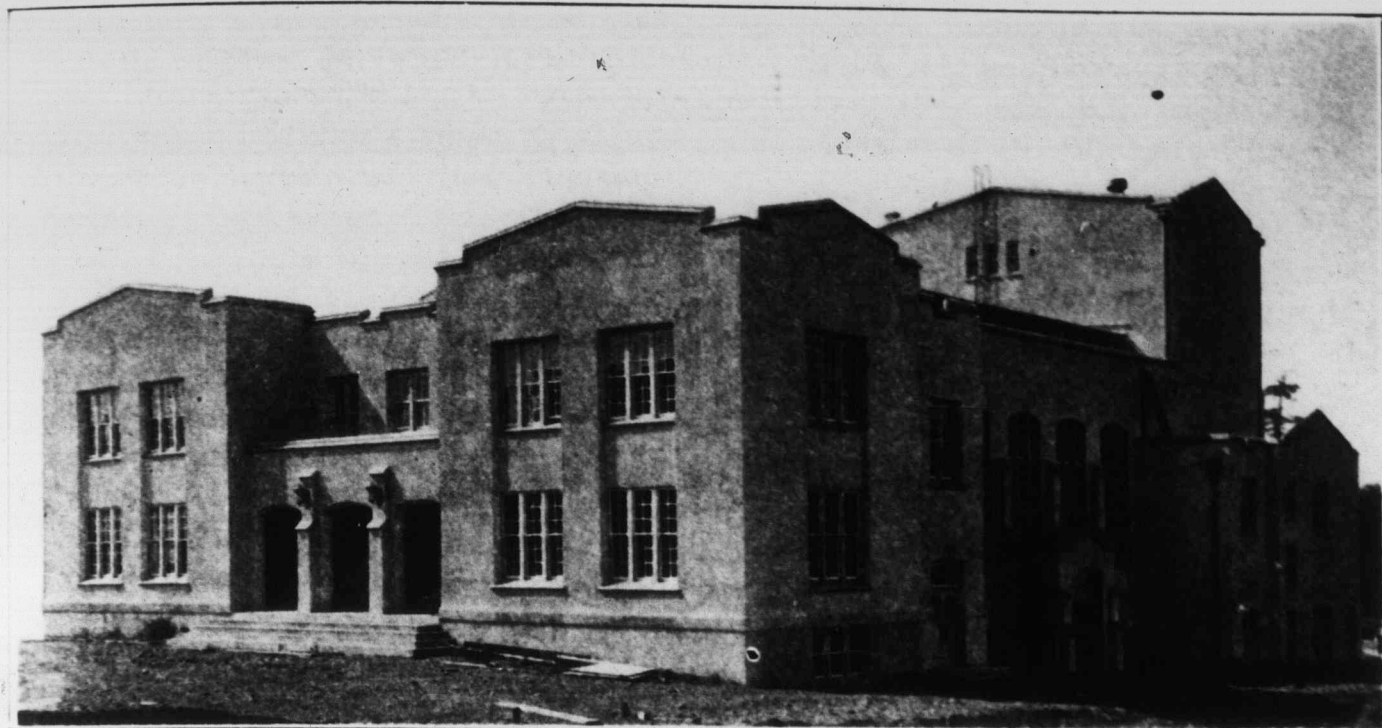




AUDITORIUM BUILDING

Pacific Coast by the great institution of which he is the head.

The increasing importance and success of the work of the colleges in Vancouver and Victoria was rapidly preparing the way for the establishment of a provincial university. More than to any one man, the credit of initiating the movement is due to Dr. Henry Esson Young. As Minister of Education, he, in 1907, took definite steps to establish a university by introducing an act setting apart 2,000,000 acres of land as an endowment. The following year he introduced the Act that established and incorporated the University, constituting the various governing bodies therein, and defining their powers, providing that it should be non-sectarian, giving equality to women with men students, and reserving to it the sole right to grant degrees within the province, excepting in theology. It was established to give such instruction in all branches of a liberal education as to enable students to qualify for degrees in Science, Commerce, Arts, Literature, Law, Medicine, Mining, Engineering, Agriculture and Industry, and to provide facilities and encourage research in these and other fields of knowledge.

Two years later, in 1910, the first practical steps were taken by the Provincial Government, at the instance of Dr. Young, to select a site for the new institution. The task was entrusted to a Commission of five distinguished university authorities. The Commission, after visits to various districts, reported in June, recommending the vicinity of Vancouver as the best location, and, as its first choice, Point Grey. In 1911 the Legislature granted this site, which, by subsequent additions, now has an extent of 540 acres.

Few universities can boast a site so impressive and beautiful. The waters of the Gulf of Georgia form more than half its boundary, while its elevation,—some 300 feet above the sea—gives matchless views of marine and mountain scenery.

