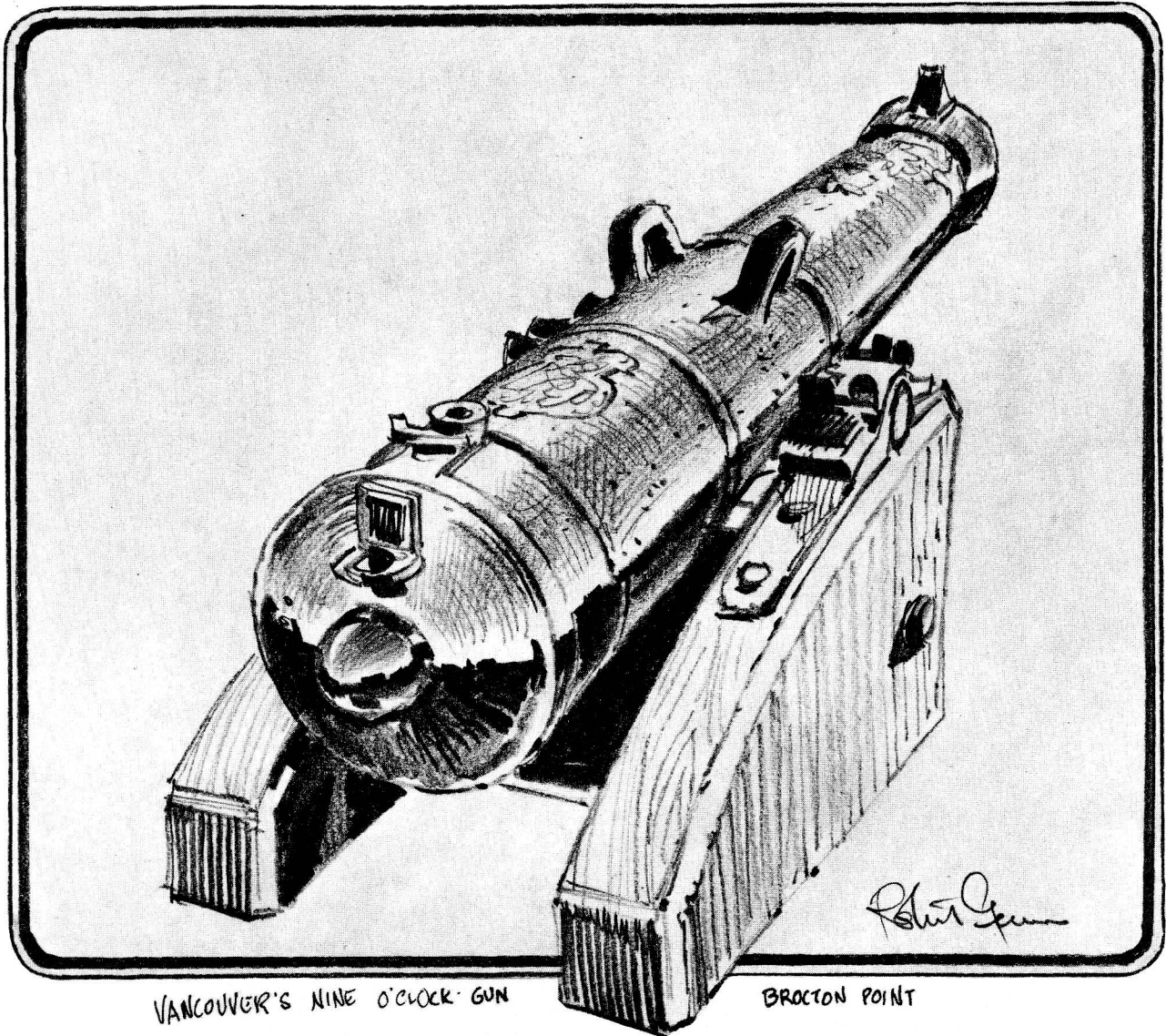


# B.C. historical NEWS

JUNE 1971



VANCOUVER'S NINE O'CLOCK GUN

BROXTON POINT

BRITISH COLUMBIA HISTORICAL NEWS

Vol. 4 No. 4

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FRONT COVER The Nine o'clock gun in Stanley Park, Vancouver, drawn by Vancouver member Robert Genn.

## EDITORIAL

In lieu of my usual opinions, I am submitting a doggerel account of the Convention, which some of you may find more interesting than the usual banal platitudes used in writing an account of the proceedings. If I have offended anyone please accept my apologies.

THE 1971 CONVENTION AT VICTORIA

'Twas a pleasant evening in May, with Victoria at its best  
 When the members started to assemble, all full of historical zest;  
 There was much to-do and chattering, as Registration proceeded  
 With Mr & Mrs Turnbull making sure each got what he needed.  
 They strolled around the Museum - it was held in that Maritime place,  
 And then to the top of the building in that cage of metallic lace.  
 Commander Coning addressed us, with a few well chosen words,  
 And the call to tea was answered, like the last of the buffalo herds.  
 By the time the gulping was over, the evening was definitely shot -  
 It was back to get some "shut eye", as Council met "9 on the dot".  
 The morning broke full of promise, and Council met right at nine,  
 For the Annual Meeting at ten simply had to start on time.  
 At ten the faithful assembled, to be welcomed by the City Mayor;  
 He was thanked by Robin Beau Brammall, who was also in the "chair".  
 Everything went off like clockwork; each society gave its report  
 And to every business matter, the members gave full support.  
 At twelve the meeting adjourned, for lunch at the Empress was next,  
 And the gastric juices were flowing when Mr German gave us "the text".  
 With a rattle and clatter of cutlery, each trencherman showed his skill  
 Till the last chicken bone was denuded, and each had eaten his fill.  
 This pleasant feeling of fullness was shattered by a rasping chair;  
 All eyes were turned to the platform, to see the Pres. standing there.  
 Oh, 'tis sad to be the President, and have to give a luncheon address  
 In that sea of blissful faces, and he feeling such distress.  
 It's one of the penalties of office to have these duties to face  
 But the President's speech on Dufferin was certainly no disgrace.  
 There was now a lull in proceedings, for the ladies to reach for a hat;  
 We're going to have tea at Government House! Now what do you think of that?  
 The grounds were very enchanting and the cameras were all in high gear  
 And everyone recounting the past till you expected ghosts to appear.  
 Then came the great moment of entry, that all had been waiting for;  
 The tea was ready and waiting, and the parade was to the front door.  
 Inside it was elegant splendour, as we leisurely strode through the hall;  
 Once again the jaws were in motion, answering another refreshment call.  
 It was on and into the ballroom, as contentment returned to each face,  
 To sit and relax in wonder, and ponder on who last used this space.  
 The afternoon now was over, back to realism we started to crawl  
 To await the coming of evening, and the Archives - our next port of call.  
 We entered that holy of holies; George Newell was shepherding each flock  
 By the back door "and please step lively, we must be out by nine o'clock".  
 On the third floor of the Museum, what a fascinating sight to behold  
 There's a model town a building, and a scene in the search for gold.  
 What an exciting revelation, to see what our Museum has planned  
 Recording this visual history - and the whole thing is simply grand!

