Dally's images have become icons of British Columbia history. His work, focused on the lives and afterlives of these images as they moved through time and space, reveals his deep understanding of the past and its impact on present and contemporary thinking, shaping our writing, and constructing our ideas about place and progress, identity and memory.

In the remarkable visual legacy of Frederick Dally, which we explore in greater depth in this foray into oeuvre and archive, we find a window into the past that reflects the societal changes of the time. Many of Dally's images belong in British Columbia as a part of its history, its identity, and its culture. His portraits and views helped to reinforce old world values and shape the perception of British Columbia—as an outpost of Empire, as a gold rush colony, as a Royal Naval base, and as a frontier territory.

The images produced over the next four years, we can discern the origins of an enduring vision of British Columbia and its place in the world. This vision is shaped by the experiences of the time, the people who lived there, and the impact of external forces on the region. Dally's work captures the essence of British Columbia during a time of transition, reflecting the aspirations and challenges faced by those who called it home.

Present and contemporary understandings of the Victorian past are influenced by Dally's legacy. His images serve as a reminder of the importance of preserving cultural and historical memories and the role of visual media in shaping societal narratives. The exploration of Dally's work provides a platform for discussing the significance of his images in the context of British Columbia's history and the broader implications for understanding the past and present-day societal developments.