

# B.C. historical NEWS

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DESERTED CHURCH AT DOUGLAS LAKE INDIAN VILLAGE

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FRONT COVER Deserted Church at Douglas Lake Indian Village. The first in a series of B.C. sketches drawn specially for the News by Vancouver member Robert Genn.

## EDITORIAL

It all began when my bed-time reading material was finished. It has become one of my habits that I have to read in bed to compose myself for eight hours of "battery charging". Sorting through the various offerings and finding nothing, my better half suggested a book she had just finished, entitled *The Daughter of Time*, by Josephine Tey. Although it was fiction the story dealt with the lack of truth that had gone into recording the life and history of Richard III. I became so involved with what was obviously a plot by the Tudors not only to discredit Richard III but also to destroy records that could be used as proof at a later time, that I even resorted to reading the diatribe of Sir Thomas More that purported to be the facts of that time.

Bringing this "up to date" the same conditions prevail to-day which existed at that time; that what is needed is the Truth when history is being written, and not the bias that influential power groups exert when someone is commissioned to write the history of some particular facet of our history. It is not my intention to become involved in a libel suit, but offhand I can think of some current commissions that have been published which make the exploiters of the past come out as clean as if they had been washed in some of the advertised detergents leaving "the dirtiest wash-water in town". What I am suggesting is, that it is that "dirtiest water" that should be examined.

There never was a time when so much was being published as there is to-day. Will it be necessary for historians of the future to have to rewrite the Truth in years to come? From the "source material" who has the better chance to do it properly, the historian of to-day or the historian of the future? Politically, the historian of the future will be handicapped by having to rely on newspaper sources for the workings of our Provincial Government since they still refuse to publish a Hansard. Some say there will be papers and reports available to provide this information. Even if they are enough, will they be preserved? It is only a short time ago that a number of boxes of records of the City of Vancouver was found strewn around in a field in Burnaby.

It's food for thought and something to which all our members should be giving serious consideration. It is astounding to find how much we once believed to be the truth has now been disproved.

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 OBITUARY

It is with profound regret that the News notes the passing this year of a number of men dedicated to the preservation of history. Their works will be a living memorial and a pattern for others to follow.

Dr Clifford Carl March 1970. Director of the Provincial Museum until the end of 1969 when he stepped down to devote full time to a projected Hall of the Sea.

D.A. McGregor Nov. 1970. Associate Editor and Chief editorial writer with the Vancouver Province until 1954. A keen historian and writer he published a history of British Columbia's Lieutenant Governors: They Gave Royal Assent, and spent three years editing Salmon - Our Natural Heritage, by Cicely Lyons. He was President of the B.C. Historical Association in 1952.

Major J.S. Matthews Oct. 1970. Vancouver City Archivist. Starting on a voluntary basis he eventually was given recognition and space in City Hall. But for his persistence years ago, much of the material relating to Vancouver's early history would never have been preserved.

Oliver N. Wells Nov. 1970. Noted historian and cattle breeder. Edensbank Farm, the old family farm, was a show place and wildlife refuge. He was vitally interested in promoting the crafts and culture of the Indians, particularly in weaving. With his brother he wrote a book about his grandfather and the early history of the Chilliwack area. A long time member of the Chilliwack Historical Society, he was an executive member at the time of his death.

James Audain Nov. 1970. Great grandson of pioneer magnate Robert Dunsmuir. He wrote From Coalmine to Castle - a history of the Dunsmuir family. He was a former member of the Victoria Historical Society and Vice-President of the Society for the Preservation of Craigdarroch Castle.

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### MINUTES

Minutes of the Second Council Meeting of the 1970-71 season of the British Columbia Historical Association, held at 4649 West 12th Avenue, Vancouver. Present: Mr R. Brammall (Pres.), Mr D. Schon (V.Pres.), Mrs M. Jordon (Past Pres.), Mrs P. Brammall (Treas.), Mr P. Yandle (Sec.), Mr G.T. German (2nd V.Pres.), Mr D. New and Mr H.B. Nash (Exec. Members), Mr J.T. Barnes (Victoria), Mrs Claxton (Gulf Islands), Mr F. Wilson (Burnaby).

The President called the meeting to order at 2.00 p.m. with the reading of the minutes of the First Council Meeting held in Nanaimo on May 22nd, 1970. Moved New, Seconded German, that the minutes be adopted as read. - Carried.

The first order of business was the acceptance of the Burnaby Historical Society. Mr Brammall explained to Council that he had been corresponding with the Burnaby Society over the past months, and that a directive given by Council regarding delinquent societies had been accepted by Burnaby for reaffiliation. It was moved New, seconded Yandle, that Burnaby be accepted into the Association and that their member be seated. - Carried.

Membership Committee Mr German, Chairman of the Membership Committee gave an outline of his activities thus far; he had been in correspondence with a number of unaffiliated groups. It was too early to have had any positive results. He read a letter that he had drafted giving the reasons and benefits of affiliation with the B.C. Historical Association, which he had been using, and asked for Council's endorsement of his method of approach. Council considered it an excellent letter and readily endorsed its use. Mr German asked Council how far he could go in approaching local museum societies for affiliation, or would these be construed as being beyond the scope of our activities. Council thought that he should be empowered to use his own discretion and Mr Brammall agreed to approach the B.C. Museums Association with a view to obtaining some reciprocal arrangement. This was adopted on motion. Moved P. Brammall, seconded Claxton. - Carried.