We scurried off into the raw night, hoping none of us would catch colds,  
 For to-morrow we have a bus trip, to Fort Rodd and then Royal Roads.  
 In the light of a blustery morning with everyone wearing their coats  
 We eventually filled two buses, one for sheep and another for goats.  
 We headed out of the city, to a site that was once England's glory  
 To be entertained by a student guide, who had certainly learned his story;  
 It was climb up here and look in there, then ask another question  
 And if the guide wasn't sure, there was always a ready suggestion.  
 There were many amusing incidents, and one by a notable lady  
 Who thought the private car overflow smacked of something a little shady;  
 When asked if she favoured Women's Lib, she gave a loud guffaw  
 And made it plain to all around, that she wasn't burning her bra!  
 By 12.15 the time had come to move to our next destination  
 Another gastric attack was due, which was planned for The Plantation.  
 We clambered back in our buses, and headed for Royal Roads  
 And in Dunsmuir's days it must have been one of the Canada's finest abodes.  
 It was now a beautiful sunny day, and most of the coats were shed;  
 What a lovely place to stroll in the sun, without any fear or dread,  
 That any moment now a stentorian voice would give an official command  
 "Get out, get out, you trespassers, you're walking on private land".  
 We entered that once baronial hall, to the sound of a familiar voice,  
 James Nesbitt was giving a brief resumé of the things he thought to be choice.  
 He took us through the main floor rooms and he waxed most enthusiastic  
 From the window art to the panelled walls, in this age of veneer and plastic.  
 A major-domo then appeared, and we were guided up to the tower;  
 We got a panoramic view of land and sea, and a glimpse of my lady's bower.  
 It was time to go and leave this peace for the mundane ways of the city,  
 To tidy up for the Banquet tonight, and the ladies to make themselves pretty.  
 We started out in leisurely fashion, to get to the U. of Vic.  
 By the direction that we'd all been given, this seemed quite a simple trick.  
 We got on the campus ring-road, and couldn't find a single sign;  
 All we wanted to find was the Faculty Club, for it was there we were going  
 At last out of sheer frustration, we drove up a road in despair; /to dine  
 'Twas as if a miracle had happened, for lo and behold, we were there.  
 What a brilliant array of costumes were worn especially tonight;  
 Perhaps the liquor had some part in it, it was still a beautiful sight.  
 We got through the usual preamble, and at last we were all in our place;  
 Then the Pres. asked Father Leeming and we all stood up for his "grace".  
 When the "silence" of feeding was over, the President rose to his feet  
 And asked us to drink a toast to the Queen, which we did in water-neat.  
 He now called on Dr Humphries, who was seated above the salt  
 And suggested that if he had something to say, he'd best do it now or default.  
 Dr Humphries rose to the occasion, and he can for he's six feet tall,  
 And started right in on Victoria, for a riot he'd like to recall.  
 When he'd given all the facts and figures, Col. Andrews said a few words of thanks  
 Then the Pres. started to call it a day, when Mr Wellburn decided to break ranks.  
 He said he was there on that memorable night, and so were others he could name;  
 The papers had made it headlines, and this made them partly to blame.  
 So it was on that note it ended; the Convention now was done.  
 Come along with us next year in Alberni, and help join in on the fun.

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## MINUTES

Minutes of the Fourth Council Meeting for 1970-71 of the B.C. Historical Association, held on Friday May 28th at the Provincial Museum, Victoria, B.C.

Present: Mr R. Brammall (Pres.); Mr G. German (2nd V.Pres.); Mrs M. Jordon (Past.Pres.); Mrs P. Brammall (Treas.); Mr D. New and Mr H.B. Nash (Exec. members); Mr Ford (Alberni); Mrs Claxton (Gulf Islands); Mr F. Street (Burnaby); Mr Hunter (E. Kootenay); Miss E. Johnson (W. Kootenay); Mrs Bowes (Vancouver); P. Yandle (Sec).

The President called the meeting to order at 9.00 a.m. Moved Mrs Jordon, seconded Mr German that the minutes of the last Council meeting be adopted as read. - Carried.

The secretary reported that the essay competition had been ignored by the universities and junior colleges, and that only two entries had been received from our own members. He read the reports of the three judges on the adjudication panel which consisted of Mrs Jordon (East Kootenay), Mrs Yandle (Vancouver) and Mr George Newell (Victoria). It was the majority opinion of the panel that in view of the fact that only two essays had been submitted, and that both contestants had obviously spent a considerable time on their respective work, the prize money should be equally divided between them. Each judge had independently of the others made a written appraisal which was read to Council. It was moved New, seconded Nash, that the majority opinion of the judges be implemented and that the prize be equally divided between the two contestants. - Carried.

Mrs P. Brammall gave a report on what she had accomplished on future sites for conventions. She had received a letter from Mrs Adams of the Alberni Society agreeing to host the convention in 1972 instead of 1973, thus assuring the Association of a site for its next convention. She was hoping to get Vancouver to agree to host the convention in 1973. Mr Hunter stated that East Kootenay would be quite receptive to a convention at Fort Steele in the future. The President would not accept a motion on the 1972 site as he stated the Constitution gave the right to the Annual General Meeting. The President asked that the correspondence from the B.C. Museums Association which was inconclusive be tabled for the time being. - Carried.

The Secretary read a letter from the Creston and District Historical Association asking for affiliation with the B.C. Historical Association, and they had enclosed a per capita cheque for \$40 with their request. Mr Hunter said that the East Kootenay Association were aware of the formation of this new society and that they had been instrumental in its being formed. It was moved Mrs Jordon, seconded Nash that this new association be welcomed into the B.C. Historical Association. - Carried.

The Secretary read a letter he had written to the Hon. Ray Williston, which was a continuation of a request that was made a year ago in respect to the retention of the headwaters of the Tulameen River, and that they be set aside for a wild life area. The answers had not been what had been hoped for, but at least the Minister of Lands and Forests is aware that the situation is being watched and will continue to be so. It was moved New, seconded Street, that the Council endorse the actions of the Secretary and the letter to the Hon. R.G. Williston. - Carried.

