

D E C

1926

DEBT OF B.C. HAS BEEN CUT

**Provincial Liabilities
Are Reduced by
\$2,610,000**

By Canadian Press

VICTORIA, Dec. 16.—The public accounts of the province of British Columbia for the year ending March 31, 1926, were presented to the legislature today by the minister of finance, the Hon. J. D. MacLean, and indicate the excellent financial position of this province.

Provincial assets exceed the liabilities by \$4,600,000, or an increase of \$35,321,000 over the figures of 1924-25.

The public debt at March 31, 1925, was \$79,396,000, while at the 31st of March, 1926, the public debt, including temporary borrowings amounted to only \$76,786,000. The provincial debt, therefore, has been reduced by \$2,610,000 during the year.

The reduction above referred to was brought about by the retirement of a 10-year loan of over \$8,000,000, which had fallen due and which had full sinking fund provisions. By the judicious investment of these sinking fund appropriations the department made a profit of \$107,000 and this amount was paid into the consolidated revenue fund for the benefit of current expenditures. Borrowings for new capital expenditures during the year amounting to \$434,000 made the net reduction, as above stated, of \$2,610,000.

The sinking funds of the province amounted to \$13,699,774.10, appropriations and dividends on investments for the year amounting to \$2,236,259.

TOTAL REVENUE \$21,000,000

The current receipts of the province reached \$20,698,571.67. Receipts for capital returns were \$1,187,137.48, current receipts were, therefore, \$23,785,709.15 in excess of current expenditures. There was, however, \$3,444,451.15 capital expenditures made out of income; therefore, the total expenditures, both current and capital, amounted to \$21,675,075.83, against total receipts of both capital returns and current revenue amounting to \$21,775,869.15, leaving a surplus revenue receipt over all expenditures, both capital and current, of \$100,793.32.

LIQUOR PROFITS LARGE

**Gains in Six Months
Show Total of
\$1,555,524**

VICTORIA, Dec. 16.—Liquor sales for the last six-month period ending September 30 last were slightly larger than for the two previous semi-annual periods, the liquor board's figures in the house today indicated.

Covering three of these periods, they showed that total sales for the six months ending September 30 were \$6,900,779 as against \$6,610,945 in the previous six months and \$6,323,071 in the six months previous to that.

Profits for the last six months were \$1,555,524, as compared with \$1,780,588 in the previous period and \$1,551,265 in the preceding six months. The fact that profits showed a big gain for the six months ending March 31 last was due to the inclusion of annual beer licenses in them.

LEGISLATURE OPENED TODAY AND ADJOURNED

Special to The Evening Sun

VICTORIA, Dec. 16.—With the customary honors the third sitting of the sixteenth legislature of British Columbia was commenced this afternoon.

Lieut. Governor R. Randolph Bruce made his first official appearance in the house and read the speech from the throne.

He was accompanied by naval and military officers, while a battery at the Work Point barracks fired a salute in his honor.

This afternoon's session was very brief. The house will reassemble on January 10 when the real business of the session will be taken up. This afternoon's affair was more or less of a social gathering, every seat on the floor of the house and in the galleries being occupied.

Not until the legislature settles down to business in January will Premier Oliver publicly express his regret over the demise of the late Arthur O. Cochrane, Conservative member for North Okanagan. But both Liberals and Conservatives alike displayed their regard for him and they placed a beautiful wreath upon the desk which would have been occupied at today's proceedings if the North Okanagan member had not answered the final call.

Four Prospects

Speech From The Throne

VICTORIA, Dec. 16.—The following is the text of the speech from the throne at the opening of the legislature today:

"Since the last session of this house General Viscount Byng of Vimy completed his term of office as governor general of Canada, and returned to the motherland, bearing with him the sincere appreciation of the Canadian people for his public service, and the very best wishes for himself and Viscountess Byng.

"The high post of representative in Canada of His Majesty the King has recently been filled by the appointment of Viscount Willingdon as governor general. We of British Columbia join with our fellow Canadians in extending a warm welcome to Viscount Willingdon and his wife.

"It is a matter of pleasure to note that business conditions in the province continue to improve and that substantial increases have occurred in timber, agriculture, mineral and fishery production.

"It is gratifying to observe that the products of British Columbia, in competitive exhibition with the products of other parts of the world, have won highest awards.

"My government has continued its

efforts to obtain elimination of unjust and discriminatory transportation rates.

"Renewed application has been made by my government for the return by the government of the Dominion of the unalienated portions of the lands granted in aid of the construction of the Canadian Pacific railway.

"Construction of main trunk roads has been carried on vigorously during the year and substantial progress has been made. Simultaneously every effort has been put forth to provide requisite settlers' roads.

"A report of the royal commission appointed to enquire, inter alia, into the problem of mental disease in this province will be submitted for your consideration.

"The annual reports of the departments of government will be placed before you.

"The public accounts for the fiscal year, 1925-26, and the estimates of revenue and expenditure for the fiscal year, 1927-28, will be submitted for your consideration.

"Legislation designed for the assistance and protection of the agricultural industry and for the protection of the public in connection with loan companies will be presented.

"The removal by death of Arthur Ormiston Cochrane, late member for the electoral district of North Okanagan, is very deeply regretted."

D E C

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Far-Reaching Measures to Be Offered to Legislature

SKEENA ROAD WOULD COST \$3,000,000

Sutherland to Outline How Government Will Meet North's Demands.

DEPENDENT ON FUNDS

Highway to Prince Rupert Inevitable, But May Have to Wait.

VICTORIA, Dec. 16.—How the Provincial Government intends to answer the road demands of Prince Rupert and Northern British Columbia, will be indicated to the Legislature at its coming session when Hon. W. H. Sutherland, minister of public works, outlines the provincial road building programme for the next three years.

This will provide for an early extension of the present trunk road from Hazelton to Terrace. Following surveys which are being completed now, work on this extension will get under way next year and the road will reach Terrace after two years of construction.

HUNDRED-MILE GAP IS LEFT.

From Terrace to Prince Rupert there will be a gap of something like 100 miles and when this can be closed will depend upon provincial finances. The construction of a road along the Skeena River through the coast mountains would be one of the most expensive projects which the government could undertake, costing in the neighborhood of \$2,000,000 or more than the Cariboo road. The engineering difficulties to be conquered in this link are enormous and the building work would be of the most expensive character. The expense involved would average about \$30,000 a mile.

