

SCOUTS OF EMPIRE

are a legacy of which Canadians may well feel proud. As a people we have been shamefully slow in recognizing our debt to such men as David Thompson. Some day, perhaps, he may find a niche in some Hall of Fame, in the company of Cabot and Cartier; Hudson and Hearne; La Salle, Marquette and La Vérendrye; Vancouver, Mackenzie and Fraser.

For thirteen years, Thompson remained in the service of the Hudson's Bay Company, building up the fur trade, establishing new posts in the interior, and surveying large sections of the wonderful system of waterways—the high-road of the fur-trader—that drains the country from the Rocky Mountains to Hudson Bay. In May 1797, he left the Hudson's Bay Company and entered the service of the North-West Company. On May 23 in that year, he makes this note in his journal: "This day left the service of the Hudson's Bay Co., and (entered) that of the Company of