

## BRITISH COLUMBIA HISTORICAL NEWS

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## EXECUTIVE 1976-77

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NOTE: The Editors have available a limited number of back copies of most issues of the <u>News</u>. <u>Members</u> may obtain copies at 25¢ each; non-member institutions and other subscribers may obtain copies at \$1.00 each. Packaging and mailing included. FMIS OFFER FOR A LIMITED TIME ONLY

June 1977

## EDITORIAL - VALEDICTORY

Everything in life has an ending, and we must, of necessity, view each one as dispassionately as we can. The time has come that we as editors and "parents" of the B.C. Historical News feel it's time to retire and say farewell to all our members and subscribers wherever they may be. It's not easy to casually pack it in without thinking about the friends we have made over the ten years we have been editors, which would never have been had we not, as a fledgling member, entered into a "marriage" contract in 1967 at the Williams Lake Convention. This was born out of a most frustrating Annual General Meeting that produced a maximum of talk and a minimum of decision. The Association had reached a crisis. The Quarterly was dead but not buried at that time, and there was no one forthcoming to take on the duties of secretary, who was retiring after two years. What was to happen to the Association that had neither publication nor secretary and had just voted a lady as incoming President?

All the clever suggestions had been made and all the people nominated to fill the office had just as quickly declined, when an "unknown quantity" filled with rage and some chivalry for the new lady President said "I will" and this was to be Editor and Secretary. Yes, I had been secretary of various organizations before and had filled the bill quite nicely, but no one there knew that. As regards being an editor this was rather like the new ranch-hand who informed the boss cowboy that he couldn't ride a horse and got the answer to his problem very quickly "Well, son, see that colt in the corrall, he's never been ridden, how about the two of you learning together". Well, that was about the size of it. There had been a modest sum approved to buy a Gestetner (how did that operate?) and here were two greenhorns - Gestetner and secretary - trying to produce a public-We were given no material to put in it, nor any advice ation.

FRONT COVER Robert Genn, for his last cover illustration for the B.C. Historical News depicts the M.V. Swell, 72.5 x 19.2 x 12.6 ft. She was built in Vancouver in 1912 by Mr A. Moscrop for the late Capt. George McGregor, who founded the Victoria Tug Co. Ltd. She was built as a steam vessel originally, but in late 1953 a rebuilding programme began at the Point Hope Shipyard in Victoria that sent her back to sea completely renovated and converted to diesel power. Today, no longer a tug-boat, she is privately owned and operated by Capt. Tom Stockdill of West Vancouver, who acquired her from her last commercial owners, Island Tug and Barge Co. She still has the power units installed in the 1953 conversion and still bears a Victoria Registry, and to all intents and purposes she is unchanged from her tug boat Robert Genn and the Editors, as part of the "crew", have days. just returned from a three week cruise to the Queen CHarlotte Island, Moresby, in the Swell, and explored from Sandspit to Anthony Island. The Beaver, pioneer ship of B.C. was reckoned to be a tough ship since she was afloat for 53 years and during that period had several years of idleness. The Swell has been plying the coastal waters of the Pacific coast for 65 years and has many more to come.

where some might be forthcoming and so it was now editor and publisher and roving reporter. The gestation period took seven mon ths and the birth pangs were horrendous, but we did give birth and we were quite proud of "child" which we named the <u>B.C.</u> Historical News.

The "child" grew and with age acquired an ever increasing personality. After two years of a nondescript exterior, Robert Genn took pity on us and started designing the covers, which he has done ever since, bless his heart. The circulation has grown from a modest 350 copies per issue to the present 1300 and we have learned a lot over the ten years of its existence. Some has been to simplify the physical work by better equipment, but we have yet to find a substitute for plain old common or garden or genuine everyday hard work. One thing certain, we have maintained domestic harmony, only because the editor has a longsuffering and patient co-editor; without her help there would never have been the News.

Now that the time has come to say farewell what do we remember about it all? The many friends throughout B.C. are our fondest memory and always will be, since a goodly number have become very close lifelong friends. We also have fond memories of others who have left this life who gave us the kind of encouragement that makes the difference between success and failure. There is hardly an area of this province that we can't find a warm welcome that is not attributable to the <u>News</u>.

We made enemies too, but how can it be avoided when human nature embraces jealousy, pride and the desire to exploit, and how many know that the reddest of red hair adorned the scalp of the departing editor. This is all part of the game of life and as such must be dealt with accordingly.

In conclusion, we thank everyone for bearing with us and overlooking our human frailties; and to our many friends - we'll be seeing you, and that is as certain as death and taxes. By the way, if there happens to be a "raw hand" around that wants to try his luck, there is still a colt in the corrall and, by george, you can have a lot of fun if you give it a whirl.

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## CONVENTION - 1977

Highlights of the Old Council Meeting of May 26th, Annual General Meeting of May 28th and New Council Meeting May 29th.

THAT Minutes of Council Meetings and Annual General Meeting be published in the News no longer as has been the practice in the past.

THAT the following societies be accepted as members of our federation: Sydney and North Saanich Historical Society; North Shore Historical Society; District # 69 Historical Society.

THAT member societies be urged, again, to join the Outdoor Recreation Council regional groups in order to press for the pre-

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servation and restoration of historic trails. Report presented by Jim McCook, Victoria, Chairman, who made an impassioned plea for action.

THAT the report of the Chairman of the Cook Bicentennial Committee, Frank Street, Burnaby, be mailed to the various party caucuses in Ottawa.

THAT the First Vice-President, Rex Tweed, Campbell River, chair a committee to enlarge membership in the B.C.H.A. and the second Vice-President, Winnifred Weir, Invermere, foster heritage preservation.

THAT the by-laws 10 and 27 were amended as circulated, and by-law 15 was amended to allow the Annual General Meeting to be held in the spring of each year (no longer a specific month). Piloted by Ken Leeming, Victoria.

THAT, because no invitation has been received for a site for the 1978 annual convention, the Annual General Meeting and banquet be held in conjunction with the Simon Fraser University seminar on Captain James Cook if arrangements to do so can be made. Arlene Bramhall and Frank Street, Burnaby, to negotiate and report to Council.

THAT all last year's officers were reelected to serve another term.

THAT members-at-large elected were: (1) Donald New, Gulf Islands Branch, (2) Helen Akrigg, Vancouver.

THAT the retirement of Anne and Philip Yandle as editors of the <u>B.C. Historical News</u> with the completion of Volume 10 was accompanied by praise for their service to the B.C.H.A.

THAT Major George S.W. Nicholson, M.C., Box 78, Tofino, B.C. was made an honorary life member of the B.C.H.A. in recognition of his contributions to the record of our province's history.

THAT in recognition of the role of John Sullivan Deas in the founding of the salmon canning industry in British Columbia, we request the Minister of Highways and Transport to name the Richmond-Surrey Highway the "Deas Highway".

THAT, on motion at the A.G.M., the New Council set up a committee, with power to add,

(1) to recommend a new editor for the B.C. Historical News

(2) to review the format and editorial policy of the <u>News</u>
(3) to report its findings and recommendations to the table officers by June 30, 1977. The new council established a committee for this task, comprising: Michael Halleran, Victoria,

Chairman, Elizabeth Norcross, Nanaimo, Helen Akrigg, Vancouver, Jim McCook, Victoria.

THAT the Association acquire a permanent address for the benefit of those who do not have the secretæry's address.

THAT it was generally agreed that Burnaby had met the high standard in convention planning set by Victoria last year. We all learned a great deal about the Fraser, David Thompson, and Burnaby's cultural institutions and lovely gardens. Our thanks to Arlene Drambell, Chairman of Convention Committee, and to all members.

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Ruth Barnett.

## SOCIETY NOTES AND COMMENTS

<u>ALBERNI</u> At its April meeting the history of tug-boats and pilot boats on the Alberni Canal was recounted by Alice Riley and Douglas Stone, both members of seagoing families. At the May meeting Mr and Mrs Allan West showed slides of their unusual South American tour, which included the lost Incan city of Macchu Picchu. This month the second annual historical hike was organized by Dorrit McLeod to the remains of the roadbed of the C.N.R. that didn't quite make it to Port Alberni in 1914. As its contribution to the current Youth Festival the Society will award two book prizes for historical essays at the high school level. Current project is the publication of a booklet on the place names of the Alberni Valley.

<u>BOWEN ISLAND</u> When the Society was formed in 1967 it had two main aims - to publish a history of Bowen Island and to establish a museum. The first aim was accomplished with the publication of Irene Howard's "History of Bowen Island". This year the Society purchased a lot on which a museum and hopefully a library will be situated. The cost of the lot was \$21,000, and they still have a loan of \$7000 to repay. Major fund raising activities are taking place.

<u>CAMPBELL RIVER</u> Several activities were sponsored throughout the year: (1) a trip to Lucky Jim mine on Quadra Island, with John Frishholz giving a talk on the mine and island life around 1910. A pioneer type luncheon followed at the old Heriot Bay Inn. (2) A showing of Henry Twidle glass slides on early logging in the Campbell River aread round 1920. (3) A guided tour of the new ethnology gallery of the Provincial Museum. The Genesis project has been reborn with another LIP grant, and five workers under the direction of Mrs Ruth Barnett are collecting materials and information for the archives.

CHEMAINUS The Society is pleased to report that its book "Memories of the Chemainus Valley", a history of the peoples of Saltair, Chemainus, Westholme, Crofton, Thetis, Kuper and Reid Islands will be published this fall. This has been partly financed under the Federal Government New Horizons Programme. The Society has been in touch with the C.P.R. in regard to the acquisition of the old E. & N. station building in Chemainus for a museum. Many photographs have already been donated by pioneer families. The annual summer trip will be to Kuper Island, with a work party to clear the cemetery donated by Mrs Audrey Ginn as a historical site. A large sign for the site has been carved by the President, Mr George Pederson.