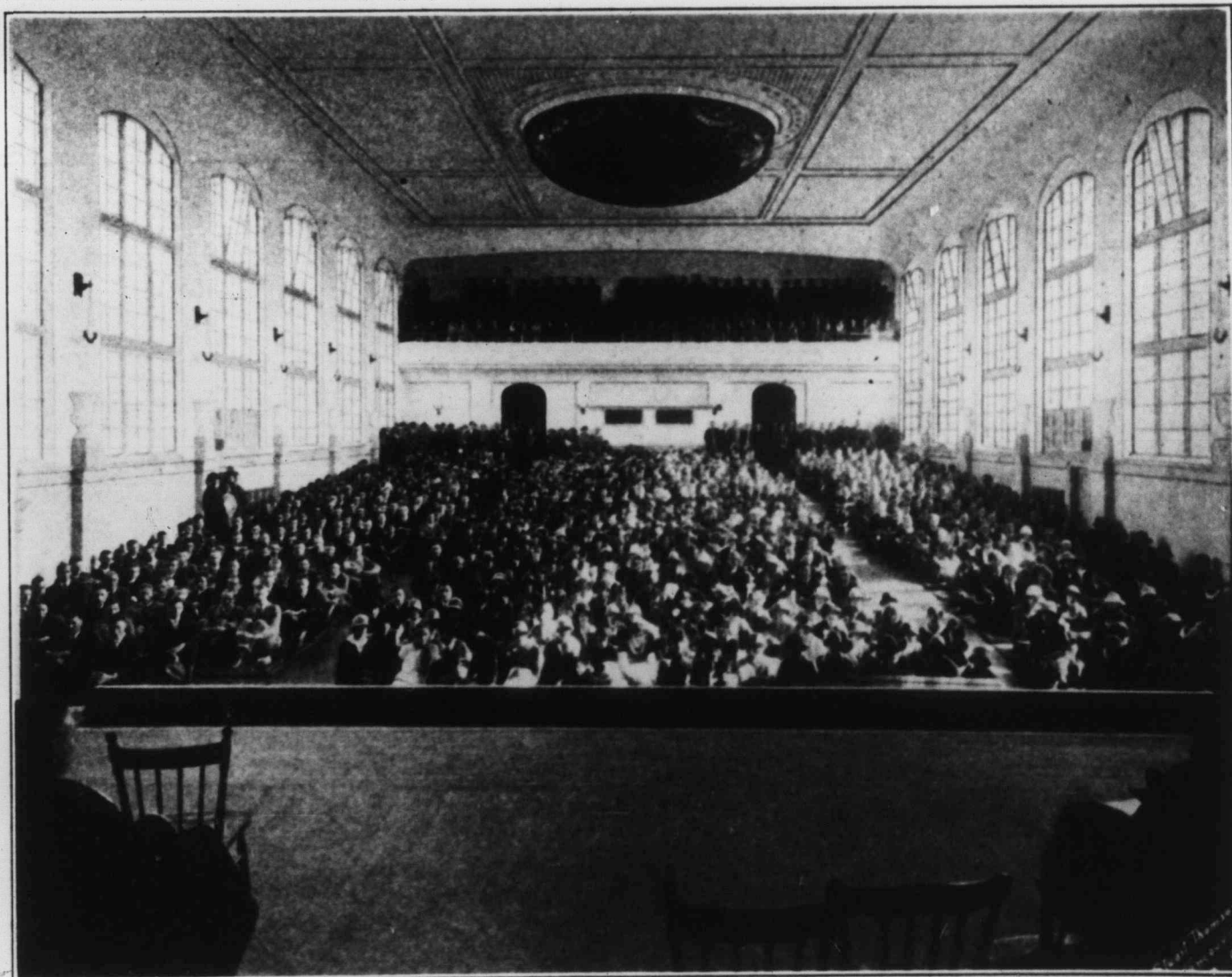
Meantime, organization was being pushed forward by the voluntary registration of graduates resident in the province to form the first Convocation. The number registering was 849, and the body convened in August, 1912, when Mr. Carter-Cotton was elected the first chancellor.

Continuing his active work in promoting the new institution, the Minister of Education in February, 1912, called for competitive plans, to in-

clude full details of four buildings to be erected immediately, and a block plan of the whole university. The first prize of \$5,000.00, carrying with it the appointment of University Architect, was awarded by the Board of Assessors to Messrs Sharp & Thompson of Vancouver. A little later, in 1913, another Commission reported on the general design for both grounds and buildings. This design is most comprehensive, and provides for the needs of an institution potentially great, the relatively small beginnings of which had to be arranged with proper regard for economy as well as efficiency, and yet in such a manner as to ensure co-ordination with a properly planned and steadily developing scheme.

As the result of all this careful planning, the University of British Columbia is perhaps the best designed institution of its kind in the world. It is, indeed, one of only three, among the hundreds of universities in Europe and America, that was planned from its very beginning. Leland Stanford Jr. University, at Palo Alto, California, was the first, while the third is also an institution of the Golden State—the University of Southern California, now under construction at San Diego.

Matters now progressed rapidly. In March, 1913, the government appointed Dr. F. F. Wesbrook, Dean of Medicine in the University of Minnesota, President. The Legislature voted \$500,000 for construction



THE FIRST ASSEMBLY IN THE NEW AUDITORIUM