

to send priests to minister to the needs of the Indians who were scattered along the banks of the St. Lawrence and Ottawa rivers. In answer to this request, several Fathers were despatched to Canada, who gathered in great harvests of souls in that little Church which was superintended by the Bishop of Montreal. And it was not long after that when my predecessor, the venerable Bishop Blanchet, also called upon the Founder of the Oblates to send missionaries to my diocese of Seattle, which was then, you might say, in the territory of Oregon. He sent four Fathers and a Brother; and these Fathers took care of all the missions about Puget Sound. From there they spread their influence throughout the whole Sound country, and in fact throughout the State of Washington, where they labored for several years. They labored as only true servants of God can labor, but after enduring incredible hardships they finally withdrew and made their headquarters at Esquimalt, near Victoria, on Vancouver Island, and from thence they attended this portion of British Columbia. In a few years, however, Bishop Demers found it difficult to care for this extensive territory, and conceived the idea of separating the Mainland from the Island. In order to carry out this work he obtained the approval of the Holy See, and Father D'Herbomez was made Vicar-Apostolic of this part of British Columbia, his jurisdiction extending over the territory now comprised in the Archdiocese of Vancouver.

"In the meantime the Fathers labored on, and labor to this day for the glory of God and the salvation of souls. No one will ever know, on this side of Eternity, what those Fathers have achieved. Some of you old pioneers know more of that life of hardship than we. This is true, yet what we do know is sufficient to inspire us with the deepest respect and admiration.