

records so that they will be preserved. In this way they will also be more accessible to the public. Many of these first-hand sources of information now are gone forever.

Merely to state the facts of history is not difficult for one possessed of the information; but to give a correct impression of the conditions existing in the early days, to give what is called the "local colour," necessitates personal contact with original sources. The authors have for many years made it a point at every opportunity to interview the pioneers, many of whom are now gone, and they have received at first hand the stories of the lives of those who took part in the stirring events of pioneer days.

And this, after all, is but another proof that history, properly so called and properly written, must find its basis in the biographies of the actors in the scene. In the beginning our Province lay so far removed from its natural sources of supply that none but the more daring and intrepid had courage to face the difficulties of a journey of thousands of miles from home and civilization into an unknown wilderness, there to lay the foundations of a great empire on the Pacific slope. And this statement holds good even to the present time; for it requires to-day the same energy, ability and disregard of personal comfort to pioneer the unknown, uninhabited and almost inaccessible portions of the Province that characterized the brave men and women who originally came here.

There is no page of history more replete with varied incident than that which contains the stories of the pioneers of this country—not alone those who came with the gold rushes, but those who, in later years, developed the almost unknown interior of the Province, who laid the foundations of the industries of the interior and built up the great cities of the coast.

"It is a tale half told and hardly understood
A tale it is of lands of gold
That lay toward the sun."

The whole story—most romantic and interesting—from prehistoric times to the present day will be given in this work. The apocryphal voyages of Sir Francis Drake, the story of Juan de Fuca, the progress of Russian and Spanish discoveries, the coming of Captain Cook, the maritime fur trade, including details of the work of Captains Gray and Kendrick, the overland advance, the Nootka, Oregon and San Juan boundary disputes, the explorations of Vancouver, the journeys of Fraser, Thompson and other fur traders, the Astoria venture, the *regime* of the Hudson's Bay Company, the origin of the Colony of