The Secretary, in his capacity as Editor, asked that Council give consideration to the Association acquiring a fully automatic duplicating machine to ease the work involved in producing "The News". It was moved Ford, seconded Hunter, that Council recommend to the Annual General Meeting that the Editor be empowered to make this purchase. - Carried.

In general discussion, it was recommended that the new Council consider a revision of the date for future conventions, as they seem to conflict when held at the end of May.

Moved New, seconded Yandle that meeting adjourn at 10.00 a.m.

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Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the B.C. Historical Association, held in Victoria May 28th, 1971.

The meeting was called to order by the President at 10.15 a.m. He then called upon Mr Slocum, Joint Chairman of the Victoria Society Convention Committee to introduce Mayor Courtenay Haddock of Victoria. His Worship welcomed the members to Victoria and wished the meeting every success in their deliberations.

The President reconvened the meeting and called for the reading of the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held in Nanaimo on May 22nd, 1970. It was moved Mrs O'Reilly, seconded Mr Wellburn that the minutes be adopted as read. - Carried.

Mrs Brammall gave the Treasurer's report as follows: Total assets including cash on hand at April 30th, 1970 - \$4437.38. Total assets including cash on hand at April 30th, 1971 - \$5203.79. The Treasurer reported that the Debenture of \$3849.60 is with Canada Permanent Trust, and will be due for renewal next March. "This report leaves us with a thousand dollars on hand to use and I hope that this Association will see fit to use it largely in helping Mr Yandle to build up and make a bigger and better publication which can only benefit us all". It was moved Nash, seconded Mrs Roff that the report be accepted. - Carried.

The Secretary reported quite a busy year but would not repeat much of the detail which had appeared, either as minutes or direct information in the various issues of the News during the year. It was very disappointing that the Universities and Junior Colleges did not enter the essay competition, and it is a rather sad reflection on our times that a prize of \$200.00 is no longer an inducement to put forth the effort to write an essay of 5000 words.

A further submission was made to the Hon. R.G. Williston regarding the Punch Bowl Lake area and the headwaters of the Tulameen River when it was brought to our attention that the Government was granting two land leases in the area. We should consider it our business to subscribe to the British Columbia Gazette since the Government resorts to such widely read papers as the Oliver Chronicle for the public advertising of such items. Environmental ecology must be a part of our thinking since the encroachment by industry and private interests have in the past eliminated much of our vital history.

The B.C. Historical Association is now a member of the American Association for State and Local History. The value of the affiliation will depend to what extent we use the services offered to us.

Reporting as Editor, he requested the members to consider the authorization of the purchase of a fully automatic duplicating machine to cut down on the physical work involved in producing the News. The News will probably run to 1000 copies per issue for the coming year, and it was too much labour to do this manually.

He wished to thank Robert Genn (Vancouver Historical Society) for his art work in designing the covers for the News, which he has done for the past three years. These covers have immeasurably improved its appearance. The content of the News must meet with approval as his "fanmail" is usually a call for more copies. The editorials have been written with the express purpose of sparking reader reaction, but so far none has been forthcoming. In conclusion he asked all secretaries to note that the deadline for the News has been put forward to the 10th of the month of issue.

The President stated that Council had approved in principle the new duplicating machine and recommended that this Annual General Meeting give its endorsement. It was moved Wellburn, seconded Atwood that the Editor purchase the necessary machine as requested. - Carried.

The President reported on the growth of the Association and gave a resume on the membership roll which was 454 in 1963 and was now 796 in 1971.

He spoke with regret at the passing of Dr Clifford Carl and stressed the impact of his work on the Provincial Museum.

The President stated that it was the prerogative of the Annual General Meeting to choose the site of the next convention. Alberni had written to Council consenting to host the convention in Port Alberni in 1972. It was moved Leeming, seconded Street that Port Alberni be the site of the 1972 convention. - Carried.

NEW BUSINESS Mrs O'Reilly asked what could be done to get action and interest in the preservation of our old houses which were of historic significance. In the discussion Mr H.K. Ralston pointed out that there was a survey at present being conducted across Canada in this regard. It was sponsored by the Federal Government and was under the guidance of Professor Harold Kalman, Fine Arts Department, University of B.C. The question was raised - "Were these houses being photographed?" Mr D. Scholes said that they were and that it was colour photography. Mrs Goodman stated that the Victoria Association has taken a lot of photographs also.

Mr A. Royick of Douglas College asked if it would not be possible to have the News printed so that pictures could be included. The Editor stated that in its present form it was something that a man and wife team could do with their own equipment, but if this meant that it had to be jobbed out to printers to meet deadlines etc., it could not be done as a voluntary production. Mr Royick further asked if the Provincial Government could not offer a subsidy to cover such a publication. Mr Bowes stated that we had been through the problems of having Government sponsorship and had had the unhappy period of the slow death of the Quarterly. We were now on our own and beholding to no one, and for his part was quite happy with the present state of affairs.

Reports were read from the following societies covering the year's activities since the last convention, by their respective delegates:- Alberni & District, East Kootenay, Gulf Islands, West Kootenay, Vancouver, and Victoria. There was representation but no report from Burnaby and Nanaimo. There was no representation from Golden. (These reports are noted under Society Notes and Comments during the year. - Ed.)

Mrs Jordon asked that Convention dates be revised and set for two weeks earlier. The President stated that this would be taken up by the New Council.

Moved Leeming, seconded Mrs Evans that the meeting adjourn at 12.00 noon. Carried.

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Minutes of the First Council Meeting of the 1971-72 season of the B.C. Historical Association held May 28th 1971 in the Provincial Museum at 5.15 p.m.

Present: Mr Ford (Alberni); Mr F. Street (Burnaby); Mr New and Mrs Claxton (Gulf Islands); Mrs Jordon and Mr Hunter (East Kootenay); Mr Cooling (Nanaimo); Miss E. Johnson (West Kootenay); Mr Brammall, Mrs Brammall, Mrs Bowes, Mrs Roff and Mr Yandle (Vancouver); Mr Leeming Mr German, Mr Andrews and Mr Nash (Victoria).

Mr Brammall called the meeting to order and there was considerable discussion on the question of society representation. Mr Brammall stated that the representation was set out in the constitution, and alternate delegates could not be considered for the Executive. The Constitution allowed for Treasurer, Secretary and Editor to be elected from delegates at large.

The election proceeded by Mr New taking the chair. As had been requested at previous elections, those positions that would be filled by delegates at large (so that they may have voting privileges for the balance of the election) were dealt with first. Sec. and Editor: Mr Yandle; Treasurer: Mrs P. Brammall; President: Mr R. Brammall; 1st Vice-Pres: Mr G. German; 2nd Vice-Pres.: Mrs Roff; Executive members: Mr F. Street, Mr Nash.