Regarding a request from Mrs Blyth for sponsorship and funds for the publication of her history of Port Edwards, the Secretary had written as instructed and had received from her a copy of her manuscript. This took the form of a mimeographed book complete with cover, which had been run off in an edition of 1500 copies and was now on sale. Council felt that it could only sponsor research for a pending publication but could not seek funds to reimburse someone for work already done, especially as the volume was now on sale. The Secretary was instructed to write to Mrs Blyth accordingly.

Arising from the Convention in Nanaimo the Secretary had been instructed to write to the appropriate authority in Ottawa for the proposed five year plan for the development of Nootka. A reply from Jean Charron, Acting Director, National Historic Parks Branch, stated "we are accordingly still very much in the discussion stage and a formal printed plan has not been produced .... I have read the B.C. Historical News and found the passages concerning Nootka most interesting". The Secretary was going to try to meet with Mr Bartroli to discuss the present situation and report back to Council.

Nanaimo Convention Mr Schon gave an accounting of the Convention, which had suffered a deficit of \$216.00. The hosting Nanaimo Society had accepted the \$16.00 portion of the loss and the remaining \$200 had been covered in the \$200 advance made by the B.C. Historical Association and which could not now be refunded. Mr Schon blamed lack of registrants for the situation and considered the Nanaimo Society's charges for each event to be adequate if there had been sufficient numbers attending. There was considerable discussion on the matter and a certain amount of criticism that certain items of expense could have been deleted at the time, which would have put the financial situation into a "break-even" position. A further suggestion by Mr Schon that in future we should seek grants to assist our Conventions did not meet with Council's approval. Council was of the opinion that we should be able to run our own show, even if it meant cutting out certain items. Moved Barnes, seconded Wilson, that the \$200 advance made to Nanaimo be written off. - Carried.

The Secretary in his capacity as Editor raised the question of provision for the category of Institutional Member within the B.C. Historical Association. At present there was no set policy for institutions. Affiliated societies set their fees to accommodate participating members, and the News was a part of the benefits in paying per capita to the B.C. Historical Association. The Vancouver Society has made an Institutional Membership category and the rate is \$10.00 per year. It would therefore be reasonable to seek all affiliates to do the same thing and the Editor would advise any institution seeking a direct subscription to the News to apply to the local affiliated society in their area for an institutional membership. Moved Jordon, seconded Barnes, that all affiliated societies accept institutions only on a basis of an institutional membership and that the fee be \$10.00 per year. - Carried.

Council noted with regret the passing of a number of notable historians during the past few months and paid tribute to the contributions made by James Audain, Dr Clifford Carl, Major J.S. Matthews, D.A. McGregor, and Oliver Wells.

Mr Robin Brammall reported that he had been approached from two different sources for membership lists of societies within the B.C. Historical Association, and had learned that one source had already received this information by direct request to the member societies. In each approach bait had been offered for such lists, but Mr Brammall warned of the improper use to which these lists could be put, even to selling them to other soliciting agencies. Any releasing of membership lists would be a betrayal of a trust of private information which violates a member's private rights. The Secretary reported that he had been approached in a similar manner and had countered that the News reaches all affiliated members and that he would accept a paid advertisement in the News to publicize anything they wished to offer for sale to the individual members. It was the unanimous opinion of Council that no society should release membership lists.

VICTORIA CONVENTION Mr German reported that the dates decided upon would be May 27th, 28th and 29th. Registration would commence on the evening of May 27th at the Victoria Maritime Museum with a "get together" session and a speaker. Registration on Friday morning at 9.00 in the Newcombe Auditorium at the Provincial Museum, and at the same time the final Council Meeting. The Annual General Meeting would be held in the same Auditorium at 10.00 a.m., with the Mayor in attendance, followed by a Luncheon Meeting and the President's Address. The afternoon would be spent in a visit to Government House, with tea. The New Council will meet before the evening session. The evening has not been arranged yet but a speaker is being sought. Saturday is still in the planning stage and several suggestions were made which will be finalized for the next Council Meeting in February.

The theme suggested for the Convention was "From Trutch to Nicholson - 100 years".

The next meeting of Council will be in Victoria on February 14th at the home of Mr German.

Moved Jordon, seconded Barnes, that the bill for covers for the News be paid. - Carried.

Moved P. Brammall, seconded Barnes, that the meeting adjourn at 5.10 p.m. - Carried.

#### SOCIETY NOTES AND COMMENTS

BURNABY Burnaby Historical Society has reaffiliated with the B.C. Historical Association, with a membership of 32. President is Mr Fraser Wilson, and Secretary Mrs F. Street, 6176 Walker Avenue, 521-4529. The Society has for its Centennial Project the foundation of Heritage Park and Museum. They have a budget of approximately \$400,000 and approximately 12 acres of land adjacent to the James Cowan Centre. They are having a dinner to launch this project, which will be held on Saturday December 5th at 7.00 p.m. in the Burnaby Y.M.C.A., 4970 Canada Way. Tickets are \$2.50 each and the Society would welcome attendance from as many historical members from the Lower Mainland as are interested. The Society would like help in finding any centenarians living in British Columbia, and the names of any persons who have resided in Canada since 1897 and who are now living in British Columbia.

