literary bent a few months before, when he contributed a poem entitled "A Happy New Year!" to the New Year's Day issue of the Victoria *Colonist*.[2]

The first issue of the *Tickler* was dated July 20, 1878. Colbeck was evidently aware that he was making history for a sub-title announced the paper as "The Pioneer Advocate of Burrard's Inlet." The spritely leading article on the first of its four small pages, each of which measured approximately 8½ by 12 inches, commenced as follows:—

> The present is decidedly an age of civilization. One of the chief signs of progress in this respect is the possessing a local paper. Moodyville, then, can now claim to be, what it really is, a go-ahead, prosperous, civilized locality. For here is the proof—here is its newspaper!

Craving "a more than ordinary amount of indulgence from his readers," Colbeck then explained that the *Tickler* had been

> Written at odd intervals, during the wee sma' hours of the night, in moments hurriedly stolen from that sleep which one was loth to renounce—when nought was to be seen but the fitful flash of the night-watchman's lantern, as he went his stealthy rounds—nought to be heard but the steady splash! splash! of the dripping water as it drops with its never-ceasing monotonous thud on the floor of the "Old Mill" (where the office of the *Tickler* is for the time located), drawing scanty draughts of inspiration from nought but the plaintive melody of a couple of Thomas cats . . .

---

(1) He was the eldest son of the Rev. W. R. Colbeck, vicar of Fressingfield, Suffolk. (Death notice in the Victoria *Colonist*, June 23, 1892, which in error places Fressingfield in Norfolk.) In April, 1879, in New Westminster, he married Anna Jane Young. (*Ibid.*, April 13, 1879.) After her husband's death Mrs. Colbeck returned to British Columbia with her family. A daughter, Nora, now Mrs. Horne, resides at Port Mellon.

(2) *Colonist*, January 1, 1878.

Elsewhere he explained further that

Owing to the enforced participation in the somewhat active duties of life as they present themselves around a saw-mill, the Editor will not be able to devote more than three nights a week to the interests of the *Tickler*.

Only the editing of the little paper was done at Moodyville; the printing was done in some shop, as yet unidentified, in New Westminster.

At this late date it is difficult to judge how serious a venture the *Tickler* was intended to be. The motive for its appearance may have been partly political. A general election was impending, and Colbeck devoted considerable space to the questions of the day, and in particular to the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway. He was an ardent supporter of Sir John A. Macdonald and the Conservative party, and condemned Alexander Mackenzie and the Liberals in no uncertain terms. But a newspaper must win local support if it is to survive, and this the *Tickler* evidently failed to do. The price—50 cents per copy—doubtless limited its circulation; its satirical touch (one news column was headed "Current Falsehoods"), and Colbeck's habit of indulging his lively sense of humour at the expense of his fellow mill-workers, may well have further limited its popularity. One of the less personal sallies deserves quotation:—

Notices of deaths, unless accompanied by a special fee, will be restricted to two lines and a half, but an enclosed five-dollar bill (silver taken at a discount) will ensure a double-headed, double black-edged column, devoted to praises of the deceased, and enumerating his peculiar vices (if he had any). His pedigree will be traced back to the Conquest, and his whole life's career will be "done up" so brown that his dearest relative, not even his mother-in-law, would be able to recognize the picture.

For a gratuity, however, of twenty dollars, the editor guarantees to indite a delightfully sublime and pathetic obituary notice in blank verse, to put in a personal appearance, if requested, at the wake, and ere morning dawns amidst the ruin of broken heads and broken bottles, so customary at these mournful family gatherings, to pronounce such a eulogy over the dear remains as would bring tears to the eyes of a Dromedary!

How long the *Tickler* survived we do not know. It was intended to be a weekly,[3] but only three issues, or at the most four, are thought to have appeared.[4] The only copy known to be in

(3) In noticing the first issue, the *Colonist* described the *Tickler* as "a small four-page hebdomadal."

(4) *See* the account in the Vancouver *Province*, October 12, 1935.

existence is the well-preserved first issue presented to the Vancouver City Archives ten years ago by Mrs. H. A. Christie. She received it from her father, the late Joseph Mannion, well known in early days as proprietor of the old Granville Hotel, and later a member of the first City Council of Vancouver.[5]

Colbeck was active and public-spirited, and although the *Tickler* vanished, he soon gained some prominence in the community. In 1881 he was elected President of the Burrard Inlet Mechanics' Institute,[6] and the following year was serving as a Director of the Royal Columbian Hospital.[7] But he had decided to try his fortune elsewhere, and left for Australia, apparently in the summer of 1882. There he turned once more to journalism, and became sub-editor of a Sydney paper.[8] He died at the early age of 40 on January 13, 1892, in Cape Town, where he had gone to visit a brother.[9]

The second newspaper published on the shores of Burrard Inlet was the *Port Moody Gazette,* a four-page six-column weekly that first appeared on Saturday, December 15, 1883. At that time Port Moody was confident that it would be the terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and a real-estate boom was in full swing. Steel rails had begun to arrive in March, and the first locomotive for the railway, then under construction through the Fraser Canyon and Fraser Valley, had been landed on the Port Moody dock, amidst great excitement, in October.

The price of the *Gazette* by subscription was $2 per annum, "invariably in advance." Ostensibly the paper was an independent venture, edited by P. S. Hamilton, formerly of Halifax,

---

(5) *Ibid.*

(6) The old Minute Book of the Institute (original in the Vancouver Public Library; transcript in Provincial Archives) shows that he served two years on the Committee before being elected President on April 9, 1881. He presided at the annual meeting held on April 1, 1882, but evidently resigned later in the year, as one of the purposes of a meeting held in November was the election of a successor.

(7) *See* R. T. Williams, *British Columbia Directory for the Years 1882–83,* Victoria, 1882, p. 227.

(8) *See* the brief article by A. Cromar Bruce in the Vancouver *News-Herald,* September 11, 1942.

(9) *Colonist,* June 23, 1892.

who had been at one time editor of the Winnipeg *Times*.[10] Actually it was merely an offshoot of the New Westminster *Mainland Guardian*, owned by J. K. Suter, and as such was promptly pounced upon and torn asunder by the *Guardian's* local contemporary, the *British Columbian*, which greeted it as follows:—

On Saturday the first number of the Port Moody *Gazette* made its appearance. It is a 24 column paper, edited by Mr. P. S. Hamilton of Port Moody, and printed at the *Guardian* office in this city. It is always a pleasure to welcome new faces in the great journalistic family, when there is any ground for expecting that the addition will be for the public good. We are sorry that in this latest venture we are unable to discover any promise of usefulness. The Port Moody *Gazette* is practically a reprint of the *Guardian*, under a changed name. From beginning to end it is a fraud. While professing to be issued at Port Moody, it is wholly made up, printed and published in this city. The first page is devoted to a description of Port Moody, which is quite proper, followed by some extracts from the *Guardian*. The second page has a brief introductory article, followed by over two columns of old *Guardian* editorials. The reading matter of the third and fourth pages is verbatim from the *Guardian*. . . . The "salutatory" states that the paper will be independent in politics, and the editorials are as rabidly partisan as anything that could possibly be conceived. It bristles all over with political misrepresentation and falsehood. We really cannot congratulate either Port Moody or its editor upon the first issue of the *Gazette*. If its initial number is so completely devoid of merit, and so thoroughly unreliable, there is not much hope for those that are to come. If Port Moody needs a paper, let her have one by all means; but let it be an honest, independent newspaper and not a *Guardian* with the label changed, so as to deceive.[11]

The *Gazette's* relatively mild rejoinder appeared in its second issue:—

The Editor of the *British Columbian* . . . has no more conception of gentlemanly courtesy than a Thug might be supposed to have of Christian Charity. He hails our first appearance with savage abuse. No doubt, he does find it provoking after having had Port Moody vigorously canvassed . . . in the effort to make it his own preserve, to find that now a new and vigorous journal has occupied the field and is certain to hold it. . . . the fellow tries to be witty (!) over some defects in our first issue, which any sane reader could see were errors of the compositor and proof-reader. . . . Until our arrangements are perfected and our own new press up . . . we

(10) *See* the note from the Halifax *Herald* reprinted in the *Gazette* for February 9, 1884.

(11) New Westminster *British Columbian*, December 19, 1883.

have made . . . arrangements for being printed at the office of another journal.[12]

But Hamilton (if he it was) might as well have saved his ink and paper, for the appearance of the *Gazette* could not help but rekindle the time-honoured feud between J. K. Suter of the *Guardian* and John Robson of the *Columbian*.[13] The quarrel had been fast and furious during the Provincial election of 1882, in which Robson was a candidate. Many of the exchanges had been both personal and highly abusive. Suter's remark that Robson was "unprincipled and untrammeled with the feelings of a gentleman," and Robson's counter charge that Suter was "a coward and a moral assassin," are typical. After Robson entered the cabinet in July, 1883, he had less time for journalism, and the *Columbian* was left in the hands of his brother David. But, as the item quoted above shows, David was both able and willing to continue the feud with the *Guardian*.

Perhaps because Robson is a much more prominent figure, James Kay Suter has usually been ignored or misrepresented by historians. His venomous editorials give a completely false impression of the man, and suggest nothing of his interesting background. Born in Scotland in 1823, Suter went thence to Liverpool. He was highly educated in languages, literature, and music, and was proficient as a chorister, pianist, and violinist. When a young man he emigrated to the Southern States, where he seems first to have turned to journalism for a living. While there he trained a church choir of negro singers, whose lovely voices delighted him. He was attracted to British Columbia by

(12) *Port Moody Gazette*, December 22, 1883.

(13) The differences between the two dated back to 1869, when, during a period of hard times, Robson moved the *Columbian* from New Westminster to Victoria, where Suter was then employed by the *Colonist*. Within a few months the *Colonist* purchased the *Columbian*, and the latter ceased publication. Robson became editor of the *Colonist*, and about the same time Suter was discharged. Robson always denied that he was in any way responsible for Suter's dismissal, but a life-long animosity sprang up between the two men. Later in 1869 Suter moved to New Westminster and founded the *Mainland Guardian*. Robson himself returned to New Westminster in 1880, purchased the *Dominion Pacific Herald*, and in 1882 changed its name to that of his original paper, the *British Columbian*. *See* "John Robson *versus* J. K. Suter. Three articles on Robson's early career," in *British Columbia Historical Quarterly*, IV. (1940), pp. 203–15.

the Cariboo gold rush. (One small incident in his travels there remained long in his memory: he awoke one morning to find what he was sure must be the devil himself staring at him, but instead it turned out to be one of the famous Cariboo camels, which had stuck its head into his tent!) Returning to Victoria, he joined the staff of the *Colonist*, and then, in 1869, moved to New Westminster and founded the *Mainland Guardian*.[14]

Suter crowned the Royal City's first May Queen on May 4, 1870, and his own account of the ceremony deserves quotation:—

> Meanwhile a forlorn-looking object, who was stated to be the "oldest bachelor" present, was made to place the crown on the fair young head, that waited to receive it. The unfortunate man muttered some words which our reporter did not think worth while to take a note of; but we really thought it the refinement of cruelty to bring the poor fellow into the midst of such a group of lovely young creatures, who must have made his miserable condition more glaringly apparent to all. We hope, for the sake of humanity, that some kindly disposed young lady will usher him into matrimonial bliss ere another May Queen ascends the throne.[15]

Those who knew him personally tell us that Suter was a gentleman of the old school; that he was of an artistic and retiring nature, except in his political writings, which were at times so charged with vitriol that they involved him in difficulties and damage suits which virtually ruined him. Despite his May Day plea, he never married, and in later years lived alone with a negro servant. He died in poverty in New Westminster on December 18, 1899, at the age of 76, and lies buried in an unmarked grave in the old Sapperton Masonic Cemetery.[16]

But to return to the *Port Moody Gazette*. The paper was more than an ordinary speculation to Suter. He believed in the future of Port Moody, invested heavily in the townsite, and lost as heavily when the boom finally broke. In the interval he had had his difficulties with the *Gazette*. P. S. Hamilton served as (so-called) editor for only three months, and then set up shop as a barrister, notary, and real-estate agent. Thereafter the Port Moody representative of the *Gazette* was listed as "manager" instead of "editor" of the paper. Several persons held the post in succession; of these Frisby Logan held the post for

(14) Information kindly furnished by Mrs. R. G. Dingle, of New Westminster, a grand niece of J. K. Suter.

(15) *Mainland Guardian*, May 7, 1870.

(16) Information chiefly from Mrs. Dingle.

the longest term. His duties were confined to soliciting subscriptions and advertising, and to reporting local events. The bulk of the material for the paper was drawn from the *Guardian,* and the printing continued to be done by the *Guardian* presses.

The fate of the paper was always bound up with that of Port Moody itself, and that in turn depended upon whether or not the town actually became the terminus of the transcontinental railway.[17] During the greater part of 1884 negotiations were in progress between Van Horne and the Hon. William Smithe, Premier of the Province, with a view to extension of the line to Coal Harbour. It was known that something of the kind was afoot, but the *Gazette* refused to recognize that actual construction of such an extension was even remotely possible. Even the official announcement that the railway was to be built to a point farther down the Inlet was not accepted as final, and the *Gazette* and Port Moody fought on gallantly. The *Gazette* was still appearing regularly when the first regular passenger train arrived at Port Moody from the East on July 4, 1886; but it did not live to record the passing of the first train that travelled on to Vancouver. The final issue, dated March 15, 1887, appeared a little more than two months before that event.

By the first days of 1886 it was apparent to all that Port Moody's star had waned, and that Vancouver was destined to be the chief centre of population on Burrard Inlet. The infant metropolis greeted its first newspaper, the *Vancouver Weekly Herald and North Pacific News,* on Friday, January 15, 1886. Copies of the first issue were placed in the Deighton Hotel, the Sunnyside Hotel, Joe Mannion's Granville Hotel, and other favourite haunts, and the citizens soon foregathered to see what kind of a paper "Bill" Brown had produced on the hand-press he had brought from Toronto, and installed in an office on Car-

(17) Legally, it may be noted, Port Moody remains to this day the terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway; technically, the line thence to Vancouver is only a branch line. In every sense that matters in a practical way, however, the terminus moved to Vancouver in 1886–87.

rall Street, between Powell and Oppenheimer (now East Cordova) streets.[18]

The city had not yet been incorporated; a notice to the effect that application for incorporation would be made to the Provincial Legislature at the next session was perhaps the most important item in the paper. In a sense Vancouver did not yet exist, and this fact was reflected in the advertisements that filled about a third of the *Herald's* pages. Some of the merchants indicated the location of their premises by using the older names Coal Harbour, Hastings, and Granville; others used Vancouver, followed by one or more of the older names in brackets. But the *Herald* was looking to the future, and had much to say about the present activity and impending development of the community. It noted that the Canadian Pacific Railway was building its first wharf; that there had been thirty-six ships in the harbour in 1885, and that lumber shipments during the year had aggregated 20,000,000 feet. It quoted from a speech by the Hon. John Robson, then Provincial Secretary and Minister of Finance, who had remarked:—

> It is impossible to form any conception of the future of this new city but with the Dominion and England at its back the probabilities are that it will soon become a place of importance. It is *the* city on the Pacific Coast and towards it many eyes are turned.

William Brown, editor and proprietor of the *Herald*, was a native of Fife, Scotland, where he was born in 1827. Before coming to British Columbia he had published the *Walkerton Herald* in Bruce County, Ontario. His *Vancouver Weekly Herald* was a seven-column, four-page paper, and the venture fared so well that within a few months he was able to secure a new and more elaborate printing plant. His intention was to publish the *Herald* tri-weekly; but before this plan could be carried into effect the great fire of June 13, 1886, swept the city, and Brown lost everything.

---

(18) The copy of the first issue of the *Herald* in the Vancouver City Archives survived an experience that would have destroyed most papers. It went down in the steamer *Prince Rupert* when she sank in Swanson Bay in September, 1920, and was found to be relatively undamaged when it was dried out after the vessel was raised in January, 1921. Facsimiles of the first issues of the *Herald*, *Advertiser*, *News*, and *World* will be found in the special edition published by the *World* in June, 1896, pp. 49–50.

He was not a lone sufferer, for two other papers had been established in Vancouver shortly before the fire. The earlier of these, the *Vancouver Advertiser*, made its bow on Saturday, May 8, and had the distinction of being not only the first daily published in Vancouver, but the first daily published on the mainland of British Columbia. Its office was on the north side of Powell Street, west of Columbia Street—about opposite the Europe Hotel of the present day.

The editor and manager of the *Advertiser* was William B. Macdougall, who soon became known locally as "Wandering Willie." He was the son of the Hon. William Macdougall, then a well-known journalist and politician, who is now remembered chiefly as Governor of Rupert's Land at the time of the Red River Rebellion. The son had had some experience on a weekly paper in Ontario, and hoped to accomplish great things in the Far West. He had gone first to Nanaimo, where he was associated with a short-lived weekly, *Westward Ho!* In Vancouver the original stake that enabled him to launch the *Advertiser* is understood to have been furnished by John Hay.[19]

The *Advertiser* was a five-column, four-page paper, approximately 13 by 20 inches in size. It took its own advent somewhat seriously, and noted in its fourth issue that "About the first enterprise that really marks the transformation of a community from a village to a city is the establishment of a daily newspaper." About half its columns were filled with advertising, while a great show was made on the front page of mail and telegraph dispatches from world centres. At the same time local events were by no means neglected. Thus on May 11 a whole column was devoted to the first meeting of the new Vancouver City Council, and Mayor MacLean's inaugural address was printed in full. On May 19 an elaborate account of the plans for the original Hotel Vancouver appeared, while on the 22nd a great Indian potlatch, held on the North Shore at the Second Narrows, was described by a special reporter in all its vivid details. A feature of the paper was a roundup of local notes that appeared regularly on the last page. Critics of Vancouver's climate may care to

(19) The original printing staff of the *Advertiser* consisted of: J. J. Randolph, foreman; Jerry Maxwell, W. E. Peck, W. B. Miller, Colonel Phillips, and E. K. Sargison, printers.

know that in one of the earlier issues the first item in the column consisted of the three words: "Rain! Rain!! Rain!!!"