<u>NANAIMO</u> During the past year the Society has started transcribing its collection of recorded reminiscences of Nanaimo pioneers, with a view to future publication. In June the Society will visit Salt Spring Island on its annual outing. During the past year, Mr W. Barraclough, already a Life Member of the B.C. Historical Association, honoured the Nanaimo Society by consenting to become a patron; in this capacity he is no mere figurehead and is still as active and hard working as ev. TRAIL The Trail Historical Society is going through a difficult time of readjustment, with a new name, new location for meetings, and struggling with a new museum. The museum occupies a few small rooms in the back of the City Hall and the Society is endeavouring to make it into a museum of miscellaneous interests.

VANCOUVER Bill McKee of the Vancouver City Archives addressed the Society in April on "The Struggle over Deadman's Island". The Annual General Meeting was held on May 25th; at that meeting John Adams, Curator of Heritage Village, Burnaby, presented extracts of his studies of the pioneer brickworks, one of the first industrial histories completed in the province.

VICTORIA Professor Keith Ralston addressed the Victoria section in April on the career of John Sullivan Deas, an extraordinary pioneer who in gold rush days was one of the coloured people who came to Canada in search of freedom and prosperity. A tinsmith, the remarkable man was a pioneer in the salmoncanning industry and became prominent in business life. Cyril E. Leonoff spoke at the May meeting on the history of Jewry in British Columbia and the Yukon. Jews were part of the migration to British Columbia in gold rush days and the synagogue on Blanshard Street was completed in 1863. New officers of the Society are Pres. James McCook, First Vice-Ires. M.F. Halleran, Second Vice-Pres. Mrs Clare McAllister, Corresponding Sec. Mrs E.F. Stewart, Recording Sec. Dr Patricia Roy, Treas. R.B. Winsby and Assist Treas. L.W. Turnbull.

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## HISTORIC SITES ADVISORY BOARD REPORT

The last meeting of the Historic Sites Advisory Board was held in Victoria March 30, 1977. The Board now comes under the Ministry of Recreation and Conservation - the Honourable Minister Sam Bawlf, Deputy Minister Lloyd Brooks. Since the Minister was to meet with the Board he gave one and a half hours of his time, I did not write a report before this meeting because it seemed necessary to have some report of his plans for the Board. Nothing is finalized but there appear to be plans for a Heritage Act and a melding of Archaeological Advisory Board and the Historic Sites Advisory Board. The next few weeks will entail many meetings of sub-committees and the whole Board before the Minister discusses more detailed plans. He did stress the need of representation and input from the whole province on the Board, which will comprise the melded Board. It is not known what individuals will be appointed or retained until the new Board is functioning. There is much for the Historic Sites Advisory Board to finalize and plan projects already discussed.

The many hours spent in discussing the terms of reference of the Board this last year may appear irrelevant now, nonetheless the function of the board. The need for communication between Government and the Board and between the public and the Board. The need for a definite budget. The need for more meetings and for some of the Board members to travel and under the pressure of business to have longer meetings. The hours were not wasted.

PERITAGE ACT Has involved detailed discussions in the past and

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will require much more before the new format evolves with the New Heritage Act and its ramifications as discussed by the Minister.

> Anne Stevenson Williams Lake.

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#### JOTTINGS

Fur Trade Conference A three day conference on the fur trade will be held May 4th - 6th, 1978 in Winnipeg, Manitoba. It is being sponsored by the University of Manitoba, University of Winnipeg, Brandon University, Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature, Historical and Scientific Society of Manitoba and the Hudson's Bay Company. A tentative programme has been prepared, which dounds very interesting. Further inform ation may be obtained from Fur Trade Conference 1978, P.O. Box 835, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 2R1.

Certificate Programme in British Columbia Studies is being offered by Simon Fraser University in conjunction with the Vancouver Museums and Planetarium Association. The programme provides adults an opportunity to complete a sequential and coherent programme concerning British Columbia's cultural, social and physical development. The programme combines selected resources from Simon Fraser University and the Vancouver Centennial Museums and draws upon the disciplines of Archaeology, Sociology, Anthropology, Geography and History. For further information write Continuing Studies, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C. V5A 1S6, Phone 291-4304 or 291-4565. Final date for registering in person is August 2nd.

Woodwards Stores (Vancouver) have for sale a number of <u>facsimile</u> <u>prints and charts from Vancouver's and other voyages</u>. These are available in the Picture FRaming Department of the Main store, but it is proposed to sell them through souvenir departments of all stores. In addition to facsimiles from Vancouver's Voyages, ticles available are "Cariboo Waggon Road", "Yale on the Fraser River", "Fort Edmonton", and "A North Saskatchewan Steamer". Prices vary from\$1.50 to \$6.95.

The <u>News</u> wishes to congratulate <u>Laurie Wallace</u>, who has for many years served this province well as Deputy Provincial Secretary, on his appointment as British Columbia's Agent General in the United Kingdom and Europe. His appointment will take effect when the present five year term of present incumbent Robert Strachan terminates at the end of this year.

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## BRITISH COLUMBIA BOOKS OF INTEREST, comp. by F. Woodward

BARKER, Mary L. Natural resources of B.C. and the Yukon Territory. Vancouver, J.J. Douglas, 1977. 155 p. \$14.95; \$6.95 paper.

BLIX, Einar. Trails to timberline; a comprehensive hiking guide to 50 trails in west central B.C. Terrace, Northern Times Press, (3210A Kalum St)

B.C. DEPT. OF HEALTH SERVICES AND HOSPITAL INSURANCE. An alphabatical listing of place names in B.C. Victoria, 1970.

CAMERON, Will Stuart. Some we have met and stories they have told. (Creston, 1967) Vancouver, Alexander Nicolls, 1977. 154 p. ill.5.95 GOULD, Ed. Ralph Edwards of Lonesome Lake. Saanichton, Hancock House, 1977. 288 p. illus. HANCOCK, Lyn. There's a raccoon in my parka. Toronto, Doubleday, 1977. 231 pp. illus. \$8.95. HOLLOWAY, Godfrey. The Empress of Victoria. Victoria, Empress Pubns, 1977. 101 pp. illus. \$2.25. KLASSEN, Art and Jan Teversham. Exploring U.B.C. Endowment Lands. Vancouver, J.J. Douglas, 1977. 110 pp. illus. \$4.95. LANDALE, Zoe. Harvest of salmon: adventures in fishing the B.C. coast. Saanichton, Hancock House, 1977. 256 pp. illus. \$9.95. MAGOR, John. Our UFO visitors. Saanichton, Hancock House, 1977. 264 pp. illus. \$9.95. MORTON, James W. In the sea of sterile mountains. Vancouver, J.J. Douglas, 1977. 280 pp. illus. \$6.95 paper OUR TOWN. Published by MSA Community Services, 2420 Montrose St., Abbotsford, 1977. 172 pp. illus. \$4.95. PENSON, R.G. Some rambling reminiscences of Creston Valley, 1911-1936: in one ear. (Creston, 1967) Vancouver, Alexander Nicolls, 1977. 73 pp. \$1. PETIT, André. Canada:l'aventure à l'Ouest. Paris, R.Laffon, 1974. Ff 26. POTTS, Doris. Starting with monuments: Stanley Park. Vancouver, Vancouver Environmental Education Project, 1974. 46 p ill.\$1.50. SATTERFIELD, Archie. After the gold rush. Phila. Lippincott. 1977. 176 pp. \$9.00. STACEY, E.C. The Monkman Pass Highway. Beaverlodge, Alta. Beaverlodge & Dist. Historical Ass. 1974. 44 pp. illus. TIPPETT, Maria & Douglas Cole. Desolation and splendour: changing perceptions of the B.C. landscape. Toronto, Clarke Irwin, 1976. 166 p. illus. \$19.95. TURNER, Trudy. Fogswamp: living with swans in the wilderness; with Ruth McVeigh. Saanichton, Hancock House, 1977. 288 p. ill.\$9.95. VANCOUVER. City Planning Dept. Vancouver local areas. Vancouver, 1975. 115 pp. illus. VICTORIA. Dept. of Community DEvelopment. Waterfront, City of Victoria. Victoria, 1972. 28 pp. illus. WALBRAN, John T. British Columbia coast names. Vancouver, J.J. Douglas, 1977.546 pp. illus. \$7.95 paper.

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#### BOOK REVIEWS

THE POSTAL HISTORY OF THE YUKON TERRITORY, by Robert G. Woodall. Lawrence, Mass. Quartermain Publications, 1976. 267 pp. illus. \$25.00.

An initial feeling of guilt for undertaking this review, quite without any status as a philatelist, has almost completely vanished by the conviction that, while probably a "must" for those so qualified, this book has much to offer the lay reader interested in the Great Northwest. I shall refer to Mr Woodall as "the author" and to myself, informally, in the first person.

I suppose postal history is that of communication evidenced by the written word on paper, or the like, desirably with identity of sender and addressee, and franked with dates, places, etc., by the postal or other conveying agency. It thus impregnates the history and geography of Man's migrations over the face of the Earth. Courier services are known in the Persian Empire under Cyrus (529 BC). In Athens, news of the victory at Marathon by runner is legendary, 490 BC. Couriers circulated the Roman Empire, and mediaeval Europe, as well as the pre-Columbian societies of the Americas. English postal services began about 1657, and the "Penny Post" was authorized in 1839. First American postage stamps appeared in 1847, mail crossed to the west coast by "Pony Express" in 1860-61, and by rail in 1862. Practical aviation, heritage from World War I, initiated airmail in 1918. International cooperation began with the Universal Postal Union in 1874, thanks largely to Heinrich von Stephan (1831-97), Postmaster General of the German Empire. The postal history of the Yukon is inseparable from that of its discovery, exploration and development.