GULF ISLANDS The Gulf Islands Branch held its June meeting on Saturna Island with the local school children as guests and Mr Charles Campbell as speaker. Introducing his subject, "Remote British Columbia", this widely-travelled mining engineer said his aim was to show young Canadians something of the wonders of their country, the lure of far places, and the rewards that can come from a life of activity away from the centres of urban living. For the older members of the audience, he stressed the fact that the aims of conservationist and developer need not be entirely antagonistic, a fact which the excellent and varied slides he showed did much to confirm.

NANAIMO In June, on its annual field trip, Mr Barraclough read a paper to the Society on the Horne Lake Massacre. The meeting took place at Qualicum Falls since it was considered that Horne Lake itself was too difficult to reach. Afterwards the Society was given a guided tour of the Qualicum River Fisheries Research Station.

At the September meeting of the Society, Judge William E. Philpott gave an address on the early penal system in Nanaimo. (The Nanaimo Society's monthly notices of meetings are usually suitably illustrated by Mr W. Barraclough. The notice of this meeting depicted the old Nanaimo Court House at which Judge Begbie had presided on occasion.)

Rev. R.H. Purdy, October's speaker, in his address on the Queen Charlotte Islands, narrated his experiences when he, with his

father and uncle were betrayed into trying to homestead there by misleading government literature. Several students from Malaspina College as well as one of their instructors attended this meeting, which helped to fulfil one of the Society's current aims, to lower the average age of its members.

VANCOUVER The Society's field trip on June 13th took the form of a river journey up the Fraser from New Westminster as far as the Mission Bridge. About 40 members boarded the M.V. Tamoure, an ocean going yacht, for the trip which finished off with a short side trip on the South Arm of the Fraser and a look at the Westminster docks.

The September and October meetings brought to the members' attention the historical significance of Morton and Keefer Streets. At the first meeting Rev. Bruce Woods, minister at the Ruth and John Morton Memorial Baptist Church, gave an address on John Morton, one of the first preceptors in what is now the west end of the city. Morton's memorial to his wife took the form of the church. Dr James W. Morton, author of Capilano, the Story of a River, spoke at the October meeting on the Keefer family and especially George Keefer who made significant recommendations for Vancouver Water Works.

The Society's first major publication, Svenskar, a History of the Swedish Community in Vancouver, has recently appeared and the author, Mrs Irene Howard, was presented with complimentary copies at the September meeting and commended for her excellent work.

Attendance at meetings has increased and the Society has recruited 38 new members including several students.

VICTORIA Mr B.C. Bracewell tendered his resignation as President in September, due to indifferent health. Mr J.T. Barnes was elected to fill this position for the unexpired portion of the term of office.

At the Society's first meeting of the season the speaker was Commander A.G. Coning, whose address was on the subject "Privateering". His talk covered two voyages, the Woods-Rogers in 1708, and a later venture by Shelvocke and Clipperton. In October Mr Peter Cotton, a Victoria architect and native son, spoke on the restoration of Craigflower Manor, and showed slides to illustrate the progress of the work.

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#### JOTTINGS

It is interesting to note that an active outpost of maritime historical research has been established at the fishing village of Tofino on Clayoquot Sound. Its prime movers are Rod Palm, diver and museum curator, and Ken Gibson, Tofino contractor. Anyone with an interest in the maritime history of the North Pacific will be repaid by a visit to the West Coast Museum.



An interesting series on C.B.C. Radio entitled People in Landscape has been compiled and produced by Imbert Orchard. It commenced on October 9th and will run every Friday evening at 7 p.m. for the 24 broadcasts in this series. "The stories will be drawn partly from memories of early days preserved in our LIVING MEMORY archives. Partly they result from special journeys made during the summer." It encompasses that area of the vast central interior from Hope to Prince George.

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A note from Mrs A.D. Ross, Bowen Island says "Some months ago you published an appeal for help on our behalf. A gentleman in Victoria kindly replied and sent us some invaluable information about people he met while on a visit here in the 1890's. May we again ask your readers if they have any facts and anecdotes about any period in Bowen Island's history - pioneer days, resort days, tennis tournaments, entertainment parties".

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Don't forget, information comes from the most unlikely sources. At the Annual Convention in Nanaimo, Mr Bartroli gave his first choice as the garbage dump and his visit produced a silver trophy presented during the 1920's for some sporting event. It was presented to the Nanaimo Society at the banquet. Anyone for a Game of Garbage!

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#### BOOK REVIEWS

##### VANCOUVER'S SVENSKAR;

A history of the Swedish community in Vancouver, by Irene Howard. Published by the Vancouver Historical Society, Box 3071, Vancouver. 127 pages, illus. & index. \$6.50. Available from the Society or from leading bookstores.

Number One in the Vancouver Historical Society's projected series of Occasional Papers is now off the press. It was worth waiting for.