On May 31, the *Advertiser*, hitherto published in the evening, suddenly changed its policy and became a morning daily. Two small news items called attention to the change. One read: "Good morning *Vancouver Daily Advertiser*," and the other: "Last day of May, 1886. First issue in Vancouver of a morning daily newspaper." The reason given for the new policy was that the *Advertiser* was determined to keep pace with Vancouver's progress, and that a morning paper was an advertisement for a city. Actually the paper switched to the morning field because it was known that a rival journal, a morning daily, was to commence publication the next day. This was the *Vancouver News*, which duly appeared on Tuesday, June 1. Its publishers were James H. Ross and N. Harkness; its printers, W. Rogers and Percy Whitworth. Ross, who spent his boyhood in Belleville, Ontario, largely determined the character and policy of the paper. Wanderlust had led him as a young man to Winnipeg, where he joined the staff of the *Free Press*. The West still called, and presently Ross found himself in Vancouver.

A few lines from his introductory editorial will be of interest:—

> For the *News* we have only to say that it is a business enterprise. . . . Understanding that individual prosperity depends upon general progress their primary aim will be to advance and maintain the interests of the city of Vancouver; to make known to visitors and impress upon residents its splendid prospects and unparalleled possibilities.
>
> In politics the *News* will be independent, the organ of no party or faction. . . . Our aim will be to improve as the town improves, to keep pace with its progress, however rapid; to make the paper at all times worth its price. The public shall judge whether that effort is successful.

In this same issue the *News* declared Vancouver to be "the most promising young city in America," and it continued to be an enthusiastic booster for the community as long as it existed, and in spite of all difficulties. Not the least of these was the great fire of June 13, which destroyed its office and equipment. As we have seen, the *Herald* suffered a like affliction, and so did the *Advertiser*. All three papers were thus left bereft of premises and printing presses, and with the slenderest resources from which to make good the heavy loss.

The *News* was the first of the three to reappear after the fire. Ross, who was in church when the alarm was raised,

> escaped with his wife and child running to the Hastings Mill wharf, [and] lost everything in the way of worldly goods except the clothes on his back. He spent that memorable Sunday night sitting outside a fisherman's shack at Moodyville, just across the Inlet, while his wife and child slept on the fisherman's cot.[20]

On the Monday he went to Victoria, and there purchased a printing plant belonging to J. B. Ferguson, proprietor of a book and stationery store. The next day he returned to Vancouver, borrowed a horse, and rode bare-back to New Westminster, where he spent the night writing up the fire. John Robson, then Minister of Finance, had taken a friendly interest in his predicament, and had arranged to have a stop-gap edition of the *News* printed in the *British Columbian* office until such time as Ross could get established again.[21]

Tradition has it that the *News* was on sale in Vancouver on the afternoon of the third day after the fire—that is to say, on Wednesday; and a news item in the *Columbian* confirms this.[22] But the fact remains that the paper itself is dated Thursday, June 17. As the *Columbian* expressed it, the *News* "came out . . . on the half-shell,"[23] in a diminutive three-column edition, measuring about 9 by 12 inches, and consisting of a single sheet printed on both sides. But if the paper was physically small, its spirit was courageous. The entire issue was devoted to the fire, and the single brief editorial is worth quoting in full:—

> The Caldwell block, wherein the *News* office was situated, was one of the first to be overtaken by the fire, and not even a scrap of paper was saved. Like nearly all others who had started in business in the new city, however, we perceive that the fire, whatever may be its effect upon individuals, is to the city as a whole not a very serious matter; in fact it can scarcely impede the progress of Vancouver at all. A few months, or even a few weeks, will restore the city to as good a basis as it was on before the fire. We have therefore determined to continue the publication of the *Daily News*. It will

(20) *Province*, December 20, 1935 (an article on Ross published at the time of his death). Mrs. Ross is said to have died later from the effects of exposure. *Ibid.*

(21) The first issue of the *News* is said to have been printed on a hand-press by "Sid" Peake, from type set by "Bob" Matheson, later a dentist in Kelowna.

(22) *See Columbian*, June 19, 1886.

(23) *Ibid.*

appear in reduced form (we hope, however, to present four pages in a few days) until new material can be obtained.

Vancouver was pictured as already literally "rising from the ashes," and the forty or more structures detailed in a "partial list of buildings already commenced" included a new office for the *News* on Cordova Street, near the site of the present Manitoba Hotel.

Ross continued to publish his small-sized emergency edition for a fortnight or more,[24] but this involved a round trip ride every day to New Westminster, and the effort was too great to continue for long. Publication therefore ceased temporarily in the first days of July, but the *News* reappeared in full-size format on July 23, by which time its new office and printing plant were capable of use.

Friday was the regular publication day of the *Weekly Herald*, and it managed to appear as usual on Friday, June 18, though in a reduced size. This edition, like that of the *News*, was printed in the hospitable office of the *British Columbian*.[25] But William Brown, too, found the strain of improvised publication too great, and the paper lapsed for a time. Meanwhile construction of a new building and plant went on apace. Both were ready by the latter part of August, and on September 3 the *Herald* resumed regular publication from its new premises.[26] The new building, which is shown in the accompanying illustration, was erected on the southeast corner of Cambie and Hastings streets—a site destined to be associated permanently with journalism in Vancouver, for it is now occupied by the *Province* building.

In later days the *Advertiser* was to claim proudly that it "was the first journal to resume publication on the ruins of our prosperous and promising city after the great conflagration . . ."[27]

---

(24) The first issue published after the fire was No. 12, dated June 17. The Provincial Library file of the *News* includes a copy of No. 21, dated June 26; the size is still 9 x 12 inches. As the first full-size issue, dated July 23, is No. 27, presumably publication of the emergency edition continued until No. 26, i.e., until July 1 or 2.

(25) *See News-Herald*, August 6, 1942.

(26) *See* R. T. Williams, *Vancouver City Directory 1888*, Victoria, 1888, p. xv.

(27) Vancouver *Advertiser*, December 20, 1886.

The Vancouver Weekly Herald.

AND

NORTH PACIFIC NEWS.

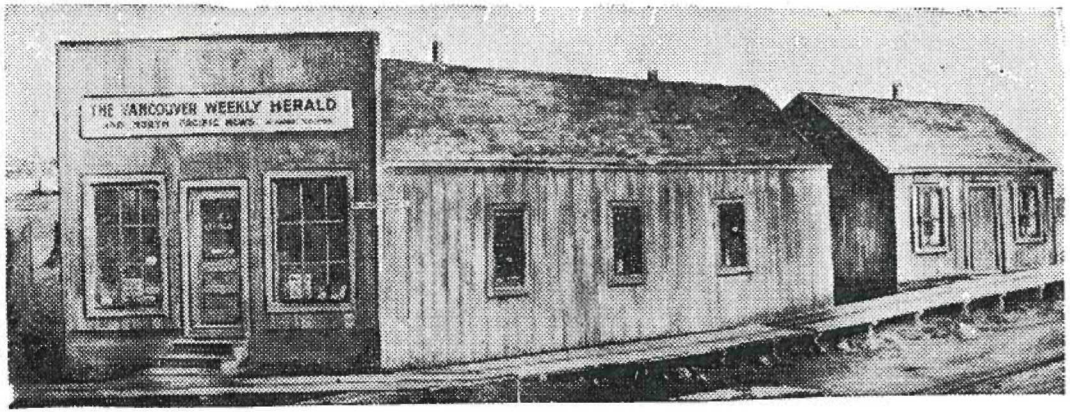
VOL. 1. VANCOUVER, B. C. FRIDAY, JANUARY 15, 1886. NO. 1

C. P. R. Hotel,

VANCOUVER B.C.

Courtesy *Vancouver Daily Province.*

Facsimile of part of the first page of the first issue of the *Vancouver Weekly Herald,* the first newspaper published in the City of Vancouver.



Courtesy *Vancouver Daily Province.*

Office and printing plant erected by the *Vancouver Weekly Herald* on the south-east corner of Hastings and Cambie streets, after the fire of June, 1886. From a painting in the lobby of the *Province* building, that now occupies the site.

The claim was justified, for although no copy of the paper appeared until June 29, this issue was printed by the *Advertiser's* own new plant, which had been set up in a tent on Carrall Street, between Cordova and Water streets. Editorially the *Advertiser* struck a noble attitude, and declared: "Our immediate prospects are indestructible. We will rise again superior to all difficulties. Fortis in arduis."[28]

But the *Advertiser's* own prospects were, in fact, anything but indestructible. Macdougall had reached the end of his financial resources, and he was hard put to it to keep his venture afloat. In September the paper ceased to be published daily and became a weekly; a sub-title, *Pacific Coast Canadian*, was added at the same time. Macdougall contended that the amount of news available was not sufficient to justify the publication of a daily: but there is little doubt that the real reason for the change was lack of funds. The wages of the staff were falling in arrears; and in October dissatisfaction reached such a pitch that the staff abandoned the *Advertiser* and launched a new paper, the *Evening Register*. Only two copies of the *Register* were published, however, as Macdougall managed to scrape together a little money, and his staff returned to their posts. On December 20, the *Advertiser* even resumed daily publication, and at the same time increased its size from four to five columns. Macdougall bravely asserted that this was necessitated "by pressure upon our advertising columns at this time. . . ."[29]

The *News* meanwhile seems to have fared somewhat better, though Harkness sold out his interest in the paper in July, when things were at their worst, and left for California. Henceforth James Ross was sole proprietor. The pride which the paper took in the city is striking; special attention was always devoted to local matters. Ross sensed that Vancouver had a great future, and even attempted occasionally to preserve some of the pioneer lore that he felt sure would be of interest to posterity. Thus in September, 1886, he printed what he believed to be the real story of "Gassy Jack" Deighton, the character who won for Granville the nickname "Gastown," and stated specifically that he

(28) *Ibid.*, June 29, 1886.

(29) *Ibid.*, December 20, 1886.

was publishing it for the benefit of future historians who would be seeking the truth about Deighton's career.[30]

One other small incident may be noted in passing. Ross's good friend John Robson came to town, and Ross himself thus described how the visit nearly resulted in physical violence to himself:—

> Hon. John Robson came to Vancouver and addressed an open-air meeting, speaking from a large burned stump. He was much annoyed by a man named Moody, a hotelkeeper from Moodyville, across the harbor.
>
> The next morning the *Daily News* said some severe things about the interrupter. This so angered the Moodyville hotelkeeper that he came over in the afternoon armed with a big horsewhip with which he intended to thrash the editor. Fortunately, I had been called to Victoria that morning, so could not be found, and so escaped the chastisement that was intended for me. The hotelman did not make a second visit.[31]

In January, 1887, the *News* increased its size from six to seven columns, thereby maintaining its two-column lead over its rival, the *Advertiser*.[32]

In spite of the fire, and regardless of the difficulties met with by the local press, it was evident that 1886 had been a year of remarkable progress for Vancouver. In its last issue for the Old Year the *Weekly Herald* commented as follows:—

> The calm repose of the little village of Granville was only beginning to be disturbed by the tread of the stranger on her streets a year ago. The few acres on which the village stood were surrounded by tall and stately pines sheltering its inhabitants from the stormy blasts of winter and the scorching rays of the summer sun. But where are those guardians now? And where is the little village around which they stood as sentinels? All are gone. . . . The woodman's axe laid low the tall pines and the fire blotted out of existence every vestige of old Vancouver. The transformation has been so complete that really nothing remains to remind the old resident of the past save the waters of the Inlet and the mountains beyond.[33]

In the last days of 1886 the *Advertiser*, with a characteristic touch of melodrama, announced the coming of a new era in international communication with the completion of the MacKay-Bennett and Canadian Pacific Railway telegraph system, a combination of land lines and cables that placed Vancouver in direct

(30) For the sketch of Deighton's career *see* the *News*, September 14 and 15, 1886.

(31) Quoted from the *Province*, December 20, 1935.

(32) The change in size was made with the issue of January 24, 1887.

(33) *Weekly Herald*, December 31, 1886.

contact with Europe. The progress of the press has always been so closely associated with improvement in communications that it will be worth while to digress briefly and outline the history of the telegraph in British Columbia.

The telegraph first came to the Province as a result of the celebrated Collins' Overland venture, which aimed to connect the United States and Europe by means of a wire running through British Columbia, Alaska, and Siberia.[34] The Collins' line (also known as the Western Union Extension) was completed to New Westminster in time to bring the news of the assassination of President Lincoln over the wires on April 18, 1865. Construction northward continued rapidly, and before work stopped in 1866 the line had reached Fort Stager, on the Kispiox River. Though the portion north of Quesnel was soon abandoned, a branch line was run into Barkerville, and the newspapers at the Coast were thus able to keep in close touch with the chief centres of population then existing in the Interior.

Victoria was linked with the mainland by telegraph in 1866. The line followed a roundabout route through the United States, passing from the Saanich Peninsula to San Juan and Lopez islands, and thence to the Washington mainland. The line linked up with that from New Westminster to the Interior at Matsqui, which was the relay station for all messages coming from or through the United States. The last of the three cables necessary for the connection with Vancouver Island was laid on April 24, and the same afternoon greetings were exchanged between New Westminster and Victoria. The capital, in the words of the *Columbian*, was at last "in communication with civilization."[35]

Burrard Inlet was first linked directly with the telegraph system in 1869, when S. P. Moody had an extension brought to Brighton (Hastings), and a cable laid from there across the Inlet to Moodyville. The first message passed over this wire on April 11. Moody paid for this extension himself, but the Western Union Company supplied wire, insulators, and instruments. He generously allowed the general public to make use of his

(34) A comprehensive account of the Collins' Overland Telegraph is scheduled for publication in an early number of this *Quarterly*.

(35) *Columbian*, April 25, 1866.

private wire, and at first the charge for a message to New Westminster was no more than 25 cents. Later it was found necessary to double the rate.[36]

In February, 1871, the Government of British Columbia secured a perpetual lease of the lines of the Western Union Company that lay within the Colony, and in July the Dominion Government took over the lease, in accordance with the terms of union. The Dominion inspectors found that parts of the lines were in bad repair, and that maintenance costs were frequently unduly high. A rebuilding and expansion programme, intended to reduce costs and increase revenue, was therefore carried through by degrees during the ensuing decade. A line from Victoria to Nanaimo was completed in 1878–79. But 1881 was Canadian cable was laid between Vancouver Island and Point Grey. From Point Grey the new line came direct to Granville, on Burrard Inlet, and then continued on to New Westminster.

The first telegraph operator at Granville was Samuel Maclure; his office was on the southwest corner of Water and Carrall streets. Maclure belonged to a family of telegraphers. His father, John Maclure, assisted by his daughter, Sara, the first woman telegraphist in Western Canada, operated the repeating office at Matsqui. As noted above, this busy office was then the the most memorable year, for two reasons: First, the Government purchased the Western Union lines, and, secondly, a direct junction between the lines in British Columbia and the Western Union line to the United States. Later, when arrangements were changed and the Matsqui office was closed, Sara Maclure was transferred to Victoria. There she met and afterwards married J. C. McLagan, who, as we shall see, later founded the Vancouver *World*. Following her husband's death Mrs. McLagan for a time herself acted as editor of the *World*.

Samuel Maclure was succeeded as operator at Granville by his brother, John Charles Maclure, who is still a resident of Vancouver.

Burrard Inlet was thus in telegraphic communication with the world for years before the completion of the railway, but changes were swift and advances rapid after the coming of the

(36) *See* F. W. Howay, "Early Settlement on Burrard Inlet," *British Columbia Historical Quarterly*, I. (1937), p. 112.

Canadian Pacific. On September 20, 1886, the railway opened its telegraph system for public business throughout the Dominion. Early in October the Dominion Government sold to the railway most of its lines in British Columbia, including the through line from Kamloops to Victoria. Finally, on December 20, 1886, the Vancouver *Advertiser* was able to announce the completion of arrangements whereby the land lines of the Canadian Pacific Railway and the cables of the MacKay-Bennett system were united to provide a through wire from the Pacific Coast to Europe. On the day of its completion New Westminster and Old Westminster exchanged greetings by cable. The local newspapers were jubilant, for they would now be able to publish each day regular press dispatches from all over the world, instead of being dependent, as heretofore, on a more expensive and erratic service routed through the United States.[37]

The New Year—1887—was to witness important developments in journalism in Vancouver. These were occasioned by the arrival in the city of Francis L. Carter-Cotton, a 40-year-old Yorkshireman, who had first visited Canada in 1879, and who decided to take up permanent residence here in 1886. Associated with him was R. W. Gordon, an Edinburgh-born financier of large means.

Their first enterprise was the Vancouver San Juan Lime Company, of which Gordon was president and manager. Their second venture was to be a newspaper, of which Carter-Cotton would be managing editor. Though not a trained journalist, he was a shrewd man of business, and a forceful writer. Moreover, Carter-Cotton had political ambitions, and he undoubtedly hoped that the paper would be a political asset as well as a good investment.

---

(37) It may be of interest to note the location of the Canadian Pacific telegraph office in early days. It is believed that for a few weeks the old wooden Canadian Pacific building at the foot of Richards Street was used for telegraphic purposes, but the first permanent quarters were in the Bayview Block, on Cordova Street, between Granville and Seymour Streets—just opposite the present Canadian Pacific depot. By 1890 all the Canadian Pacific offices had been moved to the New York Block, on Granville Street, the site of which is now covered by the northern end of the Hudson's Bay Company's department store. The telegraph office was on the second floor.

