

# PIONEERS TALK OVER OLD TIMES

Gather at Banquet Board and  
Recall Early Struggles and  
Stirring Events of Half a  
Century Ago

Pioneer days when Victoria was but an outpost of the great fur company, when pick and shovel and pan played a prominent part in the early struggle for a livelihood in the great Cariboo country, formed the theme of conversation at a jolly occasion yesterday.

when a number of Victoria's most prominent residents and pioneers of the earliest days of this country and city gathered at the Oak Bay hotel, guests of Mr. Roper himself an "old-timer", of old-timers, at one of a number of delightful banquets which the representatives of the early days of the province have held from time to time. The occasion was thoroughly enjoyed.

Those present, all of them men who have been leaders in the up-building of this city and prominent in the affairs of the province were: Hon. J. S. Helmcken, Hon. C. E. Pooley, Senator W. J. Macdonald, Messrs. Edward Mahoun, J. Anderson, Joseph Boscowitz, R. B. McMicking, C. E. Redfern

L. Goodacre, J. Clapperton, J. B. Greaves, H. Hughes, Mr. Crawford, manager of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, Mr. Lewis of Portland and Mr. Drysdale of Vancouver were also present.

The table decorations were exceedingly appropriate to the occasion. A centre-piece of evergreens in which were encoined miniature pack trains

typifying the early gold-seekers' only mode of locomotion in the days of the Cariboo rush, was surrounded miniature pans with glistening gold dust, testifying to the miner's struggles in the early '60's. The menu cards, daintily hand painted, bore the historic pick-axe, pan and shovel and the motto: "62-'65," while the name cards bore the same device. To each guest was presented a button-hole boutonniere

of rose, thistle, shamrock and maple leaf tied with red, white and blue ribbons.

After full justice had been done to the excellent cuisine the host, Mr. Röper, proposed the health of the King which was loyally honored. Toasts to each other were also drunk amid applause and each was the signal for a flow of reminiscence which recalled to

all the stirring days of the infant colony.

**Pioneer of Them All**

How Dr. Helmcken, who was a little life in arriving was greeted with utmost enthusiasm and affectionately declared to be the "pioneer of us all."

Mr. G. L. Redfern in the course of a short speech spoke of the great work the pioneers and native sons of the west had done, and he urged that the

members of the Pioneer Society of the United States, with the Native Sons of the Pioneer Society, pointing out that it now remained for the latter organization to carry out the good work which the pioneers had inaugurated and leave to posterity the great record which the pioneers had achieved. He also urged that the documents, records and memorios which the Pioneer's Society had

new in possession should be turned over to the Native Sons. His suggestion was heartily received.

Senator Macdonald and Hon. C. E. Pooley recalled events of the old time the troubles with the Indians, the arduous days of the gold seekers and referred in touching vein to those pioneers who had passed away after having done a great work for the city and province, a work which would

His eighty-five years resting lightly upon his shoulders Hon. J. S. Helmsken received an ovation as his health was proposed and drunk with enthusiasm. He expressed his delight at again

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