This first in the series, Vancouver's Svenskar by Irene Howard, makes only the modest claim to be a history of the Swedish community in Vancouver. Fortunately it takes in a broader field and puts the Vancouver community in perspective. In her opening chapters Miss Howard looks briefly at the prospects for working people in Sweden in the last century, the conditions which led them to try their luck in another country. She quotes from the immigration literature of Canada and from the published reminiscences of Swedish immigrants. She touches on the stories of a few of these immigrants, women as well as men, who came out to the prairies as - so one might describe them - C.P.R. immigrants.

Then we come to British Columbia and stories of Swedish immigrants who made their lives, and sometimes modest fortunes, in other parts of the province than Vancouver.

The book is, in fact, largely a collection of individual stories. After all, what is a community but the individuals in it?

The story of the Vancouver community, which opens on page 33, begins with Frank William Hart, a Swede, who was a founding citizen of the town. With tales of the lives of such men as Hart, of women like Mrs Engblom, a widow, who had emigrated with three small daughters, we are led into the Swedish community life. We learn of their church-building, their benevolent society, their rest home for the elderly.

In time the Swedish community made its impact on the larger community in which it existed. Skiing on the North Shore Mountains, we are told, began as the result of the enthusiasm of a Swede. The Vancouver Folk Festival had its roots in the Swedish Folk Dance Club and the Scottish Country Dance Society. Because Swedes formed such a large single element in the logging fraternity, they were prominent in the union-management struggles of the 1930's. (This reviewer found that the pages devoted to that battle received the rapt attention of a high school class studying unions.)

Mrs Howard makes few generalizations, but it is safe to say that non-English-speaking immigrants to our country, of whatever race, meet many of the same problems and solve them by much the same methods. Her book can be read for the insight it gives into the way of life adopted by many such groups.

Vancouver's Svenskar illustrates how one ethnic group can contribute to the enrichment of our total community life. The author has not fallen into the trap of comparing that contribution with the contribution of any other group. This is a book that gives evidence of careful research, the writing is lively, and the illustrations well chosen. It is a book to be recommended for the general shelf as well as to all collectors of Canadiana.

E.B. Norcross.

Miss Norcross is currently Secretary of the Nanaimo Historical Society.

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THE GALBRAITHS AND THE KOOTENAYS by Candace L. House. New York, Vantage Press, 1969. 130 pages. \$4.50. Available from leading bookstores or from the publishers Vantage Press, 120 West 31st Street, New York, N.Y. 10001.

Although the author is a direct descendant of the Galbraiths about whom she writes, she obviously was not very well acquainted with most of them nor with the Kootenay region of British Columbia. The book is an attempt to record some of the history implied in the title, and so it does in a rather disjointed fashion.

Before seeming to be over-critical it should be pointed out that Mrs House was over eighty years of age when she compiled the

book - her first. This in itself is an accomplishment and a bold undertaking. These circumstances allow for the inaccuracies to a large extent. Such errors as of names, dates, and geography, are none that any honest researcher wishing to cannot easily authenticate.

The word compiled is used advisedly for the book includes a compilation of letters from Galbraith relatives, excerpts from newspapers, and twenty-five pages copied from an already published work. Interspersed are biographical jottings of interest about the Galbraith family; autobiographical jottings not particularly relevant to the subject; and some anecdotes supposed to have happened in the early days at Fort Steele, some perhaps a bit exaggerated to add colour - for instance one on pages 24-25 and another on page 43. All of this involves much repetition with consequent lack of sequence which leaves the readers to sort things out for themselves. Mrs House dedicated her book to the British Columbia Historical Society.

The author was born in Ontario and moved to the United States in 1905 where she has lived ever since, now in California. In 1966 she visited the Kootenays and was much impressed with the restoration then in progress at Fort Steele. This appears to have been her first visit ever. She contacted members of the East Kootenay Historical Association at Cranbrook who co-operated and helped with some historical data. Of this she makes brief mention. About this time someone suggested that she put into writing what she knew of the Galbraiths and thus the idea of this book was conceived.

Mrs House is a grandniece of John, Robert and James Galbraith, the brothers for whom Galbraith's Ferry (now Fort Steele) was named, her grandmother being their sister. These brothers were from a family of nine, five sons and four daughters, and the ancestral history given is of value. The letters of the early 1900's to Mrs House from Fort Steele are perhaps the best feature. The pages copied from COME WITH ME TO YESTERDAY (by Dave Kay and Dan MacDonald of Cranbrook, 1965) speak for themselves. It was unfortunate that the author did not submit her manuscript to an authority for checking.

Mrs House returned on invitation to Fort Steele in 1967 for the official opening of Fort Steele Historic Park which she describes in some detail, and thereby gives some favourable publicity to the B.C. Government and this project. She was accompanied by her daughter Mrs Andy Devine, wife of the gravel-voiced film comedian.

This is an attractive book, the bright blue cover shows a coat of arms described in the introduction as being that of the Galbraith ancestors. A key map of the Kootenays is superimposed on the Galbraith tartan, and a selection of early photographs adds to the work. The book ends on a poetic note and with an Indian translation of the Twenty-third Psalm copied from one at the Luxton Museum at Banff, Alberta.