He seems at first to have thought in terms of an entirely new journal, but decided instead to buy out both the *News* and the *Advertiser*. Neither was in a position to ask a high price, and the purchase would both reduce competition and gain him whatever good-will had accrued to the old papers. The purchases became effective on March 31, 1887, when the *News* and *Advertiser* were merged in the first issue of a morning daily, the *Vancouver News and Daily Advertiser*. Formal announcements on the editorial page, signed by James H. Ross and W. B. Macdougall, gave notice that they had disposed of their interests to Messrs. Gordon & Cotton. Macdougall served for a time as a member of the editorial staff of the new paper, after which he drops from sight. Ross left Vancouver, and later published a paper in Smith's Falls, Ontario. Eventually he moved to Winchester, Ontario, where he seems still to have owned the *Press* at the time of his death on December 18, 1935.

The arrival of a new printing plant from San Francisco made possible certain changes in the new paper, and on May 12, 1887, it appeared as the *Daily News-Advertiser*, the name under which it became famous, and under which it continued to be published for more than thirty years. Carter-Cotton's excursion into journalism was faring well. "With a circulation nearly doubled, and an advertising patronage at about one-third more in value than existed before," he wrote in this same issue, "there can be no doubt of the public appreciation of the advent of this paper."

As already noted, Carter-Cotton was not a journalist by profession, and many writers have enlarged upon the defects of the *News-Advertiser*, judged even by the standards of the 1880's, let alone those of a later day. A former member of the editorial staff wrote in 1911:—

The *News-Advertiser*, under Mr. Cotton's management, never became what is popularly known as an up-to-date newspaper. Its editor had not been trained in newspaper work and did not recognize the true value of news or the importance of method and arrangement. . . . To the deficiencies of the telegraphic service then supplied to this province his paper added a seeming lack of ability to discriminate between what was important and what was valueless. Nor did it ever occur to Mr. Cotton, apparently, to supplement the regular press service with special correspondence, except by occasional meagre despatches from Victoria and Ottawa. Of departments

such as are now relied upon by newspapers to win popular patronage and approval the *News-Advertiser* had none.[38]

But the paper progressed steadily in spite of its defects, partly because a decade and more passed before it was faced with a more enterprising local rival, and partly because it possessed important merits and was shrewdly managed from a business point of view. It gained an enviable reputation for accuracy. Local news and Provincial affairs were carefully reported. Carter-Cotton was a member of the Legislature almost continuously from 1890, and for years the proceedings of the House were reported so conscientiously that the *News-Advertiser* gained the nickname "the Hansard of British Columbia." Then, again, the paper had political drive and direction. Its editor was an ardent Conservative, and he advanced his point of view consistently and vigorously. As a consequence the journal quickly became a force to be reckoned with in both civic and Provincial affairs.

If the *News-Advertiser* was unenterprising in its news columns, it was relatively progressive in the matter of mechanical equipment. At first this had been of the simplest description, consisting of little more than a few frames upon which rested cases of type, a paper-cutter, and a hand-power Country Campbell press that printed only two pages at a time. The plant was soon improved, however, and commencing with the issue of February 22, 1888, the *News-Advertiser* press was run by electricity. It was the first newspaper so printed in Canada, and perhaps the first on the continent. Details are none too clear, but apparently electricity was not used after electric street-cars began to operate in the city, at the end of June, 1890. One story has it that the street-cars taxed the power supply to the limit, with the result that the *News-Advertiser* press slowed down every time a car passed near the office; another states that the cars made a change in voltage necessary, and that the motor in the *News-Advertiser's* press-room could no longer be used. In any event, we know that a water-wheel was installed, with a steam-engine for reserve power. George Bartley, a well-known pioneer printer, later recalled: "When I started with the *News-*

(38) J. B. Kerr, "Journalism in Vancouver," *British Columbia Magazine*, VII. (1911), p. 577. This interesting article is unfortunately marred by errors of fact in its account of the *News* and *Advertiser*.

Advertiser we had every possible power: steam, gas, water, electricity, candles, and coal oil lamps."[39]

Mention of the coal-oil lamps brings to mind the fact that a cold snap could prove extremely troublesome to a newspaper in the 1880's. Tradition asserts that Carter-Cotton planned to publish a special Christmas edition in 1888, but that owing to cold weather it was still not through the press in February, 1889. This experience may account for his lack of interest in " extras " of any kind. In January, 1893, Vancouver experienced one of the coldest periods in its history, and as a result the *News-Advertiser* almost missed publication. Setting type was like handling chunks of ice with bare hands; type-cases had to be crowded into the reporters' room, while Tom Spink, wrapped up in his overcoat, made up the forms in the chilly composing-room. Printing was difficult, for there was frost on the rollers, and oil-lamps had to be placed under the ink-wells. In spite of all hardships the *News-Advertiser* finally appeared, though several hours late.

That same year—1893—mechanical typesetting was first introduced in Vancouver. The *News-Advertiser* installed four Rogers Typograph machines, and their arrival caused a week-long printers' strike, much to the regret of all concerned. During the strike the paper was brought out by the editorial and business staffs, and not an issue was missed.

The *News-Advertiser* commenced publication as a four-page seven-column paper. A little more than a year later, on May 5, 1888, it was increased in size to six pages, each of six columns, and on July 1, 1888, expanded again to eight pages, each of six columns. This size it retained for many years. At the beginning the paper had been housed briefly on Carrall Street, near Cordova Street, but by July, 1887, it had moved to a one-story frame building on Cambie Street between Hastings and Cordova streets. The site is now occupied by the rear portion of the Dominion Bank building. In 1890–91 new and much larger quarters were built on the northeast corner of Cambie and Pender streets, where the editorial offices and press-rooms of the *Province* now stand. The new premises cost $20,000, and al-

(39) Notes by George Bartley in Vancouver City Archives.

though barn-like in appearance were regarded at the time as a notable addition to the city's business district.

Old notes and photographs make it possible to give some idea of the premises and staff of the *News-Advertiser* as they were at this period. The business office was situated to the left of the entrance. William Keene, one of the first settlers in North Vancouver, was the book-keeper. H. Neville Smith was in charge of circulation and delivery, and many leading professional and business men of to-day started their careers as *News-Advertiser* route boys.

The editorial room was next to the business office. Here, for many years, Carter-Cotton would be found every night, remaining at his desk until the paper had gone safely to press. This room served, too, as a grand rallying place for prominent politicians during the stirring elections of the 90's.

Adjoining was the reporters' room, with J. B. Kerr in charge of local news. "Husky" Jack Wilson, killed in the Boer War, was proof-reader, and Thomas Spink, later of Port Haney, was foreman in the composing-room. George Pound was in charge of the press-room, while old "Pete" Atkinson ran the newspaper press.

The *News-Advertiser* soon became firmly entrenched, and it was clear that any rival would have to have a long purse if it were to compete successfully. Carter-Cotton made this doubly certain, and further increased the difficulties of any would-be competitor, by securing a monopoly of the news service furnished by the Canadian Pacific telegraph.

To begin with, the only competition was that offered by the city's first paper, the *Weekly Herald*, owned by William Brown. In an effort to keep up his end, Brown commenced publication of a daily evening edition on June 1, 1887, and the name *Evening Herald* was adopted on October 12. But the opposition offered by the *News-Advertiser* proved to be too strong, and the *Herald* suspended publication in June, 1888. The *Herald* building, on the southeast corner of Hastings and Cambie streets, was adjacent to that of the *News-Advertiser*, on the northeast corner of Cambie and Pender streets, and it was later taken over and occupied by the bindery department of the *News-Advertiser*. G. A. Roedde, whose sons are still in business in Vancouver, was in

charge of this bindery. The land upon which the *Herald* building stood was owned by the Canadian Pacific Railway, and as the company was unwilling to grant a lease, Carter-Cotton purchased the property. Eventually the *Herald* office was demolished to make way for the Carter-Cotton building, now the *Province* building.

William Brown had become known locally as the "dean of the printing industry," and though he retired from both newspaper work and the printing trade the title stuck. He entered into partnership with Henry Mutrie to form the real-estate firm of Mutrie & Brown, and continued to serve the city for many years as alderman, chairman of the waterworks committee, and school trustee. The last years of his life were spent quietly at his home in Mount Pleasant. He died in September, 1917, at the age of 90.

Only three months after the demise of the *Herald* the *News-Advertiser* was faced with a new rival, the *Vancouver Daily World*. The managing editor was J. C. McLagan, who in 1884 had helped to found the *Times*, a Liberal daily, in Victoria. He was attracted by the possibilities of the new city of Vancouver, and by the field offered there for a paper opposed politically to Carter-Cotton and the *News-Advertiser*. The *World*, a large seven-column evening journal, first appeared on Saturday, September 29, 1888. The office was located at first in the old Masonic Hall, on Cordova Street, between Homer and Cambie streets. From there the *World* moved in May, 1891, to a building of its own near the corner of Pender and Homer streets, a site it occupied for many years.

Politically the *World* professed to be "independent," as many another paper has done. In this connection Carter-Cotton's comment on the first issue is amusing:—

> Although on this coast the circumstances are such as forbid an evening paper ever attaining to the circulation or influence of a morning journal, there is ample room in this city for a bright and crisp evening paper, and the *World* appears determined to fill this position while its profession of "peace with everyone, no politics in mine" would carry even a Grit through much warmer climes than that of Vancouver.[40]

McLagan's chief assistant was J. M. O'Brien, a clever and able writer. The new paper fared not too badly, though it was

(40) *News-Advertiser*, September 30, 1888.

THE DAILY NEWS.

Vol. 1. VANCOUVER, B.C., JUNE 17, 1886. No. 12.

THE FIRE.

Probably never since the days of Pompeii and Herculaneum was a town

WIPED OUT OF EXISTENCE

so completely and suddenly as was Vancouver on Sunday. All the morning the usual pleasant breeze from the ocean was spoiled by smoke from fires in the portion of the townsite owned by the C. P. R. Co., west of the part of the town already built, but no alarm was felt in consequence. The place wherein these fires existed was until two or three months ago covered with forest. A large force of men had been engaged in clearing it. The trees were all felled, and the fallen trees, stumps, etc., were being disposed of by burning here and there in separate heaps. A few weeks ago, during a gale from the west, the city was filled with smoke and cinders from these fires, and fire reached close to several outlying buildings, but after some fighting danger was averted. This, doubtless, tended to lull the people into a sense of security on Sunday. It was about two o'clock in the afternoon that the breeze which had been blowing from the west

BECAME A GALE,

and flames surrounded a cabin near a large dwelling to the west of the part of the city solidly built up. A few score men had been on guard with water and buckets, between this dwelling and the cabin, but when the wind became a gale they were forced to

FLEE FOR THEIR LIVES,

and in a few minutes the dwelling was a mass of flames and the whole city was filled with flying cinders and dense clouds of smoke. The flames spread from this building to adjoining ones with amazing rapidity.

THE WHOLE CITY WAS IN FLAMES

less than forty minutes after the first house was afire. Of course, this being the case, a number inevitably

PERISHED IN THE FLAMES.

It is to be feared that the seven whose bodies were recovered constitute only a fraction of the whole number who perished. The total number of victims and their identity will probably

NEVER BE KNOWN.

With the exception of Mrs. Nash and Mr. Craswell, the bodies recovered were all burned to crisp and barely recognizable as human remains. Mr. Craswell's body was found in a well wherein he took refuge and died of suffocation. A young man named Johnson, and his mother were found in the same well. Johnson was dead and Mrs. Johnson has since died.

The body of Mr. Fawcett, the soda water manufacturer, was identified by his wife by means of his watch-chain.

Persons living near the Harbor and in the eastern part of the city hurried toward the wharves at the Hastings Mill, and crowded upon the steamers moored to the wharves. On the steamers and wharves, while the city was a mass of roaring flame, were gathered hundreds of frightened and excited men and sobbing women and children. Anon there emerged from the dense smoke one and another,

GASPING AND BLINDED,

with singed hair and blistered hands and faces, who had struggled almost too long to save property. A considerable number of people were surrounded by the fire and cornered near J. M. Clute & Co's store, and their only means of escape was to make rafts of the planking in a wharf at that place, and push out into the harbor. The wind was blowing fiercely, making the water rough, and the party were in no little

PERIL OF DROWNING.

They made their way to a vessel which was at anchor in the harbor, and the watchman on the vessel, with all the proverbial insolence and stupidity of "insect authority," refused to let the party come aboard. He very soon perceived, however, that his refusal "did not count," and that his very life would "not count" for much if he attempted to keep the people off the vessel, and surrendered unconditionally. Those who witnessed the conflagration from the water describe the sight as

APPALLING AND WONDERFUL

beyond description.

Many of the large number who lived nearer False Creek than the harbor, and made their way toward that body of water, had a hard struggle to escape with their lives. Mr. Joseph Templeton got through only with the assistance of others Mr. Martin, of the Burrard hotel, barely escaped with his life, and was prostrated when he reached a place of safety. John Boultbee and C. A. Johnson saved their lives by lying down and

BURROWING THEIR FACES

in the earth. Both are still suffering from their injuries. Everyone suffered not a little from the blinding and suffocating smoke. Families were separated, and agonized women ran wildly about crying for missing children or husbands. Many men were completely crazed, and did not recover their senses for hours. The disaster was one of the most sudden and terrible which ever in the history of the earth has overtaken a community.

The number of

BUILDINGS DESTROYED

is estimated at from 600 to 1000. In the west end of the city one building alone remains. In the east end are the Hastings mill, which was saved by the wind veering to the north, and the dwellings of Mr. R. H. Alexander and Ald. Caldwell On the banks or False Creek two hotels and eight or ten other buildings escaped. This is all that remained of the city of Vancouver on the morning after the fire.

LOSSES.

There were probably not more than a score of people in the city on Sunday who did not lose something in the shape either of goods, personal property or

Courtesy *Vancouver Daily Province.*

Facsimile of the first page of the first issue of the Vancouver *Daily News* published after the great fire of June 13, 1886.

greatly handicapped by the priority on the telegraphic news service held by Carter-Cotton. In its earlier years, however, it was scarcely more progressive in the arts of journalism than the *News-Advertiser*. The great days of the *World* belong to a later period.

The fact that the *World* was not giving the *News-Advertiser* a real run for its money probably contributed to the launching of another newspaper venture in 1890. For some time past Carter-Cotton's attacks on the civic administration had been both vigorous and pointed, and Mayor David Oppenheimer and a group of associates, including J. W. Horne and C. D. Rand, determined to found a paper that would sponsor their policies and point of view. The result was the *Daily Telegram*, which commenced publication on Friday, June 6.[41] It was an evening paper, but nevertheless was intended much more as a challenge to the *News-Advertiser* than to the *World*.

The manager of the *Telegram* was W. J. Gallagher, who had been foreman of the *News-Advertiser*. Unfortunately, actual control of the paper lay not with him but with a committee consisting of Oppenheimer and his friends, and all the deficiencies of committee control soon became apparent. Differences of opinion within the group were inevitable, and the *Telegram* as a result lacked the consistency that can characterize a paper dominated by a single personality. In addition, Carter-Cotton's news monopoly made it necessary for the *Telegram* to have recourse to a substitute service that was so expensive that it could not be continued indefinitely.

The first office of the *Telegram* was on Homer Street, but in July, 1891, it moved to the Horne Block, on Cambie Street. It seems to have paid some attention to advertising novelties, and some of its efforts now make amusing reading. A solemn warning against the use of Chinese sugar, for example, pictured the many-legged creatures with which it was alleged to be infested, and many of the patent medicine advertisements are on a par. Turning to another aspect of advertising, the *Telegram* on October 13, 1891, charged that the *News-Advertiser* was spreading

(41) *See* Vancouver *World*, June 7, 1890. The earliest copy of the *Telegram* actually seen by the writer is No. 47, dated July 31, 1890, in the file in the Provincial Library.

type in the printing of its advertisements, thereby making them occupy more space and bring in more revenue. This was held to be contrary to contract and to constitute unfair competition. The *World* was persuaded to take up the same cry, but this display of energy could not save the *Telegram*. The issue for October 14 carried a notice calling a general meeting of the shareholders to consider the advisability of increasing the capital stock of the *Telegram* Company to $100,000. As financial difficulties multiplied the enthusiasm of the paper's backers vanished. More and more of the work involved in its publication fell upon Gallagher, until he found himself doing even the office boy's work, but unable to earn an office boy's salary. In the autumn of 1892 the inevitable happened; the *Telegram* fell into the hands of a receiver and quietly expired.

Gallagher soon after tried his luck with a weekly paper, the *Monitor*, but it survived for only a few months. He then went to Nanaimo, where for a time he ran the *Nanaimo Daily Telegram*. This, too, proved financially unsuccessful, and sometime in 1894 he went to the Hawaiian Islands. His last venture was the *Financial Times*, published in Honolulu. There Gallagher died in December, 1898.[42]

It so happens that the first edition of McKim's well-known *Canadian Newspaper Directory* appeared in 1892, and the facts and figures there given enable us to summarize the state of the press in Vancouver at what is seen to be, in retrospect, the end of a period of the history of journalism in the city. According to the census of 1891 the population of Vancouver was 13,685. In this little city three full-fledged daily newspapers were battling for existence. The *News-Advertiser's* daily edition had a circulation of 1,500, and cost $8 per annum; its weekly edition had a circulation of 2,000. The *World* reported a daily circulation of 1,500, and an annual subscription of $10. Its weekly edition was credited with a circulation of 3,500. The *Telegram*, nearing the end of its career, had a circulation of 750; its subscription rate was $8 a year.[43] About the same time Mayor Oppenheimer made a survey of business and industry in Vancouver, and reported

(42) Information given to Vancouver City Archives by W. J. Gallagher's son, Rex Gallagher.

(43) *Canadian Newspaper Directory*, Montreal, 1892, pp. 185–6.

that the capital invested in Vancouver newspapers amounted to $50,000; that their annual pay-roll was $55,000; and that they had a total of eighty-six employees.[44]

After the disappearance of the *Telegram*, the *News-Advertiser* and the *World* went their quiet way for a number of years. It was not until 1898 that a new personality and a new paper—W. C. Nichol and the *Province*—blazed into the journalistic heavens and opened a new era in Vancouver's newspaper world.

BESSIE LAMB.

VANCOUVER, B.C.

