

# Banquet to Premier McBride in London

"Five years ago, if any man had suggested such a gathering of British Columbians in London as is assembled tonight, he would be called a wild dreamer."

So said Premier McBride on June 10th at the banquet tendered him at the Savoy Hotel by 350 British Columbians. It was a magnificent affair and was entirely successful. Applications for tickets came in from all quarters and many had to be refused because the accommodation was limited. The brilliant dining room of the Savoy was filled by British Columbians and former residents of the province and the premier received a welcome which spoke to his popularity. It was entirely non-political and a large number of those present belonged to parties other than that which Mr. McBride leads but the terrific British Columbia cheers which greeted the toast of "The Premier" showed that all were united in doing honor to the representative of the sunshine province.

There were many distinguished guests, including the Earl of Aberdeen, the home secretary, Hon. Winston Churchill, and other people prominent in government circles. The majority of those present as will be seen by the list of names attached, were from British Columbia, and one might fancy himself at a Vancouver dinner. The smiling face of George MacDonald was a feature of one corner of the room and Arnold E. Kealy's "hear, hear," sounded familiar. Bishop de Pencier and a host of other well-known people were present and there was that spirit of jollity apparent which is a feature of a western dinner. There were some very amusing hits during the evening not the least interesting being the reply of Mr. Winston Churchill to Premier McBride's invitation to come to British Columbia and shoot big game.

"I have tried to induce Mr. Churchill to come to British Columbia and kill one of our grizzly bears," said the premier. "We know there is no game too big for him. (Applause.) I believe that if he comes I can make good. If his time and affairs will permit him to come to our province we can give him the best hunting and fishing mortal man could seek. No man would be more welcome than the home secretary."

## Right Hon. Winston Churchill

Cheers greeted this remark and there were loud cries of "Churchill." The home secretary, however, was not on the programme for a speech but the British Columbia people raised the roof with yells until he responded. As he rose to his feet Premier McBride called for three cheers and the company sent three and a "tiger" up, said "tiger" greatly startling the gorgeously attired footmen who formed part of the Savoy landscape.

Mr. Churchill got off a very happy remark in the course of his short speech.

"Mr. McBride has said he has asked me to visit British Columbia and kill one of your grizzlies," remarked the home secretary.

"In some quarters it would be a not less popular proposition if the grizzly from British Columbia was to visit the United Kingdom on a contrary mission."

Roars of laughter greeted this delicate political thrust and the home secretary concluded by paying a high tribute to British Columbia and to Premier McBride.

"This gathering is unique in the history of the British Empire," he said, "for it is making some small attempt to enable us to realize the dimensions which British Columbia has attained. We all feel that the future indicates hopes—nay, solid assurances—of the development of British Columbia. Though her progress has been great during the last ten years it will not be comparable with that of the next decade." (Cheers.)

Mr. Churchill concluded by a tribute to the Premier.

"I made his acquaintance four years ago," he said, "when he came to Britain on affairs of state. During his term of office the population of the province has enormously increased and its revenue has advanced even more notably. Just as in British Columbia you have a province whose future development can not be easily measured, so in your prime minister you have a man upon whom high destiny has placed its seal."

Terrific enthusiasm greeted this tribute and Mr. Churchill took his seat amid volleys of cheers.

## Agent-General J. H. Turner

Agent-General J. H. Turner acted as chairman and submitted the loyal toasts which were heartily received. He then proposed the toast of the province of British Columbia and Premier McBride.

Mr. Turner referred to his long connection with British Columbia and recalled many incidents of the early mining days. He saw the prosperity of the gold rushes and the depression which followed—but now British Columbia had come into her own.

"Even in the harvest times," he said, "there were men who had the utmost faith and confidence in the future of our province. Many of those old timers have passed away but who remain take infinite pride in the progress of that province which we love so well."

The agent-general referred to the Premier's career and described his railway legislation as a bold stroke of genius.

"No legislation in any country has so immediately produced favorable results," he declared.

"Premier McBride is the right man in the right place," he added, and a thundering cheer showed that the company agreed. "Of course, he proceeded, "he has a splendid country to deal with—I think the best in the world." (Cheers.)

Springing to their feet the gathering drank the toasts with great enthusiasm, giving the Premier musical honors and following with "The Maple Leaf Forever."