CERTAINTY FOR FUTURE.

While the government could not afford to undertake such a scheme at present the road to Prince Rupert is regarded as a certainty for the future. Meanwhile the less expensive parts of the project will be completed so that between Prince Rupert and the end of the trunk road there will be only a short train journey. This will enable Prince Rupert people to ship their cars and motor anywhere in the province.

In the same way people who wish to reach Prince Rupert by motor will be able to do so with a brief train journey until the province can afford to complete the highway to the coast.

FIRST LINK OF WEST COAST ROAD.

While laying the foundations for this highway next year and in 1928, the public works department will build the first link of the West Coast road, which will run ultimately from Victoria to Port Renfrew, on the west coast of Vancouver Island. In preparation for the extension of the existing road up the coast the department will remodel the Sooke highway next summer. The grade will be improved and the entire stretch from Victoria to Sooke will be hard surfaced with oil treatment.

Ministers Outline New Proposals to Their Followers.

SIX MILLIONS FOR HIGHWAYS

Compulsory Growers' Co-operation to Be Sought.

VICTORIA, Dec. 16.—Broad hints of government policy not indicated in the speech from the throne at the opening of the Legislature today were given to members of the Provincial Liberal Association executive at a banquet here Wednesday night.

These include the definite announcement of Hon. W. H. Sutherland, minister of public works, that he intended to ask the House at its coming session for power to borrow \$6,000,000 to be spent on road construction; the statement of Hon. E. D. Barrow that he was laying before his colleagues a compulsory co-operation law to be passed at the present session to save the interior fruit industry, and an intimation from Hon. T. D. Pattullo, minister of lands, that gigantic industrial enterprises, including possibly another large pulp and paper industry west of Prince George, are in prospect for the province.

DELAY WOULD BE UNFAIR.

Dr. Sutherland told the Liberal leaders that the government had on hand automobile license and gasoline revenue sufficient to pay interest on road loans of \$6,000,000. As the government had definitely promised motorists that it would use this revenue for such purposes, the minister declared that it would be unfair not to proceed to float the loans without further delay, the proceeds to be spent over a period of about three years. This was taken as an announcement that the government intended to secure power to borrow the entire sum of \$6,000,000 at the coming session, spending it as the road programme progressed.

WOULD BEING MINORITY "INTO LINE."

"It is essential that some measure be enacted by the House to bring into line a small minority of men in the agricultural industry who can not be brought into co-operative movements voluntarily," Mr. Barrow declared. "In some places a small minority are obsessed with a spirit of selfishness and prefer to stand under the protective umbrella of the organized co-operators without joining them but reaping the advantages of their work."

Mr. Barrow asked the public not to draw hasty conclusions about the effect of the proposed co-operative law. "We are talking now about bringing in settlers to this country," he added. "This problem will be solved when you make conditions on the land satisfactory, and in certain lines of production today I would not advise anyone to embark on agricultural pursuits. Until they get a proper method of marketing, their condition will remain unsatisfactory. The measure proposed has not been finally considered by the government yet, but it will be soon."

HUGE INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS IN SIGHT.

Mr. Pattullo said he was not at liberty to disclose some of the industrial plans with which he was familiar. One concern, he intimated, was investigating pulp possibilities west of Prince George and other projects being considered were of enormous proportions. Details of these schemes, he said, would become known in good time, but at present he could not divulge them.

Public Debt of B. C. on Wane, MacLean Tells House

Accounts Show Reduction Amounting to \$2,609,264—Surplus of Revenue Over All Expenditures Put at \$100,793—Provincial Assets Over Liabilities Aggregated \$64,051,126, According to Minister of Finance.

VICTORIA, Dec. 16.—Surplus of revenue over expenditure, reduction in debt and increasing government revenues were shown by Hon. J. D. MacLean, minister of finance, when he tabled the public accounts of the province for the fiscal year of 1925-26 in the Legislature today.

Features of the minister's report were the following: Surplus of revenue over all expenditure, both capital and current, \$100,793.

Reduction in the public debt, \$2,609,264. Public debt charges for interest and other items reduced by \$223,651.

Total assets of the province over liabilities, exclusive of crown lands and natural resources, which are estimated at \$700,000,000, now stand at \$64,051,126.

Current receipts are \$2,378,046 over current expenditures. Grants to municipalities total \$3,900,329.

The debt reduction was brought about by the retirement of a ten-year loan of over \$2,000,000, which had fallen due and which had full sinking fund provisions. By the investment of these sinking fund appropriations, the department had a profit of \$107,000, and this amount was paid into the consolidated revenue fund for the benefit of current expenditure. Borrowing for new capital expenditures during the year amounting to \$184,000, made the net reduction of \$2,609,264. The sinking funds of the province amount to \$12,699,774.10, appropriations and dividends on investments for the year amounting to \$2,386,259.

CURRENT RECEIPTS.

The current receipts of the province reached \$20,403,671.67. Receipts for capital returns were \$1,167,197.48, and total revenue \$21,775,369.15.

The current expenditures amounted to \$18,230,624.68. Current receipts were therefore \$2,378,046.99 in excess of current expenditures. There were,

however, \$2,444,461 capital expenditures made out of income. Therefore the total expenditures, both current and capital, amounted to \$21,675,075.53, against total receipts of both capital returns and current revenue amounting to \$21,775,369.15, leaving a surplus revenue receipt over all expenditures, both capital and current, of \$100,793.22.

IMPROVEMENT GENERAL.

The revenue of the province portrays the industrial development. Generally speaking, most of the items of revenue, receipts, such as motor vehicles, land registry fees, gasoline tax, income tax, mineral tax, etc., show considerable increase over estimates, while several of the large items for expenditures show decrease, such as public debt \$223,651.60; education, \$58,342.25; unemployment relief, \$136,000; railways, \$167,000.

Provincial assets exceed the liabilities by \$64,000,000, or an increase of \$28,921,000 over the figures of 1924-5.

New Insurance Bill Already Drawing Fire

Small Policyholders May Suffer Unless They Are Safeguarded.

