Chapter 6 - BC to 1896

Pages 200-238

# Introduction (p. 208)

* Pacific last part of NA to be explored and settled by Euros.
* Russians first in 1741.
* 1826 - HBC sent George Simpson to govern New Caledonia and Columbia (future BC).
* Fur trade rivalry between Brit and US.
* 1820's, BC territory controlled by HBC.
* 1880's Vancouver became last stop of CPR.

# The Oregon Territory (p. 209-213)

* New Caladonia and Columbia (NCC), claimed by Russia, HBC and US (Oregon).
* HBC did not want settlement, may disrupt fur trade or damage monopoly.
* Americans pop growing rapidly... Manifest destiny?
* Americans pursued an aggressive policy towards the Oregon Territory to encourage settlers.
* Simpson figured not using local resources as best possible. Created new Fort Vancouver directly opposite the Williamette River.
* Fort Van under direction of Chief Factor John McLoughlin.
* Simpson ordered HBC to expand trade into Fraser valley... Still rich in fur vs. depleted other areas.
* 1827 - Fort Langley est. on the Fraser River.
* McLoughlin - dirty, grubby and unnerving. Very capable and a political realist. He accepted that US would settle in area but encouraged Americans to stay out of the HBC territory north of the Columbia.
* Simpson thought American immigrants should be treated harshly vs. McL giving them supplies!
* 1830s - McL plan led to strong US pop in Oregon Territory.
* Britain or HBC paid no attention to this fact as McL still managed fur trade effectively.
* HBC also compete vs. Russians who had established themselves in Alaska and along the NW coast.
* 1839 - HBC and Russians agreed that Russians would cease operations south of the 54 / 40 N. In exchange HBC provide Russian's Alaska posts with food.
* 1841 - Simpson toured and felt trade not expanding as he wanted.
* Simpson decided to close all coastal posts except Fort Simpson and the Beaver (HBC ship) would be used as mobile fort.... McL furious!, He believed the coastal forts made HBC strong.
* Simpson had eliminated all the hard work McL had put in over 15 yrs.
* McL son killed in brawl, Simpson recommended a charge of "justifiable homicide".. McL even more furious!
* McL now had deep hatred for Simpson and HBC but continued his plan towards settlers.
* Simpson finally alarmed at pop of Americans in the Oregon Territory.... could lose control of the area.
* Simpson ordered Chief Factor James Douglas to est. new depot on Vancouver Island. In 1843 became Fort Victoria, in honour of Queen Victoria.
* McL retired with good pension and was recognized for his service to HBC, he settled south of the Columbia in Oregon city.
* McL place in history confirmed by his kindness to American settlers. Became the father of Oregon, few Americans know he was born in Quebec!

# The Colony of Vancouver Island to 1858 (p. 213-216)

* By mid 1840s - US wanted to expand territory.
* Democratic candidate ran on slogan "54 / 40 or fight". Meant that US claimed land up to this mark, slogan became pop in US and James Polk won the election.
* 1845, Polk tried to negotiate with the British gov' for Oregon Territory.
* Britain would not budge, the old boundary of 1818 was finally extended along the 49th parallel.
* Van Island would remain British, but all south of 49th became US including Fort Vancouver .
* 1848 - British Gov decided needed more official presence than HBC so created the Crown colony of Vancouver Island... gave HBC trade monopoly but had to sell land to Brit settlers.
* James Douglas - Governor of new colony. Did not want more American settlers, actively promoted Brits to settle.
* Settlers required to purchase land @ 1 pound per acre ($2) with a minimum of 20 acres.
* Old system of rural England was being transported to Canada.
* In reality, only settlers in 1849 were HBC employees.
* Colony began o diversify economically - Coal in Nanaimo and later Cumberland.
* Esq. Harbour est. - Royal Navy base. Next to Fort Victoria.
* Royal Navy huge part of social life, considered gentlemen of privileged class in England.
* Douglas not impressed by new upper class. His views shared by many former HBC employees who were often shunned by upper class
* 1856 - Douglas est. a Legislative Assembly in the colony partly in response to complaints from ex-HBC employees that colony becoming a private club for the landed gentry.
* Small assembly, could only vote if owned land / 40 of 450 adults. Douglas had final authority.
* 1855 - Douglas worried about Native attack... 30000 (on Van Isle) vs. 774.
* Douglas would have to negotiate treaties with Natives. They would surrender their lands but retain hunting and fishing rights. (see excerpt p. 215).
* Douglas basically leasing the land. Annual pay of 2 pounds per family.
* Some say he confirmed native title to these lands. BC and Can gov have acknowledged this title. Douglas treaties were first of this nature.