The Xukon was first identified as a "District" of the Canadian N.W. Territories in 1395, together with those of Franklin, Mackenzie and Ungava. Administrative needs, aggravated by the Klondyke Gold Rush, made it a separate territory in 1898, with boundaries unchanged. Prior to 1870 it was in "The Northwestern Territory", west of Rupert's Land, of British North America. The boundary with Alaska (then Russian) was fixed in 1825 on the 141st Meridian West, Long, its boundary with British Columbia on the south, in 1863. The bit to Mt. St. Elias, at the west end, was specified by the Alaska Boundary Tribunal in 1903.

The author published a first edition of his book privately in 1964. He confesses two disillusionments in its making - first that the subject extends beyond the Yukon to roots in adjoining territories, and second that it reaches back in time more than a century. His skilful and meticulous condensation of events, prior to Part I, during Part II and after the Gold Rush (Part III) give strong and broad appeal. "The Catalogue" following Part III is in two parts: (a) "List of Post Offices and Postmarks" (28 pages); and (b) "Code of Types of Postmarks" (10 pages). By an apparent oversight these are interchanged in the TAble of Contents.

Through Part I of Woodall's book those who have read Clifford Wilson's "Campbell of the Yukon" (1970) and more recently, Allen Wright's "Prelude to Bonarza", are offered the pleasure of renewing many agreeable acquaintances. Campbell had built Fort Selkirk at the Pelly's mouth in 1848, having first reached that stream in 1840 via the Liard from Fort Simpson. Meanwhile, John Bell had descended the Porcupine to the Yukon, in 1844 from Fort McPherson via the Peel and across the watershed of the Richardson Mts. Alex Murray followed in 1847 to build Fort Yukon.

The author remarks that "the first mail ever" to and from Yukon Territory was probably that of Campbell between Pelly Banks and Fort Simpson in 1843. He also observes that Campbell effected a yearly exchange of letters, 1848 et seq., from Fort Selkirk with the HBC steamer <u>Beaver</u> on the Pacific coast, by the truculent Chilkats probably via Chilkoot Pass. The aborigines held a reverence for written messages, which transcended hostility, ensuring eventual delivery of those entrusted to them. Prior to 1863 communication down the Yukon via the Russian outposts was unlikely. Bell's route from the lower Mackenzie via the Porcupine etc. to Fort Yukon was favoured over Campbell's to Fort Selkirk via the lethal Liard, which he himself referred to as "The River of Malediction".

The gamble of Perry McD. Collins, 1864-67, to locate and build his "Overland Telegraph" from Portland, Oregon via the Cariboo, the Nechaco, Skeena, Nass, Stikine and Yukon Rivers to Bering Strait and the Amur River in Eastern Siberia, where the Russians were to connect to St. Petersburg and Europe, deployed a remarkable array of explorers, surveyors, trail and line builders. After the success of the Atlantic Cable, summer 1866, it took a year for the sudden but decisive "cease fire" order to reach the far-flung ends of the two-prong attack, one up the Yukon as far as Lake Laberge, spearheaded by Frank Ketchum and Michael Lebarge, June 1867, and the other northward from the Stikine as far as Teslin Lake, reached by Michael Byrnes, August that year. Woodall observes that the unclosed gap was only 120 miles.

The pattern of penetration into Yukon Territory from Bering Sea in the west, from the Arctic and lower Mackenzie in the north, from Fort Simpson in the east and from Lynn Canal and the Stikine in the south, pioneered by fur traders, 1840 et seq., and followed by miners, missionaries, surveyors, carriers, merchants and the rudiments of government, police, sporadic and intermittent postal services, set the stage for the explosion of the Klondike Gold Rush of 1897-98 which has been copiously chronicled. However, to retrace it from Mr Woodall's special perspective of its postal history provides a unique and fascinating story, covering communication by river in summer, dog team in winter, and the carriers, individual and commercial firms, with the valiant efforts of the N.W.M.P. to operate post offices in addition to their other duties. The author remarks on earlier conveyance of letters etc. by random travellers, to be placed in official mail at remote opportunity, "when considerations of honesty never arose". With the subsequent rush of "get-rich-quick" operators, described by Supt. Constantine of the N.W.M.P. as "sweepings of the slums and a general jail delivery", honesty could no more be taken for granted.

Later chapters of Woodall's book include enticing captions: "The Rush and Trails of 1897-99"; "Private Expresses 1897-1900"; "Construction of the White Pass Railway 1898-1900"; "The Dawson-McPherson Patrol 1899-1962"; "The War Years and After, 1914 on"; "The Development of Airmail Services 1927-61"; "The Northwest Staging Route, the Alaska Highway and the Canol Project, World War II"; and finally "Herschel Island, Yukon Territory". He includes the related Atlin and Discovery diggings in northern B.C. He mentions as ill-starred route in the Rush of 1897-98 from Valdez across the Malaspina glacier near Yakutat Bay. Of several thousand people "... with no guides, no reliable maps, it is doubtful if more than a handful ... got through after spending two winters on the way". In the International Boundary Commission Report (1952) of operations in the 1912 season in that region, the Canadian party on Nunatak glacier observed that ".... this Glacier had been one of the routes to the Yukan gold fields during the rush years; it was littered from end to end with old sleds, discarded clothing and tin cans".

In Chapter 18 on airmail services I had the pleasure of encountering items about several "bush" pilots known to me directly or indirectly during early air photo flying for mapping B.C., 1936-39. His excellent summary on Herschel Island in the last chapter was also of special interest.

Mr Woodall's book is generously illustrated with good monochrome examples from his own collection. A vintage map (frontispiece) covers the broad region, from the Skeena to the Aleutians, but he cuts off the Arctic coast. Legible sketch maps show detail between Lynn Canal and Hootalinqua (p.22) and from the Pelly down to the boundary on the main Yukon (p.37). There is a condensed index with chapter references instead of pages. Just one inconsistency in dates was noticed. Lukeen's trip up the Yukon to Fort Yukon is dated 1863. Allen Wright uses the spelling "Lukin" and gives the date 1861. As Woodall remarks, dates (and spellings) do not always jibe in source material. Events are often dated from the time officially recognized or reported, and foreign names tend to vary in anglicized spellings.

In conclusion, referring to my opening confession of ignorance in philately, I have been fortunate to enlist warm collaboration of a renowned expert and longtime member of the B.C. Historical Association, Mr Gerald E. Wellburn. He was well aware of the eminence of Robert G. Woodall as "an authority on the Postal History of the Pacific Coast of North America". While I have endeavoured to interest the lay reader, at some length, sufficient to say, for philatelists, Mr Wellburn recommends the book highly to them.

G. Smedley Andrews.

Col. Andrews is Past President of the B.C. Historical Association.

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CONTACT AND CONFLICT: INDIAN-EUROPEAN RELATIONS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1774-1890, by Robin Fisher. Vancouver, University of British Columbia Press, 1977. xviii, 250 pp. illus. \$18.50.

The subject of the relationships of whites and Indians on the Northwest Coast and particularly British Columbia has long been of interest to scholars and laymen alike. It is particularly welcome, therefore, to see <u>Contact and Conflict</u> on the shelves of good booksellers and in the lists of bibliographers.

This volume is a fine introduction to a most worthy subject. Any scholar who has stepped on the miry ground of this particular subject will realize the difficulty of Professor Fisher's task, and it is to the credit of the author that he has given form and substance to an otherwise tricky subject. Some critics will complain of his organization: the first three chapters are mainly chronological, the fourch (entitled "Image of the Indian") is analytical, and the remaining four chapters are largely topical, Structurally, therefore, the book reads as a series of essays. But truly this is no fault, for in these profiles Professor Fisher introduces, in turn, the events, forces, themes, and personalities that made white-Indian relations in that time and place uniquely British Columbian. As such, this book is of interest to all persons irrespective of race, who would like to read how one set of people, secure in their identity, became subject peoples when the British tide of empire lapped these particular shores.

This reader, however, quarrels with several points of fact and interpretation. The first chapter, on the maritime fur trade, is heavily Indian centered, a welcome sign; subsequent chapters, except perhaps the last, tend to be increasingly white-oriented. Perhaps this reflects the fact that History is regrettably Eurocentric in character and few sources of information record the Indian position. Still, more information on the Indians, their chiefs and ranks, their villages and environments would have been welcome. One would like to know more about individual Indians and their responses and one would like to know more about how certain tribes responded to the imperial tide. More data on the chiefs as mediating elites, as is hinted in the maritime fur trade chapter, would also have been welcome. The author gives us more information to support the received version of Sir James Douglas, fur trader and governor, as a man whose attitudes to Indians were, to use Professor Fisher's words, "a mixture in which the knowledge of the fur trader was accompanied by the paternalistic concerns of the nineteenth-century humanitarian". But Douglas could often be more high-handed than high-minded. With respect to the Fort Rupert affair Douglas appears lionized at the expense of the neophyte Governor Richard Blanshard. But, as Douglas wrote to a fellow fur trader after the event, "It is to be regretted that the Indians were not more severely punished, but I trust they have had a lesson they will not soon forget". Finally, Professor Fisher points to the Fraser gold rush as the critical turning point in white-Indian relations. It seems to this reader that the imperial process was well in train by 1858, especially on Vancouver Island where economic activity in agriculture, coal mining and lumbering were already making substantive changes to the relationship. The Hudson's Bay Company on the Pacific slope was not just a fur trading company, and by the same token the Indians were not simply trappers and hunters. Even in the critical colonial years British Columbia was a locale of economic pluralism, and the paradigm of fur traders giving way to settlers as so uncritically adopted by many students of the North American experience invites a reassessment.