VICTORIA, Dec. 16.—Amendments to the Taxation Act are being contemplated by the government and, according to the present plan, the exemption from succession duties will be increased to \$20,000. To offset the loss in revenue by such a procedure, it is said, insurance monies will become liable for succession charges. In such estates as will become taxable, legislation along these lines will, it is predicted, arouse keen opposition, not only from life insurance men, but from other quarters as well. The chief objection voiced against the proposal is that it will result in trying up all estates where the beneficiary is in need of the few hundred or thousand dollars left by the deceased.

WHAT CRITICS CLAIM.

If the interests of the small policyholder are not safeguarded, the result of regulations such as suggested, critics of the scheme say, would be to require the probating of the will, or the issuing of letters of administration, before any insurance money could be paid. The insurance companies are not in a position to estimate the worth of a policy holder's estate and therefore would not be able to pay the value of the policy until the estate had passed through the legal channels for probate. Many of the large insurance companies make a feature of the early settlement of the widow's claim, but under legislation such as proposed would not be in a position to advance her money until the processes of the court had been completed.

TAX WHEATLEY, IS AIM.

It is admittedly the intention to impose taxes on men of means who can afford to keep up heavy premium payments in order to recoup the anticipated losses in revenue which will follow the raising of the exemption amount from death duties.

Shadow Of Sorrow Is Over House

Lieut.-Governor Reads Speech—Adjourn to January 10.

VICTORIA, Dec. 16.—Promptly at 3 o'clock the great bronze doors of Parliament House were thrown back to admit His Honor R. Randolph Bruce, Lieutenant-Governor, and his guard of honor, to open the third session of the sixteenth Parliament of British Columbia. The thirty-five members of the Assembly who had come to play their part in the brief moment of history rose, the crowded galleries and distinguished visitors stood to respectful attention, as His Honor, escorted by Mr. Speaker, Buckingham, passed through the hall to the dais.

SPLENDOR LACKING.

Much of the former splendor was lacking, and over the whole assemblage there was a sense of sorrow, for on the dais formerly occupied by Arthur O. Cochrane, member for North Okanagan, were two immense wreaths, floral tributes of affection and respect from the government and from his fellow members of the Conservative opposition.

The guard of honor, drawn from the officers and the naval and military establishments, stood to rigid attention while His Honor took his station and faced the members, bowing first to the right and then to the left, courtesies that were acknowledged by all. His Honor then read the speech from the throne.

"Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly,—I welcome you to this the third session of the sixteenth Parliament of British Columbia.

"Since the last session of this House General Viscount Byng of Vimy completed his term of office as Governor-General of Canada and returned to the Motherland, bearing with him the sincere appreciation of the Canadian people for his public service and the very best wishes for himself and Viscountess Byng.

"The high post of representative in Canada of His Majesty the King has recently been filled by the appointment of Viscount Willingdon as Governor-General. We of British Columbia join with our fellow Canadians in extending a warm welcome to Viscount Willingdon and the Viscountess.

"It is a matter of pleasure to note that business conditions in the province have continued to improve and that substantial increases have occurred in timber, agriculture, mineral and fishery production.

"It is gratifying to observe that the products of British Columbia, in competitive exhibition with the products of other parts of the world, have won highest awards.

"My government has continued its efforts to obtain elimination of unjust and discriminatory transportation rates.

Renewed application has been made by my government for the return by the Government of the Dominion of the unalienated portions of the lands granted in aid of the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

"Construction of main trunk roads has been carried on vigorously during the year and substantial progress has been made. Simultaneously every effort has been put forth to provide requisite settlers' roads.

"A report of the royal commission appointed to enquire, inter alia, into the problem of mental disease in this province will be submitted for your consideration.

"The annual reports of this department of government will be placed before you.

"The public accounts for the fiscal year 1925-1926 and the estimates of revenue and expenditure for the fiscal year 1927-1928 will be submitted for your consideration.

"Legislation designed for the assistance and protection of the agricultural industry and for the protection of the public in connection with loan companies will be presented.

"The removal by death of Arthur Ormiston Cochrane, late member for the electoral district of North Okanagan, is very deeply regretted.

B. C. LIQUOR BILL TOTALS \$14,000,000

Beer Sales Through Licensed Parlors Aggregate More Than Two Millions.

ENFORCEMENT IS IMPROVING

Davidson Stresses Need For Continuous Supervision, Especially Here.

VICTORIA, Dec. 16.—British Columbia's net liquor bill for the year ending September 30 last totalled \$13,622,948, according to figures laid before the Legislature today by Attorney-General Manson in reports of the Liquor Control Board.

Of this amount \$11,447,270 was represented by the sale of liquor to the public in government liquor stores and \$2,176,678 in the sale of beer by the government to beer licensees. As no account is kept of beer licensees' retail prices, it is impossible to state definitely how much money was spent altogether in the province on legal hard liquor and beer. Taking the unknown profits of the licensees into consideration, the total figure must have been something over \$14,000,000 for the twelve months.

SIX MONTHS' SALE REVEALS.

Liquor sales for the last six-month period ending September 30 last were slightly larger than for the two previous semi-annual periods, the Liquor Board's figures indicated. Covering three of these periods, they showed that total sales for the last six months were \$8,993,770 as against \$6,623,178 in the preceding six months, and \$5,828,401 in the six months previous to that.

Profits for the last six months were \$1,555,524 as compared with \$1,780,685 in the previous period, and \$1,551,262 in the preceding six months. The fact that profits showed a big gain for the six months ending March 31 last was due to the inclusion of annual beer licenses in them.

BEER PURCHASE SHOWS INCREASE.

The Liquor Board's figures showed a slowly growing sale of beer to licensees. In the six months ending March 31 last public sales were \$5,708,572 and sales to licensees \$914,505.

In the preceding six months public sales totalled \$5,771,378 and sales to licensees \$1,052,022. The drop in beer-selling operations during the winter months is plainly indicated by these statistics.

Reviewing the yearly period ending March 31 last, Liquor Commissioner Hugh Davidson says that most of the municipalities have been energetic in their efforts to carry out the provisions of the law and the board has not been called upon to enter into this phase of enforcement to the same extent as in previous years. This report, of course, covers a period long previous to the recent liquor raids in Vancouver.

ILLEGAL SALES STILL CONTINUE.

"No cases under the statute of outstanding importance have occurred during the period under review, but the illegal selling of liquor continues," the commissioner added, "and presents many difficulties despite the opportunities for purchasing liquor at government stores and the facilities for the consumption of beer in public.

