

THE "BASTION," one of the antique sights that visitors cannot overlook, one of the very few landmarks, and the most prominent remaining, at Nainaimo, of the period when the Hudson's Bay Company held Memorial Rights over the whole of Vancouver Island, was erected in 1853—completed in June of that year, flagpole raised, and the "H. B. C." flag then unfurled to the breeze. It was built by Lecon Labine and Jean Baptiste Fortier, who, with assistants, had been employed upon similar structures at Fort Victoria and Fort Rupert. Labine and Fortier were French-Canadians, both splendid axemen. They got out the material for nearly all the hewn log buildings at Colville Town, as Nainaimo, soon after being settled by the whites, was called.

At the date the Bastion was finished, there were, as the make-up of Colville Town, four dwelling houses 26x15 feet, and three 30x20, habitable, and filling pieces raised for three more 30x20. These, with a little clearance of the forest, were the first preparation for the permanent abode of a new population of men and women, who, upon arrival in this far-off section of the wild west, were confronted with difficulties and dangers hardly realized by those who did not share them. The purpose of the "Fort," as it was designated by the Hudson's Bay Com-