

# B.C. historical NEWS

NOVEMBER 1972



WHERE WAS IT?

BRITISH COLUMBIA HISTORICAL NEWS

Vol. 6 No. 1

November 1972

Published November, February, April and June each year by the British Columbia Historical Association, and distributed free to members of all affiliated societies by the secretaries of their respective societies. Subscription rate to non-members: \$3.50 per year, including postage, directly from the editor, Mr P.A. Yandle, 3450 West 20th Ave., Vancouver 8, B.C.

Executive

Hon. Patron:	Lieut-Gov. J.R. Nicholson
Hon. President:	Dr Margaret Ormsby
President:	Col. G.S. Andrews
Past President:	Mr H.R. Brammall
1st Vice-President:	Mr F. Street
2nd Vice-President:	Mr J. Roff
Secretary:	Mr P.A. Yandle
Editors:	Mr & Mrs P.A. Yandle
Recording Secretary:	Mr J. Gibbard
Treasurer:	Mrs H.R. Brammall
Executive Members:	Mrs Clare McAllister
	Mr H.B. Nash

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Editorial	2
Minutes	2
Society Notes and Comments	4
Jottings	6
Obituary: Bertrand W. Sinclair	7
B.C. Books of Interest	9
Book Reviews: About Victoria and Van. Island	10
Cariboo Mileposts	11
From Shaman to Modern Medicine	12
Group of Seven: Calendar	13
Kamloops Cattlemen	13
The Rush for Spoils	14
The Naturalists discover British Columbia by P. Akrigg	17

AN INCENTIVE

\* The cover series for Volume 6 Nos. 1-4, drawn by R. Genn, \*  
 \* will have sketches of buildings throughout the province that \*  
 \* are of historic significance. They may be still standing or \*  
 \* they may be only a memory. A book prize will be awarded to the \*  
 \* member who can place all four buildings. More details will \*  
 \* follow in subsequent issues. \*

## EDITORIAL

1972 must go down in the history of British Columbia as a most significant milestone with the new Government now installed in Victoria. The long regime of Social Credit is now a thing of the past and the history of its tenure will in the years to come provide a ready field for many speculative works since there has never been a recorded record of the House proceedings.

We now look to the New Democrats to institute a Hansard that will bring our parliamentary proceedings into the full light of scrutiny. There are many other avenues that we might look forward to for changes in policy that should vitally affect every historian, amateur or professional, in regard to public service both in the Archives and the Provincial Library.

We wish the Government every success and know that it will not please everyone, but maybe the historian will emerge from the ignored obscurity into the sunlight of recognition and co-operation.

- - - - -  
MINUTES

Minutes of the Second Meeting of the Council of the B.C. Historical Association for 1972-73, held in Victoria, Sunday November 5th, 1972.

Present: G.S. Andrews (Pres.); F. Street (1st Vice-Pres.); J. Roff (2nd Vice-Pres.); H.R. Brammall (Past Pres.); H.B. Nash and Mrs Clare McAllister (Exec. members); Mrs Anne Yandle (Co-editor); P. Yandle (Sec.); J. Gibbard (Rec. Sec.); D. New (Gulf Islands); K. Leemi ng and A. Slocomb (Victoria); Mrs J. Gresko (Vancouver); Visitors: Mrs Helen Claxton, Mrs Donald New, Mrs F. Street.

With President Andrews in the chair, the meeting was convened at 1.30 p.m. Moved New, seconded Brammall, that the minutes of the first meeting be adopted as circulated. Carried.

President Yandle of the Vancouver Historical Society reported on behalf of the host society that the arrangements for the 1973 Convention, to be held at the University of B.C., May 24, 25, and 26, now included reservation of meeting and reception space at the Totem Park Convention Centre, accommodation for out-of-town members at Walter Gage Residence, and an evening at the University Women's Club, Hycroft. Mrs Gresko urged that some attempt be made to introduce growth or change, referring to "learning activities", and suggested that this organization should serve professional historians in somewhat the same way that bird watchers serve ornithologists. Perhaps we could begin by making more of the annual reports from member associations by setting up study-groups to examine two or three of their more interesting projects to stimulate similar projects elsewhere. Mr Yandle declared that entertainment and attraction of members is important and that "field trips", for example, while very popular, certainly did not lack educational value. He suggested that study groups, if introduced, could be left over till the Sunday. The Chairman added that since this type of activity would appeal only to a minority, it was appropriate it should be left to the end, but Mr Roff objected that since this minority would be mainly the younger members it should surely be put at the beginning. Mrs Gresko added that at least the visit to Hycroft could be used as a beginning by making a study of the history of the building and of the motivation

and procedures of the University Women's Club relative thereto. Mr Leeming and others felt that the best way to attract more members was to contact likely persons and invite them to attend, but Mr Street said "improvement" of the product" was the best way to "attract customers". Finally it was moved by Street, seconded Leeming, that Council approves Mrs Gresko's ideas in principle, and asks that Vancouver study how they can best be introduced in 1973. Carried.

The Chairman then raised the question whether we should this year be asking other local societies to join the Association. Campbell River and Atlin were specifically mentioned, but Mrs McAllister thought we should seek government assistance or a grant to find out where historical and museum societies or other evidences of interest exist. Mr Brammall said a former member of the Archives staff had already done much of the needed search; with Mr Yandle adding the comment that he had received several requests for membership lists but that the Association's policy was not to give out such lists.

Mr Leeming offered the advice to the Vancouver Convention committee that it not try to keep expenses down, but rather to make charges cover costs, item by item. This met with general approval.

Mr Yandle having asked for instructions, Leeming moved, seconded by Nash, that the Secretary be authorized to negotiate and order the printing of 10,000 membership cards, to be distributed to the member societies as required. Carried.

Mr Brammall reported that he was still negotiating with the Canadian Government to exempt the Association from any liabilities under the Federal Income Tax Act. He had obtained an exemption from customs and import duties on necessary equipment and supplies, specifically tape recorders as requested by the Victoria Branch at the last General Meeting. Mr Slocomb added that the Victoria Society now understands we have the exemption from customs and federal taxes and he has therefore ordered electronic equipment from Hong Kong on that basis. The two gentlemen were thanked for the Association by the Chairman.

After the Secretary read a letter from Mrs Nabel Jordon regretting her inability to attend because of her husband's illness, President Andrews agreed to write a suitable letter in reply. The Secretary then summarized correspondence re. a proposal to get Canadian Postage Stamps issued in commemoration of Edgar Dewdney and/or the Crows Nest Pass (and possibly other passes in the Canadian Rockies). It was agreed that the Secretary should follow this up as energetically as possible, with the advice and assistance of Mrs Yandle and Mrs Gresko.

The Secretary next reported that he had followed up negotiations begun by the late Gordon Bowes to have W. Champness: To Cariboo and Back, reprinted from The Leisure Hour: a Family Journal of Instruction and Recreation of April 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29, 1865, by Glen Adams of Fairfield, Wash., and published by his Ye Galleon Press. Present arrangements are to produce it in book form with portrait of and dedication to Gordon Bowes (by P. Brammall and P. Yandle, respectively) and an introduction by Professor Wm. R. Sampson, University of Alberta. It is expected to be ready by the end of this year and the Association will receive 500 copies to be sold to members only at approx. \$6.00-\$7.00 each. After congratulations and expressions of approval, and after Mr Leeming had suggested distribution

should be left to the 1973 Convention and the Chairman that the branches should be asked to take orders and forward them to the Secretary, it was decided to leave the distribution method to be decided at the next meeting, when the whole picture would be clearer.

Mr Slocomb asked for clarification of the fee for member institutions. The Secretary explained that because they get many services from the affiliated society without contributing anything to it, institutions in B.C. are being charged a \$10.00 membership fee in their respective societies.

Under New Business, a discussion took place on what the attitude of the new Government in Victoria would be toward the Provincial Library and Archives. Several views were expressed on what procedures might take place for the benefit of all concerned. Arising from the discussion a committee was formed, comprising of Mrs Anne Yandle as chairman, together with Messrs Roff and Slocomb, with power to add one more member if desired. This Committee would bring a report and recommendations to the next meeting of Council.

Mr and Mrs New next proposed a vote of thanks to Mr and Mrs Andrews for hosting the meeting so graciously and congratulated Mr Andrews on his invitation to give a three-months course on aerial mapping in Recife, Brazil, during December, January and February, with expressions of good wishes. Both motions were met with hearty applause and many individual exclamations of gratitude, congratulations and good wishes.

After agreeing that the next meeting should be at the call of the Secretary, the meeting adjourned on motion of Lemming and Nash at 4.40 p.m.

#### - - - - -

#### SOCIETY NOTES AND COMMENTS

GULF ISLANDS At the first fall 1972 meeting, which was held on 22nd October, the guest speaker was Steven Anderson, one of two Saltspring Island school-boys who spent the summer in Sandon. Mr Anderson estimated that some 8000 visitors came to Sandon in summer 1972. Donations were received, enabling the purchase of materials for re-roofing one of the old buildings. In 1898, this busy mining town was served by two railways and had about 3000 residents, with some 7000 in the surrounding area using it as their supply depot. Numerous saloons and hotels met the miners' and prospectors' needs for relaxation.

At this meeting it was announced that Myra Pierre and Thomas Hans were the recipients of the two \$100 native Indian bursaries provided by the Branch. Due to complications of the ferry schedule only members from Pender and Galiano attended this meeting.

