

contributed to it, there is no special thanks due to the rest of the Dominion. The representatives of the Province have always given a steady and loyal support to the administration at Ottawa, and unlike some political contingents have not kept the government by the throat as a menace. Affairs, therefore, have gone along quietly. Perhaps too quietly in a political sense we have accepted, be it good or bad, the treatment meted out to us. British Columbians have never played the role of mendicants. If they got not what they asked for, and what was their due, they acted in the dignified and becoming manner of people who could afford to do without it.

Situated as they were, so far from the seat of government, they were not drawn into the current of political partisanship, the waves of which only slightly rippled on our shores. And it is worth many a sacrifice to live away from and above the warfare of bitter partisans. Interest in federal affairs was weakened by distance from the central forces, and a long way off we are not brought in daily touch with officialdom. In Ontario or Quebec a Member of Parliament or a political deputation can go to Ottawa without inconvenience or great loss of time and interview ministers, lobby and pull wires generally, or a letter will reach the capital in a day from the most remote point; but in British Columbia going to Ottawa is a long and expensive journey, similar to, in the East, going to Europe. It takes a letter two weeks to make the round trip. Few of the members of the government or officials ever came to this Province, and then only at long intervals. As a class they were ignorant of the wants and conditions of the Pacific Coast. Being little worried about our affairs they were content, so far as possible, to let us take care of ourselves. Conditions in the East predisposed and prejudged their conclusions regarding our affairs, and it is scarcely necessary to observe that their conclusions were invariably wrong.

In regard to public officials, such as customs, inland revenue, post office, and so forth, it was hard for officialdom to understand that a different scale of prices and rules were necessary, owing to great-

ly increased cost of living and other peculiarities of the country.

In regard to our coast and inland navigation its importance was not properly understood, because judged by the limited development of shipping. It is astonishing, yet true, that the charts of Capt. George Vancouver, of a hundred years ago, are to-day, for a long stretch of the northern coast, the only authentic guide of the navigator. Those with the work performed by the Imperial hydrographers and men-of-war, years ago, are practically the only basis of navigation, which, of course, has been considerably widened by the local knowledge possessed by old coast captains, which, however, dies with them. Then the Fraser and Columbia Rivers, two most important waterways, have long suffered from neglect of their wants. Coasting laws have given the American ships a great advantage in our own waters, whereby development of a mercantile fleet has been slow. The dredging of harbors, the deepening of river mouths, and the protection of water fronts, are all absolutely necessary. Our Douglas fir and cedar industry, a most important element of timber wealth in this Province, has been discriminated against in the arrangement made with the American Government, whereby N. S. pitch pine and California Redwood are allowed free entrance into Canadian markets, while the export duty on our logs has been removed, and Douglas fir lumber pays a duty of \$2.00 per thousand feet going into the United States. So, too, our fishery interests have been directed by a policy, well intentioned, no doubt, but wholly unsuited to the development of the fishery industry. The Superintendent of Fisheries for the Dominion, whose advice governs the Department, is eminent in pisciculture as applied to the east, but has prejudged the conditions here, and established a system founded wholly on empirics. Then, too, consider a Province with such limited facilities for acquiring meteorological data. Up to two years ago in a Province with three distinct zones of climate, and an area of 350,000 square miles, more or less, there was but one meteorological station. In a Province where climate is so conspicuous a