

INAUGURATION OF THE BUILDINGS OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

AT
POINT GREY

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15TH. MR.CHANCELLOR: "O Canada"
"O Canada, our heritage, our love,

Thy worth we prize, all other lands above -

From sea to sea, throughout thy length,

From pole to borderland,

At Britain's side, whate'er betide,

unflinchingly we'll stand.

With heart we sing, God save the King!

Guard tho our Empire wide, we thee implore, And prosper Canada from shore to shore."

MR.CHANCELLOR: Honored Guests, Members of the Faculty and Students of the University of British Columbia: The old phrase that "this is an auspicious occasion", can be worn once more until it is threadbare, to describe what is before us today. It is very fitting that the first ceremony in connection with the Inauguration Ceremonies here, should be a Student Ceremony, and it is with unfeigned delight that I see the body of the Hall filled with the Students of the University. It is your Home, and on that account, I say it is very fitting that you should be first to take part in the Ceremonies. But we have with us today very distinguished guests who have come to do honor to this

occasion, and I wish to do honor with you, in doing honor to them, for doing honor to us. We have with us representatives of Sister Universities, who, by their presence here, are expressing their sympathy with the work we are doing in the University of British Columbia. We have some here who are to receive Honorary Degrees from our University, who honor us, while we are, honoring them, and so, saying that we are worthy to grant honors. We have members of the Board of Governors, and members of the Senate here with us today. This, to them, seems like the culmination of labours. The founding of our University in its permanent quarters at Point Grey, and it is a great joy and a great pride to the Governors and members of the Senate that we are finally opening up in Point Grey. You have already, under most trying circumstances, established a most enviable reputation for the University of British Columbia, and out here, with the same high standard of excellence in the Students, and with the increased facilities which you will find in having better Laboratories and fittings, and so on, there is no doubt that the future will find more honors heaped on our University. I have now much pleasure in calling on Sir Arthur Currie, Principal of McGill University, to address the Assembly.

SIR ARTHUR CURRIE: Mr. Chancellor, President Klinck, Ladies and Gentlemen, Young men and Young Women of the University of British Columbia: To me, there is always something very joyous and very inspiring, and yet somewhat sad, in a University function, - just as, to me, there was always something glorious and yet sorrowful, when I stood, as I often did, at the side of the road, and I watched your elder brother and your father, after a period of training, going up to battle with the enemy, I knew then, as I know this afternoon, that it was to be some to the pinnacle, and some to the deep. Some of you young men and, young women are going straight to the top, and some of you are going to fall by the Wayside, but I can say this: that your falling will be largely -- you yourselves will be largely held responsible for it, You are here at the University of British Columbia for the training of your minds. It is here you get your marching orders, and from here you will set out on the road of life. Now, some of us have been along that road some distance, - some more than others. We have had our failures, and we have had our triumphs. We have had our Victories and we have had our defeats. We have had some of the laughter of life, and we have had some of the sorrows. As we look at you this afternoon, starting out on that road with unfaltering steps, with proud young hearts, we ask ourselves this question: "Will you be big enough, - will you strive and be true to the traditions of this University and of this Canada?" But with all, there is a romance about it, and there is a great adventure lying before you. I wonder how many of you have asked yourselves this question: "Why am I here?" "What do I expect to get out of my College Career?" "What is the code I have set for myself?" "Why have I come up to the University of British Columbia.?" Have you any clear notion of what this University can do for you? You have not come here, surely, merely for the acquirement of knowledge, because if you have, you are wasting your time and your money. Better go home and study the Encyclopaedia Britannica, because that worthy book contains nearly all the knowledge that a man need have. Have

