

## Judge Frederick W. Howay



INDUSTRIOUS persons," wrote Lord Bacon, in "The Advancement of Learning," "by an exact and scrupulous diligence and observation, out of monuments, names, words, proverbs, traditions, private records and evidences, fragments of stories, passages of books that concern not story and the like, do save and recover somewhat from the deluge of time." Since 1907 His Honor F. W. Howay has been judge of the County Court of New Westminster, B. C., and has performed his duties with conspicuous ability and conscientiousness, but the absorbing interest and ambition of his life, aside from his official duties, for the last twenty years could not be better and more soberly expressed than by the closing line of the Bacon dictum—to "save and recover somewhat from the deluge of time" of the history of the Province that has been his home since 1871. Nor could Judge Howay's methods of study be better indicated than by Lord Bacon's long list of bypaths of knowledge that the student must follow who is determined to get to the sources and avoid "that infinite alloy, the debris of centuries" that gathers round the history of a country. "Truth comes to us," says an old writer, "from the past as gold is washed down from the mountains of Sierra Nevada, in minute but precious particles and intermixed with infinite alloy, the debris of centuries."

It became Judge Howay's ambition many years ago to clear away some of this debris and separate some of this alloy from the history of British Columbia. Wherever original letters, diaries, directories, proclamations and the like were to be seen and obtained or copied, or wherever living persons who had taken part in the historical events of the Province were to be consulted Judge Howay was there. If the information he required could only be obtained in Spanish archives then an agent had to be found who would copy those records. One of the most interesting books in his library at this moment of writing is a manuscript volume, in Spanish, copied from Spanish records. If one mentions to the Judge an old book on the history of British