

THE PEACE PORTAL.

The sixth of September, 1921, will be a memorable day in the history of the Pacific Northwest for on that day was dedicated the great arch or Peace Portal on the international boundary line between the United States and Canada near Blaine, Washington.

The Treaty of Ghent was signed on December 24, 1814. As the century of peace between Great Britain and the United States drew near its culmination in 1914, efforts were begun for a general celebration throughout the length of the Canadian boundary. These efforts were abandoned at the request of President Woodrow Wilson because Great Britain had entered the World War and the United States was neutral in 1914.

After the armistice on November 11, 1918, interest was revived in the matter so far as it pertained to the boundary in the Pacific Northwest. On the Canadian side the International Peace Memorial Association of British Columbia became active. A committee was formed on the American side and for some of the preliminary work this became an international committee by the addition of representative Canadians. Throughout these agencies it was demonstrated that some great monument was desirable and the necessary special legislation was obtained in both the United States and Canada to permit the erection of a structure upon the actual boundary line.

At this point the need of a large sum of money brought forward the most effective of all the participating organization—the Pacific Highway Association. The president of that association, Mr. Samuel Hill, undertook to see the project completed. Probably it will never be known how much of his private means went into the construction of the great memorial. Not least among the expenditures was the expense of a journey by Mr. Hill and Mr. Frank Terrace to Europe where a piece of the historic Mayflower was obtained to be sealed into the Peace Portal. While in Europe, Mr. Hill began another project as part of the forward movement toward peace. He employed moving-picture men and obtained an important set of films which will be united under the title of "The Sacred Faith of a Scrap of Paper." Many of the most prominent characters of Europe have figured in those films. The same work was carried to the ceremonies at the dedication of the Peace Portal.

There was a fine spirit of international fraternity manifested in the dedication ceremonies. The program was a long one, as follows: Call to order, by Mr. George A. Ellsperman; Invocation, by Rev. Robert E. Pretlow; Doxology; Laying of the corner stone, by Mr. Samuel Hill; Mr. Hill introduced as chairman, by Mr. Ellsperman; Address, by Ex-Governor West of Oregon; Address, by His Worship, Mayor R. H. Gale of Vancouver, British Columbia; Presentation by Miss Britannia (Miss Dora Wrigglesworth of New Westminster) of the Union Jack to Mr. Frank Terrace, Mr. John B. Yeon, Mr. E. T. Mathes and Mr. H. W. Hunter; Presentation by Miss Columbia (Miss Gretchen Snow of Blaine, Washington,) of the Stars and Stripes to Mr. Samuel Gintzburger, Mr. H. W. White, Mr. F. R. McD. Russell and Mr. J. J. Johnston; Raising of the Union Jack with an American band playing the British National Anthem; Raising of the Stars and Stripes with a Canadian band playing the American National Anthem; Raising of French, Belgian, American and British flags by Consuls and other officers of those countries; Address by Judge Thomas Burke representing the Sulgrave Institute and the English Speaking Union; Address by R. Rowe Holland, President of the International Peace Memorial Association of British Columbia; Address by Honorable W. J. Coyle, Lieutenant Governor of Washington; Address by Honorable John Oliver, Premier of British Columbia; Dedication Ode, by Professor Edmond S. Meany, of the University of Washington; Benediction, by Right Reverend A. U. DePencier, Lord Bishop of New Westminster. Before the meeting adjourned, Mr. Hill read copies of telegrams received from President Harding and from prominent people throughout the world and copies of telegrams he had sent in reply. Mr. Frank Terrace explained how a piece of the *Mayflower* had been obtained from the Quakers in England and the great personal care given the relic in its travels to the Peace Portal.

Many monuments have been reared to wars and to heroes of wars but this is probably the first great memorial arch ever reared to peace. Near the top the inscription on one side is "Children of a Common Mother"; on the other side, "Brethren Dwelling Together in Unity." The doors sealed into the arch will bear these inscriptions: "Open for One Hundred Years," "May These Doors Never Be Closed."

There were a number of documents placed in the receptacle the most interesting of which was a bound portfolio prepared under

the supervision of Mr. G. O. Buchanan of New Westminster. This contained transcripts of the treaties and articles of treaties, fixing the boundary, written by hand with durable ink and with illuminated lettering. These official extracts were preceded by an historical memorandum prepared by Judge F. W. Howay, of the Supreme Court, New Westminster, and submitted for correction and approval to Professor Meany of the History Department, University of Washington. Though Judge Howay was the real author, it was submitted as a joint or international statement of the facts. For the benefit of future visitors to the Peace Portal, that historical memorandum is here published in full as follows:

This memorandum of the salient points in the story of the settlement of the boundary line between British and American territory in America relates principally to the region west of the Lake of the Woods. The fact that it has been prepared jointly by a committee of British subjects and American citizens is indicative of the spirit of peace and harmony that is in our hearts to-day when we dedicate the Peace Portal witnessing to all the world that for more than a century—since the Treaty of Ghent 1814—there has been unbroken peace and friendship between our nations. As appendices there are attached copies of the articles in the treaties and conventions which are referred to and which relate to the above specified portion of the boundary line.

