

The University of British Columbia:

A review article written specially for the BRITISH COLUMBIA MONTHLY
by John Ridington, University Librarian

NOTE:—Perhaps the progress and possibilities of the Province of British Columbia cannot be indicated better than by a review or survey of the equipment provided for Educational life and work.

Through causes beyond our control, publication of this University number has been unavoidably delayed; and rather than prolong the delay, we shall publish in another issue references to the work of the different Faculties and also portraits and impressions of the more outstanding personalities connected with the University.

—Editor B.C.M.



A "Live" U. B. C. Photograph - Taken during the Students' Campaign for the New University

The closing weeks of September, in this present year of grace, will long be memorable in the history of education in British Columbia by reason of two events, both destined to have important and permanent influence in the present and the future.

The first was the publication of the comprehensive Survey of the primary and secondary school systems of the Province, the second, the removal of the University to its permanent home at Point Grey.

Concerning the Survey, public opinion has not crystallized itself into definite conviction. There is, in some quarters, a disposition to question --- even to challenge --- the judgments given by the experienced experts who compared the policies and methods in use in the schools of cities, towns, villages and rural districts of British Columbia with those in vogue elsewhere. Some of the findings are still topics of heated dispute in the public press; in teachers' discussions, and at school board offices. But light is beginning to displace heat; agreement with the Surveyors' verdicts is becoming more general, and gives promise of

soon becoming well nigh unanimous. This great educational stock-taking will be justified by its results---by the stimulation of public interest, the clearer perception of educational aims, the vitalization of educational methods.

No such atmosphere of controversy surrounded the second important educational event of the year. The establishment of the ten-year-old Provincial University in its permanent quarters was accompanied by a chorus of felicitation and congratulation that was heard far beyond the boundaries of the Province, or even the Dominion. Sister institutions---some of them established centuries ago---welcomed the amazing progress that in one short decade has marked the history of the Empire's youngest university. It gave one a new sense of the fellowship of learning to see over a hundred representatives of the great centres of culture and scholarship on both sides of the international boundary, and from both sides of the Atlantic, march in dignified procession, delighting to pay honor to the brilliant accomplishment of the University of British Columbia's brief past, and the

splendid promise and possibility of its fine future. To hear messages and greetings from ancient and honored seats of learning---some of them established centuries before Columbus discovered America, or before stout Cortez stood "silent upon a peak in Darien," and beheld that great ocean upon the eastern edge of which, almost but yesterday, Vancouver was built,---the hearing of these greetings from famous heads of famous universities gave to all who listened a new appreciation and realization of the unity that links together all men and all institutions aiming at the extension of the boundaries of knowledge, and its practical application to the progress and happiness of mankind.

The inauguration ceremonies were marked throughout with a fine academic dignity. Distinguished American visitors commented on the fact that the various functions were characterized by a decorous stateliness almost traditional in conception and observance. They were reminiscent of ancient Cambridge or Oxford, rather than of a city and