## Hon. Richard McBride

When Premier McBride rose to respond it was some minutes before he could begin. Cheering wildly, the diners again rose to their feet and sang the time honored anthem applicable on such occasions.

"What can more clearly point out the growth of British Columbia than this gathering of 350 British Columbians?" said the Premier. "Five years ago such an affair, if suggested, would have been regarded as a wild dream. Yet, here we are, all friends, all British Columbians, gathered in the heart of the empire to show our loyalty and devotion to His Majesty and the Empire. (Cheers.)

"I feel that the occasion, however, is somewhat impaired because I am speaking to people from my own section for the most part. Yet it shows the loyalty of British Columbia when I tell you that there are 2,000 people from our province in Great Britain today. This is a striking evidence of the interest taken in far-off British Columbia in the most important event in the history of empire during the year 1911."

The Premier paid a tribute to Lord Strathcona, who was sitting near, and said that as some small testimony to Lord Strathcona's worth as a man, the Parliament of British Columbia had set apart and named a national park after him.

"It's only a small affair—some 261,000 acres," added the Premier, while the English visitors present gasped at the British Columbia idea of a small park.

"It also gives us pleasure," proceeded Mr. McBride, "to see with us His Excellency the Earl of Aberdeen." He was a pioneer missionary in what my late colleague, Captain Tatlow, called the 'Orchid of Empire.' We also feel honored to have with us Hon. Winston Churchill, the home secretary, for whom we in Canada have a very great regard." (Cheers.)

The Premier proceeded to comment on the valuable service rendered British Columbia by the agent-general, Mr. Turner. "His office was the first agent-general's to be opened in London, and the millions of pounds and the thousands of Britishers which have come to our province testify to the good work carried on by the agent-general.

"There is no question as to the wonderful growth of British Columbia, went on the Premier. "She is coming into her own at last. The year 1911 will witness a development certainly unparalleled and scarcely equalled in any section of the British Empire.

"There are no states, colonies nor dependencies in which the same variety can be found as in our own loved province. We have a country whose resources can not be questioned. Our fruit exhibits and our timber displays always rank best. We have a great deal to be thankful for. Nature has been very good to our country. We have the last large timber resources in the world, and the government is sensible of its responsibilities. We recognize the rights of legitimate vested interests, and at the same time realize that our timber needs careful attention, for I do not think the day is far distant when the call for

British Columbia timber will be tenfold what it is today."

"As regards mining, we have had our ups and downs, but we have never lost faith, and taking it all in all the prospector is just commencing his work in British Columbia. Remember that the development of our province has been confined to the southern zone and two or three regions on the Pacific seaboard. The reason, of course, is transportation and with better facilities the regions will speedily develop the third largest smelter in the world, although mining is but in its infancy with us."

The Premier went on to deal with the climate of "Golden British Columbia."

"This Lady of the Snows business does not apply to our province," he said. "In a very large section we have no winter at all and when it is introduced it is simply by way of variety." (Laughter.) "We have scenery that is unrivalled and puts Switzerland in the shade; and we love British Columbia."

Prolonged cheers greeted the conclusion of the Premier's address and again musical honors, with three cheers and a tiger shook the roof.

## Attorney-General Bowser

To the Hon. W. J. Bowser, attorney-general of British Columbia, fell the task of submitting "The Motherland," which he did with characteristic eloquence.

"We are gathered in London today from the outposts of the empire to show our unquestioned loyalty to King George the Fifth," he said, "We, in British Columbia, owe everything to the mother country. In 1579 that old seadog, Drake, pushed north along the Pacific seaboard. In 1779 that hardy navigator, Captain Cook established a post at Nootka Sound on the west coast of Vancouver Island, and in 1792 Captain George Vancouver did valuable exploration work. In discovery, arts, commerce and in protection we owe a debt of gratitude to the motherland."

"We are visiting England under most favorable conditions. We are in England during June—what could be more beautiful? We are here in coronation year—what could be more impressive?"