# The Cariboo Gold Rush (p. 216-224)

* Series of Gold rushes between 1849-1900.
* People back then similar to today... "get rich quick".... Nearly impossible!
* 1949 - Thousands of people had left their jobs and homes to travel to Cali for gold.
* Many perished, vast majority never got rich and never made it back home.
* Fantasy, "nuggets the size of your fist"... Rich overnight.
* Reality, had to stake a claim along a creek, then sink a mine shaft down to bedrock.
* Gold-bearing material brought to surface, lighter material washed away leaving gold.
* Most arrived at Cali gold rush once land already staked and ended up working as miners.
* Many broke and unemployed by mid-1850's.
* 1857 - HBC trader arrived at Fort Vic with gold he had panned along Thompson river.
* Douglas believed that news of gold strike would unleash an influx of greedy miners into the colony.
* Winter 1857-58 - Miners who had moved to WA and OR after Cali rush had moved north to banks of Thompson and Fraser.
* Best sources were on the sandbars along both rivers.
* early 1858 - word reached San Francisco.
* Yosemite steam ship arrived at fort Vic on April 25th, 1858 carrying 450 or so miners.
* Minors had to expand to mainland using any means necessary to cross strait of Georgia.
* By end of summer, 10000 miners, mostly Americans were working on the Fraser.
* Douglas feared mainland had become more vulnerable to US expansion as most miners US.
* Douglas sent concerns to London, he was made governor of the new Crown colony of BC.
* 1859 - Richard Moody and Royal Engineers arrive to survey, provide tech assistance in building roads and towns as Douglas required. Also provided some degree of military presence.
* As gold in sands of Fraser River disappeared, minors moved north along Fraser searching for gold source.
* Between 1860-61, several miners arrived in the Cariboo region of south-central BC... Found sizable gold deposits in creeks that fed Fraser.
* Populations soared in each region as gold was claimed and then dropped once gold gone.
* 1860's - Douglas realized that profits were bring made mining in the Cariboo and Colony was not seeing a dime.
* Douglas decided to build a road to the gold fields so that taxable gold would be transported via Fraser and not US. Roadway would also promote settlement economic development.
* 1862 - Construction of Cariboo Road began: 650 kms, along Fraser Canyon to new center of Cariboo... Barkerville.
* Took 4 yrs and 750k to complete. Unfortunately gold rush coming to end in mid 1860's.
* 1864 - Douglas retired as gov, replaced by Fredrick Seymour in BC and Arthur Kennedy on VI.
* Seymour was active and involved while Kennedy was autocratic and hard to get along with and quickly found himself in many disputes with elected assembly on VI.

# The Colony of British Columbia - and Confederation (p. 225-227)

* During Cariboo gold rush (1858-63), more than 35k prospectors arrived in BC from Brit, Can, Euro.
* Once Cariboo gold done, Not many rich (fantasy), BC and VI suffered financially as pop declined and so much money spent on Cariboo road.
* Elected reps of both colonies began to press governors for a union of two colonies.
* By 1866 - VI debts $300k and BC $1mil. May of that year, both colonies horrified to find out credit had run out with local banks.
* August 6, 1866, Brit gov formally joined the 2 colonies together as BC.
* Seymour by far most pop leader became gov of new colony, a legislative council was est. with 29 members, 9 elected (5 from mainland and 4 from VI)
* BC would not have responsible gov until later in century.
* Union did not fix economic struggles as pop continued to decline. Needed permanent fix.
* BC concerns regarding Confederation.
* 3 factions: Strongly for, strongly against and annexation by US (mostly Vic business people).
* between 1868-70 ongoing bitter debate about BC future.
* Elected reps all in favour of Confed. 1868 adopted a series of revolutions which they forwarded to Can gov: Can liable for BC debt and transcontinental railway to link the East.
* Needed more public support of Confed, began to promote.
* Annexation supporters believed BC could not continue to operate without being attached to larger body but felt Canada to distant to the East. Also felt US better market for resources and immigration would flow from US rather than Can.
* Late 1868 - Gov Seymour died unexpectedly. Anthony Musgrave took over, he was personal friend of John A. Macdonald and his job was to "get BC to join Confed!".
* Annexationists responded by circulation a petition, which they intended to send to President Grant in Washington... Only 125 signatures, by this time annexation not popular.
* Musgrave now had to persuade the anti-confeds, he co-opt the anti-confeds and together they drafted terms of union to bring to Can as team.
* Plan was successful, Can gov agreed to most terms and promised to start railway in 2 years and finish in 10.
* 1871 - Legislative Assembly of BC met to vote on Can offer... It was accepted after Musgrave promised a wholly elected Legislature once Confed was achieved.
* With promise of responsible gov, terms of Confed accepted unanimously... BC officially joined Can on July 20, 1871.

# The Railway Survey (p. 228-229)

* 1870's - only 2 major pops in BC, southern VI and new Westminster / Fraser valley.
* CPR having trouble finding route through Rockies.
* 2 rival thoughts: Politicians from VI thought across central interior down to Bute inlet and across Strait of Georgia. Politicians from mainland favoured route down Fraser canyon to Burrard inlet.
* Throughout 70's - "Battle of the routes", both groups pressured the gov.
* McKenzie against building CPR, which allowed gov delaying a decision.
* 1878 - 21 routes being considered!
* See map on page 229 for route info.