(44) R. T. Williams, *British Columbia Directory 1892*, Victoria, 1892, p. 788.

—Courtesy the Powell River Company.

British Columbia's first pulp and paper mill, completed at Alberni in 1894. The sawmill (left) was erected first and cut the lumber used to build the paper-mill (right).

PIONEER DAYS IN PULP AND PAPER.

Not long before his death, which occurred in September, 1944, Mr. Herbert Carmichael completed the first draft of an autobiography, entitled *Memoirs of an Emigrant.* Born in Ireland in 1866, he came to British Columbia in 1889, and soon became widely known in the business world. Few men took a livelier interest in the industrial development of the Province, and his autobiography contains many passages of interest to the economic historian. This is particularly true of the chapter in which Mr. Carmichael tells the story of the first paper-mill in British Columbia, and indicates briefly how it led on to the vast pulp and paper industry of the present day. This chapter is here printed through the courtesy of the author's son, Mr. Maurice Carmichael, of Victoria. Except for a few changes in punctuation, the original text has been followed throughout, but footnotes and an appendix have been added in order to permit the incorporation of additional material.

The story of the little paper-mill at Alberni was first told in detail by Mr. J. A. Lundie in the *Powell River Digester*, the house organ of the Powell River Company, in the issue dated June, 1930 (Vol. 9, No. 6, pp. 1–8), and retold for a larger audience in *Pulp and Paper of Canada* for December, 1932 (Vol. 33, pp. 473–5). Certain details gathered by Mr. Lundie and not repeated by Mr. Carmichael have been included in the footnotes.—EDITOR.

In 1890 I met William Hewartson. Mr. Hewartson had been manager of a little mill at Yarm, in Yorkshire, where they made the wrappers for Bryant & May's match-boxes. Residents of England will remember that match-box, of a yellow colour, depicting a bride and groom and the inscription: "At last I have found a match to please me."

After conversations with Hewartson I became convinced that there was a future for paper-making in British Columbia, and I got together a company for that purpose called the "British Columbia Paper Manufacturing Company, Ltd."[1] We had as directors five of the most successful business-men in Victoria,

(1) According to the records on file in the office of the Registrar of Companies, Victoria, the papers incorporating the company (which are dated July 15, 1891) were filed on August 17, 1891. The object of the company was "to manufacture paper and all its products in the Province of British Columbia"; the capital was to be $50,000, divided into 500 shares of $100 each.

with myself as secretary.[2] Collectively we knew quite a lot, but unfortunately that did not include paper-making. William Hewartson was manager, and he chose as a site for the mill the first falls on the Somass River, in Alberni District. As it turned out, the site was not the best, as the fall in the river was low, not more than 10 feet, and barely that when the tide was high, as high tide affected the tail-water of the turbines.

Hewartson was sent to England to purchase the plant, but as his knowledge was confined to making paper from rope and rag, he bought that kind of machinery, which was not suited to making paper from wood, the natural raw material of this country.

Land was purchased, and a dam built across the Somass diverting part of the flow into a flume, which took the water to three turbines.[3] We first built a small sawmill, which turned out all the lumber used in the construction of the paper-mill.

The machinery arrived from England[4] and was installed in the mill. It consisted in the main of one Galloway steam-boiler, two spherical rag boilers, five beating engines, a 60-inch Fourdrinier paper-making machine, and a three-roll calender. There was also a bag-making machine, and a dynamo for electric lighting.[5]

---

(2) The five directors were W. P. Sayward, Joshua Davies, J. Stuart Yates, Thomas Shotbolt, and James Thomson. Herbert Carmichael was secretary and general manager; William Hewartson was the first manager of the paper-manufacturing department. A list of shareholders dated February 26, 1894, shows that at that time 270 shares had been issued and were held by twenty-nine persons. Herbert Carmichael owned 150 of these shares, practically all of which were fully paid up. The total sum paid in at that date was $26,450; unpaid calls amounted to only $550.

(3) "A 24-H.P. Leffel turbine was installed in the machine room; a 100-H.P. turbine ran the beaters, and the third, generating 40 horsepower, catered to the power requirements of the saw mill." *Powell River Digester*, June, 1930, p. 7.

(4) The machinery was brought by the British bark *Ariadne;* she arrived at Esquimalt on May 4, 1892, 147 days from London. The actual unloading took place about a month after her arrival, and the machinery was taken to Alberni in the steamer *Mascot.*

(5) *See* the elaborate description of the machinery published in the Victoria *Colonist*, June 4, 1892, and reprinted as an appendix to the present article. It will be noted that the writer assumes throughout that the machinery was intended for the manufacture of paper from wood-pulp,

We started building the mill in 1892,[6] and the first sheet of paper was made in June, 1894.[7] Samples of this sheet, and of all the other papers made in the Alberni mill, are now in the Provincial Archives.[8]

We made a lot of good wrapping-paper,[9] but we struck our first snag when we tried to make wood-pulp. Hewartson's idea was to make soda wood-pulp, treating the wood chips in the rag boilers with soda ash and quicklime, thereby making caustic soda. We did not have pressure enough in the boilers to reduce the wood to pulp, but Hewartson argued that if we treated it long enough we would get the result without the pressure, but in actual practice it did not work.

We started in with 5 lb. of chemical to the boiler, and increased this until we had 500 lb. in the poor little 6-foot sphericals. It broke down the chips a little, but when mixed with rag and old newspaper and run through the paper-machine, it looked

---

which was not the case. According to the *Powell River Digester*, June, 1930, p. 4, the plant was second-hand.

(6) Delay in completing the dam in turn delayed construction of both the sawmill and the paper-mill. *See Powell River Digester*, June, 1930, pp. 3–4: " . . . in 1891, the contract for the dam across the Somass River was let to the firm of Russell & Johnson, of Victoria. In the spring, a big freshet swelled the waters to unusual heights, washed away all the work already done, and the firm abandoned the project. In 1892, Mr. R. H. Wood . . . accepted the contract to proceed with the construction of the dam. The flood tides during 1892–93 retarded progress, and it was not until 1894 that the dam was completed and ready to supply water to the mill."

(7) On one of the samples in the Provincial Archives, Herbert Carmichael wrote: " First paper properly made at Alberni made from rotten jute. July 24, 1894." A note in the *Colonist* for August 7, 1894, reads: " The first paper turned out by the mills at Alberni, a fine quality of brown wrapper, has just reached the market." All the paper produced at Alberni found a ready market in Victoria and Vancouver.

(8) The collection includes some seventy samples. Ordinary brown wrapping-papers predominate, but the special paper required by butchers, and Manilla, blotting, and tissue papers are all included. The sample made from " pure fern " is light greyish-brown in colour.

(9) The *Powell River Digester*, June, 1930, estimates that the plant had a maximum capacity of 50 tons daily. " Occasionally it produced near capacity, often it worked on curtailed schedules, and not infrequently was closed down for weeks at a stretch. Probably on an average it ran for six months a year during the two years of its precarious existence." (*Ibid.*, p. 8.)

like a wallpaper you might see in a nightmare or the artistic product of a cubist. There were bits of paper on which you could read the news interspersed with miniature cordwood held together with rope and rag. We abandoned wood as a source of paper and continued to run until we had collected the last pound of rope, rag, or waste paper to be had in Victoria, Vancouver, or Puget Sound.[10] Even then we tried bracken fern, as it was the fall, and made a fair sheet of paper, but it could not compete with wood in price.

Then we shut the water off the turbines and considered what was best to be done.[11]

I might say here that many legitimate enterprises have come to grief in British Columbia due to lack of experience in the matter in hand, but I believe this must always be the case in any young community; however, the attempt is often praiseworthy and leads to greater things.

I was left with the Alberni mill on my hands, and had to decide what was next to be done. With the experience gained at this mill I realized several things—first, that Alberni was not the best site available for a wood-pulp mill, and secondly, that we did not have nearly enough capital for such an enterprise. I decided that the best I could do would be to get together the essentials for the business and turn them over to persons who were familiar with wood-pulp paper, and who could raise funds adequate for a large undertaking.

The first thing was to get the best site, so I arranged to get reports on all the large-sized water-powers on the mainland and Vancouver Island as far north as the Island extended. When the reports came in, the fall at Powell River seemed to be the best. It was not too far away, some 80 miles north of Vancouver, on the mainland. The falls were close to the sea, and

(10) The *Digester* (p. 4) states that the bulk of the rags used were imported from England. "Everything from ships' sails to construction overalls were used—and when this supply showed symptoms of exhaustion, ferns, manila rope, and even tarred hemp imported from the Esquimalt naval depot was commandeered."

(11) This would be sometime in 1896. By that time Hewartson was no longer manager of the plant. Notes on the file of paper-samples in the Archives indicate that he was succeeded by a man named Flemming, who in turn gave way to Dunbar, a Scot, who had previously been foreman.

were fed by a lake 2 miles wide by 40 miles long. I visited the site and found the natural falls to be 119 feet, which could be increased by a dam.

I filed an application for the water-right, though not in my own name as I was still in the Government service; and while there was nothing to prevent my doing so, I decided to keep in the background, and thus others have got the credit for starting the enterprise.

I foresaw that the financial load would be too heavy for me to carry alone, so got a partner and later expanded into a small syndicate.

The next thing was to secure the timber for pulp-making, and from my mining trips through the country I knew where the best timber was; but how to acquire it was the question, as there was no legal machinery for taking it up. We jumped that hurdle [in 1901] by having the Legislature pass an Act to allow timber to be taken up for pulp purposes.[12]

We incorporated the Powell River Paper Company, Ltd., in 1908 [*sic*], and shortly after another company sprang into being, incorporated as the Clowhom Power Company, with a water-power on Seechelt Inlet.[13] Frank Beer and Henry B. Thomson were behind this company. I suggested to Thomson that we had better combine forces than work separately, which we did, but at the same time keeping the companies intact.

---

(12) This legislation provided for leases of pulp-wood forests for twenty-one years; the annual rental was to be 2 cents per acre, and the royalty 25 cents per cord of pulp-wood cut. In addition, the lessees were required to build and operate in the Province a mill with a certain specified minimum daily output, proportionate to the acreage held under lease. In all 354,399 acres of forest were taken up under the Act before it was repealed in 1903. *See* R. E. Gosnell, *The Year Book of British Columbia*, Coronation edition, Victoria, 1911, p. 251.

(13) Mr. Carmichael's recollection of events is here not entirely accurate. The Powell River Paper Company, Ltd., was not organized until 1909; *see* note 16, *infra*, for details. The company that first took up the water-right at Powell River was known as the Pacific Coast Power Company; the directors included J. J. Shallcross, a great friend of Carmichael's. The water-right to the Clowhom River Falls, on Seechelt Inlet, was acquired by the Industrial Power Company, of which Frank Beer and H. B. Thomson were directors. No doubt the latter was referred to popularly as the "Clowhom Power Company."

The "Pulp Act" [passed in 1901] allowed a certain time in which to select pulp lands which would afterwards be surveyed and granted to the companies applying for them. After this Act was passed the bright idea occurred to several gentlemen that they might horn in with profit to themselves, so at least four survey parties were sent out to select timber under the "Pulp Act." While they were busy going north by steamer and boat, we were equally busy marking two maps with red ink, showing the applications of the Powell River Pulp & Paper Company[14] and the Clowhom Power Company under the same Act.

Some two months later, when these survey parties returned and presented their applications to the Department of Lands, they were met with: "We are sorry, but that tract has been granted to the Powell River Company." "Then we will take this one." "That has been granted to the Clowhom Power Company." And so on, covering most of the timber that was suitable.

Then these people stirred up the hand-loggers, telling them they were going to lose their livelihood, and petitions began to come in to the Government asking that the pulp applications be annulled. By Government grapevine I heard of this in time to have other petitions arrive supporting the applications, and thus the one lot of petitions cancelled the other.

The final result was that we had secured 400 square miles of timber, from which we could survey 200 square miles. These were of course pooled, and later the Clowhom Company sold out to the Powell River Company. We employed Herbert Dawson, who later became Surveyor-General of British Columbia, to make the surveys, which took two years to complete.

During the first fight between the two companies,[15] I sailed from Texada Island in the *Viola*, a half-decked 18-foot boat with

(14) As pointed out in note 13, *supra*, the Powell River Company was not yet in existence at this time; the reference should be to the Canadian Industrial Company, Ltd., which leased a total of 134,551 acres of pulp-wood forest under the Act passed in 1901. When the Powell River Paper Company, Ltd., was formed in 1909 it took over the water-right filed by the Pacific Coast Power Company and the pulp-wood leases held by the Canadian Industrial Company.

(15) As the context shows, the writer intends this to mean the fight between the Canadian Industrial Company and the Clowhom Company on the one hand, and the outside groups who were attempting to "horn in" on the other.

jib and mainsail, to Powell River, a distance of 5 miles, and pushed the boat as far up the river as possible. My wife and small son [Maurice] were with me; we camped on the south bank that night, and heard that a party of surveyors had gone up to the lake. This looked suspicious. Next day, wandering round, the small boy saw a notice on a tree and drew our attention to it. It turned out to be a rival claim to the water-right.

The only thing to do was to get back to Victoria and secure our water-right before the application was opposed.

At Powell River there is only one big tide in the day, and if we were to get the boat off we must catch the tide at 4 p.m. It was then 3 o'clock. The tent came down in rapid time, and everything was stowed aboard just as the survey party came down on the opposite bank, and gazed at us in astonishment.

It was the end of October, and a storm was coming up from the south-west, over Texada Island. It was getting dark, and there was a lot of choppy water between us and the Island, so I decided to try and make the lee off Grief Point, 4 miles south. We got there just as a storm of sleet and rain burst on us. It was an uninviting spot, strewn with huge boulders; on shore were the remains of an Indian fish-drying shed, with a room 8 feet square.

I got my passengers ashore, made a fire, and we had something to eat. There is only a little shelter at Grief Point from a south-west wind, and as the tide went out in the night I heard the boat bumping against the boulders. I said that I would have to anchor her farther out, but my wife did not like my going on board. "You will be drowned," she said. I said that without the boat we would starve, as it might be long enough before any one passed the shore. I got on board and poled out, but found that to get clear of boulders I had to go into much deeper water. Then there was nothing to do but take off my clothes and swim. I rolled them in my slicker and slipped over the side, balancing the bundle on my head. All this time there was a wail from land—"Come ashore!"—and remember it was pitch dark.

As soon as there was any light we were on board, and under reefed sails we made a fast but wet crossing of the 4 miles to Marble Bay, Texada Island. At 8 a.m. we caught the steamer to Vancouver, where we arrived in the evening, and a wire from

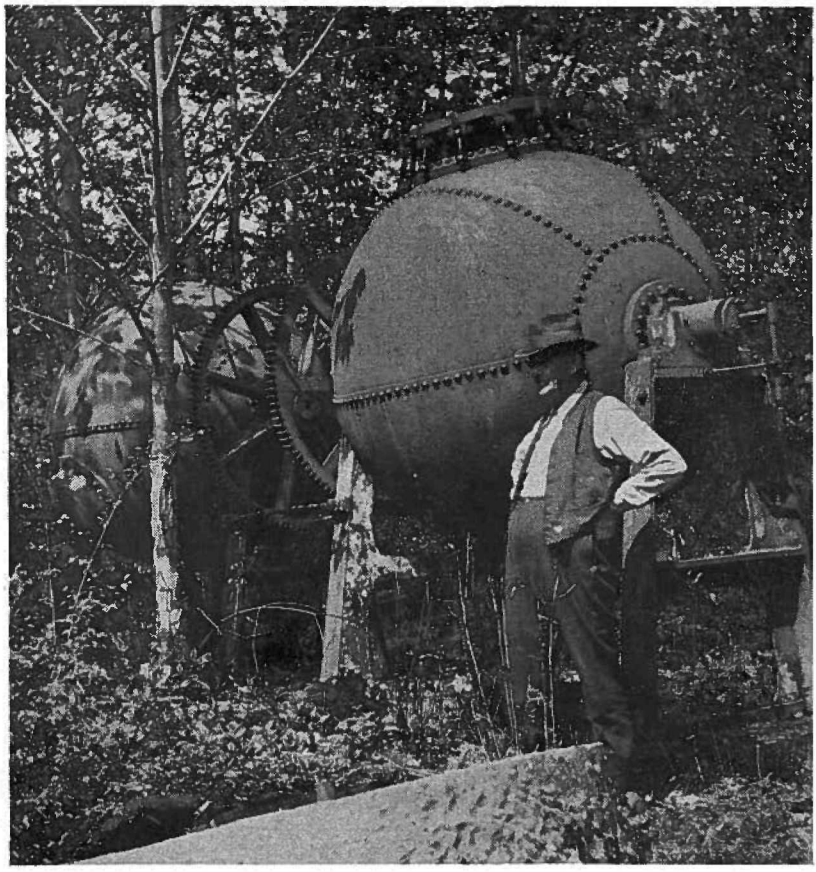
me to my partner got him to the Government Buildings in Victoria just in time to have our water-right safely recorded.

Powell River presented a different aspect then from what it does now. Then there were neither buildings nor people; now it is a good-sized town.

For some years both our syndicate and myself had some hard financial sledding. The times were not good and investors were few. I was urged to abandon the enterprise and told that the wood in this country would not make good paper, that we could not get chemicals, etc. To combat this I had tests made of different British Columbia timbers, and found that they would all make paper—some, of course, better than others. Spruce seemed the best, with a long, strong fibre and little resin. Douglas fir, while good, had too much resin, which interfered in both chemical and mechanical pulp. Hemlock, of which there seemed an unlimited supply, was nearly as good as spruce, and now, I am told, makes the best rayon pulp.

I went to Howarth & Jordan, who were running a sulphate of soda pulp and paper mill at Everett, in the State of Washington. I asked Mr. Howarth to come in with me. He said that I had a good scheme, but that he and his partner had just bought the Everett mill from the Astoria interests, and that they would have their hands full to keep it running.

