

province born and built within the memory of men not yet old.

It is but two-thirds of a century—1869 was the exact date—that the men of Fort Victoria laid planks from the landing to the Hudson Bay Fort, in honor of the arrival from England of the Rev. Robert Staines, who came to found the first school in the colony. Two years later there were three schools, with 111 pupils, in Vancouver Island. The sum of \$10,000 was then voted to pay the salaries of teachers, and for the erection of new school buildings. This was the first appropriation for education in British Columbia.

It was a Presbyterian minister, Rev. Robert Jamieson, who opened the first school on the mainland, at New Westminster, in 1862. It cost \$2.00 a month per pupil to send children to school in those days, and but few of the settlers could afford the outlay. In 1870 even the Victoria school had to close down for two years.

It was in 1872, a year after the Province entered Confederation, that the school system of British Columbia was placed on a modern basis. The first superintendent, John Jessup—who walked from Winnipeg to the Rocky Mountains, and, after an unsuccessful year of mining, opened a private school in Victoria—was then appointed. With increasing rapidity the system has, year by year, developed, until, at the

present time, there are more than 1,000 public schools, and over 70 high schools in British Columbia, with 90,000 scholars attending the former, and more than 10,000 the latter. Three thousand teachers are directing this army of young students, while grants by the provincial government last year totalled \$3,200,000, and the total amount of public taxes and grants spent on education, from the kindergarten to the University, made the imposing sum of \$8,200,000. The grants made to schools by the government represented one sixth of last year's total provincial revenue. This is surely conclusive testimony to the importance the people of the Pacific Province attach to the necessity for sound education.

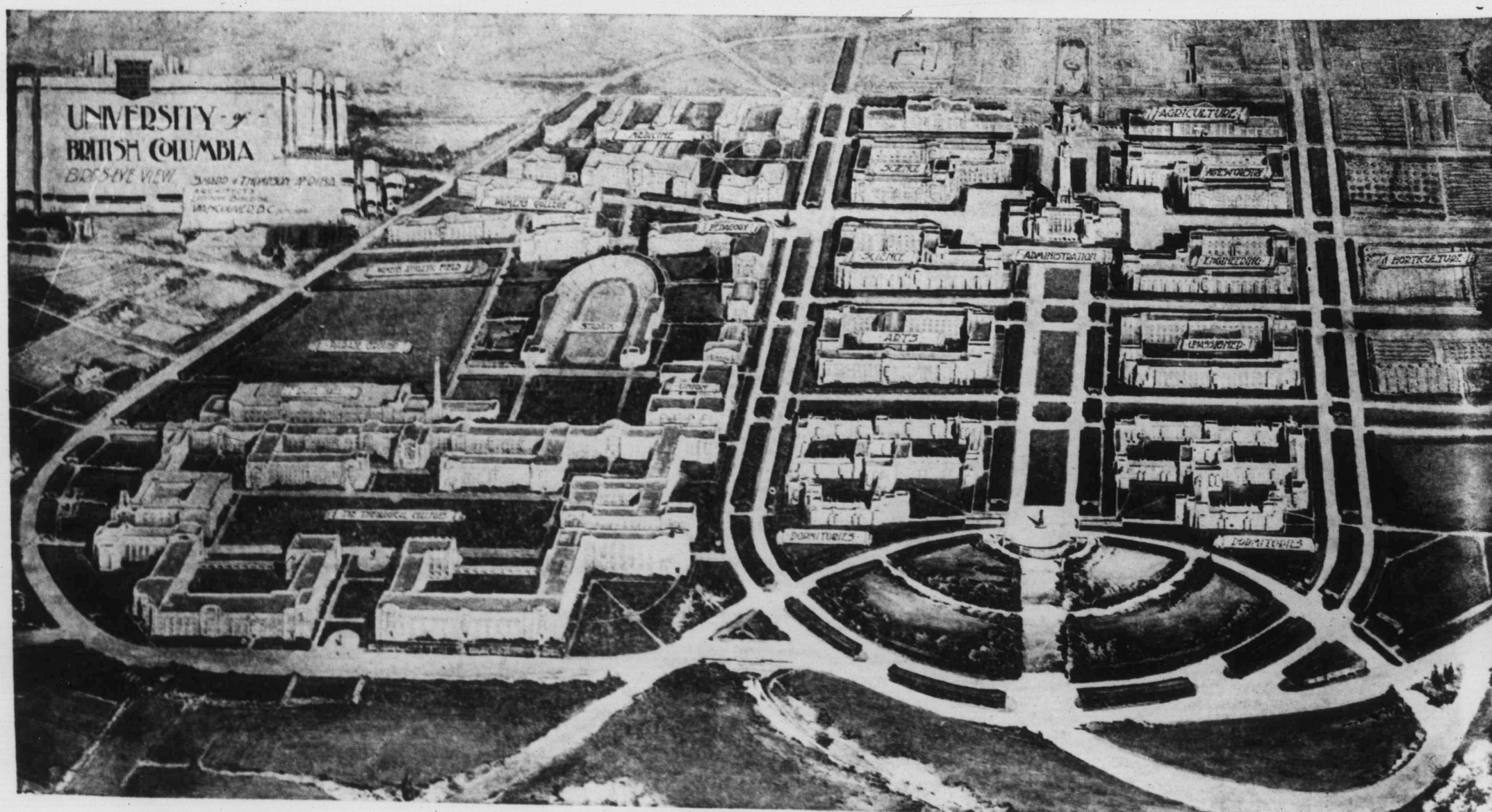
It is a matter of common knowledge that the history of the present University of British Columbia dates from 1907, when the Act establishing it was passed. It is not generally known, however, that 35 years ago, in 1890, when the total white population of the province was less than 100,000, British Columbia had a university—on paper.

The project had been broached by Superintendent of Education Jessup, in 1877, but in 1890, Mr. Simon Duck, a retired wagon-builder and wheelwright, one of the members for Victoria, and minister of finance, by request, introduced and sponsored "An Act Establishing

the University of British Columbia," which passed the Assembly with little discussion, and received the Royal Assent on April 26.

The Act arranged for an Arts and a Science course, the former to embrace all the branches of a liberal education necessary for the B.A. and M.A. degrees, while that of Science was to include agriculture, mechanics, mining and civil engineering. The teaching faculty was to consist of at least four professors, with such tutors and lecturers as might be required. The institution was to be secular and non-sectarian, and no religious dogma or creed was to be taught. Dr. I. W. Powell was appointed chancellor, and the first convocation was held in Victoria in August, 1890, with Hon. John Robson, provincial secretary, presiding. Seventy duly certified members of convocation—practically every university graduate in the Province—attended. Most of them were doctors, though there was a sprinkling of lawyers, ministers, teachers, and civil engineers.

Three members of Senate were elected at this meeting, and minor amendments to the Act discussed. Other matters, much less constructive, were also debated. The intense jealousy between island and mainland found strong expression during the proceedings, and strong sectional differences required much tactful handling by university pro-



PERSPECTIVE PLAN OF THE UNIVERSITY