

of British Columbia would be incomplete without a reference to the daring and skilful navigators who in by-gone days in search of sovereignty and trade with but crude charts (plates) and little to guide them but their own self-reliance and courage, ventured into the North Pacific and explored the west coast.

It is hoped that this short narrative, followed by a description of the country and its resources, imperfect though it may be, will prove as seductive and inspiring to the civil engineers of the present as the wonders of the unknown waters and lands of the northern seas were to the adventurous seamen of the past.

In the fifth century, according to the annals of the Chinese Empire, travellers from that country reached the west coast of America, probably Mexico, and called the land Fusang. It may be revealed by further search that to the Chinese belong the honour of the discovery of America.

Michael Lok published in London in 1625 a famous collection of voyages entitled "Purchas His Pilgrims," and in it he recorded that the Straits of Juan de Fuca were discovered by a Greek pilot in the service of Spain, named Apostolos Valerianos, or, as he was called by the Spaniards, Juan de Fuca. Authorities do not agree as to the credibility of this story. Some are inclined to think that it is founded on fact, others place it in the category of mythical exploits.

The Spanish historian Navarette points out that there is no such person as Juan de Fuca in the Spanish archives. The late Professor George Davidson does not hesitate to denounce the Juan de Fuca story as a fabrication invented by Lok.

Captain Bering, a Dane, sailing a Russian ship, crossed the sea to which he gave name and touched the coast of Alaska in 1741. In 1774 Juan Perez in a small corvette, the "San Diego," sighted the west coast of Queen Charlotte Island and then returning southward anchored off Point Estevan at the entrance to Nootka Sound on the west coast of Vancouver Island. He was, therefore, according to the records, the first European to land on the shores of British Columbia.

Captain James Cook, the great British navigator, visited Nootka Sound in 1778 with H.M.S. "Resolution," 300 tons. Having sprung the foremast of one of his ships, a new one of Douglas fir, cut in the bush on shore, was prepared and stepped in its place. (Fig. 1.)

Captain Cook was killed by the natives in the Sandwich Islands in 1780.

In 1785 Captain James Hanna, an Englishman, in the "Sea Otter," 100 tons, made the first fur trading voyage to the coast.

Two ships, the "Captain Cook" and "Experiment," commanded by Captains Lowry and Guise, visited the northwest coast in 1787, and