Mr Brammall as reelected president opened the business of the new Council with the matter referred by the Annual General Meeting, namely revision of dates for the next Convention. After discussion, it was decided that the next convention in Port Alberni be held on May 11th, 12th and 13th, but Mr Ford and Mr Yandle were to confer should there be any reason these dates are not satisfactory to the Alberni Society.

The Secretary reported on a request that he had received from an artist for sponsorship to obtain a Koerner Foundation grant. His work takes him all over the province for the purpose of painting historic houses and writing a history of each such house. It was moved Leeming, seconded Cooling that as the person lived in Vancouver, the Council members in the Vancouver area investigate and act accordingly. - Carried.



Mr German agreed to remain as Chairman of the Membership Committee. He reported on his activities last year and wondered just how far he should go in seeking affiliations. A number of societies throughout the province called themselves historical societies, when in effect they were museum organizations. This was to be left to his own judgement, and he was promised the cooperation of Council to supply any leads that might be worthy of affiliation.

It was moved Mrs Jordon, seconded Ford that the Treasurer mail the two contestants in the Essay Competition - Miss E. Norcross, Nanaimo, and Rev. Cyril Williams, Vancouver, a cheque each for \$50.00. - Carried.

Moved New, seconded Leeming that the Editor investigate electric staplers and if he found one advantageous to his work to go ahead and purchase same. - Carried.

Moved Ford, seconded Mrs Brammall that meeting adjourn at 6.00 p.m. - Carried.

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#### SOCIETY NOTES AND COMMENTS

ALBERNI The 1970-71 year began most auspiciously when the brief submitted by our Society and supported by many local organizations, resulted in the announcement that a museum would be Port Alberni's Centennial project. After an exploratory trip to view other museums, a committee recommended it be revised to a library-museum complex, which is now in the planning stage.

The steady influx of acquisitions having depleted our working area, the City Council granted us the temporary use of a building. It has proved invaluable for work involved in editing the memoirs of Mr George Bird, who came in 1892 to work at B.C.'s first paper mill. Towards this project we have received our fourth annual grant from the Community Arts Council, and a Koerner Foundation grant last year.

The Sproat Lake petroglyphs have formed the nucleus of the Society's exhibit at the Community Arts Festival currently in progress. Ceramic pendants and pins, and recently designed hasti-notes carry out this theme.

It is most gratifying that the numerous and highly effective civic efforts of our President, Mrs Adams, were given recognition. She was proclaimed "Citizen of the Year".

GULF ISLANDS Our membership remains at about fifty, with an average attendance of eighteen at meetings on the various islands. The Society's annual bursary of \$100 was awarded to Miss Jean Azak of Canyon City, who, after a neglected childhood and the bewildering experience of foster homes and various schools, has arrived at a point where she has proved a help to other new-comers and, despite academic difficulties, has been accepted at Capilano College for a general business course.

During the summer the Society was approached by U.B.C.'s Linguistic Department for assistance in its effort to record changes in our language

usage in the last hundred years. A number of common objects were described and persons of various ages asked to name them. Mr Nep Grimmer and Mr Victor Menzies, representing the over-seventy group, made a splendid contribution, turning their thoughts back to their childhood, as they recorded agricultural terms long obsolete, while Mrs Norris Amies for the forty year old group, recorded the current adult vocabulary. Unfortunately a suitable eighteen year old could not be found, whose contribution should have rounded out the plan.

At the request of South Pender pioneer families, the Parks Board was approached, asking that a "Point of Interest" sign be placed to mark the old Indian trail over which their canoes, and later the White Man's row-boats, were portaged between Bedwell and Browning Harbours. North Pender pioneers used this route to shorten the journey to Sidney, hauling their open boats over on skids to continue under sail if they were lucky, otherwise by man-power only, some twenty miles or more. A favourable reply has been received and it is hoped that this marker, the first of its kind on the Gulf Islands, will shortly be erected.

CRESTON AND DISTRICT The Creston and District Historical Association was created on March 14th of the Centennial Year. Members of the East Kootenay Association attended the inaugural meeting on that date and acted in an advisory capacity. The ruling chief of the Lower Kootenay Band will be made Honorary President, the present Chief being Christopher Luke. At the first regular meeting of the society Mr Bert Hobden presented the Society with a gavel that he had hand-crafted from apple-wood procured from a tree planted at the turn of the century by pioneer Mr Geo. Hockley. Mr H. Dodd reported on a meeting which he had had with Mr W. Ireland, Provincial Archivist, during which Mr Ireland gave valuable advice regarding incorporation of the society as well as various activities which might be carried out.

Future plans include an archive room which will be provided and furnished, with the help of the Kiwanis Club, in the Community Library Building, in which all materials will be housed and catalogued. The Society looks forward in the coming year to holding some public meetings and making several field trips to various points of historical interest.

EAST KOOTENAY Prior to the Queen's visit in May, the R.C.M.P. had a work bee and did a lot of cleaning up at the Fort Steele Cemetery, with assistance from Bob Jeffrey on behalf of the Historical Association. More work is planned on both the Fort Steele and Wild Horse cemeteries.

The Association is also discussing the possibility of members of the Association, during the busy season, giving information and directions to visitors at Fort Steele, in a voluntary capacity.

(Ed.: Mrs Candace House, of Glendale, California, author of The Galbraiths and the Kootenays, attended the Convention in Victoria last month and indicated that she intended to visit the East Kootenay Association afterwards.)

NANAIMO Mrs F. McGirr addressed the May meeting on the history of Wallace Street, Nanaimo. As usual, the notice for this meeting included a line drawing by Mr W. Barraclough, this time a picture of an early business house on Wallace Street.

The field trip will be held in Ladysmith this year.

WEST KOOTENAY Trail city records, which were due for destruction, have been shared between the Rossland Museum, Selkirk College, and the West Kootenay Branch of the Historical Association. Trail's share is at present in the care of President Edwards in his home.

At the April meeting of the society, Mrs Helen Peachey showed slides of her trip last summer to England, Switzerland and then to the Passion Play at Oberammergau.

At the May meeting there was discussion on a letter requesting co-operation, with the National Historic Sites Service, in compiling an inventory of buildings in British Columbia which were built before 1914. The Society decided to welcome teams of photographers and architectural students who would be travelling through the interior during the summer, and help in any way they could.

A member of the Trail Horsemen's Society requested the Historical Society's support on the development of trails off the highways for hiking and horseback riding in southern B.C. This might be linked with the Historical Society's interest in the old Dewdney Trail continuing through to Fort Steele. Contacts have been made with the Provincial Government and the May meeting agreed that it should cooperate.