you come here to fit yourself for a Profession? Let me tell you, that the World needs something more than intelligence, in the world of men and women. Intelligence has often been put to base uses. I dare say I am right when I say that before the War, Germany lead the world with Intelligence, and yet we see to what base uses Germany put its intelligence. Someone has said that knowledge, in the hands of someone who does not know how to use it, is just as dangerous as fire-arms and amunition in the hands of Savages. It is not the increase of knowledge,- it is the increase of men who rightly know how to use that knowledge. The purpose of this education is to make worthy men and women, and to make character. Character is the sum total of all the influences of life, and these influences need the most careful attention. It is not the training of the mind alone,- it is the development of the whole man and the whole woman. Knowledge is something that can be put to base uses in the hands of a low soul. Your education should teach you to see clearly,- to imagine vividly,- to think steadily, and to will nobly. The scholar should not be merely a scornful critic, nor even a skilled workman. He should be a faithful citizen, willing to put all his strength and his ability at the disposal of his fellowmen, and at the disposal of the World, and you must not be mere echoes of other men,-mere reflectors of the light that has already shone. Your mind must not be a warehouse merely, for storing up ideas that other people have thought out, but it must be a Sea Bed where the planted ideas grow and develop. You should be storage batteries of power, and the purpose of this education, as I said, is to create in you new desires, broaden your mind, - broaden your views, give resolution to your will. The word "creation" these days, means development,- Development to take what is there now, and to develop into something that was not there before. It is a deeper thing than the mere acquirement of knowledge. It is the building up of character. Men come to College to discover the truth, and truth is a vaster thing than knowledge. If education is ever complete in this life, and I doubt if it ever is, men will not only think the truth, but they will act the truth. I do not know of a better illustration of education, than that which you read in Harvard University, and there you will see engraven over the door as you go in: "Enter and grow in Wisdom",- and as you pass out, you see graven in stone on the Arch-way: "Depart and Serve your Country and your Countrymen". You should endeavor to grow into the largest, vastest, wisest sort of men and women, and then, with a full sense of your responsibility, to go out and be willing to place that at the service of your country. If you do that, you will have something, and will be something that the World has not seen before. Men will listen to your voice because there is a new note in it. You will be a new man and a new woman for the benefit of humanity. And now, let me say just a word or two to those students who are coming up here for the first time. I would urge you, of all the students, to ask yourselves that question: "Why are you here"? Because on all sides you will be assailed by distractions and temptations,- the side rooms with their noisy shows may have more attractions for you than the main Hall. You may become submerged in more than the merely Academic. I ask you to keep your sense of proportion. The University man is the representative of thought in the community, and thinking is not an easy thing. You must understand that it will be your duty to encourage thought and a sense of justice in human affairs. For that reason, you must have no traffic in what is purely expedient. You

are not to become a mere monastic scholar. You must have a deep interest in your country in general. If that is true of the student in general, how much truer is it of Canadian students? Whoever refuses to lift up his voice in defence of any cause, is a Traitor to that cause, whatever it may be. You have a duty to your country at all times. It has become fashion-able to decry one's country, but it does no good, in these vain complaints about shadowy things. In our country the times are grave, and they demand above all things, thoughtful speech, because it is the welfare of this country that is entrusted to the young people who are now in our schools and our Universities. What names are those which every honest man reveres? Those who give their strength for their country. You have other views than the merely intellectual ones. You must remember this: That the improvement of Society, is the development of the race. You must remember that liberty and enlightenment are the first things towards progress, and you must equip yourselves to attack the forts of folly. You must attack licentiousness and disease, poverty and sorrow. To supplant that force, the vanity and splendour that masquerade as chivalry,- these are the things which you must attack. Remember this: that no man is better than his Institution, and that moral self respect is the first condition of National life,- that labor is the first condition of progress, and that thought is light.

MR.CHANCELLOR: Just before we depart, I wish to announce that the Honorable W.C.Nichol, Lieuten-ant Governor of British Columbia is detained somewhere in the Fog. We had a wireless from him explaining his absence; otherwise he was to have been with us this afternoon to speak. We have had no word from the Honorable J.D.MacLean, Minister of Education, who was also to speak to us this afternoon. I rather think he is on the same boat with W.C.Nichol.

GOD SAVE THE KING