The attorney-general took the opportunity of firing some statistics at his audience relating to the size of British Columbia. The English people gasped and the British Columbians cheered when he said that British Columbia was larger than the British Isles, Germany, Denmark, Sweden and Switzerland combined. He also laid stress on the developing of the Orient and opened up a new viewpoint by urging British manufacturers who wished to share in the benefits of trade with the Orient to establish their factories in British Columbia which, he said, was only nine days from London and ten days from the Orient.

"We offer to the capitalist unsurpassed advantages and safe legislation," he declared. "If you come to British Columbia you do not expatriate yourself, for British institutions still prevail. We are blood of your blood, bone of your bone."

## Earl of Aberdeen

The toast was honored with singing Rule Britannia, and the Earl of Aberdeen responded.

"The method of treating offspring differs," he said. "It is said that the eagle pushes its young out of the nest. If the eagle can fly, all right. If not, it falls to the ground and is dashed to pieces. Another contrast is furnished by the hen which hatches ducklings, and when they take to the water, swimming bravely, clucks in alarm. Great Britain, I think, has adopted the judicious mean between these measures as regards the treatment of the Dominions."

His Excellency referred to his early days in British Columbia and his affection for the Pacific province.

"I have a vote in British Columbia and nowhere else," he concluded.

## Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario

Hon. J. M. Gibson, lieutenant-governor of Ontario, also responded.

"It is perhaps appropriate that an Ontario man should speak on the Motherland at a British Columbia banquet," he said, "for Ontario is undoubtedly the motherland of British Columbia. One sees so many familiar faces in the streets of Vancouver that it is hard to believe one is not back in Ontario. The thing that annoys me most when I go to British Columbia is the feeling of compassion and expressions of pity made by British Columbia people for the people who live in the East. (Laughter.) However, all over Canada we have a love for the Motherland, and this feeling of attachment towards the Mother Country was never so strong as it is today." (Loud and prolonged cheers.)

The toast of the chairman was submitted by Mr. George McLaren Brown, who described the agent-general as no chechako, but an old-timer who kept abreast of the times.

## List of Those Present

At the conclusion of the banquet the premier and attorney-general were busy for an hour shaking hands and conversing with former residents of the province, who came to renew acquaintance. It was an undoubted success, as the following list of those present will show:

The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Aberdeen, K.T.; Mr. Thomas Aitken, Mr. George Alexander, Mr. J. W. Allen, Mr. J. V. Alvonleben, Prebendary David Anderson, Mr. Allan G. Anderson, Sir George Anderson, Mr. H. H. Drew Anderson, Mr. W. Herbert Anderson, Mr. J. R. Anderson, Sir Kenneth Anderson, K.C.; M.G., Mr. Hugh K. Anderson, Mr. F. Appleton, Mr. J. Miles Bailey, Sir Thomas Bailey, Mr. F. C. Barry, Mr. Henry A. Barton, Capt. Battine, Lt.-Col. Hon. B. Bathurst, M.P., Maj.-Gen. Sir Stuart Beaton, Admiral Sir Lewis Anthony Beaumont, K.C.M.G.; Mr. Henry Bell, Mr. M. M. Beeton, Mr. Gerard L. Bevan, Mr. J. Hamilton Benn, M.P.; Gen. Sir F. W. Benson, K.C.B.; Mr. A. L. Berry, Mr. T. H. D. Berridge, Mr. E. A. Bickmore, Sir Arthur Birch, K. C. M. G.; Mr. A. Stewart Black, Mr. Edgar Bloomfield, Mr. John W. Bonner, Mr. W. M. Botsford, Mr. C. S. C. Boulter, Mr. E. M. Bovill, Mr. Wm. Bovill, Mr. A. H. Bowling, Mr. Bowman, The Hon. W. J. Bowser, K. C. (Attorney-general of British Columbia), Hon. R. H. Brano, Mr. C. Bridgewater, Mr. J. H. Brodie, Mr. Harry E. Brittain, Mr. T. Blundell Brown, Mr. D. E. Brown, Mr. G. McLaren Brown, Mr. Harold G. Brown, Mr. A. Bruce-Joy, Mr. Chas. A. Buchanan, Mr. J. Buntzen, Mr. C. Mansel Burmester, Mr. Walter Burt, Mr. W. G. Cameron, Mr. G. H. Campbell, Mr. Herbert F. Chamen, Mr. A. B. Clabon, Mr. G. R. Clazy, Mr. William H. P. Clubb, Mr. J. S. Cochburn, The Rt. Rev. The Bishop of Columbia, The Rt. Rev. Mr. Ernest Collins, M. I. C. E., Mr. J. G. Colmer, C. M. G., Mr. Conglehurst, Mr. C. D. O. Cooper, Canon Charles C. Cooper, Mr. R. H. Court, Mr. T. G. Cue, Mr. E. Hayes Dashwood, Mr. Thomas Davis, Mr. Charles Davidson, Col. A. A. Davidson, Mr. Evan Davidson, Mr. R. F. Davies, Mr. M. S. Davys, Mr. John A. Dennis, Mr. John W. Dennis, Mr. George Denny, Mr. Arthur Dick, Mr. Diggle, Mr. Arthur Dioso, F.R.S., Mr. Jackson Dodds, Sir George Doughty, Admiral Sir Archibald Douglas, G. C. V. O., K. C. B., Mr. Horace Douglas, Mr. Walter Draper, Prof. Wyndham, D. Dunstan, M. A., Mr. W. E. Echestein, Mr. G. H. Edwards, Mr. Cecil G. Elliott, Mr. George Emmet, The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Errol, K. T., Mr. C. F. Evelyn, Mr. E. J. Fadere, Mr. George Freeman, Mr. Edwin Freshfield, Mr. A. D. Ford, Judge Forin, Mr.