"Continuous supervision of licensed premises is required, more particularly in the urban centres, and especially in the city of Vancouver, where the density of population affords the greatest likelihood of the act being violated. The board views the receipt of a license as a franchise and while the enforcement of the law rests primarily with the police, the statute gives the board disciplinary authority to suspend and cancel licenses and in the exercise of this authority the board has earnestly endeavored to co-operate with the police. Where licenses have been suspended or cancelled a salutary punishment through loss of trade has resulted and this, it is hoped, will prove a deterrent to others."

FIFTEEN BEER LICENSES SUSPENDED.

Mr. Davidson's figures show that fifteen beer licenses were suspended in the yearly period 1925-1926, and two were cancelled. One club license was suspended and two cancelled.

"The brewing of beer for private use, which is permitted under the Inland Revenue Act, is a very general practice," Mr. Davidson stated. "It is regrettable that this provision exists as it adds to the problems of law enforcement."

"I now leave you in conference that your duties will be faithfully performed and with the prayer that the blessing of Almighty God may be with you in your deliberations."

Having concluded, his honor bowed again to the right and to the left, and, once more escorted by Mr. Speaker, passed through the ranks of the guard of honor and out of the assembly hall.

Upon the return of the Speaker to the chair, various departmental reports were filed. Attorney-General A. M. Manson tabled the different reports of his department, including those of the Liquor Board, the labor department, provincial game warden, inspector of municipalities, Workmen's Compensation Board, Mothers' Pensions Board, Girls' Industrial School, insurance department, official guardian and the fire marshal.

Hon. J. D. MacLean, minister of finance, presented the public accounts, and Hon. Mr. Manson, acting minister of mines, brought down the annual report of that department. Premier Oliver made the customary motion that the consideration of the speech from the throne be the first order of business to be considered, and also moved the adjournment of the House until January 10.

In accordance with the old tradition of British Parliaments the government introduced a minor bill at the opening to indicate that public business has right-of-way at the session. The bill was an amendment to the Interpretation Act. It eliminates what is known in the law as "personal designations" except where this is expressly provided for by statute. Some confusion about the functions of judges and appeals arising out of their work will be removed by the legislation, the government believes.

DIVORCE LIQUOR FROM POLITICS

B.C. Legislature Likely to Tackle Complete Reorganization of Board.

SEQUEL TO PROBE

VICTORIA, Dec. 17.—Complete overhaul of British Columbia's present liquor administration loomed up today as the most important issue before the present session of the Provincial Legislature.

The proposal that the liquor commissioner and his entire organization be removed from the control of the government and made responsible only to the Legislature will be advanced during the session and will receive support, it is believed, from both sides of the House.

Following a blunt demand by the Victoria Times, influential Liberal paper, that the liquor board be removed entirely from the influence of politicians, it was learned that a move along this line already is on foot. Leading Liberal members, who have discussed liquor matters recently, are known to favor the idea. It is considered quite possible, in fact, that the government will offer no opposition but on the contrary may sponsor the plan itself. In any case the proposal will be threshed out before the House adjourns, if members who are interested pursue the course which they are mapping out for themselves now.

FOLLOWS EXPOSURES.

This move follows the recent campaign fund revelations before the Royal Commission on smuggling in Vancouver. Leading Liberals feel that their party would be better off if the government were relieved of the responsibility of the liquor administration altogether. This attitude found emphatic expression in the Times on Thursday night and is widely held in the higher councils of the party. In view of the Times' demand, the idea undoubtedly will be considered by the cabinet during the present recess and may crystallize into definite action when the House reassembles.

It is proposed that the Liquor Board be put in the same position as the Workmen's Compensation Board, in the work of which the government has no power to interfere.

WANT STATUS CHANGED.

The board is responsible direct to the Legislature, as is the board administering the new minimum wage law. At present the Liquor Board is in a different position. It forms part of the government service and its purchasing is done through the government purchasing agent. The liquor commissioner himself is appointed by the government, which could dismiss him if it saw fit. Under the plan proposed the commissioner would be responsible to the Legislature only, just as the controller-general is. If this idea were carried out, it is felt that the government, whether it were Liberal or Conservative, would be relieved of any possible stigma in connection with campaign funds.

ON TRAIL OF THE SERPENT

Victoria Times Scores Politicians for Accepting Liquor Money.

IN SHARP EDITORIAL

VICTORIA, Dec. 17.—Demand that the Legislature take "drastic remedial action" to curb the use of campaign funds in British Columbia and that the Liquor Control Board be made absolutely independent of political control, is voiced in a leading editorial in the Victoria Daily Times, one of the oldest and staunchest Liberal papers in Western Canada. The Times editorial, following campaign fund revelations before the royal commission on smuggling, caused a sensation in political circles here today.

Under the caption, "The Trail of the Serpent," the Times said:

"It may not be within the power of the royal commission investigating the customs service to pursue the slimy trail of political campaign contributions by the liquor interests to the end, but it has disclosed enough already to demand drastic remedial action from the Legislature. It has shown out of the mouths of various witnesses that large sums have been paid to political parties, and there can be no doubt that the commission has merely touched the fringe of these and kindred subterranean activities."

"One witness described these payments as protective. What did they protect and what were they expected to protect? If those interests are operating within the law, why should they make political contributions for protection purposes? Everybody knows that campaign funds are required by political parties, and that they are quite legitimate as long as they are not given for improper purposes; but we would imagine that the last source from which political parties which wanted to keep themselves clean would accept assistance of this kind, would be the elements engaged in the traffic some of the ugly and unsavory features of which have been revealed before the royal commission recently."

"One of the witnesses before the commission feelingly said he wished there was a law prohibiting contributions to political campaign funds. But if our present liquor laws are not observed, what effect would one dealing with this particular practice have? There is a better way than that, and that is to make it impossible for political parties to be of any value in any way to the contributors of those funds. The Liquor Control Board should be made completely independent of all outside association, so much so that interests engaged in the liquor business would not find it to their advantage to devote any funds to political purposes. In that case, as they are not in the habit of throwing money away, they would keep clear of politics and campaign funds."

"There is a fine chance for some member of the Legislature to distinguish himself this session by moving to amend the conditions under which the Liquor Control Board exists. At the very least it can be made as independent of political influence and control as the Workmen's Compensation Board."