These points having been said, this book is nonetheless an important contribution to our understanding of a worthy and relevant topic. We have to thank Professor Fisher for his painstaking endeavours in bringing to light the features of a subject fhat too long have been spoiled by prejudice.

Barry Gough

Dr Gough is a member of the History Department, University of Waterloo.

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THE DIAMOND DRILLING INDUSTRY, by Dan Fivehouse. Saanichton, Hancock House, 1976. 199 pp., illus. \$9.95.

The title of this book may be slightly misleading; it is not a technical work. Rather it is a fascinating history of the drilling industry, written for the general reader. It contains some explanations of the mechanical features of diamond drilling from its beginnings, especially relating to British Columbia, to the Kootenays in particular, and to Western Canada in general, as well as the Middle East and Africa.

The foreword states that Connors Drilling Limited commissioned the book. This gave Mr Fivehouse ample opportunity to research his subject. Diamond drilling may be generally considered as a comparatively modern method, but the author reveals that the first book on the subject written in English was by a British engineer in 1900. Obviously, there have been many improvements in the industry since then.

In lighter vein, while researching his book he tells of some reactions to his information requests from librarians and archivists such as "Aren't those the drills they use to discover diamond deposits?" and "I thought all drills had diamond tips"; also "I didn't know we had a diamond industry here!" His book is an attempt to bridge that information gap and he does it well by telling what it is all about.

Having been involved indirectly with mining and quarrying at various times, this reviewer can appreciate the value and necessity of diamond drilling and the cores it disgorges which give the geologic information from beneath the earth's surface as to whether further development is desirable, and if so just what the reserves are. Mr Fivehouse relates on several different projects as well as their outcome.

In addition to the foreword and introduction there is a Short History of Diamond Drilling; also a section on Diamond Drilling in Western Canada. The book contains a wealth of information for the general public as well as for the professional, and is wider in scope than the title suggests. There are thirty-two pages of sketches and photographs of diamond drills at various stages of progress through the years as well as results. These include very fine photographs of the destruction of Ripple Rock in Seymour Narrows in 1958.

Although lacking a general index, the chapter titles are given and a complete list of sources and a bibliography is included at the back of the book. It is a most interesting and easy to read work and is recommended for any reader interested in geology, mining, and/or history relating thereto.

Mabel E. Jordon.

Mrs Jordon is a Past President of the B.C. Historical Association.

BLOOD RED THE SUN, by William Bleasdell Cameron. Edmonton, Hurtig, 225 pp. \$9.95; \$4.95 paper.

This book, first published in 1926, is an account of the Frog Lake Massacre, which was carried out April 2, 1885, in Alberta by a group of Cree warriors. The author was one of the three survivors, and the only male, and in 1926 told his story in this book, not as a dull commentary, but as an emotional first hand account, for he was no child at the time of the massacre, being 23 years of age and had been quite adventurous for the previous five years since graduating from high school in Ontario.

This adventure story, for it is in narrative form, tells it as it was, nothing vindictive, nor is there any attempt to try to right the white man's wrong by playing games with the truth. The day after Frog Lake massacre he was taken to be questioned by Wandering Spirit before the tribal Council. He describes in some detail the gathering and how the questioning began. Cameron is a bad omen in the eyes of all assembled, for it was never intended that anyone should survive, and here was one in their midst. This was also just over a week since Riel had fought with the North West Mounted Police at Duck Lake, and Wandering Spirit wants Cameron to give an account of "the half-breed war". Cameron does so and is called "liar" for attempting to fully recount the message he had received of what happened at Dudk Lake. Wandering Spirit continues

"You seem to remember everything against us - all this talk of soldiers coming to fight us," he sneered. He regarded me darkly for a moment; then: "I am going to ask another question. A minute ago you wanted everyone to hear you. Let them hear you now when you answer: Do you want to see Riel win, or the whites? Whose side are you on?" (Cameron's thoughts are) I hope never again to find myself in so critical a predicament. I could not bring myself, in no matter what extremity, to say I sided with these cut-throats, even though, because the thought of death so appalled me just then, I had taken the hand held out to me by the arch-assassin... What I finally did say - and I spoke to the whole council - was: "The other day you made us - ten white men - prisoners, over yonder. A little later nine died. I am glad that I am alive - that you saved me - but I have no life of my own any more. It is yours. I am in your camp. Who can I side with?"

Speaking of another incident when Cameron's friend Simpson had an attack of quinsy and could eat no solid food for days,

"Then Lone Man's wife came to him one evening with a bowl of Simpson was ravenous; intense yearning filled his eyes broth. as he sniffed at it. The aroma was most intriguing. Still, he hesitated. He wishes most ardently to drink it, yet he feared to ask questions and he did not dare touch it without. And he might not care for it when he got an answer. "What's it made of?" he said at length desparately. "Meat", said Mrs Lone Man, non-committally. "That must mean beef," Simpson observed thoughtfully. "Smells nice - looks all right," I remarked encouragingly. I was glad to see one of the dearest friends I ever had want to take something, no matter what. And he drank drank it with relish. A moment later Mrs Lone Man said with a grin: "I suppose you don't know what it was?" Simpson looked up in alarm. He shook his head. "WEll," said the warm-hearted

lady; "dog soup." And Simpson went out with a rush and parted with his broth in much mental and physical anguish."

The whole drama unfolds with such spontaneity that it is hard to visualize the time sequence from the happening to the recounting. If you like historical adventure well told then be sure to read "Blood Red the Sun".

This new paperback edition, published by Hurtig, has a new introduction by Hugh Dempsey, as well as the original foreword by Owen Wister in 1929.

Editor

H.H. STEVENS, 1878-1973, by Richard Wilbur. Toronto, University of Toronto Press, 1977. 244 pp. \$9.50.

In his foreword to this volume, Alan Wilson states that the University of Toronto's Canadian Biographical Studies were intended "primarily to interest the general reader. They have sought to fill a gap in our knowledge of men who seemed often to be merely secondary... contributors to our regional and national experience in Canada. Our social, educational, and economic history may perhaps be better understood in their light."

Wilbur's study of H.H. Stevens certainly meets those criteria. Because the author has skillfully combined a thorough documentation with rich anecdotes of Stevens' life, he has produced a book that should be pleasingly informative and readable to anyone, whether neophyte or professional historian, interested in the story of this country. As he traces Stevens' business and political careers, he provides one more perspective of Canadian federal politics from 1911 to the end of the thirties. He includes illuminating glimpses of the Conservative Party and its leadership from Borden to Bennett, giving more detailed portraits of Meighen and Bennett. Naturally, the author also dwells upon Stevens' key roles in the 1926 Customs Scandal Inquiry, the later Price Spreads Inquiry and the ill-fated Reconstruction Party.

Wilbur's study is, however, of special value to historians interested in the spread of the social gospel and those concerned with the history of British Columbia. Having outlined Stevens' firm Methodist upbringing, Wilbur then shows how Harry Stevens was apparently motivated throughout his adult life by a "mission" to correct inequities he perceived in Canadian society. While he was blatantly racist, like most of his white contemporaries in British Columbia - viz. his hostility to Oriental immigration at the time of the Komagata Maru incident - and "conservative, almost reactionary" toward civil unrest engendered by the Great Depression - viz. his unquestioning support for Bennett's hard line against the leaders of the "ON-to-Ottawa" trek - Stevens was sincerely indignant about many injustices, especially those experienced by the smal! entrepreneur, he witnessed. Outraged by irregularities in the operations of the Customs Department which had come to light, Stevens brought the issue to the attention of an embarrassed Liberal Government and the electorate. Wilbur concludes that "The 1926 Customs Inquiry" which Stevens' revelations precipitated, "was merely the latest chapter in the political career of this Methodist lay preacher". His crusading spirit reappeared during his Price Spreads Inquiry, convened in the depths of the Great Depression,

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which revealed gross distortions in the Canadian economy. Wilbur makes it clear, nevertheless, that Stevens wished to reform rather than destroy the capitalist system; he proposed to reassert the power of the small businessman in both the marketplace and government, which he believed was synonymous with national welfare. In this respect, Harry Stevens belonged to the populist political school, dominated by smaller businessmen, which continues to play a major role in politics in B.C.

Those interested in the history of Canada's Pacific Province will also find that Wilbur pictures Stevens as a proponent of B.C.'s interests in Ottawa. Summarizing Stevens' first term as a Member of Parliament, Wilbur accordingly notes that he

"... concentrated on the demands and needs of his Vancouver constituency. By December 1916, according to the <u>Monetary Times</u>, his efforts had resulted in a two-million dollar dredging operation of Vancouver harbour, a grain elevator with a capacity of 1,300,000 bushels, and a harbour commission. He was also largely responsible for the scheme of the terminal railway and wharfage extension to cost \$5,000,000 to \$7,000,000 and secured a subsidy for a dry dock to cost \$5,500,000 and worked for the extension of postal facilities and construction of postal stations.

This was a commitment he never abandoned, as the author repeatedly illustrates. Wilbur's portrayal of the life is, then well worth reading. Having spent so much time and effort preparing the manuscript, the author ensured an informative, readable story. This reader would like to see the author prepare an article on H.H. Stevens' influence on the development of Vancouver, based on the Stevens papers held at the Vancouver City Archives, which were apparently unavailable when he wrote the original manuscript for his book.

Bill McKee

Bill McKee, a mamber of the North Shore Historical Society is a member of staff of the Vancouver City Archives.

