

Empire Tour

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VANCOUVER TODAY gives the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall and York a western welcome. Having circumnavigated the globe and reached the Terminal City, the royal party may be said to have virtually concluded its remarkable programme. After the visit to Victoria tomorrow it will be on what may be called the “home run.”

The Heir Apparent has now visited most of the colonies over which he will reign as George V. No other prince in the direct line, no matter what the empire, has ever made so vast a tour without leaving the borders of the lands over which the flag of his country is entitled to wave. One may go further and say that never before in the history of the world has a ruler, actual or potential, received the homage of a territory so great in its extent.

It must not be forgotten that His Royal Highness has not been to every part of the Empire. There are portions that will have to be left unvisited such as Hong Kong in the Far East and huge portions of the continent of Africa.

The trip that has been made from the Atlantic, the water route of the nineteenth century to the Pacific, the ocean of the twentieth century was an impossibility a few decades back. Today it is a far easier and much pleasanter journey than the ride from London to Bath was in the days of the last George.

When it is remembered that 16 years ago there was no such place as the City of Vancouver the people of the west may feel proud of the reception that is today accorded to the Duke and Duchess. The city is decorated in the colours of empire—red white and blue—and the Duke of Cornwall is given ample proof that this young city of the west is not among the least in proving that it delights to show its loyalty to the reigning family. Far removed though Vancouver is from the seat of the empire yet its citizens feel that they are as true sons of Britain as they among whom royalty dwells. The metropolis of the Canadian coast of one of the Seven Seas shouts with all its might, “God save the Duke and Duchess of York.”



Above

The British Columbia Regiment, Canadian Artillery, wore the Wolseley helmet in the 1890s.

Opposite

Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Owen Townley, circa 1898.

He was the Commanding Officer of the 2nd Battalion, British Columbia Regiment, Canadian Artillery, with Wolseley helmet and swagger stick. Lieutenant-Colonel Townley served on the Vancouver City council in the late 1890s and served as Vancouver's 8th mayor in 1901.