Mabel E. Jordon

Mrs Jordon is Past President of the B.C. Historical Association and member of the East Kootenay Historical Society.

## TRUTCH - DYNAMIC ROAD BUILDER AND SHREWD OPERATOR

Four letters, edited by C. F. Forbes.

The four letters printed here were written by Joseph William Trutch (later Sir Joseph) who was destined to become British Columbia's first Lieutenant-Governor; at the time of writing he was an engineer and contractor engaged in constructing roads to the gold fields in the rugged interior of what was then the Crown Colony of British Columbia. Considering the significant role he played in British Columbia's early history, singularly little study has been devoted to his work.

Trutch, a Somerset man born in 1826, was apprenticed to Sir John Rennie during the latter's building of the Great Western Railway in England. Subsequent engineering experience in California, Oregon and Illinois left Trutch peculiarly suited to supervise construction under the difficult conditions imposed by the rough British Columbia terrain. He arrived from Illinois in late 1858 and with his brother John secured contracts for road construction in the Fraser Valley, Harrison Lake and Fraser Canyon regions.

The letters are written from Joseph to John (who acted as "foreman-engineer" on the jobs) and cover the period May 12, 1862 to June 15, 1862, when the Trutches were finishing a section of road north of Port Douglas, and beginning a new contract for construction between Chapman's Bar and Boston Bar in the Fraser Canyon. Having negotiated this new contract, Joseph was concerned with moving men, equipment and provisions from the old to the new site as economically as possible. The construction of this canyon section, a particularly difficult feat, requiring six miles of rock blast on sheer cliffs, was completed in 1863.

Sir Joseph was in later years described as "shrewd and capable", with a "good notion of selecting those realities with which it was desirable to keep instantly in touch" (Sproat). These qualities are apparent in the following letters. He painstakingly details information and instructions to his brother and, although he seems to belabour some of his points, the desired result of securing the highest possible profits on a contract were undoubtedly achieved.

Some of the hazards and irritations confronting the road builders of the last century are clearly depicted, as we see the Trutches wrestling with the problems of irregular express mail, and ferry-boat services and the unpleasantness of canoe travel in the wet B.C. climate. J.W. Trutch, however, was a man not easily intimidated - a man Walter Moberly described as "a thorough business man and an honest one too"; he had the "push" necessary to overcome obstacles and see a project through to a successful conclusion. These traits were to serve him well in subsequent years, when he spanned the Fraser River with British Columbia's first suspension bridge, served the province in the capacity of Chief Commissioner of Lands and Works, acted with Dr R.W.W. Carrall and Dr J.S. Helmcken

in the negotiation of terms for Confederation with Canada, and ultimately reached the zenith of his career as Lieutenant-Governor of the new Province. Sir Joseph died in Somerset in 1904 and was buried in the parish cemetery of Lydeard St. Lawrence.

The letters are printed as Trutch wrote them; the only change has been to add punctuation in several places to help clarify reading. Square brackets have been used to indicate the probable text where fading of the ink in the original has caused some illegibility. The editor wishes to thank the staff of the Special Collections Division of the University of British Columbia Library for the kind help they have given him, and the University Librarian for permission to print these letters.

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JOSEPH TRUTCH TO JOHN TRUTCH

Victoria. May 12th, 1862

My dear brother -

I received this morning your letter enclosing a note to Carrie<sup>1</sup> and we are all glad to find that you are well and getting along with the work.

You say you have not heard from me. I can only say that I have written and sent [5?] letters to you by Ballou.<sup>2</sup> The agreement is arranged for the Yale road and my intention is to go up with the mules, tools, grub &c., the end of the week, camp at Chapman's Bar, lay out a couple of miles, get Grant<sup>3</sup> to accept it, and set to work - then come down again for a day or two to arrange other things in Victoria. But I shall write you again before leaving here.

I send you with this \$500 per Ballou's Express - Send me word what more you require - Col. Moody<sup>4</sup> intends going up to Lillooet next week to examine and accept our road<sup>5</sup>: he told me to write you word to that effect that you might expect him up. He intends leaving N.W.<sup>r</sup> on the 20th inst. and will go up to the Pavillion<sup>6</sup> to look at what Wright<sup>7</sup> is doing so that he can inspect our work either

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1. Caroline Agnes, youngest of Trutch's sisters. She married Peter O'Reilly in December 1863.
  2. William J. (Billy) Ballou, the pioneer expressman.
  3. Captain John Marshall Grant, of the Royal Engineers.
  4. Colonel Richard Clement Moody, of the Royal Engineers.
  5. A section of the Port Douglas - Lillooet route that Trutch had built (see British Columbian, May 17, 1862 p.1 "..... Mr Trutch is getting on famously with his road; he will have it completed to the Half-way House by the 23rd inst., and a good road it will be".
  6. Pavillion.
  7. Gustavus Blin Wright, a pioneer contractor and road building engineer.

going or coming. I intended going up with him but have been delayed so much here that I don't see now how I can possibly manage it. He promised me that if the road was at all acceptable he would give you a certificate for the work on which you could get the money at the Treasury N.W.<sup>r</sup>. on your way down to Victoria where of course you will make a visit before coming to Yale. Munroe sends a man up by this steamer to complete his portion. The man's name is Titus. I know something of him - a pushing fellow - a Yankee - he is anxious to work for me this summer - you can see what he is worth. Munroe has paid G.B. Wright what he owed them - and I have agreed to pay the hands he sends up to work but I am not able to say now to what amount but will do so when next I write. You will have to measure the exact length of his work - before I can settle with him, and I will settle with him the am<sup>t</sup>. already paid him.