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PERSONALITY AND HISTORY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA; Essays in Honour of Margaret Ormsby, edited by John Norris and Margaret Prang. Published by B.C. Studies as No. 32, Winter 1976-77.

This issue of <u>B.C.Studies</u> has been published also as a separate volume as a tribute to the scholarship of Dr Margaret Ormsby. John Norris, in concluding his biographical sketch states "The essays in this volume express not only the tribute of fellow scholars, but also, by their variety, a sense of the way in which Margaret's influence has extended the reach of history of British Columbia and Canada".

Norris's chapter on Dr Ormsby is a very perceptive piece of work. He traces the picture of a Canadian who has been liberally endowed with Anglo-Irish background that has placed its mark upon her in her long and dedicated career to the study and teaching of history.

Dorothy Blak<sup>e</sup>y Smith's essay ""Poor Gaggin": Irish Misfit in the Colonial Service is an outstanding piece of scholarship; Walter Young follows the theme of this volume in his well documented "Ideology, Personality and the Origin of the CCF in British Columbia"; while Keith Ralston has reached into one of the province's basic resources to produce an essay on"John Sullivan Deas: a Black Entrepreneur in British Columbia Salmon Canning".

The remainder of the essays have little coherent value as related to the title of the volume and could well have formed as much relevancy in any other issue of <u>B.C. Studies</u>. They include "The Character of the British Columbia Frontier" by Barry Gough; "The Illumination of Victoria: Late Nineteenth-Century Technology and Municipal Enterprise" by Patricia Roy; "The British Columbia Origins of the Federal Department of Labour" by Jay Atherton; "Locating the University of British Columbia" by R.Cole Harris; "Forty Years On: the Cahan Blunder Re-examined" by F.H. Soward, as well as a list of Dr Ormsby's publications by Frances Woodward.

With so little connection between the subjects of the essays and the main title of the volume, the subtitle would seem to be a more appropriate title, as it is apparent that they have been written as a tribute to a dedicated historian by her fellow scholars and former students. In this regard they do form a worthwhile collection of essays.

Editor

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BYGONES OF BURNABY: An Anecdotal History, by Pixie McGeachie. Burnaby, B.C. Century Park Museum Association, 1976. 108 pp. illus. \$4.50.

The timbered land between the young settlements of Vancouver and New Westminster was destined to become as populated as they. The first settler in the area was Charles S. Finlayson who came to Deer Lake about 1860. By 1890 that lakeshore had jumped in value from \$1.00 per acre to \$30.00 per acre, so sought after had the beautiful land become. In September, 1892, came the inevitable creation of the Municipality of Burnaby, named for Robert Burnaby, a one time private secretary to Colonel Moody.

Early settlers to Burnaby made livelihoods by logging, fishing and farming. A big land boom came in 1911, after the Council set aside half a million dollars to put in water mains, streets and roads. By 1920, when 12,000 people called the area home, the logging era was over. The population doubled over the next decade but the twelve communities that comprised Burnaby were in financial difficulties. Sixteen thousand people were applying for depression relief, and Burnaby had not balanced its books in ten years. From 1933 until 1943 a Commissioner took over the ruling of the troubled municipality helping it get back on its feet. Now in the seventies, population has soared to 132,000.

Pixie McGeachie's anecdotal history of this area is a collage of Burnaby oldtimers' recollections of everyday happenings "back then". Mrs H.W. Godwin remembers how her brothers caught "trout from the creek with their bare hands", and how the building of Oakalla Prison Farm spoiled Deer Lake. Charlie Brown recalls how he delivered the <u>Province</u> for two long, teenage years before he had saved up enough to buy a bicycle. Bernard Hill had his furniture transported from England around Cape Horn to Vancouver for just \$12.50 because it was used as ship ballast. A further \$12.00 was spent in hauling it to Burnaby. The cloth from which daily living was cut is woven here: fetching water, picking blackberries, trucking strawberries over corduroy roads, cutting wood, clearing land, laying macadam roads, fighting fire without water, playing lacrosse. Artwork by Anthony Hurren and several photographs courtesy Heritage Village highlight such details.

Ms McGeachie, a member of the Burnaby Historical Society, keeps her readers abreast of change, e.g. "Dr Morris ... carried on a private practice from his office in his home on Trafalgar Street (now Maywood St)." and "Mrs Vogel ran a nursing home at Kingsway and Nelson (Super Value site)."

Two oversights are disappointing. Little attempt seems to have been made to sort this book's contents chronologically. The lack of a Burnaby street map is very evident. However, for those who love Burnaby as much as Ms McGeachie does, these shortcomings will not be noticed; rather they will allow the reader's own feelings for the area to set the stage for this reasonably priced local history.

Nina Woolliams Mrs Woolliams is a member of the Kamloops Museum Association and the Nicola Valley Archives Association.

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CHILDREN IN ENGLISH-CANADIAN SOCIETY: FRAMING THE TWENTIETH CENTURY CONSENUS, by Neil Sutherland. Toronto, University of Toronto Press, 1976. 336 pp. illus. \$19.95.

This book is a study of children in English-Canadian society at a time of rapid industrialization, urbanization and population growth. These changes challenged the late 19th and early 20th century attitudes that children were junior adults who must work and suffer as did their elders. What emerged was a recognition that the youth of the nation had an inalienable right to a protected, happy and wholesome childhood. Dr Sutherland, a professor at the University of B.C., approaches the many facets of these changes under three major headings, health, welfare and education in the years between the 1880's and the 1920's.

The general advances in health and sanitation at the turn of the century brought a new concern with children. As the public health movement developed, schools were used to promote the detection and prevention of such child-killers as diphtheria and public health advocates turned their attention to the appallingly high rate of infant mortality in the cities. The result was a reduction in the number of infant deaths, thanks to pure milk depots and well-baby clinics. Once the public health movement had been established in the cities, it then moved to extend the benefits of improved health care to children in rural areas.

Sutherland's examination of child welfare concentrates on the treatment of juvenile delinquents. At the turn of the century, institutional care was the normal fate of neglected, delinquent and dependent children. This study reviews the rise of family-centred methods of preventing juvenile delinquency through the work of Children's Aid Societies. Attempts to change the existing treatment of young offenders by more sympathetic procedures in courts, reformatories and industrial schools culminated in the children's court movement and the establishment of juvenile courts. But older attitudes persisted nevertheless, and the theories of the childsavers were much more humane than the practices they fostered.

Although the health and welfare movements represented the greatest departures in the formulation of policies for children, important changes also occurred in public schools. A noticeable improvement in the quantity and quality of schooling took place in this period. New ideas in education, ranging from Froebelian kindergartens to manual training, found expression in such initiatives as the Macdonald-Robertson movement. With agricultural specialist James W. Robertson's enthusiasm and concern for the quality of rural schools, and tobacco merchant William Macdonald's money, new approaches were tried if only on an experimental basis. The implementation of some of these innovations wandered off on false trails, however, as for example in the campaign to Canadianize immigrants.

The combined impact of the health, welfare and education movements had produced a new approach to child rearing by the end of the First World War, and the policies became formalized with the establishment of the Canadian Council on Child Welfare in 1920. There can be no doubt that Canada was by then a much safer, more humane and stimulating environment to grow up in than it had been forty years earlier. Unfortunately, the professionalization of the workers in child-related fields after 1920 tended to stifle further innovation.

Dr Sutherland vividly conveys the impact of an amazing variety of reforms through a judicious use of case studies and representative illustrations. This pioneering study of attitudes and policies towards children is primarily concerned with the agencies that were created and revised to reflect the attitudes of reformers. Commendably, the author escapes the dryness and tedium that so often characterizes institutional studies. Despite the almost unavoidable reliance on Ontario sources for much of his material, the author is not Ontario-centred and gives both eastern and western Canada considerable attention. If the study may seem occasionally piecemeal, the reader is able to sympathize with Sutherland's own explanation that a work composed of so many fragments reflects the nature of the movement itself.

This book can be recommended to readers on a number of levels. For the specialist, the study is a work of great importance, based on meticulous research and enhanced by the pains the author takes to relate his findings to those of other historians and social scientists. For the teacher of Canadian social history, this book is a veritable gold mine. For the general reader, the appetizing flavour of the author's style and approach is a high recommendation. Unfortunately, the volume is costly. Run, don't walk, to your nearest Public Library. Judith Fingard

Dr Fingard is Associate Professor of History, Dalhousie University.

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## BOOK NOTES

HALFWAY TO THE GOLDFIELDS - A History of Lillooet, by Lorraine Harris (J.J. Douglas, \$9.95) is a good local history that has tied the history of the area closely together with that of pioneer families. It gives an insight into life in another century and some interesting relevant statistics. There has to be a gripe against the publisher, not for the paper or the printing, but for the idiotic format chosen. This book is large enough to be a coffeetable book, which it certainly is not.

JASPER NATIONAL PARK, and BANFF NATIONAL PARK, both by David M. Baird and published by Hurtig (Paper \$4.95 and \$5.95) are of similar format and have been designed for the "glove compartment" for handy reference. They clearly define the parks' boundaries and give a layman's geological history of the mountains and their origin. The illustrations - both coloured and black and white - are excellent, with considerably above average text covering the illustrations for this type of book. The fold-out maps, however, are too small to adequately cover the subject matter of such concise hand-books, but could be used satisfactorily in conjunction with a larger scale map. Anyone planning to visit the area by car should certainly have copies. It is an interesting new approach.