In 1783, by the Treaty of Paris, which terminated the War of Independence, the boundaries of the United States were defined. These extended far beyond the original limits of the Thirteen States. The Mississippi River became the western boundary of the new Republic. The northern boundary, after passing through the Great Lakes and the Lakes and rivers to the westward thereof to the Lake of the Woods, was declared to be a line drawn from the most northwesterly angle of that lake on a due west course to the Mississippi River. With the increase of geographical knowledge it was soon found that it was impossible to run such a line, as the highest source of the Mississippi is about eighty miles south of the Lake of the Woods. In 1794 and again in 1803 ineffectual efforts were made to agree upon such a line as would conform to the true intent and meaning of the Treaty of 1783.

In 1803 the United States purchased from France the territory lying west of the Mississippi River known as Louisiana, whose boundaries both west and north were somewhat indefinite but which

at any rate extended to the Rocky Mountains. This made it necessary to settle the location of the boundary westward from the Lake of the Woods to the Mountains. Accordingly, by Article II of the Convention of 1818, the line was drawn from the most northwestern point of that lake to and along the 49th parallel of north latitude to the "Stony Mountains." This Convention further provided in Article III that the country west of those mountains should be free and open for the term of ten years to the people of both nations, without prejudice to their respective claims thereto or to those of any other power or state.

At that time the Oregon Territory, as this region was later called, was claimed by four countries—Great Britain, the United States, Spain and Russia. In 1819, by the Florida Treaty, Spain ceded all her rights, claims and pretensions to the lands north of 42° —the northern boundary of California, then a Spanish possession—to the United States; in 1824 and 1825 Russia's claims were adjusted by conventions with the United States and Great Britain respectively, whereby she received the territory now known as Alaska extending as far south as $54^{\circ} 40'$. Thus only two claimants to the region between 42° and $54^{\circ} 40'$ remained—Great Britain and the United States.

In 1827 the joint occupation, which under the third article of the Convention of 1818 would expire in the following year, was renewed indefinitely subject to its being terminated by either nation by giving twelve months notice.

So matters continued for some eighteen years, during the greater part of which the Oregon Territory was occupied principally by the Hudson's Bay Company for the purposes of its fur trade; but about 1840 commenced a considerable influx of settlers into the Country, from the various states of the Union, and the necessity of dividing it between the two nations became urgent. Several unsuccessful efforts to effect a partition were made, in which the claims and rights of each nation were much discussed. The point in dispute was briefly whether the boundary should be the Columbia River or the 49th parallel.

Finally in 1846 the United States determined to give the notice required by the Convention of 1827 to terminate the joint occupation. At this time the feeling upon this question became quite heated, but counsels of peace prevailed, and on 15th of June, 1846, by the Treaty of Washington the division of the Territory was ef-

fect. The line agreed upon was the continuation of the 49th parallel from the Rocky Mountains to the middle of the Channel which separates the continent from Vancouver Island, thence southerly through the middle of that channel and of Fuca's Straits to the Pacific Ocean.

Unfortunately in 1859 a dispute arose as to the identity of the channel referred to in this treaty. The question was whether it was the Canal de Haro, which lies on the northern side of the San Juan archipelago, or the Rosario Straits, which lie on the southern side. For over ten years, during four of which the American Civil War was raging, this difficulty remained unsettled, despite several attempts to adjust it. In that interval the San Juan Islands were, by agreement, jointly occupied by small forces representing each nation. By the Treaty of Washington 1871, the Dispute was submitted to the arbitration and award of His Majesty, the Emperor of Germany. On 21st. October 1872 the Emperor of Germany made his award declaring that the claim of the United States that the Boundary line should be run through the Canal de Haro was most in accordance with the true interpretation of the Treaty of 1846. The award was accepted, the forces withdrawn, and the last dispute on this part of the boundary was ended.

Thus was the line of boundary between our two nations drawn across a region two thousand miles in extent, and thus were all the difficulties inherent in such an undertaking peaceably and amicably settled; and as it was drawn in peace so it has been retained, without fort to guard it or sentry to patrol it.

PEACE PORTAL COMMITTEE.