WEST KOOTENAY In September the West Kootenay Historical Society visited the Kootenay Doukhobor Historical Society's 1971 Centennial project. The old style kitchen/dining room with its bricked-in stove and bake-oven has still to be furnished. The second floor rooms are fitted up with beds, differing over a span of years, together with clothing of the different periods. A second house will be built to match, making a complete unit with the outbuildings.

The October meeting was addressed by Mrs Thomas (Alta) Weir on the history of the fur trade, a most interesting survey of the years between David Thompson's arrival in Canada in 1784 and Governor George Simpson's regime. The adventures of such famous pioneers as David Thompson and John Jacob Astor were interspersed with Mrs Weir's reminiscences of her childhood in the area where important facets of the rivalry became confrontations, complicated by the politics of the War of 1812.

NANAIMO On June 24th the Society went on a field trip to the Chemainus Valley. Points of interest visited were: The replica of the 1862 Chemainus Water Wheel; the viewpoint on the McMillan Bloedel parking lot - the original site of the mill manager's garden; Robbers' Rock where Jack Adair robbed the paymaster of the railway construction payroll; Conway House; Locomotive Park and "Locoy No. 1044" built in 1924; Chemainus Chinatown. Lunch at the Horseshoe Bay Inn built in 1899, whose register contains such names as John D. Rockefeller, Andrew Carnegie, Pauline Johnson and the King of Siam. St. Michaels and All Angels' Church with its fine stained-glass window in memory of E.J. Palmer; Campbell House - the first hospital; a portion of the Nanaimo Trail in Fuller Lake Park; Chemainus Prairie now called Westholme first settled in 1859; the Mt. Sicker townsite which in 1903 was bigger than either Duncan or Chemainus. The trip ended at the spot called the Ghost Walk where legend has it that a ghostly couple and a little girl in the mode of 60 years ago walk the hill at night singing "Row, row, row your boat".

At the September meeting Mr Earle Westwood gave a talk on his grandfather, Joseph Westwood who settled at East Wellington in 1864. Mr Westwood, a blacksmith by trade, farmed at the old homestead in East Wellington where his family grew up and were well known citizens of Nanaimo. The family were very musical and took part in many local concerts. The old homestead and barn at East Wellington were destroyed by a bush fire in 1945. The family still own a large farm on Westwood Road, while other sections of the original 650 acre farm have been sold during the years. Coal rights were also sold many years ago.

Mr Ainslie Helmcken spoke at the October meeting about his grandfather Dr John S. Helmcken.

VANCOUVER The 1972-73 Executive of the Vancouver Historical Society took office in June; they consist of the following persons; Mr P.A. Yandle, Pres.; Mr R.D. Watt, Vice-Pres.; Mr M.F.H. Halleran, Sec.; Mrs I. Howard, Treas; Mr N.G. Stacey, Membership Sec.; Mrs J. Gresko, Publicity; Mrs F. Tucker, Social; Prof. J. Lawrence, Publishing; Miss E. Walker, Newsletter; Prof. J. Gibbard, B.C. Hist.Ass. Representative, and Miss F. Woodward, Vancouver Museums Assn Rep; Prof. G. Elliott, Past. Pres.

During the summer months no membership meetings were held. However, the Society ran two outings in lieu of meetings, one in June and the second in August. The 17th June outing was a bus and ferry trip to Squamish and Woodfibre ably conducted by Past.Pres. Gordon Elliott. The second outing was an informal picnic at Heritage Village in Burnaby. Representatives of the Society attended the dedication of the tombstone of "Gassy Jack" Deighton at New Westminster on 30th September. The handsome granite marker, partially financed by the Society, was commissioned by "Gassy Jack's" biographers.

The regular membership meetings of the Society commenced on 27th Sept. when Mr Gerald Savory of the Centre for Continuing Education at U.B.C. gave a talk on the "Pacific Cable, an Item in the C.P.R.'s Hidden Agenda". The following meeting, on 25th October, heard member Dr Philip Akrigg speak on "The Naturalists Discover B.C.", an informative lecture on the work of botanists and other scientists in Colonial British Columbia.

(Extract from the Society's Newsletter: "We are both pleased and embarrassed at the news that our Society has received a Certificate of Merit from the Canadian Historical Association 'for outstanding contribution to local history in Canada'. It is gratifying to be chosen for one of the eight certificates awarded this year..... We must not let the glow of achievement dim the fact that really we are only at the beginning of what we as a Society are capable of accomplishing. Let us regard this Certificate of Merit as an acknowledgement that we have made known the goals towards which we are striving but that we still have a long way to go.)

Any members of the B.C. Historical Association visiting Vancouver on the third Wednesday of the month are cordially invited to attend our meetings. We meet at 8.00 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Centennial Museum in Vanier Park. A copy of the programme for the current year can be obtained by writing to the Secretary, P.O. Box 3071, General Post Office, Vancouver 3.

VICTORIA At their June meeting Mr J.E. Rippengale, Superintendent of Fort Rodd Hill National Historic Park presented an illustrated talk on the history of the Park.

During the summer a large group of members travelled by bus up the Sooke River as far as the Sooke pot-holes which are adjacent to the property owned by Mr J. Barnes. Mr Barnes, our genial host, provided lunch for the entire group.

Mr Ainslie Helmcken Archivist for the City of Victoria, gave us in September a look-back at Victoria from the viewpoint of early real estate transactions. He had been fortunate in finding the original Record Book belonging to the B.C. Land and Investment Company which provided numerous and interesting factual details. His talk on early investors in real estate in British Columbia covered other areas in addition to Victoria.

At their October meeting, Mr Peter McNair, ethnologist with the Provincial Museum, thrilled a large audience with many illustrations of Totem Poles of B.C. His talk included a 20-minute question and answer period.

#### - - - - -

#### JOTTINGS

From the Vancouver Sun, October 20th: "A series of more than 20 Indian rock paintings on the old road from Princeton to Hedley must be preserved" Mrs B. Lawrence of Hedley appealed for their protection after she discovered one had been destroyed by blasting. Directors of the Okanagan-Similkameen Regional District agreed to a motion that people planning pipe-lines, roads or sub-division land clearing be advised the sites must not be destroyed.

From Newsletter of the Federation of B.C. Naturalists: "A joint ceremony and placement of a marker on the crest of Athabasca Pass is planned, possibly next year, to commemorate its discovery in 1811 by David Thompson and its 40 years of use as the only practical route to the coast." This trail's western end will be drowned by the Mica Dam. However, this trail and the Fortress Pass Trail could be unrivalled hiking traverses of the Rockies if the Wood River watershed was turned over to the National Parks System.

From Harley Hatfield, Penticton come two summaries of events on and about the Hudson's Bay Brigade Trail Fort Hope to Campement Des Femmes (Tulameen). The next issue of the News hopefully will be able to print one of them. A committee has been formed by the Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society to explore ways and means to preserve this trail. Chairman Victor Wilson hopes that Manning Park can be extended to include these trails which would ensure them to be "safe from logging, mining or whatever".

In 1967 B.C. Studies was established to fill the need for a scholarly journal in the field of history and political science in British Columbia. Its aim is to "act as a forum in which issues pertaining to B.C. are discussed. Contemporary problems are examined and some of the forgotten elements of the past brought to light". The News has no hesitation in recommending its worth and those wishing to subscribe to this quarterly journal may do so by writing to B.C. Studies, Auditorium Building, University of B.C., Vancouver 8. Rate \$5.00 per year.

Mrs Clare McAllister of Gulf Islands Branch writes of a special history course developed at Mt. View High School, Saanich. Mr Ian Parker who devised this course did so because "Canadian history has always been presented from the point of view of Eastern Canada. For 20 years we used a text-book which barely referred to this province". Could this become a pattern in all our high schools? On the subject of the New Horizons programme for senior citizens she notes there is now a Vancouver office, and that "grants are available for historical research". The Editor would like to point out that these grants are for necessary supplies only and do not apply to remuneration to members of the participating group.

Recently published by the American Association for State and Local History is The Care of Historical Collections; a conservation handbook for the Non-Specialist, by Per E. Guldbek. This valuable manual includes chapters on fire protection, packing for shipment, care of paper, wood, leather, ferrous objects, textiles, ceramics, etc. It costs \$5.00 and is available from the American Association for State and Local History, 1315 Eighth Avenue South, Nashville, Tennessee, 37203.

#### OBITUARY

#### BERTRAND W. SINCLAIR, 1881-1972

Bertrand W. Sinclair, a widely published and popular author, one of the first to directly interpret the life of British Columbia, died at Sechelt on October 20, at the age of ninety-one. At his passing it is appropriate to look at his writing and observe how, working within the limits of the old-fashioned adventure-love novel as it was popular half a century ago, he progressively enriched the form with new ranges of experience and thought. He became aware of and expressed the particularity of human work, the facts and ideas of exploitation and class struggle, and the consequences of recklessly mining our environment. Most academic critics, only occasionally directly connected to these central areas of human experience, have largely ignored his work as conventional. Actually he was a realistic innovator within a romantic tradition.