The speaker at the May meeting was Mr Andrew R. Waldie who reminisced about his early memories of Nelson and Trail. Newly arrived from Scotland in 1907 at age 14 he picked up odd jobs on the small fruit farms around Nelson. After a business course in Belleville, Ontario, he returned to the district and eventually started office work at the CM&S plant Tadanac. He was sent to Kimberly and district in 1914 by CM&S Co., and in 1922, with his brother, he bought Mr "Daddy" Warren's business in Trail. This has developed into an insurance and real estate business now known as Waldie Agencies, ably carried on by his son Allan. Mr Waldie, Sr. retired in 1965.

VANCOUVER At the Society's meeting in May, Dr Roy Daniells, author of the recently published "Alexander Mackenzie and the Northwest" gave an address entitled "A Literary Bloke's View of Alexander Mackenzie".

The Vancouver Society proposes to sponsor in the fall, in cooperation with Douglas College, New Westminster, a night school course on the methods involved in researching, writing and publishing local history.

VICTORIA At their January meeting Mr James K. Nesbitt, a well known Victorian, spoke on his chosen subject "A Look Back at 1871", which focussed on the few critical years when there was considerable controversy over

three questions - Should we remain a Crown Colony? Should we become a part of the United States? Should we join the Dominion of Canada?

In February, Mr Cecil Clark, following the centennial theme, traced back over the century the police work of the Province of B.C.

At the Victoria Society's March meeting, Col. G.S. Andrews spoke on the subject "Joseph Trutch - the First Civilian Surveyor-General of the Mainland Colony of British Columbia".

At their April meeting Commander A.G. Coning addressed a thrilled audience on "Commodore Anson's Pacific Voyage, 1740-1744".

The May meeting was cancelled to provide more time for the Victoria Society to host the May 1971 Convention of the B.C. Historical Association.

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#### JOTTINGS

At the Annual General Meeting the question was raised in regard to the preservation of our old houses. In the April 1971 issue of "Museum Round-Up" there is an informative article on the subject "The Preservation of Historic Buildings in British Columbia" by Allen Astles, Dept. of Geography, University of Victoria.

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Another item from the "Museum Round-Up" "While Golden's museum is still in the planning stage its Historical Society, under High School teacher, Peter Miller, is building up a substantial trust fund through various productive fund-raising projects. Last year the small community held a Walkathon for the Museum that brought in \$7000 for starters. Another source of income is realized from sale of a beautiful series of information bulletins compiled by C.H. Graham, and printed locally on slick paper which is 3-hole punched for easy binding".

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From Dr R.H. Roy, Dept. of History, University of Victoria: "I am not sure if you are aware of a publication recently published by the University of Victoria. It is the second volume of a bibliography of British Columbia..... Your Association might be interested also to know that we have started work on the third and final volume which will cover the period from 1900 to about 1965. This latest volume is being undertaken by Mr J.C. Lort, formerly Head Librarian of the Victoria Public Library. The work referred to is entitled "Navigations, Traffiques and Discoveries 1774-1848", a guide to publications relating to the area now British Columbia; compiled by Gloria M. Strathern. It is obtainable from the Social Sciences Research Centre, University of Victoria. Price \$18.50."

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John Raybould of the Vancouver Historical Society sends a clipping from the Alberni Valley Times, Monday May 10th, 1971, entitled "90-year-old Diary found" "..... A diary covering a period of the 1880's into the '90's has been found in a home on Service Road and a veritable mine

of information has been uncovered. The journal goes back to the year 1882 and presents a scene in which Indians outnumbered white men, travel was on foot and by Indian canoe and schooners sailed the seas.

Mr and Mrs Dan Cristea have no idea how the papers, the journal and correspondence, came to be in the house which they bought about six years ago and have since remodelled. One of their three children found the papers tucked back under the rafters in a corner.

Beside Mr Cuillod's papers were files of letters and accounts from the late A.W. Neill's Pioneer Feed Store.

The Guilloid letters and diary are of particular interest for the light they throw on the early contact of the Indians with officialdom.

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Mr and Mrs Gerry Wellburn of Duncan are celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary on June 5th, 1971. The News would like to pass on to them congratulations from their many friends in the B. C. Historical Association.

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B.C. BOOKS OF INTEREST, compiled by Frances Woodward, Vancouver Hist. Soc.

BREDIN, Thomas. From sea to sea: Alexander Mackenzie. (Canadian pageant series) Toronto, Longmans, 1970. 117 pp. \$3.95.

CLARK, Cecil. Tales of the British Columbia Provincial Police. Sidney, Gray's Publishing, 1971. 183 pp. \$7.50.

COOK BICENTENARY SYMPOSIUM, Australian Academy of Science, 1969. Captain Cook, navigator and scientist; papers presented at the Cook Bicentenary Symposium, Australian Academy of Science, Canberra, May 1969; edited by G.M. Badger. Canberra, Australian University Press, 1970. 143 pp. \$5.00

GRAVES, S.H. On the White Pass pay-roll. (Chicago, Lakeside Press, 1908) New York, Paladin Press, 1970. 258 pp.

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## LORD DUFFERIN - GODFATHER OF CONFEDERATION

Text of the British Columbia Historical Association's Luncheon Address given by the President, Mr H. R. Brammall, on May 28th, 1971.

In this year of 1971, when we are celebrating the 100th anniversary of our Confederation in the Dominion of Canada, it behooves us to reflect equally as much on those who helped to maintain Confederation, as on those who conceived and achieved it.

While one should in no way minimize the vision of the founding fathers of 1867 and those who cajoled British Columbia into Confederation in 1871, all too little recognition has been granted those who did so much to preserve, strengthen, and perpetuate the Canadian nation. As our Queen mentioned in May of 1971, it was ".....the beginning of an experiment in federation, that most difficult of all political structures. That this structure has survived and flourished for a century is a tribute to the good sense and political maturity of all Canadians".<sup>1</sup> Lord Dufferin, the third Governor-General of Canada, was perhaps one of the last non-Canadians who had any significant role in maintaining the Canadian nation as he did during his administration from 1872 to 1878.

But first one should consider his background before Queen Victoria appointed him as Governor-General in 1872, following which we should go on to the Canadian political scene of the 1870's and Lord Dufferin's role in the same.