As to price of provisions - pork and beef same as last year, \$12 a  $\frac{1}{2}$  barrel, flour \$10 per barrel, beans 8 cts. per lb., coffee 25 cts., sugar 10 cts., tea 50 cts., rice 8., bacon 16 cts., Eastern - syrup 35 cts, &c. to all add cost of packing and freight which was 6 cts. last year at duty at 12 per ct. average.

Try to sell the tools &c. to G.B. Wright for cash - he is up there now I am told. All are well here.<sup>8</sup> Carrie will write you news about the wedding &c. I shall write again in a day or two.

Yr. affecte. Brother

Joseph W. Trutch.

JOSEPH TRUTCH TO JOHN TRUTCH

On Board "Col. Moody"<sup>9</sup>  
May 22nd, 1862

My dear brother -

Yours dated the 18th was handed me at New Westminster just before coming on board. I had had no word from you for some time, but was informed by Ballou that he had forwarded two letters from you to me at Yale, supposing me up there. Through his remissness entirely is it that you did not get the provisions I shipped from Victoria. They were entrusted to him to forward from N.W. and he entirely neglected the business so that when I came up to N.W. last Saturday I was astonished to learn from Wylde<sup>10</sup> that the goods were

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8. Trutch had both his mother and younger sister living at his Victoria residence.
  9. The "Colonel Moody" (named in honour of Col. R.C. Moody, R.E. Commander of the Royal Engineers) was launched at James Trahey's shipyard at Laurel Point, Victoria May 14, 1859. She was registered at New Westminster, the first vessel to be registered at that port. (Hacking p.6)
  10. Charles S. Wylde, revenue officer for the Colony of British Columbia.

still there in Bond. I at first ordered them to be shipped on to you and wrote you to that effect, but afterwards on reflection that they could not reach you until the work was all done I countermanded the order and had them all shipped to Yale, thus leaving you to look out for yourself.<sup>11</sup> I have been delayed since Saturday at N.W. waiting for a chance to take on the mules - the boats have been all crowded with animals and freight, and the whole steamboating arrangements are out of order as Irving is about selling out his interest in the Steamboat Co. to the Wrights.<sup>12</sup> However I am now on the way to Yale with 17 mules & 3 horses, tools for 60 or 70 men, and provisions for the same for a month. Hick is with me and some 12 or 15 Cornish miners, also 10 or 12 other men. I have completed all my arrangements for the work with the L & W office<sup>13</sup> - as also with Alfred Fellows (Yates St.)<sup>14</sup> for tools and Henderson & Burnaby<sup>15</sup> for provisions & other supplies. I depend fully on Jennings to join me as soon as possible with all the good men he can bring. He promised me the summers work and I agreed to allow him \$125 per month, but must have him at any rate. Kearsay is gone on ahead with part of the freight - the rest is with us.

Colonel Moody assures me he will positively leave N.W. tomorrow (Friday) and go direct to your camp - he will then go on to Pavillon, and be on the 2nd Portage<sup>16</sup> again in about 6 or 7 days on his way down to N.W. He will then remain at N.W. about 5 or 6 days and then up to Yale where, or rather at my camp, he proposes to spend a week with me in selecting and deciding definitely with me the line of road through the Cañon. My intention is to lay out the first (say) 3 miles, get it agreed upon by Grant (who is so instructed) get Hick fairly at work and then go back to Victoria for more

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11. The express companies in the 1860's were seemingly lax about shipping promptly. A noteworthy example, which resulted in a lengthy court case, occurred in 1862 and involved J.P. Cranford, Robert Cranford Jr. and G.B. Wright & Co. The case is reported at length in the British Columbian, Dec. 13, 1862, p.2 and on p.3 of each of the following issues - Dec. 20, 27, 31, 1862 and Jan. 7, 10, 1863.
  12. On May 22, 1862, Captain William Irving transferred his interest in the British Columbia and Victoria Steam Navigation Company to Captain John T. Wright Jr. and his brother Captain Thomas Wright. (Hacking p.21)
  13. Lands and Works Office.
  14. Trutch makes sure that his brother John does not mistake Alfred Fellows (Yates St., Victoria) for Arthur Fellows (sometimes Fellowes) of Fellows and Roscoe (Commercial Block, Wharf St., Victoria). Both were hardware dealers.
  15. Edward Henderson and Robert Burnaby of Victoria. Trutch had travelled with Burnaby on the same ship from Liverpool to New York in 1858 and they had become friendly. (See Trutch Papers, University of B.C. Library)
  16. Between Lillooet Lake and Anderson Lake.

tools, provisions &c., then back again so as to be in camp when the Col. is up. From what you say I suppose you may be down next week, as soon as you have seen Col. Moody. He, the Colonel, has promised to take money up with him so that you may get from him whatever you need. He said he wd. positively leave on the 23rd from N.W. but I think it quite likely that you may not see him until the 27th evening - but you may depend on his going up by that time with the money, or some one to be sent as his agent.

