

"British Columbia Today."

(Speech delivered on June 25th, before the Members of the Progress Club by Premier Sir Richard McBride, K.C.M.G.)

The Premier said:—

Mr. Chairman and brother members of the Progress Club (applause):

I was fortunate not to allow the opportunity to pass of becoming associated with your organization, and I am enabled as I address you to-day to call you brother members of the Club. I feel it a privilege indeed to have formed such an association, and when I recall the fact that some of my oldest and best friends in British Columbia have been intimately connected with its inauguration, it is a source of much pleasure to realize that I have some small part in your work.

May I pause for a moment to say how keenly we in Victoria have watched the work of your club. From its inception I have been able to learn weekly from Doctor Rowe himself something of the plans and ambitions of your association. It is not too much to say that, in the main, the principal credit that attaches to your society must be given to Doctor Rowe (applause). You have in him a gentleman whom I have known for many years, a man whom I respect and a man whom I am delighted to honor as one of your principal officials. If there is a Canadian, a Britisher resident in British Columbia who has nearer to his heart the well-being of this section of Canada than has my good friend, Doctor Rowe, I should like you to find him. There may be many subjects upon which the Doctor and I find it impossible to agree, but I say at once to you that, on the theme British Columbia, we can readily join hands and quickly enthuse. I wish for Doctor Rowe and his associates, and for those of you who are interested in the work of the Progress Club, that success that you are easily entitled to. It is a great work that you have in hand; already the fruits of your efforts are becoming well known in British Columbia, and outside the Province as well, and you are recognized as a forceful entity in the work of publicity and nation-building. It is a matter of much commendation to have followed the policy of your club, especially in respect to its associations with the Fraser Valley and near-by cities.

You have cultivated a new atmosphere in an industrial and commercial way that perhaps was strange to you a few months back. There is nothing calculated to do so much good for the City of Vancouver and its environment as the engendering of that wonderful feeling of co-operation that we must have, that is an all-essential and that we cannot do without. It is not Vancouver alone that comes within the operation of your association; it is Provincial in its scope, and it has attracted as well all the strength and all the co-operation that this whole section of British Columbia can put forth.