Born in Edinburgh, Sinclair came with his parents to the Canadian prairies in 1889 at the age of eight. As a young man he ranged both Canada and the United States. By the end of the first decade of this century he had established himself as a writer in the American West. In 1912 he moved to British Columbia, which he made his home and where he deeply identified himself with the land and its working people. The undeveloped wealth of the province then still allowed considerable scope for an independent man to make a living from its fur, fish, minerals, timber, and land. This background accounts in part for the strong individualism of the population. At the same time, the effective exploitation of the natural wealth required massive investment in canneries, mines, and logging. The result was the rapid growth of monopolies and intense wage struggles. Sinclair in his novels caught very clearly the tension between individual and social feeling which is so characteristic of the province. The social and internal conflicts of the development of B.C. and its people are the dynamics of Sinclair's fiction.

There are many memorable passages in Sinclair's work. Edmund and Eleanor Broadus in an excellent 1923 anthology, A Book of Canadian Prose and Verse chose two of the best: one from Poor Man's Rock (1920), of which

80,000 copies were sold, and the other from The Hidden Places (1922). One describes the work of the early rowboat or hand troller in the Gulf of Georgia. The other tells of a fight to stop a forest fire at the mouth of Toba Inlet. Both are marked by a keen sense of place. The reader of Sinclair who knows the locations he describes is caught by the thrill of recognition. Someone who has never known the places almost feels that he does. In addition to the places, the reader feels the activity of the men in them, the exact visualization of the tools they use and the sense of actually using them. In addition to being fiction, Sinclair's writing is something close to a history of how men worked in this province and how it felt to work.

The Inverted Pyramid (1924), telling a story based on the failure of the Dominion Trust, perhaps expresses most clearly Sinclair's maturing philosophy. One prophetic part of it is his sense of what we now call ecology. He describes the effect of a logging operation. "Where living green had clothed the hills there lifted stumps, torn earth, bald rock ledges. Desolation. The Granite Pool lay in its cliffy hollow, bared to the hot eye of the sun. The deer and the birds had withdrawn to the farther woods. Animal life banished, vegetation destroyed."

One character in The Inverted Pyramid, a worker, Andy Hall, states clearly to his enlightened employer, Rod Norquay, a philosophy which more and more came to influence Sinclair. "You don't employ me because I'm hungry or need clothes, or because I'm ambitious to better my condition . . . You will only hire me at a wage where labor can be transformed into cash at a profit to yourself. In slack times I can starve."

Les Peterson says that an earlier statement by Norquay is Sinclair's own view: "A man can sell his labor, if that's all he has to sell, without selling his soul to the buyer. And that's what counts most. You can hire somebody to cook your food and make your clothes and keep your house in order. But you can't hire anybody to live your life for you, to suffer your pains and dream your dreams. Rich or poor, a man must live his own life. Maybe you fellows are right about the intensity of the class struggle, about the importance of the economic basis being better adjusted. But the fact remains that a man's existence is as much a matter of purely individual longings and visions and strivings as it is of getting his daily bread."

However, the two views expressed actually are not so much conflicting as complimentary. And as the years went by, Sinclair came to identify himself more and more with the cause of organized labor, describing himself as a fisherman and both writing and fishing for a living. A lifetime member of the Fishermen's Union, he contributed stories and poems to the union paper The Fisherman, including one of his best short stories, "John the Finn, Master."

Bertrand W. Sinclair's writing expresses a lifetime of experience in this province. From him we can learn of how we came to be what we are. We may also gain some vision of what we can become.

-----

\*\*\*\*\* EDITOR'S NOTE \*\*\*\*\*

An index of the B.C. Historical News for Volumes 1 - 5 inclusive is being prepared and will be distributed with the February 1973 issue.

\*\*\*\*\*

## BRITISH COLUMBIA BOOKS OF INTEREST, compiled by Frances Woodward.

- ASANTE, Nadine. The history of Terrace. Terrace, Terrace Public Library Assoc., 1972. 250 pp., illus. \$4.29.
- BILSLAND, W.W. Atlin, 1898-1910: the story of a gold boom (reprint from B.C. Hist. Q. July-Oct. 1952) Atlin, Centennial Committee, 1971. 76 pp., \$2.00
- BOLUS, Malvina, ed. People and pelts; selected papers of the second North Am. Fur Trade Conference. Winnipeg, Peguis Pub., 1972. 161 pp., illus. \$4.25.
- B.C. UNIVERSITY ALUMNI ASSOC. It could happen again - a proposal to stop Point Grey cliff erosion. Vancouver, UEC Alumni Assoc., 1972. 16 pp. illus.
- BROADFOOT, Barry. Stanley Park, an island in the city; photos by Ralph Bower. Vancouver, November House, 1972. No paging, illus. \$2.95.
- BUHR, John D. The origin of the Doukhobor faith. Vancouver, 1972. 105 pp.
- BURNES, John Rodger. Saga of a municipality in its formative days 1891-1907. (North Van., Carson Graham School, 1972) 98 pp., illus. \$2.95.
- CARTER, Anthony. Abundant rivers. Chief Dan George edition. Saanichton, Hancock House, 1972. 144 pp., illus. \$15.95.
- DOE, Ernest, comp. Centennial history of Salmon Arm. Salmon Arm, Centennial 1971 Committee, 1971. 288 pp., illus. \$3.00
- DUNCAN, Janice K. Minority without a champion: Kanakas on the Pacific coast, 1788-1850. Portland, Oregon Historical Society, 1972. 24 pp., illus., \$1.25.
- DOUGLAS, David. The Oregon journals of David Douglas.... Edited with an introduction by David Lavender. Volume II. Ashland, Oregon Book Society, 1972. \$15
- EXPLORING GARIBALDI PARK, Vol. 1; text Dan Bowers; photography Dan Bowers and Bernie Epting. Vancouver, Gundy's and Bernie's Guide Book, 1972. 96 pp. \$2.95
- HANCOCK, Lyn. There's a seal in my sleeping bag. Toronto, Collins, 1972. 187 pp. illus. \$6.95.
- HOLM, Bill. Crooked beak of heaven: masks and other ceremonial art of the Northwest Coast. Seattle, U. of Wash., 1972. 104 pp., illus. \$8.95; \$4.95 paper.
- INGRAHAM, Joseph. Journal of the brigantine Hope on a voyage to the northwest coast of N. America, 1790-92; edited by Mark D. Kaplanoff. Barre, Mass., Imprint Soc., 1972. 248 pp., illus. \$45.00.
- JACKMAN, S.W. The men at Cary Castle. Victoria, Morriss, 1972. 207 pp., illus., \$6.95.
- KELLEY, Thomas P. Run Indian run: the story of Simon Gun-an-noot. Don Mills, Paperjacks, 1972. 144 pp., \$1.50.
- LONG, Frederick J. A dictionary of the Chinook jargon. Toronto, Canadiana House, 1972. 41 pp. \$5.00. Reprint of 1909 ed.
- McGEER, Patrick L. Politics in paradise. Toronto, Peter Martin, 1972. 238 pp., \$7.95.
- MACKENZIE, Alexander. Voyages from Montreal; introd. by Roy Daniells. Edmonton, Hurtig, 1972. 568 pp., illus. \$20.00.
- MARKS, William. Tales of the Sasquatch. Westbank, Okanagan Valley Review, 1972. 50 pp., illus. 75¢
- MARSH, Leonard. At home with music: the recollections and reflections of an unabashed amateur. Vancouver, Versatile Pub. Co., 1972. 178 pp., illus. \$4.75.
- MAYNE ISLAND AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY. & FALL FAIR. Centennial year Mayne Island Fall Fair Sat. Aug. 14th, 1971. Mayne Island, 1971. 36 pp., illus. \$2.00.
- PENNIER, Henry George. Chiefly Indian: the warm and witty story of a British Columbia half breed logger, ed. by Herbert L. McDonald. West Vancouver, Graydonald Graphics, 1972. 130 pp., \$2.95.
- QUEEN CHARLOTTE ISLANDS MUSEUM SOCIETY. The Charlottes; a journal of the Queen Charlotte Islands No. 1. 1971. 38 pp. \$2.95.
- RIDDEHOUGH, Geoffrey B. Dance to the anthill. Vancouver, Discovery Press, 1972. 114 pp., \$5.95.
- ROBIN, Martin. The rush for spoils: the company province, 1871-1933. Toronto, McClelland and Stewart, 1972. 318 pp. \$5.95.

- RONAYNE, Irene. Beyond Garibaldi. Lillooet, Lillooet Pub., 1972. 167 pp. illus.
- ROSE, T.F. From shaman to modern medicine: a century of the healing arts in British Columbia. Vancouver, Mitchell Press, 1972. 187 pp. \$7.50.
- SAVELIEFF, David S. History of lacrosse in British Columbia, Vancouver, 1972. 37 pp. \$1.00.
- SIERRA CLUB OF B.C. The West Coast trail and Nitinat Lakes. Vancouver, J.J. Douglas Ltd., 1972. 85 pp. illus. \$3.50.
- UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S CLUB, MAPLE RIDGE. Maple Ridge, a history of settlement. Maple Ridge, 1972. 112 pp. \$4.50; \$3.50 paper.
- WATSON, G. Western Canadian bottle collecting, Vol. 2,. Vancouver, Printed by Evergreen Press, 1972. 112 pp., illus. \$3.50.
- WILSON, Thomas E. Trail blazer of the Canadian Rockies. Calgary, Glenbow Foundation, 1972. 54 pp. illus. \$2.00.
- WRIGHT, Richard and Rochelle. Cariboo mileposts. Vancouver, Mitchell Press, 1972. 136 pp., illus. \$3.75.

- - - - -

BOOK REVIEWS

ABOUT VICTORIA AND VANCOUVER ISLAND, by Avis Walton, illustrated by Peggy Walton Packard. Victoria, Felindical Publication, 6th edition, 1970. Illus., \$5.95; \$3.95 paper.

