

better, brighter day had dawned, and the pioneer was glad to see the shadows flee away. The pioneer is today—at least those who survive—worthy and esteemed. Those who have come have largely invested in his lands, the proceeds of which enable him to spend the evening of his day in ease and comfort, with all that heart could wish. He is happy in the midst of his children, and his children's children. Some hold fast what they have, others with generous hand contribute to the support of religion, benevolent and educational institutions—old things have passed away, all things have become new.

The government of these early days was not party, but paternal. Hon. John Robson was the leader. I remember his earnest, frank face as he sat in St. Andrew's Church, Victoria. His was then a name to conjure with. He had the reputation of being a good man and a good politician. The present premier as I remember him, was a young man, with black bushy hair, searching eyes, confident bearing, near the completion of his law course, pleading a cause with youthful eloquence in a County Court House. Did any one that day think that the young student would so soon be the popular leader of the destinies of the province!

Yes, it was a *paternal* government. It provided liberally for the education of the young. It built roads and bridges as fast as finances would allow, and promised more. It encouraged emigration and induced many to take up government lands. In '94 the Fraser River ran riot. It overflowed its banks and covered all the low lying lands along the lower reaches of the Fraser from Hope to the Gulf. That was in the month of June, when the crops were appearing above ground. What were the ranchers to do? The government came to their help with a fatherly generosity. They furnished the potatoes, oats, peas and wheat, so that when in two weeks the waters subsided, the otherwise despairing rancher proceeded to plant another crop. That flood will not soon be forgotten. Many events still date from it. In some ways it was a blessing in disguise, for it taught the people that their only safety lay in a comprehensive dyking scheme. It was not easy to finance the country in those years. It was difficult. Money was scarce. People did not see any further before them than we do now. Indeed the future was not inspiring. Land could be bought for a mere trifle. Emigration was slow. In fact, most everything appeared to be slow. But about the turning of the century a change for the better became