Frederick Temple Blackwood, the future Lord Dufferin, was born in 1826. His father, Price Blackwood, was a naval man by training, a baronet by birth, and heir to extensive Irish estates, which had been built up by the Blackwood family over many generations. In sharp contrast to his father, Dufferin's mother, Helen Sheridan, was a granddaughter of Richard Brinsley Sheridan and as such was a member of the brilliant Sheridan literary family. On the one hand Dufferin received a legacy of title and material comforts from his father, but it was through his mother that he inherited the literary and artistic abilities upon which his future career was built. His respect for his mother bordered on that of adulation, and throughout the years the two maintained an exceptionally close relationship and correspondence which lasted until her death in 1867. In her memory he published in 1894 a book of her poems and verses and even built on his Irish Clondeboye estate a sizeable memorial tower to her called "Helen's Tower", in which were engraved specially composed poetical inscriptions by Browning and Tennyson.

Although he was born in Italy, he grew up largely in England with periodic visits to the family's estate in Ireland. He was educated at Eton and Christ Church, Oxford, where he became president of the Oxford Union.

A liberal in politics, he visited Ireland in 1847 specifically to see at first hand the ravages of the potato famine and from that time on he became increasingly involved in Irish questions especially the tenants'

1. The Vancouver Sun. May 12, 1971, p. 10.

rights controversy. Despite his obvious interest as a landlord and his understandable demands for "justice" for the landlords, as a liberal in politics he showed his sincere concern for the impoverished Irish tenantry and offered many suggestions concerning and supporting remedial legislation.

Through his mother's sisters he gained easy entrée into London society, and with his increasing political connections he became a Lord-in-waiting at Court in 1849. In 1850 he was appointed an English peer taking his place in the House of Lords as Baron Clandeboye after his beloved Irish estate.

An inveterate traveller, in 1856 he voyaged on his yacht, the "Foam", to Iceland (where the "Foam" was given a helpful tow by Prince Napoleon in his steam yacht) and as far north as Jan Mayen and Spitzbergen. His published account of this trip in "Letters from High Latitudes"<sup>2</sup> not only confirmed his literary reputation, but also revealed him as a fearless venturer and indeed a man of the world. In the Sheridan tradition of lampoon his mother wrote in 1863 "Lispings from Low Latitudes, or Extracts from the Journal of the Honourable Impulsia Gushington".<sup>3</sup> In 1858 he travelled extensively with his mother in the Mediterranean on his yacht the "Erminia", a vessel of 220 tons.

By 1860 he was the British representative on a joint French-English commission in Syria, where his diplomatic skills were proven in the various negotiations leading to the settlement of the tribal strife in that area between Christians and Mohammedans.

By 1862 he had married Harriot Hamilton, who is known to us today chiefly as a result of her "My Canadian Journal, 1872-1878", which was published in 1891. In true Victorian fashion they had seven children.

From 1864 to 1866 he was Under-Secretary for India, in 1866 Under-Secretary for War, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster from 1868 to 1872, and in 1871 was created Earl of Dufferin.

The man who came to Canada in 1872 was therefore a man who moved in the highest society, was an accomplished speaker even in French and Latin, and more than a competent writer. Both amiable and tactful he had a great talent for diplomacy. He was very much the epitome of the Victorian gentleman. In our eyes, he and his prose were perhaps gushy and florid, but one must consider it as a sign of the times rather than any sign of inherent weakness as it may appear by today's standards.

His subsequent life is not part of our story, suffice it to say that when he left Canada in 1878 he was subsequently Ambassador to Russia, Ambassador to Turkey, British Commissioner to Egypt, Viceroy to India, Ambassador to Rome, and Ambassador to Paris. In 1888 he was created Marquess of Dufferin and Ava, and he died in 1902 at the age of 76.

On Lord Dufferin's arrival in Canada in 1872, Canadian politics were still dominated by Sir John A. Macdonald. However, the honeymoon

2. Dufferin, Lord. Letters from high latitudes.. London, John Murray, 1858.  
3. Mentioned in "Songs, poems, & verses by Helen, Lady Dufferin", London, John Murray, 1894, page 425.



of Confederation was somewhat over and the trials and tribulations of the arranged marriage had set in. Nova Scotia was restive and British Columbia, with which we are more concerned, was scarcely less so.

All will remember the fateful Article 11 of the British Columbia Terms of Union that:

"The Government of the Dominion undertake to secure the commencement simultaneously within two years from the date of the Union, of the construction of a railway from the Pacific towards the Rocky Mountains, and from such point as may be selected, east of the Rocky Mountains towards the Pacific, to connect the seaboard of British Columbia with the railway system of Canada; and further, to secure the completion of such Railway within ten years from the date of the Union."<sup>4</sup>

It is well known that Joseph William Trutch, as a provincial delegate to the Union discussions in Ottawa, had publicly stated that British Columbia would not be too concerned if the ten year period were exceeded, and in any event the railway was really the idea of others than the British Columbia negotiators, who viewed it as so much icing to the already acceptable terms. In retrospect, the concept of building such a railway across a largely unmapped continent is staggering to the imagination. But to finance such a railroad and construct it in such a short time to serve a mere 10,000 white inhabitants on the Pacific seaboard was nothing short of madness, not only in retrospect to ourselves, but also to the Liberal parliamentary opposition which fought it tooth and nail while in opposition and dragged their feet on it when they formed a government from 1874 to 1878. Few, except perhaps the Colonial Office in London, Sir John A. Macdonald, and certainly Lord Dufferin, were able to appreciate and support as an end in itself the grand design of a union from sea to sea as part of a British Empire encircling the globe. The Canadian proponents on the one hand, and the British Columbia citizens on the other hand, tended to look upon it more from what was to be got from it than from any motive of Empire. The fundamental materialistic basis of the Union is only too evident when one considers the acceptance of British Columbia's debts and liabilities by Canada, and the per capita cash payments to British Columbia with the population of B.C. deliberately falsified at 60,000 souls.

Sir John A. Macdonald may well have succeeded in his grand undertaking without any difficulty had it not been for the economic decline in the 1870's. However, the final straw that broke the camel's back was the untimely disclosures of electoral payments which really were bribery by railway interests, not to mention the American participation in the scheme, all of which is known as the Pacific Scandal. It is a sign of those times that the wrath of the opposition and public was concerned not so much that there had been huge sums of money paid by the railway interests at the time of the 1872 election, not so much that the railway was to be a private undertaking, but rather that Americans were involved in the matter. Until recent times Canada has perhaps not witnessed such

4. Howay, F.W. "British Columbia; from the earliest times to the present". Vancouver, S.J. Clarke Pub. Co., 1914. Vol. II, page 696.

a hysterical outburst as that during the Pacific Scandal against American investment and therefore American control.

Master though he was of tactical manoeuvring, Sir John A. Macdonald was unable to avoid the inevitable and was forced to resign in November of 1873. Lord Dufferin called upon Alexander Mackenzie to form a government, which was fully supported in the elections of January 1874.