Having recently returned to Victoria after a nineteen-year absence, it was with considerable pleasure that I received a 1970 copy of Mrs Walton's fascinating book from Mr Philip Yandle, with the request that I review it. Although there was a copy of the second edition amongst my late husband's books, it was not likely that I would get down to reading it without an incentive of this sort, because of the urgency of getting settled.

From the moment I picked up "About Victoria and Vancouver Island", which grew from an 80-page booklet to a 320 page tome in fifteen years, I was kept interested, entertained, and best of all, brought up to date on the developments in this part of the world. In some ways the book might be classed as a glorified guide book, containing as it does a wealth of information about accommodation, dining, boat rentals, gardens, fishing, golfing, sailing, museums, parks, customs regulations and many other services. But it is Mrs Walton's unbounded enthusiasm and charm of phrase which make one realize that it is a privilege to live on this enchanted isle. The only criticism I have to make is that too many others may be unable to resist the lure of her vivid descriptions, the resulting overcrowded conditions causing Victoria to lose its unique appeal.

In a recent letter Mrs Walton states, "I was born in Winnipeg, came to Victoria in 1943 and worked all my life in writing fields - newspaper, radio, T.V. and public relations. For fifteen years I owned and operated the New Neighbour Service for welcoming recent arrivals to Victoria". It was from this venture that the idea emerged to write a book in answer to the many questions which came her way. She has been collecting historic gowns since 1959, and it was this hobby which first brought her into contact with the Vancouver Historical Society. Mrs Jack Roff persuaded her to put on a most successful display of antique costumes at an annual dinner about six years ago, using members as models.

Of particular attraction to members of the B.C. Historical Society would be the many anecdotes of historical significance, especially the essays on Fort Victoria and Butchart Gardens. Even those familiar with Victoria and Vancouver Island would be sure to find some new items of interest amongst the well-written

collection of published stories and facts presented by Mrs Walton. There are many excellent photographs and maps to add to the book's value. The outstanding sketches were done by her sister-in-law, Mrs Peggy Walton Packard, who is not only an artist but a sculptress of note, a musician and local actress.

Stephanie Bowes Manson

Mrs Manson is a member of the Victoria Branch, and retains her membership in the Vancouver Historical Society.

- - - - -

CARIBOO MILEPOSTS, by Richard and Rochelle Wright. Vancouver, Mitchell Press, 1972. 136 pp., illus. \$3.75.

How does one seriously review a book in the B.C. Historical News when the authors in their foreword concede that they have chosen those legends and stories "that seem the most plausible or accurate" and in the next breath admit that "some have been included because of interest. We know they are not true as will the reader". The authors may know; we can only surmise.

With the qualifications the authors have put on their work ("... this is not meant to be a definitive historical work on the Cariboo region") its chief recommendation is as a light, reasonably entertaining and occasionally enlightening adjunct to a road map.

It follows the well-established pattern of The Milepost, a detailed description of points along the Alaska Highway. Unlike The Milepost, however, Cariboo Mileposts fortunately is not geared to the commercial aspects of travel and as a result carries no advertising.

The 20 pages of colour illustrations brighten the volume but the captions often lack the precision one would like other than, perhaps, as a casual tourist. For example, a two page spread is described as "A typical Cariboo scene of a Russell fence, cattle and pine trees". Similar generalities abound except in the case of archival photos which are more precisely dated and described.

We don't wish to belabour the point but we find it most frustrating to have Jules Maurice Quesnel referred to as "Fraser's third in charge on the historic trip to the Pacific". Is Quesnel's rank a Wright discovery or simply an uninformed statement?

Stoner, some 22 miles south of Prince George on Highway 97 is not an imposing community but it is a post office and its name is not "Stone Creek" despite its proximity to that stream. Cariboo Mileposts does not make the distinction. On the other hand, it does assert that Hixon Creek, some 16 miles farther south, is named after Joseph Foster Hixon, who led a party of miners to the area on June 27, 1866. This is considerably more precise than the Akriggs in their 1001 British Columbia Place Names who say merely that Hixon (there are actually two Hixons - a post office and a railway station a short distance apart) "is named after a prospector who sought gold here around 1870". The Wrights ignore the post office and station but mention the Creek and General Store in a highway community that boasts such additional amenities as two motels, gas stations, and other stores.

One might well pass off these criticisms as errors of omission but in at least one other area, references to Indians, the authors have perpetuated

such legends as the one that Marguerite, a small community 34 miles south of Quesnel "is named after a woman of the Déné tribe who is said to have drowned more than one of her babies in nearby Marguerite Lake". Aside from the unlikelihood of the story as it stands (Why? Is it related to the despair expressed by Duncan Campbell Scott in his "The Half-Breed Girl"?) other questions arise. Déné (Indian word for 'men') is the name originally given to the Athapaskan 'ethnic division' referred to by Wilson Duff in his Volume 1 of "The Indian History of British Columbia". To describe the Déné as a tribe is totally erroneous. This large grouping covers an extensive area of the interior of British Columbia and actually extends as far east as Manitoba and as far north as Alaska. In B.C. it includes the Chilcotin, Carrier, Sakani, Tahltan, Keska, Slave, and Beaver tribes. The Wrights compound their error by stating that the territory of this 'tribe' starts somewhere north of Williams Lake whereas it actually extends from southwest of Williams Lake. The Akriggs in their volume specifically claim Marguerite was "named after a notorious woman of the Dene tribe" (no accents on Dene) who "is said to have drowned more than one of her babies in Marguerite Lake". At least the Wrights have modified the story by deleting the 'notorious'.

The Wrights have included a few interesting Indian legends but they present a somewhat distorted picture of how Indian names are given, leaving the impression that Indian lads still take their father's "first name and not his last, as is our custom". One need hardly spend time on this virtually outmoded practice.

Despite the negative aspects of "Cariboo Trails I have cited, I am pleased to have acquired it as a guide to many highlights of the Cariboo and as a stimulus to checking out some of the stories presented by the authors with, perhaps, the futile objective of getting the facts.

George North.

Mr North, a member of the Vancouver Historical Society, teaches high school in Prince George.

- - - - -

FROM SHAMAN TO MODERN MEDICINE: A CENTURY OF THE HEALING ARTS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA, by T.F. Rose. Vancouver, Mitchell Press, 1972. 187 pp. \$7.50.

It may be an act of presumption for an historian with a non-medical background to review a work on the history of medicine in British Columbia, but there are sufficient inaccuracies in the non-technical portions of Dr T.F. Rose's "From Shaman to Modern Medicine" to raise a question as to the overall trustworthiness of the work as a whole.

Dr Rose admits to having relied heavily on secondary sources, which appear in some cases to have been of a most questionable sort. However, in the absence of any bibliography or foot-notes, it is difficult to judge the extent of his reliance on poor sources.

The statement, on page 101, that the Canadian Pacific Railway was extended from Port Moody to Granville in 1886 at the "urgent and successful instigation of Dr J.W. Powell" is a pure fabrication. Anyone with the slightest knowledge of the history of the C.P.R. knows that Sir William Van Horne intended a Coal Harbour terminus for the line as early as 1882, four years previous to the supposed intervention of Dr Powell.

Whilst it might be possible for some to forgive Dr Rose's errors in

reporting events in the last century by shifting the blame to his poor sources, no such excuse can be made for errors in reports of more current happenings. A visit to the University of British Columbia Health Sciences Centre would have shown that his description of the University hospital, on page 166, is totally inaccurate. This is no doubt due to carelessness, but what other careless errors exist that might only be spotted by a member of the medical profession?

Errors of omission and commission have resulted in a very superficial history of medicine in this province, which has tended to minimize the medical contributions of non-Anglican religious bodies in non-urban areas, as well as any progress by means other than chance. Dr Rose has also failed to take into cognisance that this province has never been a typical "frontier" area, and that contemporary with the mining camps there were agricultural settlements which belied the dictum that "Dukes don't emigrate", where life and medical service approximated that found in Eastern Canada and England. Thus, in one sense, it can be said that the history of medicine in British Columbia remains to be written.

Michael F.H. Halleran

Mr Halleran, a member of the Vancouver Historical Society, is an employee in the Vancouver City Archives.

-----

THE GROUP OF SEVEN; a Fine Art Calendar, 1973. Toronto, McClelland & Stewart.

This is a calendar of Canadian "classics" mostly major canvasses from the National Gallery, Ottawa. It is a well printed collection which gives, in a general way, the feeling of the North which members of the Group wrestled with during their active years. The prints in the calendar cover the years 1914-1930. An early and seldom published painting "Snow" by Lawren Harris (1915) from the McMichael Collection in Kleinburg, Ontario, shows the Art Nouveau influence on the budding Group of Seven and its Nordic genius.

Tom Thomson's Northern River is on the cover, with its magic colours and dark mysterious foreground; truly a wonderful canvas. Most of the thirteen paintings chosen are "familiar" to Group fanciers, perhaps to most Canadians. While it is always satisfying to see again an old friend, perhaps a series of lesser known but equally fine canvasses would be in order for a 1974 calendar. Of these wonderful sketches,  $8\frac{1}{2} \times 10\frac{1}{2}$  inches, only one is reproduced here, a Thomson, which seems curiously alone and out of scale when printed life size along with the others printed at great reduction. Could we see more of these "gems" equally well presented?

