

NEWS DEPARTMENT

Dedication of Monument at Mackenzie's Rock

One of the earliest landmarks in the history of the Pacific Northwest recently received an appropriate monument at the hands of The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, which was dedicated on August 26, 1927. The inscription included: "Alexander Mackenzie from Canada by land, July 22nd, 1793." The great explorer had painted those words on a rock at the end of his memorable journey from Fort Chipewyan on Lake Athabaska by way of Peace River and other streams to the Pacific Ocean. The spot was scientifically determined by engineers. It is about five hundred miles north of the present city of Vancouver, B. C.

More than a hundred people made the journey to participate in the dedication. The ceremonies were presided over by Judge F. W. Howay, of New Westminster, who is a member of The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. An address was delivered by the Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia and letters were read from Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie King, Prime Minister of Canada, and other prominent men of the Dominion and of the Province. An international flavor was given to the program by the address of Mr. T. C. Elliott of Walla Walla, Washington, which was as follows:

"Your Honor, Mr. Chairman, and Citizens of British Columbia:

"We assemble today to commemorate the achievement of an eminent Scotsman. I bring you greetings from the historical societies of Oregon and Washington—from across the border. In olden days there was a border between Scotland and England, which was the scene of many a bloody encounter. The boundary between your province and our 'Oregon Country' states has never been so marked, and, please God, never will be.

"In 1793 Alexander Mackenzie, while making his wonderful voyage by land to the Pacific Ocean, was a fur trader. Much of the discovery and exploration of the coast line and interior of North America was made in connection with the fur trade. Mackenzie did not during this voyage purchase and carry back furs for the market. He was looking for new fields for trade, but, primarily he was seeking an outlet to the Pacific Ocean. He

possessed the spirit and genius of the explorer and was 'on discovery,' as the fur traders were accustomed to say.

"In this achievement Mackenzie was a geographer as well as a trader and explorer. He made permanent scientific locations of places never before visited by white men. He discovered the water-shed of the Fraser River, then known to the Indians as the Tacoutche Tesse. In so doing he established British rights to that water-shed which have never since been disturbed. It is true that for a brief period before the treaty of 1846 there was heard in parts of my country the political slogan (never more than that) of 'fifty-four forty or fight,' but the partizans had not studied history. Mackenzie's presence here on July 21-22, 1793, was a decisive barrier against any such peaceful claim.

"Mackenzie was a partner in the North-West Company, the 'Northwesters' so called. Other 'Northwesters' were discoverers and explorers in the Pacific Northwest. Among them were Simon Fraser, Donald MacKenzie, Finnan MacDonald, Peter Skene Ogden and, greatest of all, David Thompson, the discoverer of the sources of the Columbia River, and its tributaries near the 49th parallel. Much of this work was done in the 'Oregon Country' south of the boundary. We cordially and gladly join in extending to these men the honor due them, one and all.

"This monument answers finally the oft heard question—where did Alexander Mackenzie reach the waters of the Pacific Ocean? It occupies a secluded spot of the coast of British Columbia, and we have traveled many miles to reach here. The presence of yonder warship and of officials of Dominion and Province, evidences a fine spirit of veneration among the citizenship of Canada. You may well be proud of the government that fosters such memorials as this. It is a pleasure and an honor to be present with you and to extend these words of greeting and congratulation."

Union Veteran in Canada

Mr. C. Winfield Matheson, a barrister and solicitor at Bluffton, Alberta, Canada, and a former graduate student at the University of Washington, writes about his surprise at meeting in that Canadian hamlet a veteran who had participated in the unfortunate Battle of Cold Harbor as a soldier in the Union Army. The former soldier is Charles Paterson who is now living with his wife on a farm near Springdale, Alberta, Canada. Mr. Paterson was born in Rochester, New York, in 1844. He loves to recall