From Everett I went to Oregon City, on the Willamette River, above Portland, Oregon, to see the managing director, Mr. Johnson. I found he was in San Francisco, so went on south to that city. It was winter, and the road-bed of the Southern Pacific Railway was not as it is now. It was washed out in three places, with the rails hanging in the air. We had to get out in the middle of the night and go round by a path to where three cars and an engine were waiting to take us on. Twice more we were blocked in the same way, and for miles we were running without train orders, and the whistle going most of the time. I did not like the feeling that we might meet a train at any curve coming north while we went south. When we got near Sacramento the track was under water for miles, and we only made 3 or 4 miles an hour, and when we arrived at Oakland ours was the last train over that line for a week.



—Courtesy the Powell River Company.

The two little spherical boilers from the old Alberni paper-mill as they appeared in 1930, almost hidden by the trees and bushes that had grown up since the mill ceased operations in 1896.

When I saw Mr. Johnson in the big city I used my best powers of persuasion to get him to join me. He listened attentively and gave me a good hearing, but he finally said: "Mr. Carmichael, you have a good proposition, but you are fifty years ahead of the times. There is enough newsprint made now to supply the Pacific Coast and a mill of the capacity you propose will not be wanted for many a long day, but I wish you luck."

A few years later this same Mr. Johnson was a director of the Powell River mill, after my friends and I had sold out. I went to his office in San Francisco and reminded him of our previous conversation. I asked him: "What do you think of it now?" His reply was: "I never would have thought it possible, and I can hardly credit yet the growth of the Pacific Coast." He died shortly afterwards.

We then went to London, England, to see if we could raise the funds there, and got a flotation underwritten. The public, however, only took 20 per cent. of the subscription, leaving 80 per cent. on the underwriters' hands. One of these tried to see if there was a loophole whereby he could get out of his contract. There was a clause in the contract stating that we could not go to allotment unless we had a certain amount subscribed and paid for in cash. We did have this, and went to allotment. Part of what we considered as cash were two cheques accepted by the banks concerned, and the treasurer of the company allowed these cheques to remain in his safe without putting them through the bank. The underwriters took action to annul the allotment, stating that a certified cheque was not cash. We claimed that it was. It was the first case of its kind to come before the Courts, and it was argued at length. The Judge held that an accepted cheque was not cash, for the reason that if the bank had failed the cheque could not have been turned into money, so the case went against us, and we had to look elsewhere for funds.

We returned to British Columbia and made a connection with the Brooks-Scanlon Lumber Company, an American company operating in British Columbia. After some negotiating they became sufficiently interested for the principals to wish to see Powell River and as much of the timber as possible.

We chartered a small steamer and took the party north from Vancouver. There were in the party Dr. Dwight F. Brooks,

head of the Brooks-Scanlon Company; Mr. Michael J. Scanlon, a genial Irishman; J. J. Shallcross; Charlie Olts, our timber-cruiser; and myself. I was deputed to be the showman.

Dr. Brooks was past middle-age, and seemed to be the most taciturn gentleman I had met for quite a long time. To my remarks about the beautiful day, the sheltered waters, and the fine sunset, he mostly grunted; this continued for a couple of days, so I said to myself, if that's your idea why bother, so I left him severely alone and talked to Charlie Olts and the others. We were a week away on the trip, and on the third or fourth day Dr. Brooks came over to where I was and asked questions, and finally became most friendly and talked to me all the time till our return.

They were pleased with the prospects, and agreed to purchase the property for cash. I said I was willing to take part of my interest in shares, but they said they wanted it all.[16] In this I think they made a mistake, as they made several costly blunders which I could have steered them clear of.

They took in as partner a pulp man from the East who was unfamiliar with Western conditions, and I understand his ideas cost them a lot of money, so much so that he was replaced by the Mr. Johnson of Willamette Mills. Since then there has been a steady increase in the size of the Powell River mill, till they now have an output of 700 tons of paper per day, and a development of 25,860 horse-power. They are using all the power available at Powell River, and have also taken in Lois River, some 16 miles south, which gives them an additional 22,000 horse-power.

---

(16) The memorandum and articles of association of the Powell River Paper Company, Ltd., were dated October 21, 1909. All the important directors and large shareholders were residents of Minnesota; practically all of them were lumbermen. The authorized capital was first set at $1,000,000, but this was increased to $1,500,000 in 1910. The present Powell River Company was formed in July, 1911, "To acquire by purchase from the Powell River Paper Company, Limited, all the property, real or personal, rights, contracts, privileges, powers, and franchises" held by the latter, and the sale and purchase were duly provided for in an agreement between the two companies dated August 22, 1911. Clearing operations in the Powell River area commenced in the fall of 1909, and the first ton of newsprint ever produced in British Columbia was shipped in May, 1912.

Thus the little mill at Alberni became the father of the Powell River enterprise, with an invested capital of over twenty million dollars,[17] and still going strong.

HERBERT CARMICHAEL.

VICTORIA, B.C.

(17) The Powell River Company's authorized capital was originally $4,000,000. This was increased to $5,000,000 in 1912 and to $10,000,000 in 1925. According to the latest figures available, the capital investment of the company now amounts to just under $35,000,000. The plant is one of the largest individual producers of newsprint in the world.

APPENDIX.

HOW PAPER IS MADE

The *Ariadne* is Now Discharging the Necessary Special Machinery.

An Expensive and Complicated Plant, and How it Will be Used.

The bark *Ariadne* has just discharged a very large and extremely valuable portion of her cargo, which consists of the principal machinery for the new paper mill at Alberni. It has all arrived safely, with the exception of two small breakages which can easily be made good.

The machinery belonging to the company makes up four separate plants —a wood pulp plant, a paper making plant, a bag making plant, and a sawmill outfit. The pulp mill consists of one massive chipping machine, with heavy chipping disc 6 ft. 6 in. in diameter, which will chip logs up to 8x18. The knives are fixed to the disc, which revolves at the speed of 180 per minute, and will dispose of about twenty tons of logs per day. Connected by a conveyor with this machine is another, equally heavy and massive, for crushing up the chips as they are made, the object attained by this severe crushing being that the wood is better prepared for the boiling, the fibres being all opened out and partly disintegrated.

The next operation is the boiling of the chips in a globular revolving boiler, of which there are two in this plant. These boilers are each about seven feet in diameter, and very strongly made. A large manhole with suitable bolts, etc. closes the opening by which the chips are filled in. The liquid to boil the wood being first introduced, the boiler revolves, and when the mixture has been sufficiently boiled, the lids are taken off, and the boilers automatically empty themselves into small wagons placed below to receive the fibre, which is now partially reduced to the consistency of pulp.

If the wood is a soft or non-resinous fibre, or in case of waste paper being utilized, the next process is to fill the boiled material into two large Kollergangs or granite-edged runners. The running stones are five feet in diameter by 18 inches wide. These machines have self acting attachments for keeping the pulp always in front of the running stones. In the process for strong fibres the boiled material is poured into oval beating machines in which a heavy roll of metal with steel knives on the circumference revolves at a speed of 200 per minute. This roll circulates the pulp around the oval tanks and grinds at the same time.

When the pulp is sufficiently reduced, it is emptied by a valve at the bottom of the tank into a cast iron circular receiver, and then kept in constant motion. In connection with this part of the mill there is also a rag and rope-cutting machine, capable of preparing ten tons of rags, etc., daily; also steam tanks, for soaking waste papers, taking out the ink from printed papers, and preparing both for manufacture.

The paper-making machine marks the second process in the formation of the liquid pulp into the sheet of paper. This operation is performed by straining the pulp through a special machine, which separates all the knots or lumps from the finer pulp. This machine consists of a massive brass receiver, the bottom of which is covered with slots of the necessary width, by which a jogging motion is given to this receiver. The paper making machine consists of that portion in which the wet pulp is first received. This is made up of a fine iron framework, copper and brass rollers, and an endless piece of brass wire cloth; also two thick, endless bands of India rubber. The formation of the wet pulp into the damp sheet of paper is continuous.

After leaving the wire cloth the paper, in its first stage as paper, is passed on endless blankets through heavy press rollers, and thence under and over five steam-heated drying cylinders. These thoroughly dry the sheet of paper as fast as it is made. The paper is then passed through a stock of calendar rolls, and wound on a spool—the sheet of paper, as finished is often five feet wide, by any length wanted.

The machine for cutting the reels of paper into square sheets is a large and heavy one. It is intended to be used when the manufacture of paper necessitates a much larger and wider paper making machine than the one described above. This cutting machine will cut a sheet 112 inches wide, or any width down to 6 inches, and any length from 9 inches to 144. The paper, in passing through, never stops; the knife that makes the cross cut is a revolving one.

The paper bag machine is a marvel of ingenuity. It is designed to make any size of bag, from the one to hold four ounces of chocolates up to the one for 20 pounds of sugar. The machine works at a speed of 60 to 250 bags per minute, and will also print anything wanted on the bags as they are made, the printing capacity being 10,000 per hour. The bags are pressed, pasted, dried, printed and delivered ready for the market all at the one operation.

—Victoria *Daily Colonist*, June 4, 1892.

ROYAL COMMISSIONS AND COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY UNDER THE "PUBLIC INQUIRIES ACT" IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

A CHECKLIST.

BY MARJORIE C. HOLMES.

PART IV., 1921–1942.

1921

97. *Commission on Health Insurance, etc. (appointed under the "Public Inquiries Act," November 19th, 1919): report on Maternity insurance.*

20 pp.

Original typewritten report on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioners: E. S. H. Winn, Chairman of the Workmen's Compensation Board, and T. Bennett Green, of New Westminster.

Appointed November 19, 1919; report dated March 18, 1921.

The commissioners were instructed to gather information on maternity insurance legislation in other parts of the world, and to inquire if public interest warranted the introduction of such legislation in the Province. Some valuable suggestions as to the administration and value of public health nursing were made in the report, including the recommendation that the Province be divided into public health districts supervised by public health nurses.

98. *Report of the Health Insurance commission submitted by E. S. H. Winn, Chairman; Dr. T. B. Green; Mrs. C. Spofford; D. McCallum.*

108 pp.

Original typewritten report and proceedings on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioners: As above.

Appointed November 19, 1919; report dated March 18, 1921.

The report was signed by E. S. H. Winn; Dr. T. B. Green expressing himself as being unable to agree with the recommendations.

The commission confined its efforts to a study of literature from other countries, with a view to investigating British Columbia's needs, and the extent to which legislation in other countries was applicable to British Columbia. Mr. Winn's report recommended that Province-wide compulsory health insurance should be brought into force, but before such legislation was enacted, a tentative bill should be drawn up and circulated widely among those interested, to test public reaction.

99. *In the matter of the Public Inquiries Act and in the matter re coal commission, etc. (before Alex. Henderson, Esq., K.C., commissioner); report of commissioner.*

20 pp.

Original typewritten report and proceedings on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: Alexander Henderson, K.C., of Vancouver.

Appointed March 2, 1921; report dated April 25, 1921.

The commissioner investigated the cost of coal production, transportation to dealers, cost to consumers, profits of coal-mine operators, and the profits to dealers. He recommended that the short ton be used as a measure in all Government compilations; that dealers be licensed and required to furnish monthly returns to the Government; that stocks of coal be accumulated during the summer; that standard grades be adopted; that combines be dissolved; and that an effort should be made to reduce freight charges.

100. [*Commission . . . to inquire into the question as to whether the purchase by the Vancouver and District Joint Sewerage and Drainage Board of a portion of District Lot 386, New Westminster Land District, for the sum of $75,000 was a justifiable one; and into the disposition of the purchase moneys by the said Board for the said land.*]

No report found.

Commissioner: Robert Wark, of Victoria.

Appointed April 13, 1921; report dated [June, 1921].

The commissioner's report is quoted extensively in the *Victoria Daily Times*, June 30, 1921, and the *Daily Colonist*, July 1, 1921. Charges had been made that members of the Greater Vancouver Sewerage Board had profited in the purchase by the board of a gravel-pit at Coquitlam. The commissioner found that the board was justified in buying the gravel-pit, but could have bought it for less, if it had not been deliberately misled and lied to by the auditor for South Vancouver, H. J. Perrin. The report stated that Perrin had benefited by $29,350 by the purchase.

1922

101. *Royal Commission re Albert Richard Baker, Chairman of Game Conservation Board. (Under "Public Inquiries Act.") Report of H. C. Shaw, Commissioner.*

5 pp.

In *Sessional Papers . . . Second Session 1921.* pp. V 17–V 21.

Original typewritten report and evidence on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: Henry Curtis Shaw, police magistrate of Vancouver.

Appointed November 21, 1921; report dated February 16, 1922.

The commissioner investigated charges of malpractice in office against Albert Richard Baker, chairman of the Game Conservation Board, which had been made in the Legislature by Robert Henry

Pooley, member for Esquimalt. Mr. Pooley made eighteen specific charges against Dr. Baker as well as the allegations of malpractice. The commissioner dismissed ten of the charges, but investigated the remaining eight. Evidence of bad feeling between the Police and Game Departments was uncovered, and certain evidence of loose dealing in furs was found, but in the latter matter no evidence was brought out to show any personal gain for Dr. Baker.

1924

102. *Report re the Pacific Great Eastern Railway by Hon. Mr. Justice W. A. Galliher of Court of Appeal of British Columbia . . . Commissioner.* Victoria, B.C.: Printed by Charles F. Banfield, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty. 1924.

Cover-title, 21 pp.

Also in *Sessional Papers . . . Session 1924.* pp. M 1–M 21.

Original typewritten report and evidence on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: Mr. Justice W. A. Galliher, of the Court of Appeal.

Appointed February 20, 1924; report dated April 22, 1924.

The commission was appointed in response to a petition made by members of the Provincial Party to investigate charges that the Pacific Great Eastern Railway Company had made certain payments to the Conservative and Liberal party funds to secure the good-will of those parties in the Legislature; that the Company had made gifts of money to William J. Bowser, Leader of the Opposition, and William Sloan, Minister of Mines; and that there had been gross wastage of public money in the building of the railway. Sixteen specific charges were set out in the terms of the commission, but the commissioner found that there was nothing in the evidence to warrant the imputation of anything dishonest in the carrying-out of the work by the Government.

1927

103. *Commission under the United Church of Canada Act.*

11 pp.

Original typewritten report on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioners: Rev. William Leslie Clay, D.D., Thomas Humphries, William H. MacInnes, all of Victoria; Rev. James S. Henderson, D.D., Rev. Robert G. MacBeth, D.D., William Wright Fraser, Rev. Albert E. Mitchell, D.D., Rev. George A. Wilson, D.D., Rev. Edward McGougan, all of Vancouver; James G. Robson, of New Westminster.

Appointed December 30, 1925; report dated February 14, 1927.

This commission, having the force of a public inquiry, was appointed under the "United Church of Canada Act," to advise upon the settlement of certain properties to be awarded to the congregations of the Presbyterian Church in British Columbia.

James G. Robson did not sign the report.

104. *Report of the Royal Commission on Mental Hygiene (appointed under the "Public Inquiries Act" by Order in Council dated December 30th, 1925). Membership of Commission: E. J. Rothwell, M.B., M.L.A. (Chairman); Brigadier-General V. W. Odlum, M.L.A. (Secretary); W. A. McKenzie, M.L.A.; Reginald Hayward, M.L.A.; P. P. Harrison, M.L.A.* Printed by authority of the Legislative Assembly. Victoria, B.C.: Printed by Charles F. Banfield, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty. 1927.

Cover-title, 54 pp.

Also in *Sessional Papers . . . Session 1926–27.* pp. C 1–C 54.
Commissioners: As above.
Appointed December 30, 1925; report dated February 28, 1927.

This commission was originally appointed as a special committee of the Legislature,* but the members asked to be permitted to continue their researches, and report at the next session of the Legislature. Accordingly, on December 30, 1925, the commissioners were appointed under the "Public Inquiries Act" to pursue their investigations. The commissioners recommended the establishment of a psychopathic hospital, sterilization of certain classes of mental patients, and some administrative changes in the hospitals. This report also includes a study on "The heredity and place of origin of the patients admitted to the Provincial Mental Hospitals of British Columbia," by Helen P. Davidson.
See also No. 109, *infra.*

105. *Royal Commission held pursuant to "Public Inquiries Act," Chapter 114, Revised Statutes of British Columbia, 1924 (re "Campaign funds"); findings.*

14 pp.

Original typewritten report, evidence, and exhibits on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.
Commissioners: Mr. Justice Aulay Morrison, of the Supreme Court; Rev. James S. Henderson, D.D., and W. H. Malkin, both of Vancouver.
Appointed February 23, 1927; report dated April 6, 1927.

This commission was appointed as the outcome of a Dominion royal commission investigating matters connected with the Customs Department, which revealed that the liquor interests had made large contributions for campaign funds to both political parties in the Province. A Select Committee of the Legislature had already investigated and reported four specific charges: (1) increase in the price of beer; (2) lobbying by brewery interests; (3) higher prices for whisky paid by the Liquor Control Board; (4) use of secret service funds for political purposes. The commission was appointed to investigate these charges. The commissioners found that any money paid by the brewers had had no effect on the enactment of legislation to bring about beer-by-the-glass, and that no undue prices had been paid by the Liquor Control Board.

---

* *See Journals of the Legislative Assembly,* November 18, 1925.

106. *Re "Public Inquiries Act"; a Commission issued to the Hon. Mr. Justice Morrison re allegations of Frank Carlow.*

15 pp.

Original typewritten report, evidence, and exhibits on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.
Commissioner: Mr. Justice Aulay Morrison, of the Supreme Court.
Appointed April 14, 1927; report dated June 2, 1927.

The commission investigated the charges made by one Frank Carlow, that public business had been improperly transacted, and that members of the Legislature or Government officials had resorted to improper methods to obtain campaign funds, but found no evidence to support the claim.

107. *Final report under the commission issued on 14th April, 1927, to the Hon. Mr. Justice Morrison; re Gauthier charges.*

20 pp.