Robert Genn

Mr Genn is a Vancouver member.

-----

KAMLOOPS CATTLEMEN; ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF TRAIL DUST, by T. Alex Bulman. Sidney, Gray's Publishing, 1972. 183 pp., maps, illus. \$7.95.

Information on the central interior of British Columbia has begun to emerge over the past few years and consequently, Kamloops Cattlemen comes as a most welcome publication. The author himself is a well known cattleman, as was his father before him, and has written an excellent and most readable account of ranching in the Kamloops area.

In the introduction, the origin of the cattle frontier and the founding

of the province's largest ranches, such as the Gang and Douglas Lake Ranch, are described in detail for the first time. With the major ranches and their founding personalities in perspective, the author remarks on his father's entry into the livestock business in 1887. Although the title implies a wider orientation, most of the book deals with the father's rise to prominence as a cattleman, and with the author's own life on the family's ranch. The story of the Circle J's development, until the father's death in 1935 and continuing under the leadership of the author until quite recently, is portrayed through a series of short narratives each addressing itself to some aspect of early ranch life. Topics such as the problems associated with isolationism, the role played by women on the frontier, climatic and physiographic hazards, repercussions of the depression years, the introduction of mechanization, and various personalities are viewed largely in the context of the family's expanding property. The author's greatest strength, however, emerges when he examines the values and attitudes of "those pioneer cattlemen who built the foundation of the industry"; attitudes and values still evident in many interior communities. Alex Bulman's life-long familiarity with cattle and cattlemen has enabled him to recall and describe life, as it occurs in a ranching community, with an insight seldom found in such accounts. His well written descriptions are certain to capture the fascination of even the most casual reader.

Like most books focusing on a relatively small area, Kamloops Cattlemen almost of necessity, uses a myriad of local place names. Fortunately for readers who may find this somewhat distracting, the author has included a map which can be easily referred to for orientation.

In Kamloops Cattlemen, the ranching frontier is described in a modest yet most fascinating way and will undoubtedly encourage others to take up the challenge for further research. To Alex Bulman, credit and praise is certainly due.

Nelson A. Riis

Mr Riis teaches in the Department of Geography at Cariboo College

-----  
 THE RUSH FOR SPOILS: THE COMPANY PROVINCE, 1871-1933, by Martin Robin.  
 Toronto, McClelland & Stewart, 1972. 318 pp., illus. \$5.95.

The recent election of British Columbia's first socialist government clearly marks an important juncture in this province's political history. The Left has long been prominent in the political life of British Columbia, first making its presence felt in the Legislature in 1890. It has, indeed, provided the principal alternative to governments in the province for the past thirty-nine years, but until now has consistently been denied access to power. How timely, then, that this victory by the N.D.P. should coincide with the publication of the first of a two-volume study of politics in B.C.

While the completed history will examine one hundred years of political development from 1871 to 1971, Volume One studies the period from Confederation to Pattullo's victory over the C.C.F. in 1933. It concentrates, however, on the years after 1902 when disciplined political parties finally emerged as the principal form of political organization in the province.

In The Rush for Spoils Martin Robin develops a view of British Columbia politics already well established in his previous writings on the subject. The abundance of natural resources in British Columbia early challenged the white man to exploit these riches for material profit. After the passing of the fur trade and gold rush, a business civilization based on the extractive staple industries of mining, lumbering and fishing was born. Economic growth in these industries required large amounts of capital, and the individualistic

economy of the placer gold mining days gave way to one dominated by the large business corporation; men organized into companies quickly became the prevailing form of economic organization in the province. Concentration of economic power in the company-dominated extractive industries provoked a reaction among those who did not share in the benefits of this concentration, resulting in the emergence of a class-conscious industrial working class. The role of government in a society so divided into capitalists and wage-earners was to complement and support the interests of the corporations. Government was to facilitate economic growth by protecting property, by encouraging investment through grants of timber and mining rights and endowments of land, and by restricting and controlling unions where possible; it was also to provide a stable political climate conducive to further investment and economic expansion. Active government support for investors and speculators and the pursuit of stability accordingly emerge in this book as two of the principal themes of British Columbia politics.

New ground is broken in The Rush for Spoils principally through the development of the first of these two themes. The author's examination of the complementary nature of public and private interests in early B.C. politics focuses attention at last on the long-ignored alienation of the province's resources by politicians hungry for political and financial reward. Robin is clearly at his best when exploring the reckless giveaway of timber limits and mining rights, farm land and fisheries, during the thirty year period between the rise of the Smithe Regime in the 1880's and the decline of the McBride Government during the First World War. The endless number of bonuses and subsidies either granted to or acquired by the C.P.R., the reckless diversion of the province's timber resources to private interests after 1905, the highly favourable terms granted to Mackenzie and Mann in 1909, the outright theft of Indian lands in Vancouver and Victoria by the McBride Government to fuel the real estate booms of those two cities - these are revealed as the stuff of politics in a province dominated by the mythology of 'raw development'. Patronage and the political machines which controlled it, both products of the loose moral climate brought about by this interaction of public and private interest, are also given new attention in this book.

The author has depended almost exclusively on traditional and previously-used sources throughout this study, including published material, political papers and newspapers (chiefly the principal newspapers of Vancouver and Victoria). He has, in fact, made no attempt to venture into new and untried areas of research, to find more extensive support for his thesis. What Robin does do, however, by examining the old material, some of it either overlooked or ignored in the past, is provide a new direction for the study of B.C. politics by emphasizing its relationship with business. This emphasis reveals very clearly, for instance, how little is known at present of the corporate history of B.C. The book also raises questions about the relationship of lesser politicians and lesser companies in the province, those other than the highly visible political leaders and big corporations (especially the railways) that are stressed here. Examination of the related business and political activities of business leaders like Robert Kelly - wholesale grocer, highly successful speculator in fisheries resources, and head of the Liberal Party machine in Vancouver during the Laurier period - would reveal much about politics in 'The Company Province'.

Robin's free and easy writing style, perhaps more accurately described as an uncontrolled exercise of biases, make this a book that is readable, entertaining and highly controversial. His willingness to transgress the

usual restraints of academic writing, in fact, clearly set it apart from other recent Canadian historical works. Unfortunately, this distinction is acquired at a considerable price, for the author's extensive use of adjectives and vivid descriptive phrases also results in an analysis that is at times both repetitious and shallow. The portraits he draws of many individuals and groups are reduced by simplification and exaggeration to the level of caricature. We wonder, for instance, if Richard McBride's weight problem - he is variously described as 'chubby' (pp. 88 and 129), 'rotund' (pp. 115 and 125), 'portly' (p.88), 'stubby' (p.129), 'puffy' (p.104), and 'fleshy' (p.116) - was really a significant factor in determining his success as a politician. The author's continued carelessness with the mechanical aspects of professional writing (there are at least eighteen errors or inconsistencies in a two and one-half page bibliography) also contribute to the impression of an author whose writing lacks control.

This new political history is a major work which will command the attention of those interested in British Columbia's past, for many years to come. Hopefully new and more detailed studies of the historical relationship of politics and business in B.C. will emerge as a lasting tribute to its influence. We will look forward to the arrival of the concluding half of this two-volume work in the near future.

R.A.J. McDonald

Mr McDonald, who is completing a Ph.D. dissertation for U.B.C.'s Department of History, is currently teaching at the University of Western Ontario.

- - - - -

\*\*\*\*\*

For those of you who were unable to identify the people in last issue's photographs, here is our guess. Any corrections?

1. Mr P. Yandle; Mrs Barnett; Mr K. Leeming.
2. Mr Tomas Bartroli
3. ? Mrs Stephanie Bowes Hanson; Mrs O'Reilley.
4. Mr P. Yandle; Mr Jack Roff; Mr Al Hunter; Mrs D. Winterbottom.
5. Mr & Mrs Donald New
6. Mrs Ketha Adams (rear view!)
7. ? Col. G.S. Andrews; Mr Ted Hart.
8. Mrs F. Street; Mrs Bird; Mrs P. Brammall.
9. Mrs Alice Johannson; Mr Jack Roff.
10. McM. & B. guide; Mr Whalley.
11. Mr Wm Barraclough.
12. Mrs Kneen
13. Mr R. Brammall; Mrs Elsie Turnbull.
14. Mrs Helen Ford; Mrs Ketha Adams.
15. Mr Whalley.

\*\*\*\*\*

THE NATURALISTS DISCOVER BRITISH COLUMBIA

Text of an address presented to the Vancouver Historical Society on October 25th, 1972, by Dr Philip Akrigg, Department of English, University of British Columbia.

As every schoolboy ought to know (but probably doesn't) the first white man to set foot on British Columbia was the illustrious Captain Cook. When Cook put in at Nootka in 1778 he had with him two botanists. Unfortunately one of them, the brilliant Dr William Anderson was already near death from tuberculosis. No longer capable of keeping up his journal, he was doomed to die a few months later off St. Lawrence Island in Alaska. Commenting upon Anderson's death, his friend Captain Clerke, commanding Cook's consort H.M.S. Discovery, wrote:

The Death of the Gentleman is a most unfortunate Stroke to our Expedition altogether . . . the loss of his superior Knowledge of, and wonted attention to the Science of Natural History, will leave a Void in the Voyage much to be regretted.

The study of the natural history of our province was hardly off to a flying start!