H. W. Foster, M. P., Mr. George Fox, Mr. James A. Fyshe, Mr. W. G. Snowden Gair, LL. B., Mr. J. F. Garden, Capt. M. N. Garland, Major E. F. O. Gascoyne, Mr. A. J. Gaskell, Mr. Geary, The Rev. T. Geary (Mayor of City of Toronto), The Hon. J. M. Gibson (Governor of Ontario), Mr. Ellis Gibson, Mr. F. R. Glover, Mr. J. R. Glover, Mr. T. S. Gore, Mr. M. P. Gordon, Mr. D. Grant, Mr. F. Graseman, Mr. J. A. Gray, Mr. J. Norton Griffiths, M. P., Mr. W. L. Griffin, Brig-General A. E. Grove, C. B., Mr. T. A. Grove, Mr. John Hall, Mr. John Hall jr., Mr. A. St. G. Hamersley, Mr. J. H. Ernest Hamilton, Sir Harold Harnsworth, Major the Hon. Algernon Hanbury-Tenby, Alderman C. A. Hanson, Mr. Harding, Mr. H. J. Hardy, Mr. R. J. Harvey, Mr. E. M. Harvey, Mr. W. Pellew Harvey, Mr. E. M. Hayward, Mr. E. H. Heaps, Mr. H. Healy, Mr. J. Heilbron, Mr. B. S. Hetherington, Mr. Jno. F. Helliwell, Mr. J. Stringer Henderson, Mr. C. H. Hoare, Col. I. V. Holmes, Mr. F. A. Horton, Mr. J. Howard, Mr. O. O. Howard, Col. Sam Hughes, M. P., Mr. Hamilton Hulse, Mr. Henry J. Humm, Mr. R. Murray Hyslop, Capt. J. Inman, Mr. Charles R. Inverzorg, Sir Rufus Isaacs, K. M. P., Mr. John H. Corder-James, Mr. Joseph Jennens, Mr. Percy Jennings, Mr. Frank Jeyes, Mr. J. B. Johnson, Mr. C. Johnston, Mr. F. W. Jones, Mr. H. V. Kealy, Mr. T. Arnot Ker, Mr. R. M. Kiersley, Sir Alexander Kleinwort, Bart., Mr. D. Northall Laurie, Mr. T. Larsen, Mr. T. A. Dick Lauder, Mr. Thos. H. Leeming, Mr. W. Lefroy, Mr. Ernest Levy, Mr. K. Lloyd, Mr. G. H. Corbett Lowe, Sir C. Greenwood Lucas, K.C.M.G., The Hon. Richard McBride (Premier of British Columbia), Mr. Reginald H. Macaulay, Mr. W. A. Macdonald, Mr. George E. Macdonald, Mr. John Lang Macfarlane, Mr. K. Macfee, Sir William Mackenzie, Dr. A. J. Mackenzie, Mr. James Mackie, Mr. Walter MacLachlan, Mr. Donald Macmaster, M. P., Mr. Lawrence Macrae, Mr. John Macrae, Mr. John F. Mahon, Mr. A. de V. le Maistre, Sir Donald Mann, Mr. T. Marshall, Sir Arthur Martindale, K. C. S. I., Mr. H. B. Matthews, Mr. G. B. Mauley, Mr. Hugh McLean, Mr. E. W. Mearless, Col. E. J. Medley, Mr. Thomas Meredith, Mr. J. S. Millin, Mr. E. W. Monkhouse, Mr. O. R. Monsey, Mr. C. A. Moorhead, Mr. Beaumont Morris, Mr. J. C. Moon, Mr. Ben H. Morgan, Mr. E. S. Morgan, Mr. D. Morgan, Mr. D. J. Morgan, Mr. Frank Burr