

FOREWORD

"I have been very much interested in Moberly's recollections with reference to events nearly all of which I pretty well know by heart. I am so glad to see that he has given you, for publication, an account of his long and varied experiences in British Columbia, experiences which have been of great value to the province." In these generous terms of appreciation of Mr. Walter Moberly's services to this province, the Hon. Edgar Dewdney wrote me two months ago, at the time that the veteran explorer's reminiscences were appearing Sunday by Sunday. Mr. Dewdney, who has himself rendered great services, not only to this province, but to the Dominion at large, as trail-maker, explorer and administrator, knew Mr. Moberly intimately as a comrade in the early, strenuous days of which this story treats. Appreciation from such a source is, therefore, of much value. I quote this extract as most representative of the many letters of appreciation of Mr. Moberly's services to the province—some of which do not hesitate to point out that those services do not seem to have been appreciated by the province—that I have received during the publication of his story.

I hope, later, to publish in book form the stories of adventure and achievement of Mr. Dewdney himself, Mr. Henry J. Cambie and other pioneers of the province, whose reminiscences I have had the pleasure of recording in the columns of "The News-Advertiser," for such reminiscences, like those of Mr. Moberly, are part of the history of British Columbia and—in the case particularly of Mr. Dewdney—of the Dominion. In the meantime, I have to express my sincere thanks to Mr. Cambie for his generosity in allowing me to place at the end of Mr. Moberly's story two chapters taken from his own reminiscences in order that the present little book may be a complete record, not only of the explorations and surveys that preceded the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway through this province, but of the actual building of that railway, in connection with which Mr. Cambie played the most prominent part, being in charge of the tremendous work of driving the steel through the rugged canyons of the Fraser. I would like also to thank "The News-Advertiser" for permission to republish these stories; the S. J. Clarke Publishing Company for kindly lending me a number of the "cuts" used by them in their recently published history of British Columbia; the Art, Historical and Scientific Society of Vancouver for permission to use extracts from Mr. Moberly's lectures, published by the Society in a praiseworthy endeavor to show public recognition of his work; and Mr. J. Francis Bursill, an old-timer from the Old Land, well known here under his journalistic name of "Felix Penne," for much kindly assistance in "getting out" this modest but "strange, eventful history."

—N. R.