OLD PACK TRAILS IN THE PROPOSED MANNING PARK EXTENSION has just been published by the Okanagan Similkameen Parks Society, written by R.C. Harris and H. Hatfield. This is a very informative pamphlet on the old pack trails in the Hope-Princeton area, with an excellent historical background being a dominant feature. The maps are particularly good. (The Association has been active for many years for the preservation of these trails.) Copies, at 75¢ each may be obtained from Tom Nichols, 3369 W.24th Ave., Vancouver V6S 1LS, or James McCook, 811-450 Simcoe St., Victoria, V8V 1L4.

CANADIAN BATTLES & MASSACRES, by T.W. Paterson has just been published by Stagecoach Publishing at \$15.95. The preface of the book states "Few today must think of Canada as having had much of a history of warfare beyond our involvement in the World Wars and Korea. Yet this "peace-keeper" of the 20th century has known 300 years of military strife on her native soil; from inter-tribal rivalry to the Riel Rebellion". So what else could one expect to find in any country that is annexed for colonial expansion and exploitation? A simple recounting of death and misery from coast to coast with no thought of the "whys" or "wherefores" of these happenings places this book in an elementary or school-age book. Its coffee-table size and small print do nothing to encourage the prospective reader.

WHO'S WHO IN ALASKA POLITICS, by Evangeline Atwood and Robert N. De Armond, published by Binford & Mort, Portland at \$10, is a biographical dictionary of Alaskan political personalities 1884-1974 covering every category, plus a miscellany of personalities who made substantial imprints on Alaskan politics. A very concise list of abbreviations makes this an excellent resource for historical researchers. An appendix of all "big names" listed alphabetically by category and the names by year of service, makes a quick guide for ready reference.

The National Museums of Canada publishes twice a year MATERIAL HISTORY BULLETIN, designed to meet the need for a publication to encourage and disseminate research on Canada's material history. The Bulletin publishes short articles, research notes and comments, news of recent acquisitions, lists of publications and reviews of exhibits. The second issue, edited by Robb Watt and Barbara Riley, includes "British Columbja's experience with early chain saws" by Jim Wardrop; "British Columbia interiors" by Virginia Careless; and "Early B.C. Sawmilling machinery" by R.D. Watt. Cost per issue is \$1.50, from Marketing Services Division, National Museums of Canada, Ottawa. KIA OM8.

## by Gwen Hayball

This article is part 2 of a two part account tracing the early beginnings of the City of Vancouver and its early pioneers who strove to provide a place of peace and comfort, where men far from home and family could find solace in a book, or at least get word of local interest through newspapers and periodicals. Part 1 traced the history from a forest encampment in 1869 to the end of 1893, by which time Vancouver was an established city of some importance, but was suffering from "growing pains" and an overabundance of officialdom.

## Part 2. CARNEGIE SAVES THE DAY

The Free Reading Room and Library had at last an established home since a lease agreement with the YMCA was signed Jan.10, 1894 by the City Council, covering the premises the Library had occupied for the past year at 169 Hastings St. West. The first of the famous Machin Christmas suppers and entertainments took place on these premises in 1863, permission being sought at the last meeting of the Library Board of each succeeding year, by Mr Machin, to use the Reading Room for this purpose.

One wonders if the librarian felt very happy about various nonbook things which were 'wished' on him, occupying precious space. One such item was a group of sea-lions which had been captured locally and then stuffed and somehow got into the hands of the Mayer. Mr Towler of the City Council and Library Board reported at the Jan. 10,1894 meeting that the Mayor had instructed him to order a platform to be made for the sea-lions and have them placed in the reading room.

There were various collections of minerals. In a letter to the City Council dated 16 Dec. 1893 the Board says they will be pleased to provide space for an exhibition of Australian geological specimens and other Australian material. Several months later a Captain Roose made a formal application to arrange the minerals and other specimens in cases at the cost of \$75. He was requested to attend the next meeting to discuss the matter. Apparently in the meantime he had made a start on the display. He came under severe fire from the Board and was asked who had authorized him to proceed in arranging the minerals and preparing a catalogue. Roose could not give a satisfactory answer and was told to look to those who had actually given him permission to go ahead with the job for payment. The Chairman requested Captain Roose to hand over to the librarian the original catalogue of the minerals prepared by Dr Bredemeyer. However, after Roose had sent to the Board a revised quotation for the work, \$35, it was accepted and he was told to proceed. Before he had got very far he sent a letter of complaint to the Board to which Mr Machin replied on behalf of the Board in his usual masterly style, "... your letter of the 15 ult. was read and discussed and I was instructed to write and inform you that far from admitting that any portion of the work was or would be done for 'nothing' they considered that the sum of 35 dollars was an adequate and ample sum to be paid by the Board for preparing cards, numerating mineral specimens, placing same in cases and completing the whole work to the satisfaction of the Board. Be good chough to write that you are satisfied and agree to complete the business for the above sum and also let me know when you propose to resume the work.

At the September meeting the bill for the display work was produced by Mr Towler, who said Roose had done an excellent job and deserved an increase in his fee; the sum eventually paid was \$40. Finally letters of thanks and invitations to inspect the exhibition of minerals and other material, were sent to Mr Oppenheimer and those of the Council who had contributed towards the gift, adding that the Reading Room was open from 9 a.m. until 10 p.m.

During this year, 1894, a wide range of subjects was discussed and dealt with. The response to an appeal for donations of books was most satisfactory. A reward of \$10 was offered to any person giving information leading to conviction of anyone found guilty of mutilating the periodicals and newspapers. "...the Board undertook to prosecute with utmost rigor of the law..." Because of the heavy load of cataloguing 'it was agreed that the Library Dept., but not the Reading Room be closed, so that the librarian could catalogue the large order of books received from Simpkin Marshall & Co. - to do so uninterruptedly. Some people might think that the Board was taking a backward step when it decided to make children under the age of twelve not eligible as borrowers; however the reason for this decision is not in the Minutes.

Vancouver was experiencing its first slump and hundreds sought the warmth of the library and the soup kitchen organized by the churches. The Machins must have had a very busy year. The bad times were reflected in the library estimate of expenditure for this year, 1894. The secretary, Mr Machin, pointed out to the City Council that in presenting the needs of the Library he had taken into consideration the financial condition of the City and the absolute necessity for economy in all departments - only the 'actual and absolute needs of the Library' have been included. The money to be spent on new books and salaries remained the same. A reduction of \$142 only was made from the previous year.

As far as can be traced in the Minutes, the first annual report to be forwarded to the Mayor and Council was in 1895. (for the year Included were the following statements:Library hours: Reading 1894). Room open every day including Sunday; on Sunday Reading Room open 2 pm until 6 pm; the Library itself was open every day except Sunday from 10 am until 9 pm. Number of books in the library approximately 2200 plus about 300 reference books. The number of books issued 29,594. The Reading Room contains leading magazines, periodicals and newspapers (English, Canadian and American). A fair number of books have been donated during the past year. A financial statement, together with Bank Book and an account of fines as received and sundry disbursements made by Mr Machin, from this account during the past year. The latter showed a balance due to the Library Board of \$19.63. The Board instructed the librarian to hold this amount to meet small expenses in the future.

Mr Carter-Cotton, owner-editor of the <u>News-Advertiser</u>, who was so closely associated with the Reading Room and Library in the beginning, apparently decided against serving on the Board once it had been established. He was a great supporter of the library and whenever an occasion arose gave it publicity. But he was also in the book-binding business and it is noticeable that it was his tender that was usually accepted because his price was the lowest. Early in 1895 the Board examined some of the work done by the <u>News-Advertiser</u> and decided to withhold part of the amount due for payment as the work on some of the volumes was unsatisfactory. This action was to have a dramatic result. A special meeting was called on June 18th for the purpose of reading and discussing a letter from the <u>News-Advertiser</u>. It is worth quoting in full.

"Dear Sir: Although we saw by the report of the meeting of your Board that our account had been duly passed, our collector was told by Mr Duval that he would not on any account sign the cheque by which we were to receive payment. We shall be obliged therefore by your informing us whether the Board intend to refuse payment, as in that case, we will at once place the matter in the hands of our solicitor."

Mr Duval then addressed the Board at some length - saying that the standard of binding supplied had not been equal to the samples supplied. Mr Duval offered his resignation when the Board said that the difference in the binding was so 'trifling' that payment should not be withheld. After complimentary speeches and persuasion, Mr Duval speaking with considerable feeling, and obviously moved by what had been said, thanked the Board and withdrew his resignation.

Another local binder, Mr G.A. Roedde, who had been competing for the business of binding from the library was apparently getting a bit In response to a letter he had written to the Board, an disgruntled. order for binding fifty novels was handed over. (Contents of letter not recorded) But a few months later his wrath spilled over and he wrote to the City Council complaining that he had not been treated fairly by some members of the Board with regard to the last contract for binding books and asked the Council to appoint a committee to look The Board took charge of the situation and wrote to into the matter. the Council in no uncertain terms, saying that "Mr Roedde's suggestion was quite unnecessary as the misunderstanding which had existed between members of the Board had been fully explained and removed and that the matter should be left to the Library Board to be dealt with if any steps were deemed necessary". Whether or not these two situations were related we shall never know as the full facts are not given in the records.

The growing emphasis on minerals and mineralogy is very noticeable and of course understandable in a province where mining and gold rushes involved the lives of so many people. Mr Machin was fully appreciative of such works as those by Geo. M. Dawson and sought permission from the Board to purchase seven such government publications, dated 1887-1890 dealing with mining, geology and exploration in B.C. and the Yukon.

Mr H.P. McCraney, another public figure of the day who had helped to establish the library in 1887, donated and sent to the library a quantity of samples of minerals from Trail Creek. This prompted the Board to contact all managers of mines in B.C. suggesting that the interests of the province would be expanded if they would care to add to the collection of mineral samples.

