

BOOK REVIEWS

The Assay Office and the Proposed Mint at New Westminster; a Chapter in the History of the Fraser River Mines. By R. L. REID, K.C. (Victoria, B.C.: The King's Printer, 1926. Pp. 101. \$4.00 in cloth; \$2.00 in paper.)

The history of the Pacific Coast cannot be divided by parallels of latitude nor segregated by political boundaries. This truth is well illustrated by important events that have happened in British Columbia from the time of the Nootka Sound embroilment down to the present day. The discovery of gold on the Fraser River, for example, was an event of great importance, not only in British Columbia, but also in California, Oregon and Washington. The emigrants to the mines were mostly from these states. The movement of men and money proved of great benefit to the towns of Puget Sound. Lumbering, farming, and transportation received a sudden and permanent impetus and the white population of Western Washington doubled during the period from 1858 to 1860.

The recent publication of two scholarly monographs on the Fraser River mines in the "Archives of British Columbia" is accordingly of immediate interest to students south of '49. Judge Howay's *Early History of the Fraser River Mines* (Memoir No. VI.) was given editorial mention in this *Quarterly* for July, 1926. Memoir No. VII., bearing also a 1926 imprint, has since been distributed. It is a further chapter in the history of the Fraser River mines entitled *The Assay Office and the Proposed Mint at New Westminster*.

Each of these publications is a substantial contribution to the history of the Pacific Coast. Judge Howay's monograph relates to the establishment of law and order, Mr. Reid's to the monetary history of British Columbia following the discovery of gold. The Assay Office and Mint were proposed as means to retain to British Columbia the advantages of the mining industry in that Province. This detailed and painstaking study is in every way a worthy addition to the series. It is equipped with profuse bibliographical notes, an index and thirteen illustrations.

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