Mosley, Mr. F. A. Munday, Sir Richard Musgrave, Col. the Hon. George C. Napier, Mr. J. P. Nash, Mr. Arthur W. Nash, J. P., Mr. Newbould, The Rt. Rev. The Bishop of Westminster, Mr. Charles H. Norwood, Mr. T. O'Connor, M. P., Mr. Stephen Parker, Mr. Austin Partner, Mr. Charles de Pease, Mr. E. R. Peacock, Mr. S. S. Pearson, The Rev. Bishop de Pencier, Mr. H. C. Perkins, The Rev. Jocelyn Perkins, Sir Robert Perin, The Rt. Rev. W. W. Perrin, Mr. W. A. Peter, Mr. A. R. Phipps, Mr. R. B. Philpott, Mr. Sydney J. Pitts, Mr. J. E. Platt, Mr. A. Howard Potts, Mr. Ellis J. Powell, Mr. K. Powell, Mr. Louis Pratt, Mr. C. F. Pratt, Mr. M. R. Pryor, Mr. A. E. Rand, Mr. G. K. Raymond, Mr. G. S. Redmayne, Sir J. Rees, K. C. I. E., C. V. O., Mr. John J. Reid, Mr. K. C. Reid, Mr. H. M. Ridge, Dr. W. A. Riggs, Mr. Robertson, Mr. Arthur Robertson, Mr. H. M. Robertson, Mr. H. Duncan Robinson, Mr. A. W. Mayo Robson, F. R. C. S., Mr. J. Rogers, Sir Albert Rollit, Mr. C. R. man Scott Russell, Mr. Henry K. Rutten, Mr. C. L. Samson, Mr. Fred C. Salter, Mr. J. W. Savage, Mr. F. Hamilton Sawyer, Mr. F. Seymour, Mr. G. Scott-Hunter, Mr. B. Simons, Mr. Thomas Skinner, Mr. Hewitt Skinner, Mr. F. E. Smith, K. C. V. O., Mr. R. Tweedy Smith, Mr. J. P. Smith, Mr. C. B. Stahlschmidt, Mr. Stark, Mr. R. K. N. Stephens, Mr. A. Stern, Sir Edward Stern, Mr. A. Sterry, Mr. J. W. Stockdale, Mr. H. Stramberg, The Hon. Lord Strathcona, K. C. M. G., Mr. T. Sutcliffe, Mr. J. Sturgis, Mr. J. Ross Sutherland, Mr. F. Williams-Taylor, Mr. Frank Taggart, Mr. H. Mead Taylor, Mr. J. T. Thoms, Mr. O. T. Thomen, Mr. J. D. Thurbin, Mr. W. J. Todd, The Marquess of Tullibardine, Mr. J. Arthur Turner, Mr. R. J. Turner, J. P., Mr. C. W. Thelves, The Hon. H. Turner (Agent-general of British Columbia), Mr. Edmund Walker, C.V.O., LL.B., Mr. C. J. Walker, Mr. Cecil Ward, Mr. Robert Ward, Mr. Wm. C. Ward, Mr. W. Ward, Mr. R. O. C. Ward, Mr. A. G. Walker, Mr. George H. White, Mr. W. White, K. C., Mr. H. T. Wilgress, Mr. Mernard A. Wilson, Mr. E. Winears, Mr. Cecil de Winton, Mr. Hartley Withers, Mr. F. Wise, Mr. A. F. Williams, Mr. R. A. Workman, Mr. J. L. Wood, Mr. W. C. Wood, Mr. Herbert Woodcock, The Rev. Fred George Wright, Dr. Wm. Wright, F. R. C. S., Mr. Johann Wulffsohn, Dr. Andrew Wylie, Mr. A. Young.—By Ronald Kenyon, in Vancouver Province.

