

George Douglas Brymner (1857-1923)

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George Douglas Brymner, one of the honored and representative citizens of New Westminster, is a typical man of the age, alert and enterprising, a student of conditions and of significant problems, and a cooperant factor in all that makes for the development and substantial growth of city and province. He is now manager here for the bank of Montreal and as such a leading figure in financial circles.



He was born at Melbourne, in the province of Quebec, on the 3rd of December, 1857, and is a son of **Douglas Brymner**, LL. D. and **Jean (Thomson) Brymner**, both of whom were natives of Greenock, Scotland, where they were reared and married. Two children were born there and in 1857 the family came to Canada, settling on a farm near Melbourne, whence in 1867 they removed to Montreal, where the father became assistant editor of the *Montreal Herald*. In 1870 he was appointed Dominion archivist and removed to Ottawa to take up the duties of his office, filling that position to the time of his death, which occurred in 1902 at the home of his son **George D.**, in New Westminster, while on a visit to this city. He was then a man of seventy-nine years, but remained active to the time of his death. During his service as archivist, he was honored by the Queen's University with the degree of LL.D. He was a man widely known and universally esteemed and honored. His broad knowledge and his public spirit brought him into contact with intelligent men throughout the country and among his class his warmed friendships were formed.

George D. Brymner spent his youthful days under the parental roof and in the acquirement of his education attended successively the Melbourne public school, the Montreal and Ottawa high schools and St. Therese College, in which he became a student in order to master the French language. His initial step in the business world was made in 1874 in connection with the Bank of Montreal. He entered the Cornwall, Ontario branch of that institution and subsequently was with the Bank of Montreal in Stratford and Almonte, Ontario, where he served as accountant. When the branch bank in Vancouver was established he was sent with **Campbell Sweeny** to open this Pacific coast department. **Mr. Brymner** continued as accountant at Vancouver until the opening of the New Westminster branch in April, 1888, when he was sent to this city as a sub-agent of the branch here and soon afterward his capabilities won him recognition in advancement to the position of manager, in which capacity he has served continuously for a quarter of a century. The upbuilding of the institution is attributable to his capability, enterprise and thorough understanding of the banking business. He recognizes the fact that the institution which most carefully safeguards the interests of its patrons is the most worthy of patronage, and following in that course he has won for the Bank of Montreal at New Westminster a liberal and growing patronage. He is today one of the best known men in

this section of the province and is a recognized authority on all financial matters and problems.

In 1881, in Stratford, Ontario, **Mr. Brymner** was united in marriage to **Miss Anna Elizabeth Harrison**, a daughter of the late **William Dyne Harrison**, one of the well known pioneer farmers of that section, who married **Miss Lucy Tye**, a member of one of the oldest pioneer families of Ontario. **Mr. and Mrs. Brymner** have become the parents of three children, but only one now is living, **Ethel Dyne**, the wife of **F.A. Macrae**, manager of the Bank of Montreal of North Vancouver. **Mr. Brymner** is prominent and popular in club and social circles, holding membership in the Westminster Club, the Jericho Country Club, the Burnaby Lake Country Club and the British Columbia Golf Club at Coquitlam. Notwithstanding the extent and importance of his business affairs, he finds time to cooperate with many measures and activities which have bearing upon the material, intellectual and moral progress of his community. He is a member of the New Westminster Board of Trade and for some years served as president of the organization. He is one of the public-spirited men of the city, and there has not been an industrial enterprise established or any movement for the good of the community in which he has not been a forceful factor, contributing in large measure to the work of public progress and improvement.



He and his wife are members of the Church of England and in other ways he has done much to stimulate the welfare of the city and surrounding country. He has served as treasurer of the Royal Agricultural & Industrial Society since its organization in 1889, and for the same length of time has been a member of its board of managers. His breadth of view has recognized not only possibilities for his own advancement, but for the city's development, and his lofty patriotism has prompted him to utilize the latter as quickly and as efficiently as the former. He has mastered the lessons of life day by day until his post-graduate work in the school of experience has placed him with the men of sound judgment and notable ability, giving him a place of leadership in public thought and action.

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