Two years had passed and it was evident to the people of British Columbia that the railway was progressing with anything but dispatch. Although Esquimalt was named as the terminus as a gesture by Macdonald's Order-in-Council of June 7, 1873, no start had been made from the Pacific according to the Terms of Union. Mackenzie felt honour-bound to pursue the railway undertaking as a public enterprise despite his party's opposition to the railway when it was made a term of Union. However, the considerable opposition within his own party polarized around Blake who manoeuvred Mackenzie into the position of dealing with the railroad question only on the basis that there would be no increase in taxation, which was an obvious impossibility.

Superimposed on all of the foregoing difficulties was the not so innocent rivalry between Vancouver Island, where the majority of the population existed, and the Mainland. A mainland terminus would obviously spell the end of the dominance of the Island. The fact that it would cost \$20 million in Sandford Fleming's opinion to bridge the Straits (a cost of \$2,000 for each of the 10,000 odd white persons in British Columbia) did not daunt the demands of the Islanders.

With little tangible developments the Mackenzie administration sent party stalwart James Edgar to British Columbia early in 1874. Premier Walkem quarrelled with him and appealed over his head not to Ottawa but directly to London.

Both Lord Carnarvon, who was the Colonial Secretary not only prior to Confederation in 1867 but also from February 1874 to February 1878, and also Lord Dufferin viewed the entry of British Columbia into Confederation as being a tri-party arrangement involving the Colonial Office. Canada most certainly disagreed. In any event Lord Carnarvon rightly or wrongly offered to arbitrate in 1874 and his offer was begrudgingly accepted. The Carnarvon terms were quite simply as follows: construction of the Esquimalt-Nanaimo Railway, the pursuit of surveys for the main line with the utmost vigour, the construction of a trans-continental wagon road and telegraph immediately, and the expenditure of \$2 million a year in the Province of British Columbia on the railway after location, with the completion of the line to be by December 31st, 1890. These terms were accepted by both Canada and British Columbia.

Edward Blake, who had not been in the Liberal Cabinet at the time of the acceptance of the Carnarvon terms, severely castigated the terms as ".... imprudently liberal...." and complained bitterly that it was not the Colonial Secretary who had to raise the money but the Canadian government. And from 1874 on it was Blake rather than Prime Minister Mackenzie who controlled the Liberal Party.

The Esquimalt-Nanaimo Railway was becoming an increasingly sore point to the Vancouver Islanders to whom it was an integral part of the

trans-continental route. To the Mackenzie government the Esquimalt-Nanaimo railway was to be the price of modification of the Terms of Union. Exactly why it was promised became increasingly obscure. But in any event the Esquimalt-Nanaimo Railway Bill failed to pass in the Senate in 1875 which could not help but appear most sinister to the citizens of British Columbia. To compensate, an Order-in-Council of September 20th, 1875 offered British Columbia \$750,000 in lieu of the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway.

Finally in January of 1876 British Columbia rejected outright Ottawa's overtures of settlement, threatened secession and once again petitioned London.

The difficulties were further exacerbated in March of 1876, when a Federal Order-in-Council spoke in almost belligerent terms concerning the "... appalling obligations..." of the Federal Government as well as the necessity of "... avoiding disaster from a premature announcement and a reckless prosecution of the Pacific Railway".

The following passage from a letter from Lord Dufferin to Lord Carnarvon on April 6th, 1876 not only sums up Dufferin's view on the problem but also makes clear that the famous British Columbia tour in 1876 was Dufferin's idea:

"When therefore Canada says to B.C. you must not be too hard upon us, but allow us to feel our way, and extend our railway *pari passu* with the gradual march of population westward, and not drive us into damaging our credit, or destroying the principal inducement we can hold out to immigrants in the shape of immunity from taxation, she does not make an unreasonable appeal; - nor is it one to which I think B.C. herself would have proved deaf, if it had been kindly and affectionately urged. The force of these considerations are too obvious to be resisted and in their conversations with me the B.C. members have fully recognized them, but Mackenzie's irritability of temper, and want of largeness and generosity of feeling, has landed us in the present mess.

"The question remains what is to be done. The only thing that I can suggest that I should go myself this year to British Columbia, that I should come to a precise and complete understanding with my Ministers, and obtain from them an authority to re-iterate the promises they already made last year to B.C. at your instigation. (That is to say the instigation of Lord Carnarvon.) I have no doubt that if I were to appear upon the scene, and in my own person, and with your sanction were to pledge Canada afresh to her engagements, that B.C. could be satisfied, and that she would believe me even though she has so completely lost faith in the asseverations of my Ministers."<sup>5</sup>

In formulating the official announcement of his trip to British Columbia Dufferin conferred with Mackenzie, Cartwright, the Minister of Finance, and Edward Blake. Of the meeting he says:

5. "Dufferin Carnarvon Correspondence", Toronto, The Champlain Society, 1955. page 212.

"... I found that all three were possessed of a terror that the graphic language in which their obligations were dwelt upon and reiterated, should unduly inflate the expectations of the British Columbia Govt. (sic), and render the revival of a good understanding more impossible than ever. Were their intentions as honest as we could wish them, they would not of course feel so acutely as they have done, the reminder which has been conveyed to them, but I fear we are dealing with very loose fish."<sup>6</sup>

Dufferin's triumphal journey to British Columbia is all too well known.

Arriving in Victoria he was greeted with the legendary triumphal arch bearing the words "Our Railroad or Separation" under which he refused to go unless the 'S' was changed to an 'R' so that it would read "Our Railroad or Reparation". The foregoing incident more clearly than any other indicates that Dufferin was hardly a passive Governor-General but would take a stand in public as well as private in supporting British Columbia's rights under the Terms of Union.

After an extensive trip up the British Columbia coast with visits to Nanaimo, Bute Inlet to view the proposed terminus of the railway, Metlakatla, Port Simpson, the Queen Charlotte Islands, he visited New Westminster, the Fraser Valley, the Cornwall Farm at Ashcroft, and Kamloops, following which he returned to Victoria.

While on his way up the Fraser he dashed off the following to Lord Carnarvon on September 6th, 1876:

"I am now on my way up the Fraser River and shall not stop until I reach Kamloops ..... there is nowhere any serious discontent with Canada, except amongst the inhabitants of Victoria, and this has solely been generated by their disappointment about the Nanaimo and Esquimalt Railway.

Now that I am acquainted with the conditions of that part of the question, I consider Mackenzie most culpable in having offered to build it.<sup>7</sup>

The expenditure of a million of money - and it would scarcely cost less - upon such an enterprise would be absurd. It leads through a country as barren and as difficult as the most difficult portion of the Cascade Range. There could never be any traffic on it for years and years, as Nanaimo is an excellent port, and the only benefit conferred even upon Victoria itself would be the brute expenditure of the construction money in its neighbourhood. As for the rest of the population of British Columbia, there will be no difficulty with them for the present. They will be perfectly content provided any real progress can be made with the commencement of the main line ..."<sup>8</sup>

6. "Dufferin Carnarvon Correspondence" page 232.

