

the Company's officials found the small ships available at that time not suitable for developing the coast business, their next move was to build a steamer. Hence the "Beaver" appeared. It was conceded by all to be a marvel of efficiency and was the first steamer to operate on the Pacific ocean. The "Beaver" proved most suitable for her work, and was in commission by the Company from 1835 to 1870 when she was loaned to the Imperial Government for survey work.

#### VARIOUS FORT POSITIONS

In 1831, a fort was erected at the mouth of the Naas river, but as this location was unsatisfactory from a trading standpoint owing to the natives being constantly at war with each other, in 1834 the fort was dismantled and re-erected at McLaughlin Bay, afterwards named Fort Simpson.

From here the trade was pushed north to Wrangell, where the Russian-American Company, then the owners of Alaska, disputed the Company's right to trade, so negotiations were begun, and eventually a lease for nine years was granted to the Company, which was renewed until the time Alaska was sold to the United States in 1867.

In 1824 a fort was built at the junction of the Willamette with the Columbia river and called Fort Vancouver.

#### VICTORIA SUPERCEDED VANCOUVER (WASHINGTON)

The Oregon and Washington treaty caused the Hudson's Bay Company a great deal of trouble and held back the development of the Pacific Coast trade many years. Vancouver in Washington was not a satisfactory point from which to operate, owing to the difficulty of negotiating the Columbia river bar, by both the London and Coast boats, so that at the opportune moment, a move was made to the south east end of Vancouver Island, where in 1843 the foundations for a larger establishment were laid where the City of Victoria now stands.

#### WIDE RANGE OF COMPANY'S SOCIAL SERVICE

In 1847 the Company raised its own horses, cattle, sheep and other farm stock. It operated large farms in different parts of the country, grist mills, saw mills, tanneries, and fisheries. From its Pacific ports it exported flour, grain, beef, pork and butter to Russia, lumber and fish to the Sandwich Islands, and hides and wool to England. It opened the coal mines at Nanaimo, and became banker for the thousands of hunters, fishermen and miners within its own domain. It issued notes, and so valued were they that its notes were accepted when "shinplasters" of banks in the United States were refused.

#### A PATRIOTIC COMMISSION SEVENTY YEARS AGO.

On September 13th 1849, in order that a flourishing British colony should be established on the Pacific coast, the Hudson's Bay Company received power from England to colonize Vancouver Island and British Columbia. This it did without any peculiar advantage to itself, using all monies received for land, minerals, etc., for the improvement of the country.

The development of the Territory of the Company steadily increased but a terrible loss was incurred by the Company when, after five days illness, Governor Simpson passed away. His successor was Mr. A. E. Dallas. During his term of office, several offers were made and refused to buy the Company land and privileges, until in 1868 a delegation from Canada went to England to arrange terms for the acquisition by Canada of Rupert's Land and the North West Territory. The members of that delegation were the guests of the Earl Kimberly, then Governor of the Company, but while the negotiations were under way the Duke resigned office and was succeeded by Sir. Stafford Northcote.

#### BOUGHT OUT BY THE GOVERNMENT

Eventually the terms offered by Canada of 300,000 pounds with other provisions, were accepted by the Company; Canada thus acquiring the vast territory of two million three hundred thousand square miles.

#### PRECAUTIONARY PACKING

Up to 1870 York was really the capital of Rupert's Land where all goods were warehoused, repacked, and despatched to the interior. Two years supplies were always on hand and these were sent out as requisitioned, in bales of one hundred pounds each, and contained a variety of goods, for example a certain quantity of print, handkerchiefs, overalls, sox, towels, etc. This was done in order that if a bale of goods went



An Indian Travois Scene.

amissing in any way, only a few of each line of trade goods would be lost, while if packed as is done by shippers today, a bale might contain every pair of socks, and should this bale be lost, the people at that post might have to get along without such garments for a year until a new outfit would arrive. The transport between York and all inland points was carried on by York boats, the building of which was done at York, and were very light so that portage would be easy.

#### STILL THE GREATEST FUR COMPANY

In yielding the sovereignty of the Great North West and millions of acres of land to Canada, it still remained the greatest fur company in the world, and still possessed the liberty in its corporate capacity to carry on trade without hindrance and still retained many millions of acres of land.

#### "LOOKING AHEAD" THE WATCHWORD

The Hudson's Bay Company's posts reach from the stern coasts of Labrador to the frontiers of Alaska. Looking ahead, has always been the watchword of this great institution and as it is rounding its 250th anniversary it is planning great developments that will not only mean much to the Company but will also prove an immense acquisition to the land of its heritage.

#### THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION PLANS

These are now well under way, and besides including many other significant things, will consist of a series of historical Pageants, portraying the principal things of interest in the Company's career from the signing of the Charter in 1670 to the time when the Company handed over to the British Empire the land it had held in trust for two centuries. The Pageant is now in the hands of a community committee who will add features of local interest, and the procession is expected to be upwards of two miles long.

Great interest has been manifested all along the Pacific Coast. The cities of Victoria and Vancouver, the adjacent municipalities, New Westminster, and scores of societies and organizations are actively exercised in the celebration, so that at the time of this writing upwards of sixty floats are definitely assured.