SPEECH FAILS TO REVEAL POLICIES

Lieut. - Governor's Address Gives Opposition Small Opportunity to Contemplate.

VICTORIA, Dec. 17.—Opposition members who were planning to hear the speech from the throne and then go away to their homes for the holiday festivities and quiet contemplation of the proposals contained in the first speech of His Honor Lieut.-Governor Bruce, were disappointed. In the address prepared for the formal opening the government left nothing but formalities.

In olden times the Lieutenant-Governor's speech was considered to be an outline of the programme of the session, and upon this the opposition always framed its attacks. But Hon. John Oliver did not propose to disclose his hand or indicate his intentions to the enemy, especially when three weeks must elapse before the session actually gets under way. He believes in the old adage about idleness breeding mischief and he did not intend to give the mischievous opposition any cause to disturb him later.

So the speech, which was drafted a few weeks ago, was pared and revised and revamped until, in the words of one distinguished member to the left of the Speaker, it became "a masterpiece of nothingness." But the emptiness of the formal speech does not indicate in any way that the session will be likewise, or that the government will not bring down a lot of legislation.

Dick Burde is Away To Early Start With House Comedy

VICTORIA, Dec. 17.—When the Legislature meets for the transaction of business after the holidays, the discussion of the Conservatives' day of glory at Kamloops may be officially discussed, for Major Dick Burde of Alberni, laid the foundation for it at the formal opening of the House.

The attorney-general, in his best style, was filing the reports of his large department, while other ministers were following suit. There was a pause—that sort of a pause that lends dignity to an occasion, especially when the occasion is to be the filing of the public accounts by the minister of finance.

While the minister was slowly rising in his best opening-day manner, up bobbed the member for Alberni.

"Mr. Speaker," he exclaimed, "I have the honor, seconded by the Scottish member for Vancouver, to formally present herewith a full and complete report on the Kamloops Conservative convention."

Even the solemnity of opening day could not suppress the outburst of applause.

Speech From Throne First Business Before Session on Reopening

VICTORIA, Dec. 17.—Members of the Legislature who came here for the formal opening of the House dispersed to all parts of the province Thursday night and today to spend the Christmas holidays at home. By this afternoon only one or two members remained here.

Mr. Speaker Buckham will return immediately to his home in Golden, while the only other interior members who came down for the brief opening ceremony are homeward bound now. C. S. Leary of Kaslo-Slocan, J. R. Colley of Kamloops, Ralph Bruhn of Salmon Arm and N. A. Wallinger of Cranbrook were the only up-country members who came to the Coast to participate in the opening.

First business before the House when it reassembles in January will be consideration of the speech from the throne. In accordance with the usual custom one of the Liberal members will be the first speaker in the debate and will be followed by a Conservative.

SPEND \$553,000 ON MOTHERS' PENSIONS

B.C. Fund Benefits 1161 Families, Report to Legislature Shows.

VICTORIA, Dec. 17.—British Columbia spent \$553,371 to aid deserving mothers under the Mothers' Pension Act during the year ending September 30, according to figures made public in the annual report of the board administering the law. Of this amount \$553,871 was paid in actual assistance and \$16,111 in administrative expenses.

During the year 1161 families, including 3134 children, received assistance. In the month of September, the last month covered by the report, the board was assisting 286 families, with 2723 children, an average of \$46.92 per month per family. Total payments under the law since it became effective in 1920 amount to \$2,952,182.

Of the 286 mothers receiving assistance in September 476 resided in Greater Vancouver, 425 in other municipalities and 85 in unorganized districts. Of the assisted mothers 282 owned or held an equity in their homes.

D E C

1926

Legislative Session Opened Formally by Lieutenant-Governor

Speech Promises Regulation of Loan Companies and Assistance of the Agricultural Industry—Activity Indicated in Principal Primary Production of British Columbia

Business Will Be Resumed After
Christmas Vacation on January 10

THE Legislature of British Columbia was opened yesterday afternoon. The formalities connected therewith having all been carried out, the House rose after being in session about half an hour, and will not resume its sittings until Monday, January 10. A large proportion of the members were in their places for the opening ceremonies, only the more distant ones foregoing the opportunity to be in attendance. There were more than thirty of them in their seats.

Officers for First Time

The occasion marked the first one upon which Hon. R. Randolph Bruce, the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province, has officiated in this capacity. Accompanied by Hon. J. A. Buckham, the Speaker, and Hon. John Oliver, the Premier of the Province, His Honor, attended by his personal staff and by officers of the Royal Canadian Navy, of Work Point Barracks, and of the Militia, entered the Legislative Chamber promptly on time.

A guard of honor drawn from the Naval Barracks and from Work Point received His Honor upon his arrival at the Buildings, and were duly inspected by him following the ceremonies within the Chamber.

His Honor's Address

The address of His Honor was a brief one. It was as follows: His Honor's speech was as follows: Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly:

I welcome you to this the Third Session of the Sixteenth Parliament of British Columbia.

Since the last Session of this House General Viscount Byng of Vimy completed his term of office as Governor-General of Canada and returned to the Motherland, bearing with him the sincere appreciation of the Canadian people for his public service, and the very best wishes for himself and Viscountess Byng.

The high post of representative in Canada of His Majesty the King has recently been filled by the appointment of Viscount Willingdon as Governor-General. We of British Columbia join with our fellow-Canadians in extending a warm welcome to Viscount Willingdon and the Viscountess.

It is a matter of pleasure to note that business conditions in the Province have continued to improve and that substantial increases have occurred in timber, agriculture, mineral, and fishery production.

Continued on Page 2

It is gratifying to observe that the products of British Columbia, in competitive exhibition with the products of other parts of the world, have won highest awards.

My Government has continued its efforts to obtain elimination of unjust and discriminatory transportation rates.

Renewed application has been made by my Government for the return by the Government of the Dominion of the unalienated portions of the lands granted in aid of the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Construction of main trunk roads has been carried on vigorously during the year and substantial progress has been made. Simultaneously every effort has been put forth to provide requisite settlers' roads.

A report of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire, inter alia, into the problem of mental disease in this Province will be submitted for your consideration.

The annual reports of the departments of Government will be placed before you.

The public accounts for the fiscal year 1925-'26 and the estimates of revenue and expenditure for the fiscal year 1927-'28 will be submitted for your consideration.

Legislation designed for the assistance and protection of the agricultural industry and for the protection of the public in connection with loan companies will be presented.

