

June 10, 1958

Mr. Charles M. Gates, managing editor,  
The Pacific Northwest Quarterly,  
University of Washington, Seattle 5

Dear Charley:

Enclosed first copy and carbon copy of my review  
of The Skeenax River of Destiny, which I hope is acceptable. But  
should it not conform to your standards of editorial censure, please do  
not hesitate to discard it. I do think it a good book.

Incidentally Dr. Douglas Leechman of Victoria was in the office today  
with Albert Culverwell. He asked to meet me when Dean Guie mentioned  
Drummers and preamers. He said he was finding it very useful in  
compilation of parts of a glossary he is working on. I mentioned "Skeena"  
and he spoke highly of it, said he had just reviewed it for the B.C.  
Quarterly and "gave it a good review."

He did not know the price of the book, said he had to leave that  
blank. You will note a letter enclosed, ready for your mailing, but  
I suspect the U Library can provide that information through "Books In  
print."

I enjoyed Skeena, enjoyed doing the review and will always be glad  
to help out in any way I can. Hope "Columbia" is being made mandatory  
at all proper levels throughout all of our great educational fields.  
The more I get into it--truthfully I have not yet read all of it -- the  
more I am amazed.

regards

Click Relander

[Enclosure, 10 June 58]

The Skeena River Of Destiny. By R.G. Large.  
Mitchell Press Limited, Vancouver. Second  
Edition, 1958. Bibliography, index, photographic  
illustrations, end-paper maps, -----.

Rising in the Gunanoot Mountains of British Columbia a river of destiny flows three-hundred and fifty miles to reach its outlet, the Pacific Ocean. It is the Skeena, draining fifteen-thousand square miles of mountains, timbered slopes and agricultural valleys. At certain intervals in an indefinite geological life it acts like a juvenile delinquent.

The Skeena is so intimately known by the author the book has many aspects of a biography. In a similar manner the author deals with the original occupants who subsisted upon salmon and relied extensively upon cedar canoes and transportation.

The explorers were the first visitors of the earliest historic period. They were searchers for the Northwest Passage and became fur traders, dealing in sea otters and other pelts. Such men and others who followed left their names on the land and waters of an area once called New Caledonia.

There were Vancouver, Hildby, Fraser, Stuart, Harmon and McDougal; the North West Fur Company, and the Hudson's Bay Company in the days of explorations and fort building; and Ogden and McBean in the days of swift justice. And there were many others.

The biography is of numerous rivers, lakes, mountains, valleys and many individual persons. It narrates the ~~xx~~ region's part in the universal pattern of land occupation with arrival of missionaries and their conflicts which confused the Indians. There were Roman Catholics in the interior, the Anglicans on the Coast and the Methodists on the coast and along the Skeena. Also represented was the



## first ad..review..Skeena River of Destiny

Arrival of the railroad outmoded the canoe and steamboat for transportation, bringing a period of greater development.

The most important industry is concisely described in the salmon fisheries account from the first cannery established in 1878 at the Skeena-mouth to processing of five principal varieties of the food fish. Forests, once of little consequence, have grown into a significant industry, but only since world-wide wars. Mining also contributes to the economy. It is "the last area of relatively unexplored country in the west where game and sport fish abound."

Skeena, the author maintains, has a destiny after war-time stagnation.

"It only requires men of vision, initiative and energy to make this the agricultural bread basket of Northern British Columbia and Alaska.

The book does not profess to be a handbook but could well be used for that purpose. Nor does it claim to be a contribution to ethnology or geographic names although interesting references in those fields permeates the entire volume. And in a day when north-south continental highways, airways and pipe lines draw nations, communities and individuals ever closer, the material so studiously assembled has extra value.

The writing is peppered with enough local legends to show the author knew those who settled the area of the Dominion or their descendants as well as he knew the river, its watershed and its Indians.

The publication is a worthy contribution to a worthwhile centennial.-----1-Click Relander, Yakima, Wash.

June 10, 1958

Mitchell Press Limited,

Vancouver, Canada

Gentlemen:

No where on the jacket of Mr. R.G. Large's The Skeena  
River of Destiny do I find a reference to the price of this  
publication.

Would you send the information, as rapidly as possible, to  
Charles M. Gates, managing editor, Pacific Northwest Quarterly,  
M-9 Library, University of Washington, Seattle, Wash.

Mr. Gates has in mind the possible publication of a review of  
this book and the publisher, price etc. is listed in the review.

Sincerely

*Click*  
Click Relander