

friend of his, Sir Joseph Banks, in 1788, sailed in the good ship *King George* into the broad channel separating Queen Charlotte Islands from the islands of Alaska. In honor of his friend he named the channel "Dixon Entrance."

Just about sixty years ago a surveying party came from England in H.M.S. *Hecate*, and spent two years in examining and charting many parts of the coast of British Columbia. While surveying that wide passage between Queen Charlotte Islands and the mainland they named it "Hecate Strait."

The man who brought the *Hecate* out from England returned the following year in command of H.M.S. *Plumper*, which had been used by other men some three or four years in exploring various parts of the coast. All who have enjoyed by daylight the excellent boat-ride between Victoria and Vancouver know that the boats go through a very pretty but dangerous pass between Mayne and Galiano Islands. In this pass the *Plumper* was all but wrecked in July, 1860, and for more than forty years the narrow elbow-shaped passage was known as "Plumper Pass," although that was not its proper name. The first ship that is known to have made the passage was a U. S. government vessel, the *Active*. This ship and the *Plumper* were used by the American and British officers who fixed the Canadian boundary line from the coast to the deep waters of the Strait of Georgia. The commanders of the ships were good friends, and Captain Richards, of the *Plumper*, considering it only fair that the first ship to make its way between the islands should be remembered, decided on the name "Active Pass."

There is a part of Vancouver Island which used to be very popular among the Indians because they found there plenty of berries as well as game. They called the place "Komuckway," which meant "abundance" or "riches." Different persons, hearing the Indians pronounce the name, attempted to write it, the result being many different spellings. Finally, however, it became so shortened and simplified that it is now "Comox."

When the Hudson's Bay Co. was organized in England in 1670, the first president of the company was a cousin of Charles II, King of England. He is mentioned in a poem in the Fourth Reader as Rupert of the Rhine. All the land around Hudson Bay was for many years called Rupert's Land, and today we have a city in British Columbia called "Prince Rupert."

As we have already seen, it was the Hudson's Bay Company that established the settlement which afterwards developed into the city of Victoria. The first government organized in this part of our country was that of Vancouver Island. The discovery of gold in the Fraser River was followed by such a rush of people to the mainland in 1858 that a new colony was soon established there. Queen Victoria chose for it the name "British Columbia," and for the capital city which was