WILLARD E. IRELAND

British Columbia's Centennial year marks a propitious occasion to honor a man who has made the history of this province his chief concern for many years. Provincial Archivist and Librarian, long time editor of the B.C. Historical Quarterly, and former secretary of both the B.C. and Canadian Centennial Committees, the name of Willard E. Ireland carries automatic associations with a knowledge of Canada's past.

The son of a Methodist minister, Willard Ireland is a native British Columbian. After graduation from the University of British Columbia in 1933, he was honoured as the University of Toronto's Mackenzie scholar from 1935-37, after which he conducted his research in the Hudson Bay Archives in London. His interest in Canada's history had taken firm root.

His wit made him a popular high school teacher at South Burnaby High in 1938, but two years later when he was appointed Provincial Archivist, his wit was not tucked away in archival storage. In the more than twenty years since he assumed his post with the government, his reputation as a public speaker has spread throughout British Columbia. It is rumoured that during the Canadian Centennial year, there was not a hamlet in the Province where he was not requested to speak.

The secret of his speeches is his enthusiasm for the people he talks about. One long-time friend who has heard him many times explained that the figures from British Columbia's history seem to "come alive" in his speeches. In a 1966 acceptance of the Newsman's Club "Man of the Year" award, Mr. Ireland commented that British Columbians are becoming increasingly aware of their proud past; surely, part of the credit goes to him.
Willard Ireland's contributions extend far beyond the province. He is past President both of the British Columbia and the Canadian Library Associations. In 1961, he was on what might be termed "special library loan" to the Federal Royal Commission on Government Organization. A fellow librarian remarked that she judged how busy Willard was by whether or not she could see him at all behind the stacks of papers on his desk. His service specifically to university education is clear. He served two terms on the Senate of the University of British Columbia, and is currently Chairman of the Board of Governors of the University of Victoria.

Mr. Chancellor, in recognition of his fine work in preserving and bringing to life the history of this Province and of Canada, and of his service to the people of British Columbia, I present to you Willard Ernest Ireland for the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*. 