

which mark the origin and growth of the Great Empire to which we are proud to belong, even as we are each proud of the land in which we live.

Carry your thoughts back for a moment, if you will, to those early days some four centuries ago, when England, with a population of less than 5,000,000, was little more than a sheep farm, growing wool for the German merchants who then dominated her trade with Europe; when English ships were shut out from access to the South Sea and to the Indies by Spain and Portugal, and later by the rising sea power of Holland. It was an attempt to pass these barriers, to find a new way to the East and to the South, which led to the discovery of Newfoundland in the year 1497. Following other efforts, a further step was taken by the formation in 1553 of the first great joint-stock Company, called the Mystery and Company of the Merchant Adventurers for the Discoverie of Regions, Dominions, Islands and Places Unknown, which set out to discover a route by the North East, but failed to do more than open up a trade with Russia through the Port of Archangel.

It was in pursuit of a similar attempt that Henry Hudson discovered the great inlet of the Hudson's Bay in 1610, and it is a wonderful tribute to the pertinacity of the English race that, when the Charter was granted to the Hudson's Bay Company in 1670, they were still pursuing the same idea, as we see clearly in the words of the Charter itself:—

"For the discovery of a new passage into the South Sea by means whereof there may probably arise very great advantage to us and to our kingdom."

Think then of the little vessels of 40 and 50 tons, which set sail for the great mysterious and unimaginable North, with this as one of the principal objects in view. Think, also, of the continuity of effort and purpose, maintained year in and year out, in the face of difficulties and discouragements, and despite the absence of any dividend for the Adventurers in 44 out of the first 50 years of the Company's existence. Fighting with the French was almost continuous, until the Treaty of Utrecht in 1713, when France formally ceded Hudson's Bay to Great Britain. But still the original object of discovery had not been forgotten, for in 1719 the Company commissioned the "Albany" and "Discovery" for this purpose. These vessels never returned, and though many attempts were made in studied pursuit

of the North West Passage, they led to nothing more than the apparently negative result, expressed at a later period by John Barrow:—

"It would not be unreasonable to infer that no such passage exists."

The Treaty of Utrecht was followed 50 years later by the Treaty of Paris, when, in 1763, after the seven years war, the whole of Canada was ceded to Great Britain, and the Hudson's Bay Company were free to pursue their discoveries within the limits of Rupert's Land, as described in the Charter.

Then followed the period in which the merchants of Montreal challenged the Hudson's Bay Company with a competition which increased in intensity, until it became a race for the Fur Trade of the still unknown West. It was in pursuance of this race that Alexander Mackenzie, Simon Fraser and David Thompson accomplished their wonderful explorations under the auspices and instructions of the North West Company, bringing them eventually to the Coast, which the great Vancouver had a few years earlier approached by sea.

With no other worlds in sight to conquer, competition between the two Companies was accentuated to a disastrous degree, and continued until 1821, when they were amalgamated upon mutually satisfactory conditions.

Under the administration of Sir George Simpson, the great qualities of the Scotch and French elements of the North West Company were successfully merged with those of the Hudson's Bay Company, and were of material assistance in the government of the vast territories which remained under the Company's rule until the Deed of Surrender in 1870.

The influence of this amalgamation on the course of Empire cannot be over-estimated. It enabled the Hudson's Bay Company to oppose the Claims of both Russia and the United States to the territories of the Pacific Coast. This opposition, directed by Sir George Simpson, with the assistance of men such as Chief Factor James Douglas, took the practical form of trade, occupation and settlement, and undoubtedly led to that crowning achievement—the saving of British Columbia for the Empire, an achievement which, as I have indicated, must be shared between the men of the North West Company and of the Hudson's Bay Company. And so, after many disappointments and failures, a passage from the Atlantic to the Pacific—the dream of centuries—was attained, if not by sea, then by land.

But, you will say, this—all this—

was in the olden time long ago. What does it hold for inspiration? I think that question is one which each individual may answer for himself. Reflect, if you will, on the conditions in which you are called upon to promote what was defined by King Charles the Second as

"All endeavours tending to the publick good of our people."

There is the Empire on which the sun never sets, the great Dominion, this wonderful Province of British Columbia, the great City of Vancouver, and this University, with the opportunities which it offers to all alike.

Then remember the little England of four centuries ago—poor, weak, insignificant and dependent. Reflect upon the purpose which animated both her rulers and her merchants. That purpose was nigh 200 years old when the Charter was given to the Governor and Company of Adventurers of England trading into Hudson's Bay, for yet a further attempt to discover a new passage into the South Sea.

Remember, also, the poor equipment with which this purpose was pursued, and finally consider that, if under such conditions so much was accomplished, how much more is due from us for the sake of posterity.

I have given you nothing but the barest outline of a subject which to me is full of inspiration. The pictures which the Native Sons of British Columbia have prepared show something of the lives of the people who have played their part in the long story, and tell their own tale.

In conclusion let me quote the words attributed by the poet Van Dyke to Henry Hudson:—

"For, mark me well, the honour of our life
Derives from this; to have a certain aim
Before us always, which our will must seek,
Amid the peril of uncertain ways.
Then, though we miss the goal, our search is crowned
With courage, and we find along our path
A rich reward of unexpected things.
Press towards the aim; take fortune as it fares!"

Mr. Chancellor, the Native Sons of British Columbia have conferred upon me the privilege of tendering, on their behalf, to the University of British Columbia, the paintings prepared, under their commission by Mr. John Innes, and I have much pleasure in asking you to accept them.