Following the conclusion of the banquet, the States, came a period of flourish, and a moment of it without any me of it inspired by geni Elisha Mulford, from lowing extracts:

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"The nation is a self the product of st transcends the achie dual or a separate dual is not its there is the work of it in the moments of its of their spirit—the of youth, the resolve perience of age—the of the one, the wisdom There is the spirit wh yet always full of yea cal course the corres newed life.

"This continuity the highest politica has it in his historica the nation is represe the years with the v in the changes of se going of men; and t the unity of the dr actors move, and wh age to age; and thus traction apart from figures which presen the poet to shape. B continuity in a life scheme and no lega "The nation is indee nership not only bet ing, but between tho who are to be born."

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Wife: "Have you never thought how many hats you could buy in a year if you saved the money you squander on smoking?"

Husband: "Often. I estimate that I could buy about 50 for myself, but only 3 for you."

## Prospectors Who Seek Rock Crystal

Rock crystal has been of late in great demand and on account of the increase in price is now being eagerly sought for, says the Utica Globe. It is at present used more extensively than ever for optical work, and the popularity of crystal gazing is also said to have brought about an eager inquiry for larger specimens of this beautiful material.

In North Carolina and California there have been found pieces large enough to cut into small objects of art, but there has been no systematic search for the crystals on account of the cost and uncertainty of such an undertaking.

Rock crystal hunting is one of the most dangerous, difficult and strenuous occupations imaginable. Even under favorable conditions the compensation is nothing to boast of, and yet there are no greater enthusiasts in the world than the indefatigable searchers after this semi-mystic material, who prefer the dreary, desolate wilderness among the snow-capped peaks of the mountains to the peaceful pastoral life of the village.

The Swiss Alps, particularly the Bernese Oberland, have for ages been the ideal region for crystal hunters. The ever-present danger

of the possibilities of a rich strike exercise a powerful fascination over men; and once experienced the search for crystal is rarely abandoned. There are families the male members of which for generations have been "straglers," as these searchers are known.

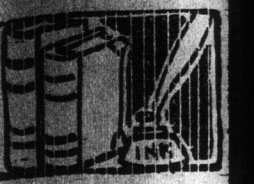
Rock crystal, the object of their hunt, is pure silica and of varying fineness and color. The crystals sometimes inclose other substances which are beautifully seen through the transparent matter, as slender hair or needle-like crystals of hornblende, asbestos, rutile, or oxide of titanium. These rare specimens are known by various fanciful names.

The crystal hunters are not inclined to sociability. As a rule, they work alone while prospecting, because then there is no one to claim a division of a find. The outfit of a "strahler" is simple and inexpensive, consisting of a stout openstock from four to six feet long, provided with a strong hoe-like hook at the end, a shovel, large leather bag, a mattock, a strong rope, a hammer, and as much provision as can conveniently be carried completes the equipment.

With this outfit the "strahler" sets out to-

ward the mountain heights. It is indispensable that he should be an experienced alpine climber and have an infallible sense of locality. He scales the dizzy heights and clings to the narrowest ledges while searching in every direction for an "out-cropping vein of quartz which might contain a rich pocket. Even at the risk of his life he often makes a loop with his rope around a projecting crag, and while hanging over an abyss knocks off fragments from the rock supposed to conceal crystal. If a "lead" is found he does not hesitate to cut steps in the perpendicular rock with his mattock. He follows the vein, striking it with his hammer till his trained ear, from the sound, locates the "geode" or pocket.

Sometimes these pockets lead into caverns and here is where the hunter finds at times a small fortune in superb specimens of rock crystal, either attached to the sides or loose among the sand in the hollow. The exploration of a small cavern of this kind, or even the "tapping" of an ordinary pocket, is often disastrous, since the treacherous rock is liable to crumble and precipitate the prospector to sudden death.



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