The removal by death of Mr. Arthur Ormiston Cochrane, late member for the electoral district of North Okanagan, is very deeply regretted.

I now leave you in confidence that your duties will be faithfully performed and with the prayer that the blessing of Almighty God may be with you in your deliberations.

Following its reading and the retirement of the Lieutenant-Governor the House proceeded to formal business, which was preceded by the time-honored custom of the introduction of a bill thus asserting the rights of the legislative body which has come down from early days. This was a bill to amend the Interpretation Act introduced by the Attorney-General, which passed its first reading.

A number of reports were presented by the Ministers, which was in customary manner broken into by Major R. J. Burde, member for Alberni, offering a blank sheet which he described as the report of the Kamloops Convention.

A formal resolution threatening dire calamities that would descend upon the heads of any who were found to have gained their election or sought to do so by bribery or corruption, was duly passed. Provision was made for the usual standing committees of the House, and on the motion of Premier Oliver it was decided that the consideration of the address of His Honor should receive first consideration upon the resuming of business, and take precedence of all other business until it was disposed of.

Adjournment was taken until 3 o'clock on Monday, January 10.

ASSETS OF B. C. TAKE QUICK RISE

Revaluation of Roads in British Columbia Accounts for Decided Change in Position Revealed by Public Accounts

HIGHWAYS ARE RATED AT
REPLACEMENT VALUATION

Revenues of Government Are
Shown to Have Increased
Last Year Compared With
Previous Twelve Months

THE public accounts for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1926, were presented to the Legislature of British Columbia yesterday by the Minister of Finance, Hon. J. D. MacLean. The balance sheet of the Province for the twelve months would, on casual examination, lead to the conclusion that the Province had made very large advances during the past twelve months as compared with the previous year.

The resident of the Province who jumps to the conclusion that there has been a very decided increase in the assets during the period will apparently be misinformed.

The provincial assets of the Province for the past year are set down as in excess of the liabilities to the extent of about \$64,000,000, which is given as an increase of \$35,921,000 over the 1924-'25 period.

This \$35,000,000 of an increase, however, is accounted for from the fact that the value of the roads of the Province have in the balance sheet of 1925-'26 been placed at something like \$36,383,000 above what they were in the previous year's report. It is not pretended that in the past year there has been an improvement amounting to the sum of over \$36,000,000 made in the roads. The alteration in the figures is accounted for by the fact that it was felt that the former figure of \$11,000,000 was too small.

Roads Valued Higher

The Government caused an estimate to be made of the roads on the basis of their replacement value, and the result of this was the placing of the value of this asset of the people being fixed at a new figure of over \$48,000,000. This is the cause of the very sudden advance in apparent wealth of the Province as revealed by the balance sheet.

The balance sheet of the Province under the present system adopted in figuring the assets and liabilities, is like ancient Gaul, divided into three parts: One of these cover the capital assets and liabilities. Under the assets are set out the revenues payable by the Dominion Government,

properties held by the Government, as well as roads and bridges. Under the heading of current assets is included cash, accounts receivable, livestock, etc., while against this, under liabilities, are various related heads. The deferred assets are largely related to the P.G.E., consisting of loans and advances.

For the year 1924-'25 the excess of assets over liabilities under the division of capital is given as \$32,971,461. In the year 1924-'25, with the lower valuation for roads of the Province, the situation was reversed and there was shown an excess of liabilities over assets under this capital heading of \$8,429,899.

Under the head of current assets and liabilities, the statement for 1925-'26 shows an excess of assets to the amount of \$7,692,345. In the previous year the assets showed a balance of \$9,566,048.

Under the deferred heading the book values of deferred assets are given in the latest report as \$29,385,

285 over the liabilities, while in the previous year these appeared as \$27,003,879.

Debt Reduction

In a statement made by the minister it is set out that there has been during the past year a reduction in the public debt amounting to \$2,609,264.

The reduction was brought about by the retirement of a ten-year loan of over \$3,000,000 which had fallen due and which had full sinking fund provisions. By the judicious investment of these sinking fund appropriations, the Finance Department made a profit of \$107,000, and this amount was paid into the consolidated revenue fund for the benefit of current expenditure. Borrowings for new capital expenditures during the year, amounting to \$434,000, made the net reduction of \$2,610,000.

The sinking funds of the Province amount to \$12,699,774.10, appropriations and dividends on investments for the year amounting to \$2,386,259.

The public debt at March 31, 1925, was \$79,398,000, while at March 31, 1926, the debt including temporary borrowing amounted to \$76,788,000. The provincial debt, therefore has been reduced by \$2,610,000 during the year.

The revenues and expenditures for the year 1925-'26, under both current and capital account, as compared with the year previous, shows that the expenditures for the two years were very similar in their totals. The revenues for the last year made quite an advance over the preceding year.

Relative Figures

The following table shows the relative revenues and expenditures for the two years:

	Revenue	1925-26	1924-25
Current Account:			
Agriculture	\$ 32,909.83	\$ 30,949.86	
The Attorney-General	4,832,325.69	2,871,255.14	
Education	29,741.70	51,049.52	
Finance	11,232,878.32	10,481,016.64	
Fisheries	38,237.00	34,101.65	
Labor	504.50	528.00	
Lands	4,056,544.93	2,945,211.77	
Legislation (Private Bills Fees)	2,160.00	1,645.00	
Mines	171,464.35	164,644.00	
The Provincial	97,367.42	94,184.10	
Secretary	42,026.50	22,440.00	
Public Works	72,804.83	76,440.00	
Railways			
Total Current Account	\$20,608,871.67	\$18,923,287.86	

Capital Account:			
Refunds of Capital Expenditures:			
Chgd. to Income	688,584.66	688,888.25	
Chgd. to Loans	561,612.42	72,268.94	
Total Capital Account	\$ 1,250,197.08	\$ 765,157.19	
Total Revenue	\$21,779,068.75	\$19,688,445.05	