Original typewritten report, evidence, and exhibits on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.
Commissioner: Mr. Justice Aulay Morrison, of the Supreme Court.
Appointed April 14, 1927; report dated June, 1927.

The commission is properly part of the preceding one, but is mentioned separately here as a separate report was submitted. There is no record of an interim report to which the commissioner refers in his report. The commissioner found that there was no evidence to support the charges of "improper conduct of public business" made by J. A. Gauthier.

108. *Report on the Economic Conditions in certain Irrigation Districts in the Province, by William George Swan. Appointed a Commissioner under the "Public Inquiries Act."* Victoria, B.C.: Printed by Charles F. Banfield, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty. 1928.

Cover-title, 107 pp.

Also in *Sessional Papers . . . Session 1928.* pp. U 1–U 107.
Commissioner: William George Swan, of Vancouver.
Appointed July 26, 1927; report dated December 16, 1927.

The commissioner was appointed to investigate the economic and financial condition of certain irrigation districts, and to make recommendations to better the condition prevailing in those districts. The main recommendations made by Mr. Swan were the lowering of the rate of interest payable, and the increasing of the repayment time from thirty to fifty years.

1928

109. *Final Report of the Royal Commission on Mental Hygiene (appointed under the "Public Inquiries Act" by Order in Council dated December 30th, 1925). Membership of Commission: P. P. Harrison, M.L.A. (Chairman); V. W. Odlum, M.L.A.*

(Secretary); W. A. McKenzie, M.L.A.; Reginald Hayward, M.L.A. Printed by authority of the Legislative Assembly. Victoria, B.C.: Printed by Charles F. Banfield, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty. 1928.

Cover-title, 20 pp.

Also in *Sessional Papers . . . Session 1928.* pp. G 1–G 20.
Original evidence and exhibits on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.
Commissioners: As above.
Appointed December 30, 1925; report dated March 9, 1928.

This is the second and final report of the Mental Hygiene commission. (For the earlier report *see* No. 104, *supra.*) The work of the second year was concentrated largely on the problem of mental deficiency. Data were gathered on existing legislation and the best methods of tackling the problem. The commissioners recommended the appointment of a provincial psychiatrist and the establishment of a psychopathic hospital, special classes for mentally deficient children, and the establishment of vocational schools for mental defectives.

110. [*Commission . . . to inquire into the economic conditions throughout the Province with respect to immigration, land settlement, and colonization, and especially with reference to the several areas coming under the Sumas Drainage, Dyking and Development Board, the Oliver District, and areas administered by the Land Settlement Board.*]

No report found.

Commissioner: William Henry Gaddes, of Kelowna.
Appointed November 21, 1928.

1929

111. *Final report Sumas Relief Commission, 1928.*

6 pp.

Original typewritten report and evidence on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.
Commissioners: Bruce Dixon, Inspector of Dykes, chairman; David Whiteside, of New Westminster, and William Lyle Macken, of Chilliwack.
Appointed March 21, 1928; report dated January 17, 1929.

The chairman of this commission was appointed by Statute (1928 chapter 42), the other two commissioners by Order in Council March 21, 1928. The commission was appointed to investigate specific cases in regard to the adjustment of assessments in the Sumas area covered by the "Sumas Dyking District Relief Act, 1928," and to determine damages in certain areas occasioned by the Sumas reclamation project. The commissioners were impressed by the possibilities of the entire Sumas area, and recommended that if any further relief was contemplated, or any adjustment to be made, that it be done without delay.

112. *Report of Milk Inquiry Commission, 1928.* Presented to the Legislature January 22nd, 1929 . . . Printed by authority of the Legislative Assembly. Victoria, B.C.: Printed by Charles F. Banfield, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty. 1929.

Cover-title, 112 pp.

Also in *Sessional Papers . . . Session 1929.* Vol. 1, pp. K 1–K 112.

Original typewritten report on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioners: Frederick Moore Clement, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of British Columbia; Hibbert Winslow Hill, M.D., Director of Laboratories, University of British Columbia; George Ernest Hancox, barrister, of Vancouver.

Appointed May 19, 1928; report dated January 17, 1929.

The commissioners were appointed to investigate the whole question of milk-supply to the city of Vancouver and the adjacent and neighbouring municipalities. The commissioners made recommendations regarding the marketing and supervision of dairies, prices of fluid milk, and also recommended changes in the Acts regulating the marketing and sale of milk.

113. *Report of the Royal Commission appointed by Order in Council No. 1352, approved on the 5th day of December, 1928, under the authority of the "Public Inquiries Act" re Saanich Secession.*

15 pp.

Original typewritten report, evidence, and exhibits on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: Peter Secord Lampman, Judge of the County Court, Victoria.

Appointed December 5, 1928; report dated May 31, 1929.

The commissioner was to investigate any matters of administration in Saanich municipality, the valuation of agricultural holdings, the question of a separate municipality for Wards 3 and 4, the division of the municipality into wards, domestic water-supply, sewer system, and the cost of local and other improvements. After investigating, the commissioner gave it as his opinion that Wards 3 and 4 would be too small a municipality for economical administration, and that land was assessed and taxed for more than it could stand. He thought that the ideal situation would be for the more thickly populated portions to amalgamate with the city of Victoria, and the country districts to form a separate municipality.

114. *Report of the Royal Commission appointed by Order in Council No. 748, approved on the 16th day of May, 1929, under the authority of the "Public Inquiries Act" to inquire into certain allegations against John L. Barge, of Queen Charlotte City, Province of British Columbia.*

1 p.

Original typewritten report on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.
Commissioner: W. E. Fisher, barrister, of Prince Rupert.
Appointed May 16, 1929; report dated August 23, 1929.

Barge was charged with retaining Government property, which charge was found to be proved.

115. *Public Enquiries Act re Kelowna Police; Report of Lindley Crease, K.C., Commissioner.*

pp. 11, xxviii.

Original typewritten report, appendix, evidence, and exhibits on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.
Commissioner: Lindley Crease, K.C., of Victoria.
Appointed April 16, 1929; report dated September, 1929.

Charges had been made by Provincial Constable P. Corrigan, of Kelowna, that members of the city police force were lax in the performance of their duty, and of maladministration of the force. The Kelowna police made counter-charges against Provincial Constable Corrigan. The terms of the commission enabled the commissioner to investigate police administration generally, in the city of Kelowna. He found that the Chief of Police of Kelowna, Robert William Thomas, had not faithfully served the citizens of the town, that the city police were lacking in the performance of their duty, and that they had failed to co-operate with the Provincial Police Constable.

116. [*Commission . . . authorizing an inquiry into the grading, mixing, handling, and marketing of grain . . .*]

157 pp.

Commissioners: Hon. James Thomas Brown, Chief Justice of the Court of King's Bench, Saskatchewan; John August Stoneman, of Saskatoon; William John Rutherford, Dean and Professor of Agriculture, University of Saskatchewan.
Appointed (British Columbia) March 15, 1929; report dated September 5, 1929.

This was a commission granted by the Government of British Columbia to give the royal commissioners of the Saskatchewan grain inquiry authority to pursue their investigations in British Columbia. As far as British Columbia was concerned the evidence related to the facilities for grain handling at Pacific coast ports.

1930

117. *Progress report of the Royal Commission on State Health Insurance and Maternity Benefits;* Presented to the Legislature February 11th, 1930. Printed by authority of the Legislative Assembly. Victoria, B.C.: Printed by Charles F. Banfield, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty. 1930.

Cover-title, 30 pp.

Typewritten evidence on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioners: C. F. Davie; William Farris Kennedy; Lorris E. Borden, M.D.; George S. Pearson; John Joseph Gillis, M.D.; all members of the Legislative Assembly. Charles H. Gibbons, Secretary.

Appointed April 16, 1929; report dated January 15, 1930.

The commission investigated existing legislation on health insurance in other countries of the world, having in mind the application of such legislation to British Columbia.

For a later report *see* No. 122, *infra*.

118. *Report of the Royal Commission Investigating the Fruit Industry (and inter-related conditions) of the Districts Territorially known as the Okanagan, Kootenay, and Kettle River of the Province of British Columbia, by W. Sanford Evans. Appointed a Commissioner under the "Public Inquiries Act."*

Part I. Dealing with the subjects set forth in the terms of the Commission under Classifications A, B, and C. Printed by authority of the Legislative Assembly. Victoria, B.C.: Printed by Charles F. Banfield, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty. 1930.

Cover-title, 23 pp.

Also in *Sessional Papers . . . Session 1930*. Vol. 2, pp. AA 1–AA 23.

Original typewritten report on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: W. Sanford Evans, economist, of Winnipeg.

Appointed August 26, 1929; report dated February 8, 1930.

The commissioner was appointed to investigate the value of land, irrigation, water-supply, farming, and fruit-growing, varieties of produce, packing, distribution, marketing, manufacture of by-products, storage and transportation, and relations between the producer and vendor in the districts of the Province named in the commission. The report mentioned above deals only with the first three subjects of the commission. After investigating, the commissioner came to the general conclusion that the agricultural industry in the territory was worth maintaining and developing. In spite of the expense involved, in view of the fact that the Province had already made extensive loans to irrigation districts and had one large irrigation project, he felt that the financial position, while difficult, was not necessarily incapable of betterment. He recommended that a complete soil and topographical survey be systematically proceeded with; that the Government accept the principle of payment according to ability to pay, and abandon the existing plan of payment by regular fractions of the debt; that the amount a district be required to pay in any one year on account of construction costs should be proportionate to the value of its products, and that the question of ensuring an ample water-supply should be a primary duty.

By Order in Council dated October 31, 1929, the area in which the

inquiry was to be held was extended to include the Kettle River and Kootenay districts of the Province.

For a later report *see* No. 120, *infra.*

119. [*Commission . . . to hold a full inquiry, investigation and examination into the administration of the Board operating under the Government Liquor Act.*]

No report found.

Commissioner: Albert F. Griffiths, chartered accountant, of Victoria. Appointed October 22, 1930.

1931

120. *Report of the Royal Commission Investigating the Fruit Industry (and inter-related conditions) of the Districts Territorially known as the Okanagan, Kootenay, and Kettle River of the Province of British Columbia, by W. Sanford Evans. Appointed a Commissioner under the "Public Inquiries Act."*

Part II. Dealing with the Subjects of Production and Marketing under the Terms of the Commission. Printed by authority of the Legislative Assembly. Victoria, B.C.: Printed by Charles F. Banfield, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty. 1931.

Cover-title, 29 pp.

Also in *Sessional Papers . . . Session 1931.* Vol. 2, pp. W 1–W 29.

Original typewritten report on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: W. Sanford Evans, economist, of Winnipeg.

Appointed August 26, 1929; report dated January 15, 1931.

The commissioner, in this report, considered problems of production and marketing. He investigated marketing during the previous ten years, taking apples as the main example, and going fully into the facts regarding supply, export, cost of production and yield, cold storage, and markets. He criticized the existing "Produce Marketing Act," calling it "an extraordinary statute" and pointing out its defects. He recommended that immediate steps be taken to institute a method of dealing with prices by means of an association of shippers; that all trade matters needing common action be handled by this Shippers' Council; and that the growers be organized so that matters of common interest could be discussed by them.

For the earlier report *see* No. 118, *supra.*

121. *Report of the Royal Commission appointed by Order in Council No. 1373 appointed on the 19th day of November, 1930, under the authority of the "Public Inquiries Act" re Mount Douglas Park.*

7 pp.

Original typewritten report, evidence, and exhibits on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: Oscar C. Bass, Deputy Attorney-General.

Appointed November 19, 1930; report dated March 16, 1931.

The commissioner investigated the management, regulation, protection, and control of Mount Douglas park, near Victoria. Charges had been made by F. A. Grahame, of Victoria, that the Victoria-Saanich Beaches Association, administrators of the park, had neglected it, and had despoiled its natural beauty by selling gravel and cutting a new road. The commissioner found that the charges were substantiated by the evidence brought forward.

1932

122. *Final report of the Royal Commission on State Health Insurance and Maternity Benefits, 1932.* Printed by authority of the Legislative Assembly. Victoria, B.C.: Printed by Charles F. Banfield, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty. 1932.

Cover-title, 63 pp.

Also in *Sessional Papers . . . Session 1932.* Vol. 2 pp. X 1–X 63.

Original typewritten report on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioners: C. F. Davie, chairman; George S. Pearson; Dr. L. E. Borden; Dr. J. J. Gillis; W. F. Kennedy; all members of the Legislative Assembly.

Appointed April 16, 1929; report dated January 30, 1932.

The commissioners had already presented a Progress Report to the Legislature on February 11, 1930 (*see* No. 116, *supra*). This *Final Report* consists of a digest of the evidence received on world laws, and discussion of the need for health insurance in British Columbia, the class of persons to be served, the mode of levying the contribution, and other administrative details. The commissioners strongly recommended that a compulsory scheme of health insurance and maternity benefits be set up in the Province at an early date.

123. *Report of the Royal Commission on Chiropractic and Drugless Healing.* Held under the Provisions of the "Public Inquiries Act." Printed by authority of the Legislative Assembly. Victoria, B.C.: Printed by Charles F. Banfield, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty. 1932.

Cover-title, 11 pp.

Also in *Sessional Papers . . . Session 1932.* pp. Q 1–Q 11.

Original typewritten report and evidence on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: Mr. Justice Denis Murphy, of the Supreme Court.

Appointed September 10, 1931; report dated February 17, 1932.

The chiropractors and drugless healers of the Province had applied for an Act regulating their practice, and the commissioner was charged to investigate in order to ascertain which of the chiropractors and

drugless healers now practising should be so registered. The commissioner made a full inquiry, and in the first case recommended that an examining board, composed exclusively of duly qualified chiropractors, be set up and should be authorized to grant recognition of graduates of colleges, which, in their opinion, gave a proper course in chiropractic of not less than six months. The commissioner stated that the Act should prohibit the prescribing or administration of drugs or medical preparatives by chiropractors, and the practice by them of midwifery or surgery. In the second case the commissioner recommended that no change be made in the "Medical Act" in respect to examination of drugless healers, but saw no reason why an Act should not be passed regarding the "protection of persons skilled in the use of what may be termed the mechanics of such drugless healing."

1934

124. *Province of British Columbia: Report of the Municipal Taxation Commission, 1933.* 1934.

Cover-title, 90 pp. mimeographed.

Original typewritten report and evidence on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioners: His Honour Andrew M. Harper, Judge of the County Court of Vancouver, chairman; A. D. Paterson, of Ladner.

Appointed May 22, 1933; report dated February 9, 1934.

The commission was appointed to inquire into and review the financial and administrative condition of the various municipalities of the Province, as constituted under the "Municipal Act," and also the financial relationship between the Provincial Government and the municipalities. The commissioners made forty-two recommendations after taking evidence in all parts of the Province. The principal recommendations were: (1) that mothers' pensions be a wholly Provincial obligation; (2) that the thickly-populated parts of Saanich be annexed to the city of Victoria; (3) that social services should not be a charge upon the land; (4) that municipal grants should be a fixed amount for a certain term of years; (5) that certain institutions and certain social services should be wholly a charge upon the Province, and (6) that hospital grants should be increased.

1936

125. [*Commission issued to His Honour Algernon Ernest Doak . . . to inquire into matters (relief camp strikers) in so far as they took place in the Province of British Columbia.*]

Commissioner: Judge Algernon Ernest Doak, of the District Court of Saskatchewan.

Appointed February 13, 1936.

This is a commission issued by the Province of British Columbia to facilitate the work of Judge Doak, appointed by the Saskatchewan Government to inquire into matters connected with the riot of relief camp strikers at Regina on July 1, 1935. The report was made public in Saskatchewan on May 16, 1936.

1937

126. *Report of the Royal Commission approved by Order in Council No. 5, appointed on the 6th day of January, 1937, under the authority of the "Public Inquiries Act," re the Home of the Friendless; commissioner's report.*

24 pp.

Original typewritten report and evidence on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: H. Irvine Bird, barrister, of Vancouver.

Appointed January 6, 1937; report dated July 23, 1937.

Complaints regarding the administration and conduct of the Home for the Friendless, in Burnaby, and the similar institution in West Summerland, were the cause of this investigation. In the main, charges made were found to be proved, in that the aged were likely to become public charges, that fire protection was not adequate, and that discipline was harsh. The commissioner urged that some legislation be enacted by the Legislature to regulate the operation of such homes.

127. *Report of the Royal Commission approved by Order in Council No. 24, approved on the 6th day of January, 1937, as amended by Order in Council No. 552, approved on the 5th day of May, 1937, under authority of the "Public Inquiries Act" . . . re projectionists and kinematographs.*

20 pp.

Original typewritten report on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: James M. Coady, barrister, of Vancouver.

Appointed January 6, 1937; report dated August 9, 1937.

The commissioner investigated motion-picture theatre projection-rooms, and described the methods employed in various types of theatres rather fully. The question of whether it be in the public interest to allow fewer than two licensed projectionists to operate a kinematograph in a projection-room containing more than one kinematograph, and whether a machine should be operated in a theatre which has no rewind-room was also inquired into. In neither case did the commissioner find that such things were necessary.

128. *Report of the Royal Commission approved by Order in Council No. 944 appointed on the 25th day of August, 1937, under the authority of the "Public Inquiries Act" re Beban mine disaster.*

6 pp., 2 maps.

Original typewritten report and evidence on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: Ridgway R. Wilson, mining engineer, of Vancouver.

Appointed August 25, 1937; report dated September 7, 1937.

The commissioner investigated circumstances leading up to and surrounding the flooding of Beban mine at Extension, which led to the

death of three miners. No evidence of negligence was brought out at the inquiry, but the commissioner found that an error of judgment in allowing an insufficient factor of safety in connection with the distance the old No. 1 Extension mine-workings extended beyond the point shown by the old mine plan, had occurred. The error was not attributable to any one person. The direct cause of the disaster was the failure to file with the Department of Mines an accurate mine plan of the old No. 1 mine. Recommendations were made by the commissioner to prevent such circumstances happening in the future.

