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# THE BRITISH COLUMBIA MONTHLY

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## Making British Columbia History By Recording British Columbia History

With all the unstinted publicity which is common to the age in which we live, it may sometimes happen that events in themselves outstanding in historic interest take place quietly, and with little ceremonial, or in conditions unattended by crowds. Such an event occurred at the University of British Columbia towards the end of September, 1927, when eight historical paintings lastingly portraying some of the most memorable incidents in the history of British Columbia, were presented by Hudson's Bay Company and the Native Sons of British Columbia to the University as a "Permanent Loan Collection," to be hung in the spacious new University Library.

With happy forethought, the University Authorities, under Chancellor R. E. McKechnie and President L. S. Klinck, arranged that the function at the University should be preceded by a Luncheon in Hudson's Bay Company's dining room, whereto they invited citizens representative of the various business and professional interests in the community. Because of the historic importance of the occasion, we asked for the list of guests, and it was given as follows:

Dudley Durrant, Fred Aubrey, Van T. Shindler, Angus Grant, John Kirkwood, John Babcock, William Stoess, Bruce McKelvie, Dr. K. B. Casselmann, A. L. McLennan, Mr. and Mrs. John Innes, Mr. A. G. Shaw, The Hon. J. D. MacLean, Premier, Dr. S. J. Willis, Superintendent of Education, Mr. J. N. Ellis, K.C., Dr. Evelyn F. Farris, Mr. W. H. Malkin, Hon. Mr. Justice Murphy, Mr. B. C. Nicholas, Mr. R. L. Reid, K.C., Magistrate H. C. Shaw, Mr. Chris. Spencer, Mr. Campbell Sweeny, Dr. R. E. McKechnie, Mr. L. F. Robertson, Dr. D. Buchanan, Mr. F. Dallas, Mr. J. Ridington, Dr. W. N. Sage, Mr. Francis M. Painter, Mr. F. H. Soward, Dr. H. T. J. Coleman, Dean F. M. Clement, Dr. R. W. Brock, Dean Mary L. Bollert, Mr. H. F. Angus, Dr. G. G. Sedgewick, Mr. S. W. Mathews, Mr. Roy Brown, Mr. V. W. Odium, Mr. R. J. Cromie, Mr. D. A. Chalmers, Mr. J. F. Gibson,

Judge F. W. Howay, Charles V. Sale, G. W. Allan, K.C., Hon. A. J. Howard, P. J. Parker, C. H. French, G. A. H. Porte, J. J. Reilly, A. H. Doe, P. A. Chester, Wm. Ware, R. G. Leveson-Gower, Mr. H. T. Lockyer, Rev. R. G. MacBeth, Mr. Cameron, Dr. L. S. Klinck.

After the luncheon the company were driven in private cars to the University Library at Point Grey, for the Presentation. Present with Governor Charles V. Sale of the Hudson's Bay Company was Hon. A. J. P. Howard, member of the Company's Directorate. The University was represented by the Chancellor, Dr. R. E. McKechnie (Chairman). The presentation address on behalf of the Hudson's Bay Company and the Native Sons of British Columbia, was delivered by Governor Sale, and the address of acceptance, on behalf of the University, was made by Magistrate H. C. Shaw. Mr. Bruce A. McKelvie, journalist, who is now becoming widely known as a writer of stories with B. C. settings, no less than for his literary historic work, represented the Native Sons of British Columbia, as "Past Grand Factor," and related "the story of the pictures" in an address, arresting, fluent and well-delivered.

The pictures themselves will provide excellent reason for visitors to this Province, and British Columbia residents in particular, making a point of getting more fully acquainted with the University buildings at Point Grey, for they are well calculated to stir the imagination, touch the heart, and deeply impress "those coming after" with the difficulties, dangers, and threatening disasters, faced by the sturdy pioneers of our race, the benefits and blessings of whose heroism we inherit.

The titles to the pictures are as follows:

1. Commander Vancouver's meeting with Spaniards off Point Grey, A.D. 1792.
2. Alexander Mackenzie recording his arrival at the Pacific, A.D. 1793.
3. Simon Fraser in the Fraser Can-

yon on his journey to the sea, A.D. 1808.

4. The Hudson's Bay Company's fur brigade passing down the Okanagan, A.D. 1825-35.

5. James Douglas building the Hudson's Bay Post at Victoria, A.D. 1843.

6. James Douglas taking the oath as first Governor of British Columbia, A.D. 1858.

7. Finding of placer gold by pioneer miners in the Cariboo, about A.D. 1858.

8. The overland pioneers journeying through the Rockies, A.D. 1862.

*Address by Governor Charles V. Sale*  
Mr. Chancellor, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I am very grateful for your kind and hearty welcome, and for the privilege of joining with you in commemorating the deeds of great men—pioneers in the discovery and early development of this fair and favoured Province.

Five years have passed since the Native Sons of British Columbia conceived the idea of committing to canvas scenes of historic interest, ere the facts and the details became lost in the mists of time, and I well remember the enthusiasm with which the plans and ambitions of the Native Sons were unfolded by Mr. McLennan, when seeking the co-operation of the Governor and Committee of the Hudson's Bay Company, during his visit to London in 1923.

The close connection of the Company with the early history of Canada enabled us to appreciate the imagination and vision which sought to inspire future generations with a due sense of the courage and daring of their forefathers, and so to welcome an association with the Native Sons of British Columbia in the preparation of the paintings now before you.

If I may venture the statement, this association gives an additional interest to these paintings, because it places the incidents which they portray in perspective with the course of events down the ages, from the time of Henry the Seventh to the living present—events