At the meeting on Nov. 13, 1895, a Mr G.F. Monckton was introduced. He wanted to borrow 30 to 40 mineral specimens from the library display to illustrate his pictures which he would be giving to prospectors and others. He was allowed to borrow up to six at a time on production of a bond. A few months later Mr Machin wrote to the State Mineralogist, California State Mining Bureau, asking to be put on their mailing list for free material, "... the Board gratefully wishes to be put on your free list for the supply of your valuable publications...", "...the Board would esteem it a great

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favour..." "There is a large mining community in this district and I need hardly add that your publications would be a welcome addition..." As further evidence of the ever increasing interest in mining, two periodicals, <u>Canadian Mining Review</u> and <u>The Mining Record</u> were ordered, 'as it had become highly important to give every possible facility to prospectors and others anxious for information on those subjects.'

Conscious of the limited grant and the need to keep a close watch on the volumes already held and possible losses through over-due books, special letters, such as the one to a Mr R.J. Hamilton, merchant, of Water St. had to be written: "..the immediate return of the book called <u>Black Water</u> by James Grant borrowed by you from this library many months ago and I beg to inform you that unless you at once comply with such request the Board will take such steps as may be necessary to compel the return of the book or to enforce payment for the loss..."

A more serious case was that of Sir George Simpson's <u>Voyage Round</u> the <u>World</u>". It had been presented to the library by a Mr Snowden who had lent it to a Mr McLagan; the latter said it had been mislaid; Mr Duval, a Committee member, was delegated to approach Mr McLagan and insist that the book be given up at once as it contained 'much useful information about B.C. in the early days. Eventually it was recovered.

Even when the well known scholar, Mr Hill-Tout, applied to borrow reference volumes donated by the Smithsonian Institution, the matter had to be referred to the Committee - "A resolution was moved and carried that the books be lent to Mr Hill-Tout on condition that Bond be given as security to the satisfaction of the chairman".

We shall never know whether Mr Machin, as librarian, approved the buying of two tables for chess in June 1894 nor if he voiced an opinion at the meeting of the Committee on Feb. 12,1896 when Mr Towler a former member of the Committee offered a 'rare and splendid specimen of our local birds in the shape of a white swan...', to the Reading Room for \$15, the cost of the bird to him. It had been shot hear Gabriola Island; he had purchased, stuffed and mounted it. The Committee agreed to buy it.

Mr Duval was deputized to procure a railing to be made and placed found the stand for sea-lions and swan to protect them from injury; and to prove that this was carried out promptly = the bill for railing placed round stand for sea-lions etc. and for lock on library door -\$16.28 was passed for payment 11 March 1896. It may be noted as a comparison, that they decided not to purchase Lewis and Dryden's Marine History of the Pacific Northwest.

In April of this year a large consignment of books arrived from Mudie's of London. All agreed that the bindings were eminently suitable for a public library. In order to catalogue and list them it was decided to close the Library Department for two weeks, also that all outstanding books be called in to enable the Board to ascertain which of them should be rebound. A notice advising the public of this decision was inserted in the newspapers. The Board accepted the services, gratis, of a Mr A.H. Ewer to assist in the work.

At the meeting held on October 16th, 1896, the Committee learned that the owners of the YMCA building had offered it for sale to the City for \$33,000. A special Building Committee was elected to go into the matter and the opinion of the City Engineer was sought. The subject was brought up at a number of meetings but finally the City Council and Library Board turned down the offer. The annual report for 1895 showed an increase in circulation of 5,277 over the previous year. The estimated expenditure for 1896 remained the same, \$3,600, which included \$1,200 salaries and \$1000 for new books. Letters acknowledging gifts continued to be written to considerate citizens such as Mr A. Abbott, General Superintendent of the C.P.R., for donating <u>Transactions of the Canadian Society of Civil</u> Engineers and other pamphlets.

The beginning of the end of the depression was now making itself felt as news of the Yukon gold discoveries spread. Hotels were filled with prospectors and some even slept in tents on vacant lots or by the water-front. All the necessities for outfitting could be obtained at local stores and all Vancouver benefited.

At the mention of a consolidated catalogue during the meeting of February 10, 1897, Mr Machin said that he had partially prepared the catalogue for printing but needed help especially in view of the increased work in the library. As a consequence three members were appointed to investigate and discover a means of dealing with the situation, and whether temporary or permanent assistance was needed. This group was headed by a Mr Wm Prentice who was to prove particularly unsympathetic towards Mr Machin. A special meeting was called a month later to hear the report of the Committee of Inquiry. The raison d'etre for the Committee was to enquire into the present management etc. of the Library. Points to be considered were named:

1. The present work and wages of the librarian (\$1,200)

2. The condition of the Reading Room and the arrangement of newspapers and magazines on the tables.

3. The present system of giving out books in the Lending Library. At the previous meeting of the Board it felt that \$100 per month for wages was amply sufficient to look after all aspects of the library including keeping it clean and in good order. It was felt that there was room for improvement in points 2 and 3. The suggestions put forward by the Committee were that the Board in future insist on dealing directly with its employees in order to obtain the best results for wages paid; this change to be made at once - it was recommended for implementation. (Perhaps Mr Machin had been communicating directly with the City Council regarding his job.)

The librarian was supposed to keep the library clean - "a glance at the floor in any single part of the building will convince anyone that ... it is not being attended to as it should". The Chairman stated that he had repeatedly complained to the librarian about his laxity but with little or no effect. Mr Prentice and his committee recommended that a cleaner be hired to do specific jobs and were sure someone could be found to do this work for ten or fifteen dollars per With regard to the arrangement of the library hours, although month. the number of hours worked by the assistant Mrs Machin is not recorded, in order to afford 'a very moderate time schedule for the assistant librarian' it was suggested that the library be closed at 8 pm instead of 9 pm, every night except Saturday; and that both the librarian and his assistant should be at the library together for at least four hours every weekday. The librarian would then have ample time in which to do cataloguing, writing, etc. The Committee recommended that the Lady Assistant be paid \$25 per month directly by the Board; that it must be distinctly understood that her whole working day is to be devoted to the service of the Board. They saw no particular reason why Mrs Machin should not continue in this position.

It is not difficult to see why the Committee wanted to discontinue the position of assistant as a voluntary one; the Board would have control and would be able to dictate exact hours and specific It is obvious that the Board wanted to put a stop to the library work. being used as a social centre where the Machins dispensed help, advice and words of comfort to the poor and to people generally with problems. It is also borne out in the suggestion that the counter be kept clear of litter and that writing pads and pencils be placed next to the catalogues on the counter so that books could be requested and handed out without a word being spoken. The untidy state of the newspaper and magazine tables was disturbing and the Committee recommended that three newspaper racks be purchased, that stout cardboard covers be provided for the magazines, which were to be allotted specific places on the table; notices to the public asking that the papers be replaced on the racks and magazines not to be removed from the table should, they said, be placed at strategic places. Rather nastily the report continues, "No doubt we shall be informed that this arrangement is impracticable and will not work, but your Committee do not believe it. It is done elsewhere and can be done here". Finally it was recommended that a table be curtained off in the Reading Room and set apart specially for ladies only. This apparently was acted upon as there was, up to 1956, a separate table for the use of ladies in the newspaper room, but in later years there was no curtain.

Poor Mr Machin was called in and handed the Report. His salary was to be reduced to about \$60 per month in order to cover the cost of an assistant and caretaker. The caretaker neglected to do a thorough job of cleaning the Reading Room and staircase, and was dismissed in December 1897.

Apparently some former Vancouver residents who had moved beyond the City limits were still borrowing books, which was against the regulations. The Secretary was instructed to recall all such books. It spoke well for the merits of the library that these former borrowers persisted in trying to continue to use the library and on such terms as the Library Board might deem necessary. In reply to their second application the Board referred the matter to the City Council for a decision. A reply was received stating that the Council was willing to extend the privileges to rate-payers residing in the vicinity of the City. The matter was discussed by the Board and they decided that owners of property in the City and residing within a five mile radius of the City Hall would be allowed to participate in the benefits of the Lending Library.

Mr Charles Hill-Tout was now actively interested in the library and had accepted on its behalf 41 volumes of the <u>Proceedings of the</u> <u>Royal Society of Canada</u>; but there was some hesitation in paying the \$14.50 freight on a gift. The matter was held over until a later meeting and the Chairman, Mr Wm Brown, stated that in his opinion the books would prove instructive etc. and they were accepted.

A complaint from a borrower signing himself "Pro Bono Publico" appeared in the <u>News-Advertiser</u> regarding the delay in making a recent consignment of books available to the public. An extremely well written reply, undoubtedly the hand of Mr Machin, revealed that the Library was not guilty of holding books back, on the contrary 'with the exception of a very few days devoted to their arrangement and classification, the books have been in constant use ever since their arrival. It is true that no catalogue of them has been printed... but a manuscript catalogue is in the hands of the librarian and can be referred to by any reader at any time. The catalogue was a list of all the books in the library printed and issued in book form, classifying and numbering each volume according to its subject. Borrowers were expected to make their selection and request books from this list. But of course it was not possible to keep it up to date. Supplements and then new catalogues were issued from time to time.

A proposition was made by enterprising Mr W.H. Goodwin of Victoria to print a catalogue of the library holdings and to distribute it himself at 10¢ each. The Secretary was asked to issue a certificate that he, Mr Goodwin, was the only authorized person to issue a catalogue for the Library. A Mr Tothill advised the Board that he also was involved in this proposed catalogue but his name had not been mentioned. On being asked to agree to Mr Tothill's name being included on the certificate of authorization, Mr Goodwin advised the Board that he had assigned all his interest in publishing a catalogue for the Library to Mr Tothill and requested the Board to sanction the change. In the estimated expenditure for 1897, \$50 was allowed for the cost of the new catalogue, but the actual cost was \$100. Eventually the Province Publishing Co. was given the order to print a new catalogue 16 August 1899 and it was on sale at 15¢ each by 6 Sept. In addition to those sold to the public in paper-backs, there were 20 extra copies strongly bound in cloth for the use of the librarian and members of the Board.