Now with regard to the tools, tents &c., of course they will be all wanted in the Cañon - the only question is can they be got from Victoria cheaper - that depends entirely on what you can sell them for - Steel is worth at Victoria 25 cts. - drilling hammers, per lb 35 cts. if faced, 65 cts. if solid - shovels 14\$ per doz - picks with handles \$18 - axes \$20 - mattocks \$30 - powder 20 cts. per lb - crow bars 18 cts. & & - to all these add 10 per ct. duty and you get what they are worth in N.Wr. - to this add 7 cts. per lb to find what the cost in your camp - from this cost price it would be a question how much to deduct for selling price - now it will cost you I suppose 5 cts. per lb. to get them back to Douglas<sup>17</sup> - when at Douglas they would be about in the same position as if at N.W. - now drill hammers, crowbars, drill steel & things of that sort if in good order are as you know as much as if new -- also I should think the tents if in good order would serve another season. The oxen I sh<sup>d</sup>. certainly bring to Douglas and I am going now to make an agreement with Anderson to keep a place for them on his next trip so you had better send them down as soon as you get through with them - there is sure to be need of them - & if not they can be sold. I have already thought of getting derricks, chain &c.

You will of course go to Victoria when you go down. If I am up above write to me by Barnards Express.<sup>18</sup> Be sure to have an exact account of Everything you may get from P. Smith & Co.,<sup>19</sup> also of all other accounts. I never gave any order to Galbraith or to any one else to get a block & fall or anything else - find out what pork & beef Smith had at Pemberton and have an exact settlement of the account there if you can and receipts - if you owe him anything beyond the amount of what he got I sh<sup>d</sup>. not be in a hurry to pay him - as he made a convenience of our provisions.

I should not on any account sell the tools on credit - they had better far be brought to Douglas. As there are no loads coming this way perhaps you can make a bargain to get them back. About Jennings, tell him I am relying on him as he promised to work with me this season and shall be most anxious to see him up on the Cañon as soon as possible, but he had better go to Victoria if he particularly needs to - although I had much rather he did not - if

17. Port Douglas, at the head of Harrison Lake.

18. The famous express firm organized by Francis Jones Barnard.

19. Packers over the Port Douglas - Lillooet trail, with offices at Port Douglas and Lillooet.



he sh<sup>d</sup>. say anything ab<sup>t</sup>. wages make that right with him. But tell him I especially want him not to say a word to others about his agreement with me as to terms. I want him also to bring with him all the good men he can who want a summers work.

Old picks & shovels unless in good order won't pay for packing round as you know.

I have got a bell mare and 2 riding horses with the train. A very decent man to take care of the train & a Spaniard to help him. Your horse is in Waddington's pasture up at the house. O'Reilly<sup>20</sup> rode him & made him a little lame but he was pretty nearly well when I left - they nearly starved him I believe at James'<sup>21</sup> - at all events he looks in racing condition.

Gordon<sup>22</sup> has escaped from prison & from the Island. All were well at Victoria.

Luard<sup>23</sup> got a note from you at N.W. same time as I got yours to me - I have advertised for 250 men<sup>24</sup> - let me know by letter when you go down the River if before me, and trusting that you are well, and anxious to see you again as soon as possible, I am

Yr affect<sup>o</sup>. brother  
Joseph W. Trutch.

I say nothing about the road you are at work on - but hope you may have got luck in passing it. As the Col. undertook to go up I thought there was no necessity for me to accompany him especially as I am so pushed to go the other way and the season is getting on fast with a long job ahead of us. I hear bad accounts of mud holes to be mended beyond the  $\frac{1}{2}$ way house - but hope they are not so bad. Everyone says you have made a famous road round the bottom. My belief is that it wd. have cost more to make it through the bottom.

Your birthday tomorrow. I shall not forget to drink you health & many returns with every good wish from your sincere affecte. Brother. They are fully expecting you at Victoria - so you will have to go straight down there before going up to Yale.

Mem<sup>o</sup>. - Don't forget to measure Munroe's portion of road.

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20. Peter O'Reilly (see note 1)

21. This may refer to J. James, Broad St., Victoria, a veterinary surgeon listed in the 1863 Victoria Directory.

22. George Tomline Gordon (former treasurer of Colony of Vancouver Island) escaped from the debtors' prison May 18, 1862. He was being held there as a result of Chief Justice Cameron's decision upsetting a charge of embezzlement against him.

23. Captain Henry Reynolds Luard of the Royal Engineers.

24. See advertisement in British Columbian for May 24, 1862, p.3.

JOSEPH W. TRUTCH TO JOHN TRUTCH

Camp New Westminster  
June 14th, 1862

My dear Brother,

The reason you did not see or hear anything of me by the Enterprise this morning was simply this - Mouat<sup>25</sup> last night when we got up here at 10 o'clock told me most definitely that he should not leave this morning until 9 o'clock. I asked him if I might rely on this as I was anxious either to go or to send back by him.

I got the £300 this morning and went down with it arriving in the town just at 8 o'clock in time to see the Enterprise just going out of sight. My annoyance you may imagine.