# The Emergence of Vancouver (p. 230-233)

* Vancouver is the youngest major city in BC. During fur trade peninsula was covered by thick forest and Burrard inlet was not fed by a major river... discouraged people to settle.
* Colonel Moody aware that Fraser froze during winter months which was prob cuz needed access to ice free harbour for defense reasons. He ordered 3 trails be cut from New West to Burrard inlet. Also set aside land on inlet as military reserve in case Brit decided need protection.
* Early 1860's Van was home to Musqueam and Squamish peoples.
* By 1865, area changing, Hastings Sawmill opened, Sewell Moody also opened mill (now north Van). North Van became known as Moodyville.
* "toothpicks": Moody's mill specialized in these 21 meter high, 4 meter thick, knot free sailing masses.
* Wood was transported along "skid roads" which was greased log tracks. then floated to mills.
* 1868 - Colourful Gassy Jack Deighton arrived on the inlet. He opened saloon 1.5 km away from "dry" Hastings mill.
* Soon more saloons and stores opened around Jack's saloon... Became Granville but known as "Gastown", named after its founder.
* 1881 - Port Moody was designated terminus of CPR. Instantly, people buying land.
* 1884 - Van Horne arrived and realized Port Moody to marshy, he moved terminus up near Gastown, named it Vancouver... Port Moody speculators outraged!
* Late 1885, CPR completed and townsite of Van laid out.
* 1886 - hot spell resulted in huge fire from land clearing that levelled the new city in 1 hour!
* Van rebuilt quickly and by end of 1890, pop of 5k.

# The Chinese in British Columbia (p. 234-236)

* First Chinese came during Cali gold rush in early 1850's.
* 1000's more during Cariboo gold rush.
* Faced prejudice and discrimination cuz diff in language, dress, religion and customs.
* Content on reworking gold claims. Frugal lifestyle allowed them to be happy with less.
* 1883 - 1500 of 2000 gold miners left in BC were Chinese.
* Chinese opened general stores, farms and restaurants helping build economy. Some worked for wealthy white families.
* 1881 - CPR faced with shortage of workers for the BC section. Between 1881-85, more than 17k Chinese immigrants came to BC to work the railway.
* Paid $1 a day, half of white workers. Lived in separate camps and provided own food and lodging.
* Dangerous work 600 died over 4 yrs.
* Once CPR completed, Chinese could not afford to return home as mislead on cost of food and equip. They settled in Van and Vic looking for work.
* Led to major prejudice and discrimination, racist acts by whites both spontaneous and organized.
* Knights of Labour: campaigned to have all Chinese removed from Van. Would also force Chinese out of town through violence and intimidation. Organized boycott vs. all stores that sold to Chinese.
* Chinese often did heavy manual labour that other BC's avoided.
* English speaking Chinese contractors would bid low on jobs, usually land clearing. Would pay for their food and housing and keep rest as profit.
* Many Chinese contractors made a fortune, specifically Loo Gee Wing and Sam Kee each had fortunes near $1mil.
* Chinese workers barely making enough to live and eat.
* White workers thought being "undercut". Based on lower wages for Chinese workers and Chinese system.
* Most non-native residents in BC were Brits and wanted recreate a homogeneous British culture in BC. Chinese made this impossible... As result, Chinese deemed inferior, dangerous and incapable of assimilation.
* Gov even legalized racial discrimination.
* Until CPR completed, there was no limit on Chinese immigration. In 1885, gov limited Chinese immigration.
* Each immigrant required to pay $50 head tax upon landing in Can and ships allowed to carry no more than 1 Chinese person per 50 tonnes. 2000 tonnes = 40 Chinese.
* This did not stop, but slowed Chinese immig. but made it near impos. for entire families to come.

# Economic Diversity in British Columbia (p. 236-238)

* CPR completed meant no more isolation from East and Dominion.
* Goods could now travel fairly easily to East and Asia.
* Van experienced rapid growth in 1890's and into 1900's. pop in 1910 = 115k.
* Gold remained constant but silver, copper and other metals were being mined effectively.
* Mining towns began to dot entire Kootenay region.
* Giant smelters being built to extract metals from ore of the mines. ex: Hall Mines Smelter in Nelson could process 250 tonnes of ore in a day. Metals transported down mtn. using tramway.
* Nelson grew from 400 people in 1890 to 7000 in 1900. Soon had electric street car system and other services of a prosperous town.
* Okanagan had great success with orchard farming starting in the 1890's.
* The beauty of Rockies was also used as tourist attraction, hotels were built at major stopping areas. ex: Banff Springs hotel in 1888.
* Many other areas began building chalet style Hotels.
* By end of century 1000's of tourist came to experience BC.