The second of the two botanists with Cook at Nootka was David Nelson, one of the gardeners at the Royal Botanical Garden at Kew. Sir Joseph Banks had arranged for Nelson to go along on the expedition as servant to its astronomer, Bailey, but with a special commission to collect specimens and seeds for Banks. Nelson seems to have been more of a technician than a scientist, if we may dare to make a twentieth century distinction between him and Dr Anderson. Nelson ended up some years later in charge of those famous breadfruit collected at Tahiti by H.M.S. Bounty. He remained loyal to Captain Bligh during the mutiny, and died during the subsequent tremendous voyage Bligh made in the open boat all the way to the East Indies. Nelson may have done some botanizing at Nootka but, since he kept no journal and published no book, we know nothing of it.

The serious study of the flora and fauna of British Columbia begins with Alexander Menzies, about nine years after Cook's visit to Nootka. Born in Perthshire in 1754, Menzies as a young man went to Edinburgh where he contrived at one and the same time to be a student at the Royal Botanic Garden and to receive a training in medicine. After botanical tours of the Highlands and the Hebrides, Menzies entered the Royal Navy as an assistant surgeon. He was present at Rodney's great victory over the French in the Caribbean, then subsequently went to Nova Scotia, serving aboard H.M.S. Assistance. In Halifax an indulgent commander-in-chief allowed Menzies to devote much of his time to botanizing. Back in England in 1786, Archibald Menzies lost no time in securing a letter of introduction to the great Sir Joseph Banks, who then dominated the natural sciences, presenting him with a collection of plants from Acadia.

Menzies won his reward when Sir Joseph secured his appointment as surgeon, under Captain James Colnett, aboard the Prince of Wales, a merchant-man about to sail on a trading expedition to the North-West coast of North America. Of Colnett's expedition we know all too little, and of Menzies' botanizing even less. Apparently, however, Menzies' scientific zeal made him

too heedless of the menace posed by the savages around Nootka. He may well have owed his life to the care taken of him by a group of young Indian girls. Later Menzies recalled:

. . . they frequently showed so much solicitude for my safety that they often warned me in the most earnest manner of the dangers to which my Botanical rambles in the Woods exposed me, & when they found me inattentive to their entreaties, they would then watch the avenue of the Forest where I entered, to prevent me receiving any insult or ill usage from their Countrymen. But it was not till after I left them that I became sensible how much I owed to their disinterested zeal for my welfare by knowing more of the treacheries and stratagems of the Natives on other parts of the Coast.

Arriving back in England in July 1789, Menzies penned a letter to Sir Joseph as soon as the Prince of Wales was off the Isle of Wight. Apparently his patron was satisfied with what Menzies had achieved for, when the famous expedition under Captain George Vancouver was planned, Banks secured for Menzies an appointment as naturalist. On February 22nd, 1791, the great Sir Joseph, in his house on Soho Square, personally drafted Menzies' instructions. They were formidable and comprehensive: at each place where his ship should touch, Menzies was to examine the soil and note its quality of clay, sand, gravel or loam. He was to note if the trees grew in thick close groves or separate and distinct from each other. He was to deduce the climate, the agricultural potentials of the areas, and their suitability for English settlement.

As far as you find yourself able, you are to enumerate all the trees, shrubs, plants, grapes, ferns and mosses you shall meet with in each country you visit, by their scientific names, as well as those used in the language of the natives, noting particularly the places where each is found, especially those which are new or particularly curious.

Menzies was to obtain for "His Majesty's Gardens at Kew" either dried seeds or living plants. There was to be a small greenhouse for the latter on the quarterdeck of H.M.S. Discovery.

Moreover, Menzies was to be a geologist and anthropologist too:

In all your excursions on shore, you are to examine with care and attention the beds of brooks and torrents, the steep sides of cliffs and all other places where the interior strata of the earth are laid bare. . . .

At all places where a friendly intercourse with the natives is established, you are to make diligent enquiry into their manners, customs, language and religion . . . and if any part of their conduct, civil or religious, should appear to you so unreasonable as not to meet with credit when related in Europe you are, if you can do it with safety and propriety, to make yourself an eye witness of it . . .

Besides all this, Menzies was to be a zoologist also, acquainting himself especially with whales and seals, and "every part of the natural history of the sea otter". He was to keep a detailed journal and when he got back to England he was to deliver this, plus a comprehensive collection of native artifacts, and "a compleat collection of specimens of the animals, vegetables, and minerals" to His Majesty's Secretary of State for the Home Department.

After these epic (nay heroic!) instructions, almost anything that Menzies might achieve on the coming voyage must seem anti-climactic. However, from Chile he sent to Kew the seeds from which there grew the first monkey-puzzle trees in England - these at least should have satisfied Sir Joseph as being "particularly curious". On the southern shore of the Straits of Juan de Fuca, he encountered for the first time the rhododendron indigenous to these parts, and that distinctive orange-trunked arbutus which is so characteristic of our shores. Proceeding up our mainland coast with Captain Vancouver, Menzies noted some 400 ferns, mosses, lichens and flowering plants. Of the latter he made a number of excellent drawings. Boxes of dried seeds were sent off to England by Lieutenant Mudge travelling homeward via China, by Lieutenant Broughton bearing despatches home via Mexico, and by the supply ship Daedalus which in Australia would make contact with ships bound for Britain. From Monterey he proudly reported to Sir Joseph Banks his new discoveries: Arbutus 1 species, Lonicera 1 species, Berberis 1 species, Vaccinium 3 species, Pyrola 3 species, Penstemon 2 species, Polygonum 2 species, Melanthium 1 species, Spiraea 1 species, etc., etc., etc., also a new genus of Triandria monogymia.

A placid, sociable, adaptable sort of a man, Menzies obviously got along well with his shipmates, including even his cross-grained and difficult captain, though he and the latter did have an occasional run-in. When Captain Vancouver, on the last stretch of his voyage, called in the journals which various of the crews had been keeping (with the result that practically without exception they have perished), Menzies kept his, invoking no doubt Sir Joseph's instructions that he was to hand his journal over to the Secretary of State for the Home Department. We are glad that it survives. Menzies gives us lively little incidents ignored by Vancouver. Consider the following account of an adventure near Prideaux Haven, on Homfray Channel:

. . .we came to a small Cove in the bottom of which the picturesque ruins of a deserted Village placed on the summit of an elevated projecting Rock excited our curiosity & induced us to land close to it to view its structure.

This Rock was inaccessible on every side except a narrow pass from the Land by means of steps that admitted only one person to ascend at a time . . . We found the top of the Rock nearly level & wholly occupied with the skeletons of Houses - irregularly arranged and very crowded . . . From the fresh appearance of everything about this Village & the intollerable stench it would seem as if it had been very lately occupied by the Natives. The narrow Lanes between the Houses were full of filth & nastiness & swarmed with myriads of Fleas which fixed themselves on our Shoes Stockings & cloths (sic) in such incredible number that the whole party was obliged to quit the rock in great precipitation . . . We no sooner got to the Water side than some immediately stripped themselves quite naked & immersed their cloths, others plunged themselves wholly into the Sea in expectation of drowning their adherents but to little or no purpose, for after being submersed for some time they leaped about as frisky as ever; in short we towed some of the Cloths astern of the Boats, but nothing would clear them of this Vermin till in the evening we steeped them in boiling water.

Captain Vancouver gives us some account of the excursion that he and Quadra made up to Tahsis from Nootka to visit Chief Maquinna there; but it is Menzies who brings<sup>it</sup> to life for us when he mentions how the English and Spanish rowed up the smooth waters of the inlet, under sunny skies, "with drums

beating & Fifes playing to the no small entertainment of the Natives". And he tells us how at Tahsis, after the Indians had entertained their guests with a show "in imitation of various characters of different Countries, some represented Europeans armed with Muskets & Bayonets, others were dressed as Chinese & others as Sandwich Islanders", Captain Vancouver reciprocated by having some of his British tars dance a reel or two to the music of the fife.

Menzies, by the way, speaks if possible with even greater enthusiasm than Vancouver of the courtesy and hospitality shown to the British by Quadra. He was, however, a little dashed by one discovery he made at Nootka, as he mentions in a letter to Sir Joseph Banks:

There are two Botanists here . . . which have been with D<sup>n</sup> Quadra . . . all summer, they tell me they are part of a Society which have been employed of late years at the expence of his Catholic Majesty in examining Mexico and New Spain, & collecting materials for a Flora Mexicana, which they say will be published before our return to England.

The two botanists to whom Menzies refers were José Mariano Moziño and Atanasio Echeverria, a first-class botanical artist who served as his assistant. During his five months at Nootka Moziño classified, according to the Linnean system, more than one hundred plants, but he carried on other activities perhaps even more valuable. Acquiring sufficient mastery of the Nootkan language to converse with the Indians, he attempted in Philip Drucker's phrase "to assemble data for and to present an ethnographic description of the sort that a modern ethnologist might prepare". The resulting treatise, Moziño's Noticias de Nutka is a fascinating little work. One brief passage from it must suffice here:

The tais (tyee) cannot sleep with his wives whenever he cannot see the disk of the moon entirely illuminated, and even then he has the obligation of abstaining if public calamities necessitate fasting and prayer. On such occasions he customarily retires to a mountain, accompanied by two or three of his domestic servants, who take along provisions of food for themselves. They are exempt from the law of abstinence with which the priest mortifies himself. The latter stretches himself out face upward with his arms folded over his chest and remains in the same position for many hours. At the end of this he stands up and, by shouting, implores divine piety . . . In this manner he is accustomed to maintain himself for two or three days without taking any food except a few herbs and a little water.