The first item to be dealt with at the Board Meeting on 5 Jan. 1898 was a complaint regarding the chess and checker players. Crowded conditions were such that onlookers who gathered round the players disturbed the quiet and interfered with the readers. The Board could not act on the suggestion that the games should be moved to a separate room as none was available.

The library was still searching for a satisfactory appliance which would indicate whether books were 'in' or 'out'. At the May 4 meeting 1898 a plan for one was produced and the Board authorized its construction and purchase. It appears to have been a hasty decision. When the account was presented by the manufacturers, Mr Wilson was deputized to examine the work and report as to correctness of account at the next meeting. At the following meeting Mr Wilson reported that he had induced Messrs Robertson and Hackett to take off \$5.76 from the account 'which was the utmost they would agree to'. The cost of the Indicator was \$90.38!

Mr Machin's ability to compose an unhurried yet telling letter was displayed in a letter to the City Hall regarding 'water-closets'. It was in reply to the City Clerk's letter which stated that it had come to the notice of the Board of Health that the water-closets used in connection with the Free Library were closed to patrons. "...to request that in future such patrons be allowed to have free use of the closets". Mr Machin replied,

"...this Board was much surprised at the request contained in your communication and cannot believe that they who caused it to be made are acquainted with the location of the "closet" (not closets) and its surroundings, but that if they are, they manifest a strange disregard of the ordinary decencies of civilized life.

I was also instructed to inform you that the "Patrons" of this Institute are "every man and woman, boy and girl in Vancouver" who choose to avail themselves of the newspapers and magazines on the tables, and the books on the shelves. I was further instructed to call your attention to the fact that this Board has only a part of the second floor of this building and therefore it would be an unusual circumstance to have a public library and reading-room with water-closets combined, the latter being in full view of the former.

And I was finally instructed to inform you that this Board having, as it conceives, a legitimate respect for the proprieties of civilized life cannot hold out the hope that your requirements will be complied with."

The fact that structural alterations which followed almost immediately included a small ladies' room, made further discussion of the matter unnecessary.

A problem of a very serious nature was the subject of a joint meeting of the Library Board and the City Council on August 3,1898. The subject to be discussed was the condition and alleged instability of the YMCA building where the library was situated. A committee was formed to enquire from the agents for the building what repairs or changes were necessary and then to engage a competent architect to report on the state of the building and if in his opinion the proposed repairs were sufficient to ensure the safety of the public. Details of the proposed alterations to the Library and Reading Room were forwarded to the City Council suggesting that they be accepted with a few changes in the lease including a reduction of the rent to \$100 per month and that the owners provide a thoroughly experienced man to attend to heating. At the same time the Board strongly recommended that the City Council take steps to acquire a suitable site, centrally located, for the erection of a library building to be owned entirely by the City; in the meantime, and simply as an expedient, the enclosed proposals and amendments should be agreed upon.

The work on the building proceeded during which time the books were removed and the library closed. Some months later a paragraph in the <u>News-Advertiser</u> reported that "the Reading Room of the Free Library is again open to the public. The recent alterations have much improved the library premises and in addition to the other innovations a small ladies' room has been added. Librarian Machin and his able assistants are now busy revising the catalogue but the lending department will not be open to the public for a week or so".

The Board had forwarded a claim for the inconvenience caused to the public by way of a deduction from the rent. This was agreed to by the agent for the building. The amount may have covered the bills passed for payment at the July 5th 1899 meeting; work and materials supplied by Mr Fraser \$34.83. Mr T.G. Smith for work done in the Reading Room, removing books, cleaning room etc. \$24. Extra lights were also installed which probably relates to more than one letter of complaint to J. Buntzen of the B.C. Electric Co. "...its entire dissatisfaction with the lights supplied in this Reading Room..." "The Board considers that the expenditure is greatly in excess of the value of the present lights...".

The selecting of books to be purchased was the job of a varying number of members of the Board elected each year. On one oceasion a committee went through the entire library to select the volumes which needed rebinding. At other times three members catalogued books; others had to decide whether the books needed reclassification and the Chairman had to deal personally with Mr Caple, the supplier of newspapers, as to reasons for delay in delivery.

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According to the records, book selection was done from catalogues received from agencies in Canada, England and the U.S.A. It is interesting to note that at this period large orders went to Simpkin Marshall & Co. and Mudies of London, England, and only once is a specific supplier of American books mentioned. Tenders were invited occasionally from local booksellers and these may have been for American publications. Strength of binding was constantly emphasized as in a letter to Simpkin Marshall & Co. which states that the extra cost for bindings must be added accordingly. As it was cousidered desirable that local booksellers should have the option of tendering bids for orders, the first \$1,000 order went to Mr Diplock, a local He had offered a discount of 33% off and  $2\frac{1}{2}$ % for cash, bookseller. and the books ordered in October 1892 were to arrive by December of that year. Mr Diplock's promise to supply the books within two months could not be kept and the Board threatened to cancel the order, but the threat was never carried out. In the matter of buying books young people were not forgotten, for it is interesting to note that the Chairman of the Board in Dec. 1896 produced an invoice for 350 new books that, he said, "was especially liberal in the number of good wholesome books for young people".

Tenders from local firms were invited regularly for the supplying of newspapers and magazines. Every advantage was taken to obtain free material from the Queen's Printer in Ottawa and Victoria as well as other Dominion government printing offices overseas, and in June 1900 German and French books were added to the shelves, the selection being left to Mr Machin.

Early directories are often used extensively by researchers, but they are not necessarily infallible. As an example, the Williams Directory of Victoria for 1893 was examined by the Board, and so many inaccuracies were found that it was considered 'well nigh useless' for the purposes of the library and it was left to the discretion of the Chairman as to whether it should be returned to the publisher or retained.

During all the years and the long hours that the Machins had served the public at the library so devotedly, there was no mention of a holiday or any break for them until October 5th, 1898. On this day a holiday was granted by resolution, to enable Mr Machin to go to the Westminster Fair. The Library and Reading Room were closed for the day. Another indication that the Board was beginning to give more consideration to the hard working librarian is suggested in two bills passed for payment covering the cost of temporary help used in the library. An event which had become an institution connected with the library and the Machins was the annual Christmas dinner and entertainment for the poor.

If all the decisions were left to Mr Wm Prentice it is fairly certain that the Machins would have had no breaks. His harshness is indicated in the following record quoted from the Minutes of 6 Sept. 1899. "Mr Prentice stated that the Librarian ought to have prepared a report showing how often during each month certain magazines, when bound, had been given out in the Lending Library so that the Board might judge whether it was justified in agreeing to expense of replacing lost numbers of certain magazines in order to bind the volumes The Librarian then pointed out that the work in the Library was already more than he could get through, hence his inability to furnish the report required by Mr Prentice. The Board thereupon authorized the Librarian to procure the magazines applied for". A further quotation from the Minutes of the meeting July 5, 1899 is worth recording with regards to a more humane attitude towards the Librarian. "As the Board considered it right and proper that there should be some relaxation in the Librarian's Sunday duties during the summer months a resolution was moved and carried unanimously that the Reading Room be closed on Sundays from the present time until the end of September". Finally in the following year a resolution was moved and carried, authorizing the Management Committee to grant"six weeks holiday to the library staff and to arrange what portion each member of the staff should have and the commencing time". (This was six weeks collectively, to be divided on a proportionate basis for each member of staff.)

From the first mention of the necessity for larger premises at the meeting 27th Oct. 1898, the Board would not let the matter drop. Persistently and regularly all through the next two years, it was included in reports or was the subject of a special letter to the City Hall. On the whole, the Council seemed reluctant to take any steps towards meeting this need, but at the meeting of May 3, 1899, a bill was passed for payment from the <u>Province</u> covering an advertisement for a library site. Finally six months before the lease became due for renewal, (June 1901) the Board was allowed to look for more suitable and more conveniently situated premises for the library and Reading Room.

Coupled with the plea for an adequate building was the request to bring the library under the Free Libraries Act. Mr Machin had been instructed to obtain six copies of the Act from the Queen's Printer in Victoria for the use and guidance of the Board, "so that the status of the Board working for the benefit of the citizens of Vancouver might be more clearly defined in these important matters".

The year 1900 certainly went out in a "blaze of glory" for the library. Owing to the heating stove being set on a single ply of bricks instead of on a concrete floor, the library caught fire. Mr Machin acted promptly in advising the City Hall and had also sent a report claim of the damage amounting to \$177.50 to the insurance companies. As a result of a specially called meeting of the Board he was instructed to purchase a temporary heater while the damage was being repaired so that the public would be inconvenienced as little as possible.

It might be idle speculation, but at the same time an interesting study, to estimate how long it would have taken the committee, the Library Board and the City of Vancouver to find a new home for the Free Reading Room and Library of Vancouver. Fortunately for the citizens of Vancouver and all concerned, in 1903 Vancouver witnessed the opening of a beautiful new library building right in the heart of the City. This imposing building was made possible by the generosity of the world famous Andrew Carnegie, and so the citizens of Vancouver were spared the frustrations and dalliance of committees in obtaining a new public library.

NOTE: The sources used for this article are contained in the following: Minute Book of the Free Reading Room and Library, 1892-1901 (Vancouver Public Library) and Letter Book of the Free Reading Room and Library, 1892-1905 (Vancouver Public Library.)

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