I don't know what you will do about the note. I suppose it will be protected. I send you with this, £300 - or rather £260 in [£sd] and \$200. I left at Nathan's<sup>26</sup> a tent which I bought, also at Hibben & Carswell's<sup>27</sup> a package of books; please send or bring them up. I also send down to you a gardner who is anxious for permanent employment and is well recommended. Wages \$30 and board.

I can only get £300 to send you at present as they have not another dollar here but will try & get Luard to send you some more in a few days.

Your affect. Brother  
Joseph W. Trutch

JOSEPH W. TRUTCH TO JOHN TRUTCH

Yale. June 15th, 1862

My dear Brother,

I got up here about an hour since in a canoe & thoroughly soaked with rain. I sent you by Holbrook<sup>28</sup> \$1500 with which you can satisfy my note in favor of W. Nelson and four orders in favor

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- 25. Captain William Alexander Mouat of the Hudson's Bay Company sidewheeler Enterprise (For further information on this ship see Hacking, p.21)
  - 26. Henry Nathan, a merchant on Wharf St., Victoria.
  - 27. Thomas Napier Hibben and James Carswell, booksellers and stationers of 37 Yates St., Victoria.
  - 28. This likely is Henry Holbrook, commission merchant, Liverpool Wharf, New Westminster.

Cranford<sup>29</sup>. Luard promised to send you \$500 in addition. The Colonel agreed to pay me all that is due on the Lilloet [sic] Road less 100 pounds which was to cover the repairs required by Palmer<sup>30</sup> and to be retained until they know that you have done as required. I was in so much haste the Moody leaving at 11 o'clock, that I had no time to talk much about it but told him that when I came down again I would settle with him. I have now about 50 men with me and we shall be in want of tools & camp equipage. By next opportunity send up full supply of tools & camp equipage for 100 men.<sup>31</sup> There will be no question about having plenty of men, in fact they are beginning to come down already from above.

Bring or send therefore as soon as possible the following, viz. 100 shovels - 100 picks - 48 mattocks - 48 axes - 20 crowbars - with other tools to match for 100 men taking into account what you are to get from the other road. I have got just about tools for 100 men - now in camp.

I get all my tools from Fellows in Yates St. on credit as per agreement - prices also fixed. You will get from him also all you can in the shape of camp equipage, but the greater part of the tinware you will have to get from Drummond in Yates St.<sup>32</sup> I shall expect you in camp this day week at furthest as my hands are more than full having no one but Hick to help me with the men in camp - Chinamen, mules and all.

Don't forget tents also - in fact bring a full equipment for 100 men with you - and if you don't come by first opportunity be sure to send them up and someone to see them through. You must get the money from Luard to pay duties. Freight you can refer to me for.

I left at home my boots (yellow), also straw hat in the Enterprise, also account books at Hibben and Carswell in addition to which bring some timebooks.

I saw not nor heard anything of Jennings at N.W<sup>r</sup> - but hope to see him up immediately.

Tell Stahlschmidt<sup>33</sup> to send me another invoice of provisions -

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29. It is possible that he refers to either John P. Cranford, or, more likely, Robert Cranford Jr. The latter was transporting goods with G.B. Wright & Co. in April of 1862. (see note 11)
30. Probably Lieutenant Henry Spencer Palmer of the Royal Engineers.
31. Trutch needed tools. The British Colonist on June 7, 1862, p.3 reported that "Mr J.W. Trutch .... has commenced work at Chapman's Bar. He has between forty and fifty men at work and requires 200 more men to whom \$40 per month and board will be paid, with plenty of provisions and tools on the ground".
32. J.S. Drummond, hardware merchant, 53 Yates St., Victoria.
33. Thomas Lett Stahlschmidt, with Henderson & Burnaby of Wharf St., Victoria.

when you come up and [sic] bring them with you. The steamer came no further than Hope but as the water is falling a little I am in hope that the trip after next he will come up to Emory's Bar.

With love to all

Yr. affecte. Brother

Joseph W. Trutch.

I did not write to Jennings as I was in so much haste.

Messrs Henderson & Burnaby furnish all provisions - Fellows tools and camp equipage.

Don't bring powder or steel as we have plenty.

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References:

Hacking, Norman R. Steamboating on the Fraser in the 'sixties. British Columbia Historical Quarterly, Vol. 10, No. 1, 1946, p.1-41.

Sproat, Gilbert Malcolm. Sir Joseph Wm Trutch, K.C.M.G., first Lieutenant-Governor of the Province on its union with Canada, 4 p. Typescript in Provincial Archives of B.C.

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Ed. - Mr Forbes, Assistant Librarian, Sedgewick Library, University of British Columbia, turned up these unpublished letters in the Special Collections Division of the U.B.C. Library. It is rather a coincidence that the theme for the 1971 Convention is - Trutch to Nicholson: 100 years - inasmuch as Mr Forbes approached the News regarding these letters last spring.

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N.B. DON'T FORGET THE 1971 CENTENNIAL ESSAY COMPETITION

"Some historical aspect of British Columbia within the Canadian Confederation from an economic, political, scientific or social point of view."

For details see the June issue of the News.

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