129. *Report of the Royal Commission approved by Order in Council No. 186 appointed on the 19th day of February, 1937, under authority of the "Public Inquiries Act" re Labour Dispute between Burns and Company, Limited, and its employees.*

9 pp.

Original typewritten report, evidence, and exhibits on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: His Honour Judge J. C. McIntosh, Junior Judge of the County Court of Nanaimo.

Appointed February 19, 1937; report not dated.

The dispute concerned not wages, nor hours of labour, but the activities of the newly-formed labour union, and the retaliatory action of the Burns company manager. As no agreement had been arrived at, the commissioner submitted a plan for settlement of the dispute.

1937–38

130. *Coal and Petroleum Products Commission (British Columbia). Volume I. Report of the Commissioner The Honourable Mr. Justice M. A. Macdonald relating to The Petroleum Industry (Being Paragraph 2 and part of Paragraph 3 of the Terms of the Commission) October 21st, 1936.* Victoria, B.C.: Printed by Charles F. Banfield, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty. 1937.

Volume II. Report of the Commissioner The Honourable Mr. Justice M. A. Macdonald relating to The Coal Industry (Being Paragraph 1 and part of Paragraph 3 of the Terms of the Commission) September 27th, 1937. Victoria, B.C.: Printed by Charles F. Banfield, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty. 1937.

Volume III. Report of the Commissioner The Honourable Mr. Justice M. A. Macdonald relating to Paragraph 3 of the Terms of the Commission December 5th, 1938. Victoria, B.C.: Printed by Charles F. Banfield, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty. 1938.

Cover-title, pp. xxvii., 332; pp. xl., 422; pp. xxxv., 500.

Also in *Sessional Papers . . . Session 1937*, Vol. 2, pp. HH 1–HH 332; II 1–II 422; and *Sessional Papers . . . Session 1938*, Vol. 2, pp. HH 1–HH 500.

Original report, evidence, and exhibits on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: Mr. Justice M. A. Macdonald, of the Court of Appeal.

Appointed November 28, 1934; reports dated October 21, 1936; September 27, 1937; December 5, 1938.

The commissioner was appointed to inquire into matters connected with the coal and petroleum industries—the cost of production, manner and cost of preparation (both for wholesalers and retailers), transportation, cost to dealers and consumers, profits (both to owners and sellers), and "generally, all matters tending to show the comparative value of coal and petroleum products for economic use as aforesaid in British Columbia, and the value to the economic welfare of British Columbia of the development of industry based upon the production of the fuels enumerated, or tending to show whether or not the prices charged for coal and petroleum products respectively are unjust or unreasonable . . ." The commissioner divided his report as shown above, and reported on each part separately. The principal findings of each part are summarized in the introduction. The report is very exhaustive in its treatment of the subjects discussed, and the findings are too detailed to enable them to be quoted or even summarized in this checklist.

1942

131. *Report of the Commissioner appointed pursuant to Section 492 of the "Municipal Act" and the provisions of the "Public Inquiries Act" to inquire into the Police Administration of the Corporation of the City of New Westminster.*

19 pp.

Original typewritten report, proceedings, and exhibits on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: His Honour Frederic W. Howay, Judge of the County Court of New Westminster.

Appointed April 14, 1942; report dated May 22, 1942.

On complaint of E. C. Mills, alderman of New Westminster, of dereliction of duty, inefficiency of administration, and laxity of law enforcement on the part of the police department of New Westminster, the commissioner was appointed to investigate the charges. However, he did not find that the evidence supported the complaints.

132. *"Public Inquiries Act" "Natural Products Marketing (British Columbia) Act." Report of His Honour Judge A. M. Harper, Commissioner appointed by an Order of the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, dated the 30th day of September, A.D. 1941.* Victoria, B.C.: Printed by Charles F. Banfield, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty. 1942.

Cover-title, 72 pp.

Original typewritten report, evidence, and exhibits on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: His Honour Andrew M. Harper, Judge of the County Court of Vancouver.

Appointed September 30, 1941; report dated September 14, 1942.

The commissioner was appointed to investigate the operations generally of marketing boards and of the agencies set up by them; the rules, regulations, and transactions of these marketing boards and agencies; complaints of administration; and any other relevant facts. After investigating, the commissioner recommended sweeping changes in the set-up and operations of the British Columbia Marketing Board and the B.C. Coast Vegetable Marketing Board, advocating changes in personnel and enlargement of the jurisdiction of the Board. He also advocated changes in the constitution of the B.C. Coast Vegetable Board to provide for election of members by delegates from local units, and he advised further that the Board be given power to exempt small growers of vegetables from operation of the Marketing Act, and that fruit-growers be given a better accounting of all deductions and overages.

133. *Public Inquiries Act (British Columbia). Report of the Commissioner The Honourable Mr. Justice Gordon McG. Sloan relating to The Workmen's Compensation Board, 1942.* Victoria, B.C.: Printed by Charles F. Banfield, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty. 1942.

Cover-title, 245 pp.

Also in *Sessional Papers . . . Session 1943.* Vol. 2, pp. DD 1–DD 245.

Original typewritten report and proceedings on file in the Provincial Secretary's Office, Victoria.

Commissioner: Mr. Justice Gordon McG. Sloan, of the Court of Appeal.

Appointed July 1, 1941; report dated September, 1942.

This commission was fact-finding, and investigation was made into any complaints which had been made concerning the administrative policy of the Workmen's Compensation Board. The commissioner was also to investigate and examine relevant facts and reasons therefor, relating to proposed amendments to the existing Act which might be brought to his attention, and any other facts pertaining to the general scope of the inquiry. In his report the commissioner recommended that certain allowances under the Act be increased; that the Act be broadened to permit the Board to order and pay for chiropractic treatment to compensation cases; that a *per diem* allowance be permitted to men brought to Vancouver for medical examination, etc., from other localities, in addition to travelling expenses and time-loss compensation. The commissioner discussed the question of certain occupational diseases, notably hernia and silicosis, very fully, and made certain suggestions in this connection. In the early pages of the report the history of workmen's compensation in British Columbia was reviewed.

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

THE LAST VOYAGE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA'S LARGEST CANOE.

EDITOR'S NOTE.—In the first days of September, 1911, Mr. E. M. Cotton, well-known native son of New Westminster, and his brother, Walter, set out to join their father, who was in charge of a Government survey party at Stuart Lake. They travelled first from Vancouver to Prince Rupert in the steamer *Prince George*. Then, after an exciting trip up the Skeena River to Hazelton in a stern-wheeler, they proceeded overland to Babine Lake. Down this they paddled to Babine Portage, which they crossed to Stuart Lake, their destination. Six weeks later it was time to start for home, and it was on this return journey that the events here chronicled occurred.

The approach of cold weather early in November warned us that it was time to break camp and head down river for "Outside" or run the risk of being frozen in where we were for the winter. The camp's only means of travel was an old river scow, which unfortunately was not large enough to carry us all with safety. We decided that eight, including myself, would remain behind and try to find some other means of getting away before the freeze-up came. Failing that we would spend the winter in Fort St. James.

We did our best to locate a boat but could find none large enough to carry eight men and equipment. We had almost given up when we heard about a large Indian dug-out canoe near Fort St. James. We were told that this canoe would more than fill our needs, in size at least.

It was certainly large enough! In fact it was believed to be the largest ever built in British Columbia—55½ feet long, and 4 feet wide. It was of the dug-out type, hewn from a single huge log. Strangely enough it was made of cottonwood instead of the usual cedar. It had been used several years by the Hudson's Bay Company as a freighter on Takla Lake. It was very ancient and almost paper thin in places. We realized that we were taking our lives in our hands to venture into those ice-filled rivers in such a craft. But beggars can't be choosers, and we felt that we had no alternative. We either had to take our chances with the river or stay where we were for the winter. Of the two we preferred the river. We took the precaution, however, of hiring Jimmy Alexander, an Indian guide, with the reputation of being the best fast-water canoeman in the country, to act as our pilot.

Including Alexander there were nine members in our little party. They were: Harry Reid, the expedition's cook, Bill Wright, Glen Pluver, a chap named Anderson, my brother W. H. Cotton, myself, and two whose names I cannot recall. At the present time Harry Reid lives in New Westminster, Glen Pluver in Clayburn, and my brother in

Smithers, where he is Government engineer. I have lost track of the others.

We must have been a memorable sight that cold December morning as we left Fort St. James in our odd craft, propelled by six large oars, three on each side, steered by a huge 15-foot sweep at the stern (the canoe was too large for paddles), jammed with equipment, and with smoke pouring from the full-sized camp stove that we had erected on a platform at the rear. We must have looked like something left over from the flood.

For all its unsightliness, that stove certainly proved a comfort. It rained and snowed most of the time, and as we had no covering over the canoe we felt the cold bitterly. We travelled without stopping all day, and camped on shore at night. At intervals during the long cold day the men would leave their places at the oars and make their way back to the stove, where Harry Reid always had a steaming pot of soup or tea ready. This, followed by a comforting smoke by the fire, soon had us ready for another turn at the oars.

We had little or no trouble until we neared the Fraser River at Fort George. There we ran into large quantities of pancake ice which kept rubbing through the soft cottonwood of the canoe, forcing us to go ashore and find spruce gum to patch the leaks. The canoe was old and thin, and while in the ice area we were forced to stop for repairs five or six times a day. In sub-zero weather this was anything but a pleasant task.

Arriving at Fort George Canyon we found it completely frozen over, and the ice piled so high that we were forced to go ashore and carry, or rather slide, our huge canoe along the river bank to open water.

After leaving Fort George, where we stopped for supplies, we had clear sailing until we reached dangerous Cottonwood Canyon. Here the water is exceedingly swift and foams and churns through the narrow rocky canyon at a great rate. Even the light and easily-handled river canoes seldom tried to run this tricky and extremely dangerous canyon, and we knew that to attempt it in our clumsy 55-footer was out of the question. We went ashore, and Jimmy Alexander went on ahead to size up the possibilities of portaging our equipment along the river bank. After some time, he came back to report that it would be impossible to carry the canoe on the shore, as the banks along the canyon were too steep, and covered with several feet of snow. That left us no alternative. We must run the canyon, 55-footer or no.

This decided, we wasted no time in starting lest we lose our nerve, for we needed steady nerves for the task ahead. With our hearts in our mouths we started, and it seemed that we had no sooner left the shore before we felt the rush of the canyon. We gained momentum like a falling stone. Faster and faster, cutting through the angry waters like an arrow, our bow sent showers of spray over the feverishly

straining oarsmen, whose oars seemed to barely touch the rushing waters.

Had it not been for Jimmy Alexander we never would have made it. He did a wonderful job of steering our clumsy craft through the dangerous maze of huge rocks. Time and again, by what seemed only inches, we missed great jagged rocks which would have torn gaping holes in the sides of the canoe, and in an instant consigned us to swift, certain death in the icy waters.

The swift manœuvring almost cost the life of Harry Reid, our cook. A sudden lunge of the canoe caused a section of the stove pipe to fall overboard. Harry made a wild grab for it, and was saved from falling overboard by Jimmy Alexander, who pulled him to safety by the seat of his trousers. After what seemed a lifetime, we finally got through. That ride was the fastest and most thrilling I ever had. It is great to look back upon. But never again!

After that, pancake ice was our only trouble. We made good progress, and at nightfall on the sixth day camped just a few miles from Quesnel, and were off to an early start the next morning. As we approached Quesnel we were surprised to see a large crowd lining the river bank awaiting our arrival. We were at a loss to explain the unexpected welcome until Mr. Collins, of the Hudson's Bay store, explained. We had been sighted as we rounded the bend of the river, about 3 miles above Quesnel, by Mr. Allison, a druggist. The odd appearance of our craft, with the smoke pouring from our stove, aroused great curiosity as to just what was the queer type of ship approaching. Soon the whole village gathered to witness the arrival of the mysterious craft. We must have been a great sight at that, nine woefully tired and unshaven men in a giant six-oared, stove-cluttered canoe.

We soon had the canoe unloaded on the bank, and having enjoyed the open-handed hospitality of the good people of Quesnel, we continued our journey homeward, leaving the river and travelling overland. We were sorry to leave our great canoe behind. It had served us faithfully and carried us through dangerous waters to safety. After we had gone the people of Quesnel erected a shelter over the canoe, and I believe it is still there, on view to all who wish to see this giant 55½-footer, reputed to be the largest canoe ever built in British Columbia.

E. M. COTTON.

The party arrived in New Westminster the day before Christmas.

Since this narrative was written, word has been received that the great canoe is no more. Though it had been protected from the weather to some extent in recent years, it had been left exposed so long that the bottom, and finally the sides, rotted away. The remains are said to have been dumped into the Fraser not long ago.—EDITOR.

LEONARD NORRIS: 1865–1945.

Leonard Norris, who died in Vernon on April 18, 1945, lived many long and useful years in the Okanagan, and devoted the last twenty years of his life to collecting historical information concerning the Valley he knew so well.

Mr. Norris was born on a farm at Brampton, Ontario, in 1865. His parents brought him to Langley Prairie in 1874. He was a young man of seventeen when he first came to the Okanagan Valley, intending, as he once said, "to stay probably a year and then move on"; but "the beauty and magic of the country laid its spell" on him, and he "soon grew to love the bunchgrass hills, the lakes that mirror the beauty of tree and sky." For a while he worked on ranches in the Lumby district, then in December of 1887 he pre-empted land in the vicinity of Round Lake, just off the Vernon–Kamloops road.

He had hardly commenced to farm his land when he was asked to take over the duties of provincial police constable at Lansdowne. He accepted the appointment on the understanding that it was only a temporary one and that some one else would soon replace him. This step, however, marked the beginning of his public service, for in July, 1890, he was asked to serve in the capacity of Provincial Collector of Taxes. Three years later, in October, 1893, his integrity and ability were recognized when he was appointed Government Agent in Vernon, to succeed Moses Lumby. He remained in this office for thirty-three years, until his retirement in 1926.

In carrying out his duties as police constable, Mr. Norris sometimes travelled as far north as Enderby or as far south as Penticton. He knew a great many of the early settlers intimately, and later, in speaking of his early days in the Valley, he always emphasized the fact that the people were law-abiding and peaceable. As Government Agent, most of Mr. Norris's work was centred in Vernon. He knew the district before the city was incorporated in 1892, and while it was still known by the name of Priest's Valley. He lived through the "boom days" of the nineties, when the cattle ranches were divided and the first orchards were planted. He remembered the coming of the railway in 1891, the sale of the Coldstream Ranch to Lord Aberdeen, and the early days of steamboat travel on Okanagan Lake. He saw Vernon grow from a settlement of four or five scattered houses to its war-time population of somewhere between six and seven thousand. He supervised the removal of the Government offices from the old red-brick Court House built in 1892, at a cost of $8,000, to the fine new granite structure, costing $200,000, opened in 1914. He watched the development of the fruit-growing industry from the days of experimentation to those of specialization—and remained convinced that the Okanagan farmer was producing fruit which was too expensive for the taste of the prairie consumer.

As the official representative of the Government in the Vernon district, Mr. Norris carried out multifarious duties. He dealt with

matters which came to his cognizance as Magistrate, Collector of land and other taxes, Registrar of Births, Deaths, and Marriages, Registrar of the County Court, District Registrar of the Supreme Court, Registrar of Voters, Judge of the Small Debts Court, and Official Administrator. Everything from the supervision of road-work to the care of the destitute and the sick called for his attention. The wide knowledge of local affairs which he gained from his work could hardly be equalled by others, and after his retirement his interest in the development of the Vernon district never waned.

The Okanagan Historical and Natural History Society (later the Okanagan Historical Society) was founded on September 4, 1925, as the result of a meeting called by Mr. Norris in Vernon. The members were interested in the whole field of British Columbia history, but their primary purpose was to preserve historical material relating to the early history of the Okanagan Valley. "It is only by securing information from all possible sources," Mr. Norris declared in his first presidential address, "and then by comparison and deduction, that it is possible to reach that degree of accuracy which is so desirable in dealing with matters of local history." The eleven *Reports* of the Okanagan Historical Society (the latest of which is now in the press) are a testimonial to the industry and to the standards of the man who was the real force in the Society. For, as every contributor to the *Reports* knows, Mr. Norris had great enthusiasm for collecting data, and he assumed the responsibility for seeing that the *Reports* continued to be issued. To carry out his researches, he spent his winters in Victoria, working in the Provincial Archives and the Provincial Library. In 1939, when he went east to visit his old home and to arrange to have one of the *Reports* published, he spent some time in the Public Archives in Ottawa and in the Provincial Library in Toronto. He was a model to local historians for patient and industrious research, and he was far too modest in accepting credit and thanks for his efforts.

The *Reports* of the Okanagan Historical Society are a mine of information about the early settlement and development of the Okanagan Valley. There are life-histories of early farmers, tales of adventure and of the vicissitudes experienced by the pioneers, historical accounts of the evolution of institutions, and descriptions of natural phenomena. There is a good deal of spontaneity in the writing, so that one has the feeling that this is, as Mr. Norris intended it to be, "history . . . as told by the people themselves." Perhaps it is because the reader obtains a real feeling for the life in a pioneer community that the appeal of the *Reports* and the demand for them have not been confined to the Okanagan Valley alone.

In his articles dealing with the wider field of British Columbia history, Mr. Norris did not hesitate to tackle controversial subjects or to question the authority of recognized historians. He took up cudgels on behalf of the "wronged" miners of Cariboo, largely because he was inspired by his faith in the goodness of the common man.

When he denounced politicians who had tried to use legal technicalities to advance their own cause, he voiced his suspicion of any one who was without principle. He tended to project his own sympathies and feelings into his writings, and to weigh the intentions and actions of others by his own measure.

As a public servant and as an historian, Mr. Norris showed steadiness of purpose. One could recall his other fine qualities, but those who knew him need no reminder of the warmth of his friendship, or his ability as a raconteur, or his subtle sense of humour. They can properly regret the extreme reticence which prevented him writing his own reminiscences, and his modest refusal to accept during his lifetime full credit and recognition for his work as a local historian.

