

In the years 1856, '57, and '58 extensive discoveries of gold were made on the Fraser river. Anticipating a rush of miners to these regions and wishing to be prepared to cope properly with the situation that would arise the British Government declared the mainland a Crown colony in 1858. It was given the name of British Columbia and Douglas was made governor of both colonies. The rights of the Hudson's Bay Company on Vancouver island granted in 1849 were terminated by purchase. This same year, 1858, the rights of the company to exclusive trading privileges on the mainland, which had been granted at the amalgamation of 1821 for a period of twenty-one years and renewed in 1838 for a further period of twenty years, expired.

This date then, 1858, may be taken as the closing of the reign of the great fur company and the real commencement of colonial government. After a few years, or in 1866, the two colonies were united. Governor Douglas retired from active partnership in the Hudson's Bay Company to devote all his time to affairs of state. As governor he filled the office and performed the arduous duties attached to it in those early days in a most capable manner and for such signal service was knighted. His is a most outstanding figure in British Columbia's early development.

Five years later the colony of British Columbia, which had now through the rush to its interior gold fields attained a population of some 10,000 whites, cast in her lot with the Dominion of Canada, joining Confederation in 1871.

In 1858 the present boundaries of the province were decided upon in so far as internal arrangements in British possessions were concerned. In 1867 Alaska was purchased from Russia by the United States and in 1871 the Washington Treaty settled the Alaska-British Columbia boundary.

By the agreement upon which British Columbia joined the Confederation it was stipulated that she should be connected by a transcontinental railway with the older provinces. This was accomplished by the building of the Canadian Pacific railway which was completed in 1885. The population has grown from a total of about 36,000 in 1871, of which only about 10,000 were whites and the rest Indians, to some 392,000 at the last Dominion census of 1911. This is a total increase of 353,000 in 40 years or a gain of 1,000 per cent.

The representation of the province at the federal capital at Ottawa now consists of 6 members in the Senate and 13 in the House of Commons. The Provincial Government is made up of a Lieutenant-Governor and a Legislative Assembly consisting of 46 members. The Lieutenant-Governor now holds the office (Jan. 1, 1920) is the Honourable H. W. Prior and the Premier of the province is the Honourable John Oliver. The Executive Council of the Assembly is made up as follows:—

Premier, Minister of Railways, President of the Council.....	Hon. John Oliver.
Attorney-General and Minister of Labour.....	Hon. J. W. de B. Forbis, K.C.
Minister of Public Works.....	Hon. Dr. King.
Minister of Lands.....	Hon. T. D. Pattullo.
Minister of Mines.....	Hon. Wm. Sloan.
Minister of Agriculture.....	Hon. Ed. D. Barrow.
Minister of Finance.....	Hon. John Hart.
Minister of Education and Provincial Secretary.....	Hon. Dr. McLean.

In Central British Columbia, the belt of mainland lying between latitudes 52° and 57° north, lie some of the oldest and most historic scenes of interest. The history of the province is sometimes divided into three periods, the period of discovery, the