7. Dufferin minimizes the fact that it was Macdonald by the Order-in-Council of June 7, 1873 which set Esquimalt as the terminus.

8. "Dufferin Carnarvon Correspondence" page 258.

His great British Columbia speech of September 20th, 1876 lasted a full two and a quarter hours. I commend to you a detailed reading of the actual speech<sup>9</sup> not only for its insight into British Columbia of that time, but also as a masterpiece of conciliation and diplomatic persuasion.

On his return to Ottawa from British Columbia in the fall of 1876 Dufferin was increasingly insistent that the Canadian Government abide by its obligations. Pierre Berton in his recent book "The National Dream"<sup>10</sup> mentions an impromptu speech given by Dufferin at the time of his return from B.C. at the railway station in Ottawa, at which time he went so far as to reflect upon government policy. By adroitly absconding with the only verbatim report of his remarks Dufferin extracted himself from a complete confrontation with his government. However, by November Dufferin had virtually come to blows with Blake and Mackenzie and privately criticized them bitterly for their decidedly liberal and improper interpretation of their various obligations.

Dufferin optimistically suggested that the further difficulties with regard to the Esquimalt and Nanaimo railway might be amicably arbitrated once again through the auspices of Lord Carnarvon. Mackenzie, once bitten was twice shy and refused.

There is no doubt that Lord Dufferin felt that the Government of Canada was derelict in its obligations to British Columbia. His support of British Columbia behind the scenes culminated in an extraordinary confrontation between Lord Dufferin and Mackenzie with Dufferin going so far as to openly criticize the ambiguity of the September 1875 Order-in-Council offering British Columbia \$750,000 in cash in lieu of the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railroad, a deliberate ambiguity by which Blake disguised the fact that the \$750,000 was not merely payment for no Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway as British Columbia took it to be, but was for further delays as well.

Writing to Lord Carnarvon on November 23rd, 1876, Dufferin had this to say:

"Last Saturday I had a most disagreeable and stormy interview with Blake and the Prime Minister. Not only would they not go beyond their two last Orders-in-Council of 20th September 1875 and 13th March 1876, but they intimated - and this is the first hint I have had of such a thing - that they intended the phrase 'delays which may may occur' to cover all delays however indefinite or posterior to the commencement of construction. This is pretty much what the B.C. petition accuses them of doing.

"At this announcement I confessed I completely lost my temper, and told them both in very harsh language what I thought of their principle of interpreting public documents. Mackenzie's aspect was simply pitiable and Blake was upon the point of crying, as he very readily does when he is excited."<sup>11</sup>

9. Leggo, William. The history of the administration of the... Earl of Dufferin. Montreal, Lovell Printing and Publishing, 1878. p.455.

10. Berton, Pierre. The national dream. Toronto, McClelland and Stewart, 1970. page 206.

11. Dufferin Carnarvon correspondence. page 310.

Unfortunately, by this time Blake had more or less made his point that Dufferin was obliged to accept the advice of his ministers. Although Dufferin's interest in the British Columbia question continued for the remaining two years of his term, he avoided further clashes with his ministers. The idea of further mediation by Carnarvon was quietly dropped and Dufferin did not make an official report.

The upshot of it all was that in December of 1876 Lord Carnarvon replied to Victoria's petition of January of 1876 by suggesting that the language was "... more severe and exaggerated ... than the circumstances perhaps justified". And Carnarvon went on to point out that the surveys were being carried out as expeditiously as possible, and that the question of the terminus required in essence further serious consideration.

Carnarvon's reply was certainly anything but encouraging to British Columbia and from that time on both Dufferin and Carnarvon tended to avoid any direct participation. Both British Columbia and Dufferin had gone too far.

During the year 1877 much progress was made on the railway. In October 1877 the locomotive the Countess of Dufferin was delivered to the Winnipeg area, and the surveys and preparatory studies of course continued.

In February of 1878 Lord Carnarvon resigned. In May 1878 Mackenzie rescinded the Order-in-Council of June 7th, 1873 which had designated Esquimalt as the terminus of the trans-continental railway. In August of 1878 came the renowned B.C. Secession resolution requiring compliance with the Carnarvon terms and a start of construction by May of 1879 failing which British Columbia would secede.

The Mackenzie administration was defeated in the election of September 17th, 1878 and Sir John A. Macdonald was sworn in once again as Prime Minister on October 17th, 1878 - two days before Lord Dufferin left at the end of his term.

In view of the foregoing is it true that Dufferin was a Godfather to British Columbia in the Canadian Confederation?

To be sure Dufferin left his mark in many small ways. In Canada there are innumerable Dufferin this's and that's: the more well known of which are of course Dufferin Terrace by the Chateau Frontenac Hotel in Quebec, Thomas Dufferin Pattullo, and of course last but not least, the new District Municipality of Dufferin outside Kamloops, incorporated in May of 1971. (There was even Frederick Temple Cornwall, apparently the son of the Ashcroft Cornwalls, christened at Christ Church in Victoria on the 20th of September 1876 and named in honour of Dufferin, Frederick Temple Blackwood.)

In the scheme of things, the foregoing are perhaps of minimal interest. On the grander scale, Dufferin was very clearly a friend of British Columbia in Ottawa, he supported the contractual rights of British Columbia under the Terms of Union to the point where Mackenzie asked him at the time of their row in November of 1876 whether or not he would prefer to choose another Prime Minister. Further pushing

Lord Dufferin could not do. Believing fervently in a Dominion from sea to sea, he supported the Canadian identity throughout the critical depression of the early 1870's and during the absence of a strong leader from the scene. The Liberal regime under Mackenzie was anything but effectual up to about 1875 or 1876 and from that time on until the defeat of the Liberal Government in 1878 the party was really torn by internal factions and run by Elake rather than Prime Minister Mackenzie.

In no small measure Dufferin reconciled the British Columbians not only through his connection with the Carnarvon terms in 1874, but as a direct result of his conciliation during his trip to B.C. in 1876. In short, he helped to bridge the critical hiatus of effective leadership during the Liberal administration from 1874 to 1878. Had Dufferin not taken upon himself improperly to intervene, as he unquestionably had no business in doing as a Governor-General with a parliamentary government, the history of British Columbia may well have been decidedly different. And it is with this in mind that we should consider Lord Dufferin as a Godfather of British Columbia within the Canadian Confederation.

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