Actually Menzies had no need to fear being scooped by Moziño. The latter's labours in the New World kept him busy until 1803. When he arrived in Spain Carlos IV, who had succeeded Moziño's early patron, declined to finance the publication of his discoveries. He died in Barcelona in 1820, his work largely unknown and unrecognized.

The eclipsing of Menzies' own achievement came about in a different manner. His copious collections at Kew were finally turned over to the famous classifier Pursh for cataloguing and publication. Unfortunately Pursh had been entrusted with the same responsibility for the collections made by Lewis and Clark during their famous overland journey to the mouth of the Columbia in 1803-1806. For some reason Pursh gave priority to the Lewis and Clark material. Thus it happened that many discoveries made by Menzies ten years earlier were first reported as having been made by Lewis and Clark. As for Menzies' own subsequent career, after another voyage, to the Caribbean, he retired from the sea and practised medicine in London until his death in 1842.

In 1820 Sir Joseph Banks died, until the time of his death President of the Royal Society. His successor as Grand Pajandrum of the natural sciences had already begun to emerge in the person of his protégé, William Hooker, who this same year, on Sir Joseph's advice, accepted the post of Professor of Botany at the University of Glasgow. Hooker was one of those amazing Victorians, so full of energy and imagination, who gave the age its greatness. In time he would become world-famous for his work as director of the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew. Installed in his professorial chair at Glasgow, Hooker soon had former students travelling to the remotest parts of the earth to botanize for him.

One of Hooker's botanist ex-students was John Scouler M.D., who in 1824 sailed from London for the Pacific North-West as surgeon aboard the H.B.C.'s supply ship William and Ann. Accompanying Scouler was a very gifted, though decidedly difficult, young man, whom Hooker had found working in the Glasgow Botanic Garden and had subsequently employed for a while as a research assistant. The name of this difficult young Scot was David Douglas. Arrived at the mouth of the Columbia River, Scouler and Douglas enthusiastically botanized. An encounter with Menziesia ferruginea moved Scouler to a gracious tribute to his predecessor and teacher:

This pleasing occurrence brought to my memory in a vivid manner, the delightful excursions I had made in a far distant country where I imbibed a love of natural history from the example of him whose name it bears, and the instruction it was his pleasure to communicate.

From the Columbia the William and Ann was to continue its voyage to Nootka. Dr McLoughlin advised Douglas that the turbulent nature of the Indians up north would allow him small opportunity for botanizing and so he remained behind at Fort Vancouver. He might have done better to have remained in the company of Scouler who, as ship's physician, was bound to continue northwards. The William and Ann, as it turned out, headed up to the Queen Charlottes, put in to Observatory Inlet, and anchored in Captain Vancouver's "Salmon Cove" before heading down to Nootka. Scouler's journal contains fascinating observations on the Haida and Nass Indians as well as on his botanical researches. He praises the honesty of the Nass Indians who made a special canoe trip to return to the ship a tin plate in which they had received some molasses. He is quick to praise the "acuteness of the Queen Charlotte's Islanders" which has "prompted them to adopt a great many customs of civilized life".

When the William and Ann returned to the Columbia, Scouler and Douglas had a joyous re-union. Douglas tells us how they sat up all night "and talked over our several journeys, unconscious of time, until the sun from behind the majestic hills warned us that a new day had come." In October 1825 the William and Ann sailed for England, taking Dr Scouler with her, and letters addressed by Douglas to both Hooker and Menzies. In March 1826, writing again to Hooker, Douglas had great news:

I rejoice to tell you of a new species of Pinus, the most princely of the genus, perhaps even the grandest specimen of vegetation. It attains the enormous height of from one hundred and seventy to two hundred and twenty feet, with a circumference of fifty feet . . . .

Douglas had discovered the Douglas fir.

Since Fortune has not allowed us to retain possession of the basin of the lower Columbia, Douglas's years spent botanizing in that area belong lamentably to the chronicle of American, not British Columbian, natural history. But he did make at least one journey into our province. In 1827 he resolved to make his way home to Britain by way of Hudson's Bay. This meant using the great overland route. The first stage of this saw him, with jolly Edward Ermatinger and seven of his men, travelling up the Columbia, through the Arrow Lakes, and northward to the Big Bend. Here they left their canoe at Boat Encampment and backpacked over the Athabasca Pass, still, in April, deep in snow. Douglas, pretty much a novice in the use of the indispensable "bear paws" or snowshoes, had a rough time of it. True, one of the men carried his wardrobe and blanket for him, but he himself bore 43 pounds of his seeds and journals. Vividly Douglas describes his ordeal:

. . . ascending two steps and sometimes sliding back three, the snowshoes twisting and throwing the weary traveller down . . . so feeble that lie I must among the snow, like a broken-down waggon-horse entangled in his harnessing.

On the last day of April 1827 they were able to make only nine miles. It was along this stretch of the journey, near the summit of the pass, that Douglas had the pleasure of naming one of the great peaks "Mount Hooker in honour of my early patron, the enlightened and learned Professor of Botany in the University of Glasgow, to whose kindness I, in a great measure, owe my success hitherto in life".

On May 1st, the day of the naming of the mountain, the party had followed their usual routine: on the trail at first light (about 4:30 a.m.) and more or less on the move until 1 p.m. when they made camp. Somehow that afternoon young Douglas found in himself the energy to climb one of the mountains: In purple but lively prose he tells of this experience:

The labour of ascending the lower part, which is covered with pines, is great beyond description, sinking on many occasions up to the middle. Half-way up vegetation ceases entirely, not so much as a vestige of moss or lichen on the stones . . . One third from the summit it becomes a mountain of pure ice, sealed far over by Nature's hand as a momentous work of Nature's God . . . The ascent took me five hours; descending only one and a quarter . . . The sensation I felt is beyond anything that I can give utterance to. Nothing, as far as the eye can perceive, but mountains such as I was on, and many higher, some rugged beyond any description, striking the mind with horror blended with a sense of the wondrous works of the Almighty. The aerial tints of the snow, the heavenly azure of the solid glaciers, the rainbow-like hues of their thin broken fragments, the huge mossy icicles hanging from the perpendicular rocks with the snow sliding from the steep southern rocks with amazing velocity, producing a crash and rumbling, like the shock of an earthquake... My ankles and knees pained me so much from the exertion that my sleep (that night) was short and interrupted. Rose at 3 a.m. and had fire kindled. (The party was on its way by 4:15 a.m. and an hour later reached) . . . a small lake or basin twenty yards in diameter, circular, which divides its waters, half flowing to the Pacific and half to the hyperborean sea.

In fact they had reached that famous little lake, known as "The Committee's Punchbowl", at the summit of the pass. Descending rapidly on the other side, they were soon into a temperature of 57 degrees.

Crossing the plains, Douglas made a somewhat disturbing discovery. He was not the only naturalist who had been studying part of the country which he had just traversed. Another Scottish botanist, Thomas Drummond, had been working in the Jasper Park area and over into the upper waters of the Fraser River. In his journal for May 10th, Douglas jotted "Hope my box is safe (do not relish botanist coming in contact with another's gleanings)". Meeting Drummond, by chance, at Carlton House, Douglas was shown the latter's acquisitions. As if to make amends for his own former distrust he noted, "Mr Drummond had a princely collection".

The next of Hooker's young men to arrive in the Pacific North-West was William Fraser Tolmie, founder of one of B.C.'s great dynastic families. Young Tolmie had botanized enthusiastically back in Scotland. On his voyage out he dissected and preserved fish and bird specimens in intervals of tackling Richard's Elements of Botany, only one item on a heavy self-imposed reading list. Arrived on the Columbia, and soon moved to Fort Nisqually, he eagerly sought opportunities to botanize. In August of 1833 he obtained ten days leave for a botanizing expedition up Mount Rainier, scaling one of the lesser summits nearby. Dutifully he sent off collections to Scotland. But these failed to be on the scale that both Tolmie and Hooker would have desired. The reason was all too obvious, a ship's surgeon (especially one with a healthy crew) had all sorts of time for botanizing. A busy trader in the service of the H.B.C. (and Tolmie's was a double commission as trader and physician) did not enjoy such leisure.

Transferred to Fort McLoughlin on Milbanke Sound, Tolmie faced up to the facts in a letter to Hooker. Sadly he reported his failure to send anything to Hooker during the previous year:

Since October I have been stationed here in the capacity of Indian Trader, and regret to state that I have been entirely prevented from making any botanical collections, This place is situated in close vicinity to several populous villages & from these during spring and summer there is such an increasing concourse of Indians to the Fort, as renders the presence of the trader always necessary.

Sadly he concluded his letter:

While stationed here I have no hopes of doing anything in the way of Botany and at present see no prospect of removal (transfer) - the glowing anticipations I formed regarding my pursuits in this country have been far from realized, instead of scaling the rugged mountains which guard the coast & penetrating its unexplored rivers I am confined from morning to night in the trading store, and even the exercise requisite for the preservation of health, I take on the Fort Gallery. I shall now conclude by assuring that whenever my situation permits I shall to the utmost of my ability endeavour to serve you by the collection of botanical specimens . . .

I remain, My dear sir, Sincerely and gratefully yours

W.F. Tolmie.

Obviously if the work was to be done in British Columbia it would have to be done by full-time botanists.