Expenditure			
Public Debt	\$ 3,762,001.44	\$ 3,568,455.64	
Legislation	130,042.00	126,240.44	
Premier's Office	14,098.83	14,741.06	
Agriculture	1,242,037.91	470,941.60	
The Attorney-General	1,786,125.40	1,624,072.63	
Education	3,149,852.05	3,208,194.20	
Finance	2,287,081.32	2,512,439.17	
Fisheries	13,229.78	16,630.71	
Industries		9,128.42	
Labor	64,998.46	60,046.37	
Lands	1,660,080.77	1,242,316.73	
Mines	266,036.06	268,441.96	
The Provincial	2,285,924.88	2,255,374.93	
Public Works	2,596,528.27	2,566,827.19	
Railways	68,391.49	240,066.55	
Total Current Account	\$18,230,624.68	\$18,219,965.71	

Capital Account:			
Chgd. to Income	2,444,451.15	2,000,000.00	
Total Expenditure	\$21,675,075.83	\$20,219,965.71	

Provincial Police Were on Duty at House Opening

AT the opening of the Legislature yesterday afternoon a detachment of the Provincial Police, under Inspector T. W. Parsons and Sergeant Robert Owen, were on duty looking after the arrangements connected with the ceremonies. In their striking uniforms they were easily distinguishable and aided materially in the handling of the crowd.

While the Provincial force supervised the arrangements at the buildings, the city police under Inspector Boulton looked after the traffic as it entered the Parliament grounds.

Friday Dec. 17/26

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1926

JANUARY 11, 1927

First Legislative Body Met in Victoria in 1856

For Seventy Years City Has Been Meeting Place
of Representative Assemblies Under Various
Forms of Government

The formal opening of the Legislature yesterday recalls the fact that in the city of Victoria there have been representative assemblies holding sessions for the past seventy years. The first of these dates back to colonial days prior to the organization of British Columbia, when there existed the official crown colony of Vancouver Island.

In the year 1856, acting under direct instructions from Downing Street, Sir James Douglas, the second governor of Vancouver Island, made provision for the holding of an election, and the selection of representatives to serve in a legislative assembly which it had been directed should be called together to assist in the government of the colony.

On August 12 of that year this assembly met in Victoria. Dr. J. S. Helmcken was duly elected the first Speaker.

That saw the beginning of representative government as far as this part of the Empire was concerned. Ever since then, however, there has been assembling in the city of Victoria legislative bodies that represented the people.

Following the days of the Crown colony of Vancouver Island there succeeded the Crown colony of British Columbia, which included the Mainland and Vancouver Island.

In turn the union of British Columbia came with the Dominion of Canada under Confederation with responsible government and the city of Victoria remained the capital, continuing as the assembling place of the legislative bodies.

Since Confederation was entered into the present Legislature is the sixteenth that has served the electorate.

RESPECT PAID TO LATE LEGISLATOR

FEELING REFERENCES MADE
YESTERDAY TO DEATH OF MR.
ARTHUR O. COCHRANE

Vacant Chair and Desk Covered With
Flowers at Opening of
House

Sympathetic reference was made at the opening of the Legislature yesterday to the death of Mr. Arthur O. Cochrane, the late member for North Okanagan. In addition to the reference made to his passing away in the speech of His Honor, the Lieutenant-Governor, the loss that had been suffered by the Legislature and the Province was made the subject of a resolution moved by Premier Oliver and seconded by Mr. R. H. Pooley, the House leader of the Opposition. This was passed by a standing vote of the members conveying sympathy to the widow and members of the bereaved family.

The desk that had been formerly occupied in the House by Mr. Cochrane was vacant at the opening yesterday. A massive wreath of white chrysanthemums entwined with pink carnations occupied the top of the desk, while his chair carried a similar floral offering.

Premier Pays Tribute

The Premier, in moving the resolution of sympathy, said he felt that he was voicing the sentiments of every member of the House when he said that it had been with the deepest regret that they had learned a few weeks ago of the death of the member for North Okanagan.

Mr. Oliver said that he had not known the late member until he entered the Legislature. During his acquaintance with Mr. Cochrane he had formed a very favorable opinion indeed of him. He stood high in his regard, as he believed he did so with every other member of the Legislature.

It was impossible to express in words the regret that he felt. He accordingly moved a resolution of regret at the untimely death of Mr. Cochrane, and instructing the clerk of the House to convey to Mrs. Cochrane and the members of his family the deep sympathy of the members of the Legislature in their sad bereavement.

In concluding, the Premier said that he thought there was little that could be said that would help to ameliorate the irreparable loss which has befallen Mrs. Cochrane and the members of the family.

Mr. Pooley Seconds Motion

Mr. Pooley, in seconding the resolution, referred to the relationships that he had had with Mr. Cochrane in the House, which were, of course, of a very close character. He said that the late member was very highly respected in the community in which he lived.

"Mr. Cochrane was a true gentleman," said Mr. Pooley.

"We will miss his hearty greeting and the smile of Mr. Cochrane," added Mr. Pooley in referring to the relations that had existed between the late Mr. Cochrane and the members on his side of the House. While the feelings of the members of the Legislature would be keen, the death of Mr. Cochrane would be much more keenly appreciated by the members of his family.

He hoped that the divine hand might temper the affliction in the home so that they might be enabled to bear it.

The resolution was carried by a standing vote of the members of the Legislature.

MR. POOLEY SEEKS RAILWAY DATA

OPPOSITION LEADER DESIRES
INFORMATION ABOUT PACIFIC
GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY

Premier Asks House to Endorse Government's Request for Return
of Railway Lands

The order paper yesterday was loaded up with notices of motion and questions seeking information relative to matters of public business. Of the latter, naturally the great bulk of the questions was asked by members of the opposition.

Mr. R. H. Pooley takes early occasion to move for all correspondence relative to any negotiations looking to the sale of the Pacific Great Eastern.

Premier Oliver has a resolution on the order paper in which the approval of the Legislature is proposed to be given to the move made by the Government of the Province in the matter of seeking to have the lands of the railway belt in British Columbia returned to the Province by the Dominion Government.

Among the questions that are placed on the order paper is one by Mr. Pooley asking for details of the money expended on roads in the Province since 1919, derived from grants made by the Dominion, and also the districts in which these expenditures were made.

Mr. H. Despard Twigg has a series of questions relative to the arrangements of Government heads with Mr. G. McGeer, K.C., in connection with the freight rates case, and also details of the disbursements to him.

Mr. Pooley also wants to know about the sales of lands in the University block at Point Grey.

Mr. J. Hinchliffe wants information as to the purchase of drain pipe for the grounds of the Parliament Buildings.