MARGARET A. ORMSBY.

VANCOUVER, B.C.

BRITISH COLUMBIA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION.

Members and friends of the Vancouver Section enjoyed a rare treat on Tuesday, April 10, when a crowded meeting was addressed by Mr. William Bleasdell Cameron. Author of *The War Trail of Big Bear* and co-author of *When Fur was King*, Mr. Cameron was the sole survivor of the famous Frog Lake massacre of 1885, and the meeting was planned in recognition of the 60th anniversary of the North West Rebellion. Seven or eight veterans of '85 were in the audience, including Judge J. A. Forin, who spoke briefly but most entertainingly, and Rev. C. C. Owen. Mr. Cameron devoted the first part of his address to a graphic account of his own experiences at the time of the massacre, and he and Judge Forin exhibited various photographs and relics, some of which related to Louis Reil personally. The speaker then passed on to kindred topics, one highlight being an explanation and demonstration of the Indian sign language, the deftness of which delighted those present. Mr. Cameron was until recently in charge of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police museum at Regina, and now plans to make his home in British Columbia.

Both the Victoria and Vancouver sections had called meetings for Monday, May 7. Owing to the "V-E Day" celebrations the Victoria meeting was postponed, but the Vancouver Section judged it best to carry on. The speaker of the evening was to have been Major J. S. Matthews, Vancouver City Archivist, but illness unfortunately prevented his attendance. The substitute speaker was Dr. W. Kaye Lamb, who spoke on *Some Pioneer Journalists*, and described the development of printing and the press in British Columbia from the late 1850's to the coming of the telegraph in 1865–66.

Seventy members attended the postponed meeting of the Victoria Section, which was held in the Parliament Buildings on Friday, May 11. The speaker was Mr. P. M. Monckton, B.C.L.S., of the Forest Branch of the Department of Lands. His subject was *Historic Trails of the Cassiar Country*, and both Mr. Monckton's talk and the coloured slides with which

it was illustrated were much enjoyed by the large audience. The old overland telegraph-line, the gold excitement of the seventies, and other historic events and relics were described and illustrated.

The Victoria Section held its last meeting of the season in the Parliament Buildings on Monday, June 4. The speaker was Mr. B. A. McKelvie, whose subject was *Jason Allard: Prince, Fur-trader and Gentleman.* It will be recalled that Mr. McKelvie delivered this same address in Vancouver in January, at the annual meeting of the Association. The text will appear in an early issue of this *Quarterly.*

CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE.

Bessie Lamb, M.A., is a member of the teaching staff of the Vancouver High Schools. Miss Lamb's thesis for her Master's degree dealt with the origin and development of newspapers in Vancouver, and the article in this issue is based upon the first chapters of this study.

Marjorie C. Holmes is Assistant Librarian of the Provincial Library, Victoria. Her long experience in Legislative reference work has given her a unique knowledge of Government documents, and it is no exaggeration to say that no other person could, at this time, have compiled the *Checklist* of Royal Commissions and Commissions of Inquiry, the last instalment of which appears in this issue.

Margaret A. Ormsby, M.A. (British Columbia), Ph.D. (Bryn Mawr), is Lecturer in the Department of History at the University of British Columbia.

THE NORTHWEST BOOKSHELF.

The Picture Gallery of Canadian History. Illustrations drawn and collected by C. W. Jefferys, assisted by T. W. McLean. Vol. II.: 1763 to 1830. Toronto: The Ryerson Press, 1945. Pp. xvi., 271. $2.

The many Canadians who have been eagerly waiting for the second volume of *The Picture Gallery* will find in it much to satisfy their curiosity. The period covered is 1763–1830, and readers would do well to ask themselves these questions before they open the new sketch book: What do I know of this period? What are the characteristics of this stage in my country's development?

Far too large a proportion of our citizens will have to admit that they can recall little more than the beginnings of British rule, the coming of the Loyalists, and the War of 1812. Others may add " Selkirk started the Red River Colony," or " Talbot brought settlers to Ontario." Readers of this *Quarterly* will look for references to Cook, Vancouver, Mackenzie. All will find some old friend, and much that is new, for the author-illustrator has presented a pictorial record of the era when the newly acquired colony decided to remain loyal to her conquerors, when a form of government acceptable to the varied elements of her population was being sought, and when the vast area from Atlantic to Pacific was either being discovered, or was providing a home for those whose economic well-being had been upset by the American and French Revolutions and their aftermath.

In his introduction, Dr. Jefferys explains his motive in setting forth a visual interpretation of Canadian history: " My purpose is merely to supply a guide to further research, and to indicate by a limited number of typical drawings the resources available." (p. vi.) On the whole, he has achieved his ambition. The notes refer to many titles which are accessible to readers throughout the Dominion, and the suggestions are made in such a way that the general reader, as well as the research scholar, is tempted to delve further into the subject. In this connection, British Columbia readers will be surprised at the lack of definite references to the work of Judge F. W. Howay on the maritime fur-trade. His contribution is listed as an editor of *The Colnett Journal* for the Champlain Society, but his earlier and even more important contributions to the *Transactions* of the Royal Society of Canada are not mentioned. Much the same criticism might be made in relation to the study of Indian totems. Local studies such as those of Dr. G. H. Raley might have been mentioned, or the pictorial presentation given by Emily Carr in her paintings and in *Klee Wyck.*

The volume is divided into four parts, and although the author's plan is not always clear to the reader, it is possible to give a sub-title for at least three of the sections. Part I. might be called " The Beginnings of British Rule." A large proportion of the sketches relate to the American Revolution and its effect upon Canada, both during the period when many hoped

to add Quebec to the rebellious thirteen colonies, and also to the time of the Loyalist migrations. The sketches and notes are presented in such a way that contrasts between the New England states and the interior sections of the middle colonies, with their consequent influence upon Loyalist colonies in the Maritimes and Upper Canada, cannot be overlooked. In this section also there are sketches of Samuel Hearne and of exploration and trade to the Pacific Coast. Included in the reference to Captain Cook's voyages is an interesting note on John Webber, R.A., the official artist attached to the expedition.

Part II. might be described as "Pioneer Settlement." Sketches of Government buildings and churches show that Upper Canada was emerging from the first clearings. Scenes of Canadian cities include buildings still in existence, such as Prince's Lodge, Bedford Basin, near Halifax. Detailed drawings of sawmills and grist-mills show developments, and sketches of furniture depict the beginnings of industry in central Canada. Pictures of axes and hatchets show the influence which climatic conditions had upon tools designed for Canadian forests. The west coast is represented by a sketch of John Jewitt, captive at Nootka, and Simon Fraser and the North West fur-trade.

The War of 1812 is the subject of over a score of the sketches in Part III. Many of these are from *The Field Book of the War of 1812*, by Benson J. Lossing, while the details of the march of the 104th Regiment of New Brunswick were provided by Mr. G. H. Markham, of Saint John, N.B. Dr. Jefferys has rendered a service in making such material available. A small section is devoted to the Red River Settlement, and there are two sketches of David Thompson.

The last part suffers most from a weakness which is unfortunately apparent throughout the whole book—lack of organization. There are sketches of lighting equipment, doorways, houses, churches, bridges, governors, spinning-wheels, colleges, and totem-poles, following one another without any reason for their being so placed. All are interesting, and all have a place in an account of the social development of Canada, but they would be much more valuable if they were grouped. One sketch, totems for example, suggests something which appeared earlier, but only a good memory or patient searching enables the reader to find it, as there is no index.

There are one or two unfortunate defects in editing. The picture of the meeting of the first Legislative Assembly of Lower Canada, 1792, is by Charles Huot, who is known for his murals in the Legislative Building in Quebec, but this fact is nowhere mentioned in this volume. The reader is merely told to look up a reference in Volume I. The note relating to canoe routes to the north west, sketched on page 111, is wrongly placed, and is inserted between notes referring to pages 76 and 77 (p. 120). Winter costumes sketched on page 106 include that of a priest; a note on page 133 calls attention to the fact that he is wearing a "rabat"; but for a detailed drawing of this one must turn to page 142, and for an explanation to page

187. It should surely have been possible to bring illustrations and text into a more convenient relationship than this.

In some respects the second volume of *The Picture Gallery* is disappointing. For one thing, introductory notes to the various parts, which proved so interesting for the first section of Volume I., are lacking. A topical or geographical arrangement would have made the work more valuable for reference. But while there is reason to criticize the editing of the work, it has real value and should be included in school and public libraries as well as in all collections of Canadiana. There is one respect in which it will prove more attractive to members of the British Columbia Historical Association than did Volume I. The Pacific Coast does receive some attention, the *Quarterly* is listed among periodical publications of value, and the Provincial Museum is given as a source of information, although the Archives is still unrecognized.

The appearance of this volume is particularly timely, and it is to be hoped that it will find its way into the hands of many service personnel. During the war years young Canadians have learned more about their country from actual travel than the most optimistic teacher could ever hope to inspire them to learn by study—more, probably, than many teachers whose experience has been limited to one province know themselves. Younger students have become conscious of other parts of Canada through letters from their service friends; curiosity has been aroused, and Canada is no longer merely a succession of names on a railway timetable.

HELEN R. BOUTILIER.

VANCOUVER, B.C.

Sir Francis Hincks. A Study of Canadian Politics, Railways, and Finance in the Nineteenth Century. By R. S. Longley. Toronto: The University of Toronto Press, 1944. Pp. vi., 480. $3.

In this biography, Professor Longley, of Acadia University, has supplied us with a painstaking account of the career of an Irishman, Francis Hincks, who came to reside in Toronto in 1831, and who later played an important part in Canadian political life from 1838 to 1854, and again from 1869 to 1873. In the interval between his periods of residence in Canada, Hincks served as governor in the West Indies and in British Guiana, earning the reward of knighthood for his services as an Imperial administrator.

Hincks entered public life in Canada as the result of his business connections and his friendship with Robert Baldwin, and through the office which he held as editor of the *Examiner*, a Toronto journal sponsored by the Reformers of Upper Canada after the rebellion of 1837. In his editorials he came out strongly in favour of the principle of responsible government. He did much to form opinion in Upper Canada, and apparently had some influence even on Lord Durham. He also wrote in favour of the establishment of party government, and he laid the basis for the creation of the Lafontaine-Baldwin alliance.

With the support of the Reformers, Hincks was elected as member for Oxford County in the first Union Parliament. Within six weeks of the opening of the session he yielded to Lord Sydenham's "mesmeric power," decided to put constitutional issues aside and to support the Governor's legislative programme. This step strained his friendship with the Reformers, and brought forth charges involving Hincks's loyalty and honesty. Similar reversals in policy later in his career make it difficult to estimate his worth and to assess the importance of his rôle in Canadian politics. Mr. Longley is careful to point out in his conclusion that while Hincks "advocated party loyalty and party organization, he himself was never a dependable follower of any political party" (p. 439) and that "he earned for himself an unenviable reputation of being a political opportunist" (p. 440), but it is obvious that the author feels a certain amount of embarrassment on account of his subject, and his explanations for Hincks's conduct are not always completely satisfying. For example, he writes in explanation of Hincks's action in 1841: "He knew that responsible government as he desired it had not been conceded, but, with an ability to compromise which was to characterize his whole political career, he considered half a loaf better than no bread and accepted what the Governor offered." (p. 87.)

Hincks seems to have put his own interests first from this time. Without Baldwin's approval, he accepted the office of Finance Minister from Bagot in 1842. A reconciliation was effected late in 1843 between Hincks and Baldwin, but lingering suspicion of Hincks on the part of some of Baldwin's supporters probably had something to do with the dislike which George Brown bore for Hincks for a period of thirty years. Hincks, however, worked for the Reform cause for some years. When the Reformers suffered a reverse in 1844, he became editor of the *Pilot*, published in Montreal to spread the party's doctrines. He also promoted the Lafontaine-Baldwin alliance, and in 1848 had the satisfaction of seeing the principle of responsible government recognized when Elgin called on Baldwin and Lafontaine to form a ministry. He served as Finance Minister in their government. In this capacity he revealed sound business sense by succeeding in bringing order into Canadian finances and in restoring public credit. He also took vigorous action to combat the annexation movement, both because of his desire to keep the Imperial connection, and because it was affecting negotiations he was conducting with the Baring Brothers for funds to assist the development of Canadian industries.

During the period from 1851 to 1854, Hincks was Prime Minister of United Canada. On more than one occasion during this time he showed impatience with those who did not readily fall in with his designs. He sacrificed the support of the radicals within his group by his caution in the matters of the secularization of the Clergy Reserves and the abolition of seignorial tenure. He broke off the railway negotiations with the Colonial Secretary, Sir John Pakington, in 1852, and engaged the service of private capital in spite of his previous stand in opposing construction by private enterprise. He reversed his policy with regard to opening the St. Lawrence to American shipping, and he arranged the Reciprocity Agreement of 1854

without consultation with Nova Scotia. Finally, in 1854, when there were more than a few murmurs that he had used public office to favour his own interests, he resigned before the Speech from the Throne had been read. The following year he joined the Imperial service.

Mr. Longley is of the opinion that Hincks "made his best contribution to Canadian development before 1851, and that after this date he was too often a combination of shrewd politician and efficient administrator." (p. 445.) He does not exonerate Hincks of all the charges current in his time: that he introduced the spoils system into Canadian politics, that he used his knowledge concerning plans for the expansion of the Grand Trunk Railway for personal profit, and that he took advantage of other circumstances; but he is not very harsh in condemnation of Hincks's failings: "The best that can be said of the reports is that they lowered his political prestige and led to his defeat; at their worst they tell the story of a public man to whom the temptations of office proved overwhelming." (p. 241.) At the conclusion of his study he arrives at the opinion that Hincks's "achievements far outnumber his failures, and that he should be listed as one of our great Canadian statesmen." (p. 446.) This view seems to be tenable if one takes into account the important financial measures, such as the Bank Acts of 1870 and 1871, the promotion of railway enterprises, and the negotiations with the United States which he conducted in connection with the Reciprocity Agreement of 1854 and the Treaty of Washington of 1871. In these matters he showed vision, and revealed faith in the future of his country. One cannot, however, forget his connection with one of the greatest scandals in Canadian political life, the Pacific Scandal of 1872.

Mr. Longley has dealt carefully with details and incidents in Canadian political history and recounted Hincks's rôle at particular moments, but one could wish for less formality in tone and attitude in discussing the work of a figure who sometimes aroused violent antipathy to his policies. It is disappointing that the reader does not gain a clearer impression of Hincks's personality. One would like to know, too, whether Hincks had any political philosophy, or whether he was motivated solely by self-interest. More attention might have been paid to his relations with other public figures in Canada, particularly in the later years of his life.

MARGARET ORMSBY.

VANCOUVER, B.C.

Local History: How to gather it, write it, and publish it. By Donald Dean Parker; revised and edited by Bertha E. Josephson. New York: The Social Science Research Council, 1944. Pp. xiv., 186. $1.

This excellent handbook calls to mind a minor but treasured item in my own library—a manual for the motorist published thirty-two years ago by the Buick Company. The latter not only takes it for granted that the purchaser of a new Buick car may be unable to drive an automobile; it assumes further that the car may be delivered to him by rail, and that he may have to extract it from a box car and learn to run it without benefit of

either mechanic or service station. Nothing is taken for granted. Every smallest detail of upkeep and operation is dealt with at length.

And so it is with *Local History*. It has been written in the light of two circumstances. First, there are not nearly enough professional historians to record the regional history of this vast continent; much of great interest must inevitably be lost unless it is noted down by capable amateurs. Secondly, many of the most promising amateurs are without any formal training in research methods, and many of them have no one to whom they can turn for direction. This handbook is intended to help make good these deficiencies. It is "meant to give to the individual of intelligence, with more than average educational advantages, the necessary information for gathering, writing, and publishing the history of his own community—his village, town, city, or county." Like the old Buick manual, it takes nothing for granted. Every likely source of material is indicated; the relative merits and the difficulties peculiar to the use of each is pointed out. The pages devoted to "Old Residents," for example, will interest any one who has ever interviewed an old-timer, and few who read it will fail to pick up a new trick of the trade. Even the professional historian can read this handbook with profit, for an elementary yet comprehensive outline of the technique of one's trade is frequently useful, particularly if it is as well arranged for ready reference as this one.

W. KAYE LAMB.

VANCOUVER, B.C.

VICTORIA, B.C.:
Printed by CHARLES F. BANFIELD, Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty.
1945.

600-745-7293

The BRITISH COLUMBIA HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION

Organized October 31st, 1922.

PATRON.

His Honour W. C. WOODWARD, *Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia.*

OFFICERS, 1945.

HON. H. G. T. PERRY	*Honorary President.*
HELEN R. BOUTILIER	*President.*
B. A. MCKELVIE	*Past President.*
Mrs. CURTIS SAMPSON	*1st Vice-President.*
E. G. BAYNES	*2nd Vice-President.*
MADGE WOLFENDEN	*Honorary Treasurer.*
W. KAYE LAMB	*Honorary Secretary.*

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

Mrs. M. R. CREE. E. M. COTTON. J. C. GOODFELLOW.
A. G. HARVEY. T. A. RICKARD. H. T. NATION.
W. N. SAGE. E. G. ROWEBOTTOM.

WILLARD E. IRELAND (Provincial Archivist).
W. KAYE LAMB (Editor, *Quarterly*).
HELEN R. BOUTILIER (Vancouver Section).
H. C. HOLMES (Victoria Section).

OBJECTS.

To encourage historical research and stimulate public interest in history; to promote the preservation and marking of historic sites, buildings, relics, natural features, and other objects and places of historical interest, and to publish historical sketches, studies, and documents.

MEMBERSHIP.

Ordinary members pay a fee of $2 annually in advance. The fiscal year commences on the first day of January. All members in good standing receive the *British Columbia Historical Quarterly* without further charge.

Correspondence and fees may be addressed to the Provincial Archives, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C.