The initiative for a professional expedition to the North-West came a few years later from Joseph Paxton, the famous gardener of the Duke of Devonshire. His patron and other noble land-owners were finding it almost impossible to secure the new conifers and other trees and shrubs reported by Douglas.

A co-operative scheme was set up in association with Hooker (now Sir Joseph and director at Kew) and Dr Lindley of the Royal Horticultural Society. By putting up £50 each, the private collectors insured for themselves a share in the distribution of the seeds to be collected.

For this enterprise, Paxton chose two of his best gardeners at Chatsworth, Robert Wallace and Peter Banks. In April 1838 the two young men arrived in New York. From here they travelled to Montreal and joined a party which the Hudson's Bay Company was sending overland to the Pacific. The group travelled safely across the Rockies but then, travelling down the Columbia, at the notorious Dalles des Mort, north of Revelstoke, on October 22nd, they met disaster. The craft bearing them was swamped and 12 of the 26 on board were drowned. Among the dead were not only Wallace and Banks, but Wallace's recent bride, Maria, a daughter of Governor George Simpson, the Hudson's Bay Company's senior officer resident in North America.

Seven years later another British naturalist was tracing the route to British Columbia that had proved fatal to young Wallace and Banks. The man this time was Joseph Burke, engaged by Sir William Hooker and the Earl of Derby on behalf of the Royal Botanical Gardens at Kew. On September 11th, 1844, Burke was at Jasper's House, where he apparently based himself during a summer of collecting. A few months later we find him reporting to Hooker from Fort Hall in the Snake River Country. He begins with a dismal confession of failure:

When I left Jaspers House I hoped to have collected a great many seeds on the W. side of the mountains - but was greatly disappointed - the country proved very different to what I expected - there were neither open hills, nor plains. The whole distance was through dense forests, swamp, & this periodically covered (by) parts of Rivers - I did not collect any seeds between Jaspers house and the height of land (i.e. the Continental Divide). On the west side I found a few which I shall forward to Fort Vancouver.

This more or less set the note for what happened subsequently: bad, wet weather in the summer, poorly-built boxes which were unsatisfactory for the safe-keeping of his specimens, and much time spent going over areas which Douglas had already covered. By and large Joseph Burke won small glory for himself, and he must have been a disappointment to his backers when he arrived back in London in 1847.

Another ten years or so passed, then, early in 1858 there arrived in British Columbia the British North American Boundary Commission, consisting of some five professional members accompanied by seventy sappers supplied by the Royal Engineers. The British Commission, in conjunction with their American counterpart, were charged with establishing the exact location of the 49th parallel from the Rockies to the Pacific, and with clearing wherever feasible a boundary zone through the forests.

The post of naturalist to the British Commission was held by one John Keast Lord, a decidedly colourful and dynamic character. Born in Cornwall in 1818, Lord trained at the Royal Veterinary College in London before setting up as a vet. at Tavistock. Here we are told by a somewhat enigmatic biographer "his convivial taste led him astray, and he suddenly disappeared". Reputedly, in the years which followed, he went whaling, experienced a shipwreck, trapped both in Minnesota and in the territory around Hudson's Bay. The next thing that we know for sure is that he was serving in the Crimean War as a veterinary surgeon attached to the Turkish horse artillery. Then in 1858 came his

journey out to British Columbia with his fellow members of the Boundary Commission to which, by the way, he yielded yeoman service acting as its transport officer as well as attending to his duties as expedition naturalist. Back in London, in 1863, he reported to the Zoological Society on two new mammals which he had discovered in the Pacific North-West. In a somewhat less academic role that same year, attired as a trapper, he gave a lecture at the Egyptian Hall, entitled "The Canoe, the Rifle, and the Axe". Subsequently he went on an archaeological expedition to Egypt where, we are told, he learned so much about the secrets of the snake-charmers that they, possibly in self-defence, made him "a sheikh of their craft". In August 1872 he was appointed the first manager of the Brighton Aquarium. He died a few months later. One of his friends later remembered him as "a big unostentatious, large-hearted man, a delightful companion, and a first-rate practical naturalist". Surviving photographs and engravings show him sporting a tremendous black beard.

Lord's achievements as a naturalist, and even more his experiences while exploring and collecting, gave him material for two books. The first, published in two volumes in 1866 bears the title: The Naturalist in Vancouver Island and British Columbia. In the preface Lord gives us a good idea of the nature and scope of this book:

Many interesting and useful works have been already published relating to the Colonies of Vancouver Island and British Columbia, which, however, contain little if any information on the subject of their Natural History.

This missing link I venture in some measure to supply. But 'The Naturalist in Vancouver Island and British Columbia' is not intended to be a book on Natural History merely; neither does the Author desire to weary his reader with tedious descriptions of genera and species. Comparative anatomy and physiology can be acquired at home, but habits are only discoverable by those who devote themselves to the rough though pleasant life of a wanderer, or by the actual observation of a careful investigator.

In the following pages, the Author has purposely avoided any definite system of arrangement, preferring a pleasant gossip, chatting, as it were by the fireside about North-Western Wilds.

Lord's book, incidentally, is a thoroughly well-written one, its author possessing a real literary flair.

Encouraged by the success of this first book, Lord followed it up the next year with a second: At Home in the Wilderness: What to Do There and How to Do It. This book is subtitled A Handbook for Travellers and Emigrants. Lord's second book went through three editions in the next ten years. In it one learns how to examine mules before buying them, how to swim horses across rivers, how to use Indian gumsticks to light fires in pelting rain etc., etc. Mixed in with all the practical advice are various anecdotes to keep the reader from getting bored. For a sample of Lord's skill as a writer, we may turn to a passage in this second book. His subject here is the country around Chilliwack, long since drained but once a great overflow lake for the Fraser when that river was in flood. It was moreover one of British Columbia's prime sites for the study of mosquitoes:

. . . the crafty Redskins had erected rude stages, by driving stout poles into the bottom of the lake, and then fastening other poles to them; to these platforms they all retired on the first appearance of the

mosquitoes. My suspicions were confirmed - in about five days (after the water began to drop). The increase was something beyond belief, and really terrible as they hovered over and about us in dense clouds. Night and day the hum of these blood-thirsty tyrants was incessant; we ate them, drank them, breathed them; the thickest leather clothing scarcely protected one against their lancets. With trousers tied tightly round the ankle, and coat sleeves round the wrist, the head enveloped in a gauze bag, hands in gloves and feet in shooting-boots, we lived and slept, or rather tried to do so. Lighting huge fires, fumigating our tents, trying every expedient we could think of, was all in vain, the mosquitoes seemed happy in a smoke which would have stifled anything else that was mortal; and what was worse, they increased in number daily.

Eating or drinking, attired as we were, required an immense amount of ingenuity, first dexterously to raise the net, and then deftly throw the wished-for morsel into the mouth; the slightest bungle or delay in restoring the covering, and a torrent of mosquitoes gained admittance, causing insufferable agonies.

Human endurance has its limits. The most patient get rebellious at being flayed alive. It was utterly impossible to work or write, one's entire time being occupied in slapping, stamping, grumbling, and savagely slaughtering the mosquitoes. The human face divine rapidly assumed an irregularity of outline far from consonant with the strict lines of beauty; each one looked as if he had gone in for a fight and had lost it. The unfortunate mules and horses, driven mad, raced about wildly, dashing into the lake, out again, and then trying the shelter of the willow-trees, and rolling in the grass in very agony; but all to no avail; go where they would, do what they would their prosecutors stuck to them in swarms. The dogs, howling piteously, wandered up and down restless and wretched, until guided by a wise instinct, they dug holes in the earth as a dernier ressort; then backing in, lay with their heads at the entrance, shaking their ears, and snapping angrily at the ravening legions, anxious and ready for immediate assault.

To endure any longer such ceaseless prosecution was impossible; officers and men began to show symptoms of fever, the result of want of sleep, and irritation arising from mosquito bites. To withdraw into the hills and abandon work until winter was the only alternative. We were fairly vanquished - the labour of a hundred men and as many mules and horses put to an end by tiny flies.

And so the Royal Engineers lost their battle with the Sumas mosquitoes. Incidentally, Lord mentions that when specimens of the latter were studied back in Britain, they were found to constitute a new species, culex pinguis, "the specific name being given in honour of its obesity".

With Lord our chronicle may fittingly end. In 1871 British Columbia became part of the Dominion of Canada. The next naturalist on the scene was Dr Macoun sent out from Ottawa. With his arrival we enter a new era.

Bibliography

- Douglas, David. Journal kept by David Douglas during his Travels in North America 1823-1827. London, 1914.
- Lord, John Keast. The Naturalist in Vancouver Island and British Columbia. London, 1866. 2 vols.
- - - - At Home in the Wilderness: What to do There and How to do It. London, 1867.
- Menzies, Alexander. Menzies' Journal of Vancouver's Voyage, April to October 1792, ed. C.F. Newcombe (Archives of British Columbia, Memoir No. V). Victoria, 1923.
- Mozino, Jose Mariano. Noticias de Nutka: an Account of Nootka Sound, trans. & ed. I.H. Wilson. Seattle, 1970.
- Scouler, John. "Dr John Scouler's Journal of a Voyage to N.W. America", The Quarterly of the Oregon Historical Society, Vol. VI (March, June & September, 1905), pp. 54-75, 159-205, 276-287.
- Tolmie, William Fraser. The Journals of William Fraser Tolmie, Physician and Fur Trader. Vancouver (1963).