Hon. T. G. Coventry desires to know something about the employment of Mr. L. Maulvaney at Burns Lake as road foreman.

Major A. J. Lyons is inquisitive as to one Jack McLean, employed in the Public Works in Omineca. He also wants to know about some contracts at Tranquille.

Mr. Coventry asks about fires along the Nakusp & Sandon Railway.

Mr. Pooley desires to know about the licences issued to the Manitoba Refineries as exporters. He also asks information about certain contracts on the Cariboo Road.

Mr. Pooley wants to know when the various University Buildings were taken over and whether any repairs were necessary to them. He has quite a long list of questions covering various public works and the costs of them.

Mr. James Schofield makes inquiries about the giving of Vancouver representation in the Cabinet.

SPEAKER SAYS HE KNOWS NOTHING OF REPORTED APPOINTMENT

Hon. J. A. Buckham, Speaker of the Legislature, was the subject of congratulations from many sides yesterday upon his reported appointment to a position on the Vancouver Harbor Commission. The Speaker's reply was that he knew nothing about it.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 1927

General Odlum Takes Strong Views on Many Provincial Questions

Frank Statement Is Made by Vancouver Member—Promises Welcome for Hon. S. F. Tolmie When He Takes Seat as Opposition Leader—Oriental Problem Must Be Faced, He Contends

Captain Ian Mackenzie Praises Record Of Oliver Administration During Decade

IN moving the address in reply to the speech of His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, General Victor Odlum, of Vancouver, delivered a rather outstanding speech in the Legislature yesterday afternoon, one in which he did not pretend to stand sponsor for all that the Government did, while at the same time he announced himself as a sincere Liberal.

He contended that the judgment that the Government of the day had done well was not good enough. There must be vision on the part of those who governed the province. The liquor policy of the Government came under review at the hands of Gen. Odlum, who felt that there had been a deviation from what the people actually wanted in this respect. He wanted the price of good liquor—if there was such, he added—reduced to a fair price so as to take the profit out of the handling of it by the Government. Then in turn he would eliminate the opportunities for profit in it by private interests. If this were done some of the shame that was felt at the exposures before the Royal Commission might be obviated.

Pacific Great Eastern

On the P.G.E. question, he took the ground that the province could not at the present time undertake the completion of that line. He advocated a policy of "steady" with respect to that line, which would in time be an asset.

He was glad that the Premier had done so well with respect to the move to regain the Peace River block and also praised the Premier for his fight on the freight rates question, although in that matter he felt there had been some misrepresentation in the matter.

Before he closed he made rather a happy allusion to the new leader of the Conservative party, Hon. S. F. Tolmie, and said that both sides would welcome any man who would bring to the House higher aspirations. In passing, he also paid a compliment to Mr. Pooley, who, he thought, might have had the opportunity of winning at the next election.

Raises Oriental Question

In conclusion, Gen. Odlum said he was of the opinion that something must be done in the matter of grappling with the Oriental question in the province. He felt that if the turnover tax proposed was a means of meeting the situation, it would be welcomed.

Capt. Ian Mackenzie, also of Vancouver, seconded the address in reply to the speech, but his address was of an entirely different character to that of Gen. Odlum. The greater part of his speech was taken up with the presentation of argument as to what the present Government had done in the ten years in which it had been in power with a mass of figures taken from each department of the service, comparing the development in that time in the different lines of industry for which due credit was in each case given to the Government of the day.

He endorsed the scheme of taking the control of the liquor business out of the hands of the Government and the placing of it in the hands of the Legislature itself. Capt. Mackenzie, in fact, claimed to have been the discoverer of this system of handling the business, and had the Government taken his advice in 1921 all would have been well, he said.

He in turn alluded to Dr. Tolmie's choice by the Conservatives of the province as the leader of the party, but took the position that he should get into the House at once.

Speaker Buckham, by precipitate action when the address was moved by Gen. Odlum and before he had spoken, called for the vote on it and declared it carried, an action which had to be cancelled at once, to the amusement of the members.

In opening his speech, General Odlum expressed the view that all the members would be pleased at the full restoration to health which had been the portion of the Speaker.

He also made reference to the departure from Canada of Lord Byng, who had in another capacity been known to many Canadians before he came to the country as Governor-General, and who had made a most favorable name for himself while in this latter position. He had been succeeded by Viscount Willingdon, one of the envoys of the British Empire and who might be expected to become as popular as Lord Byng had been.

He also referred to the fact that Mr. W. C. Nichol had, since the last sitting of the Legislature, vacated the post of Lieutenant-Governor, which he had filled with dignity. His generosity would be long remembered. The successor to Mr. Nichol had come from another part of the province. He had already won his way into the hearts of the citizens of the province.

Tribute to Late Member

The Vancouver member paid his respects to the late member for North Okanagan. Mr. Cochrane had stamped himself as a man of ability and uprightness. North Okanagan would be the poorer for his death. The riding would be fortunate indeed to have his place filled by one as able as he.

In excusing himself for taking part in the debate, General Odlum said that since he entered the House he had established for himself a reputation for silence. He felt that the traditions of the British constitution were well lived up to in the discussion of policy as set out in the Speech before the House settled down to the actual business of the session.

The general said that he had been given the widest scope in dealing with the subject.

"I do not say this in a spirit of rebellion," he added. "I am a sincere member of the Liberal party, but with a great deal of freedom."

Approaching the subject of the liquor traffic, General Odlum said:

"There has lately been a great deal of discussion of this question that has rent our souls. The investigation in Vancouver and in Victoria could not help but pain us all."

Continuing, he said that if these things referred to did not take place, there must have been "some tall swearing."

A great mistake, he said, had been made some time ago in connection with this liquor policy. It had been decided by the people of the province that liquor should be available by Government sale. It was the right of democracy to say what it wanted.

The people had in view in that connection, that liquor was to be removed from private interests and that it should be handled by the Government.

Big Profits a Mistake

The Government, he said, had made a mistake by making big profit by charging high prices for the liquor. The second mistake that was made by the Government was when it made it possible to make profit for private interests.

The situation was revealed that in consequence they had men trying on the one hand to get large profits and another class trying to get power through this traffic. This created a very bad situation.

He advised as a remedy the giving of good liquor—if, as he added, "liquor could at any time be good"—and at the same time wipe out the private profit. This would wipe out the beer parlors. It would remove the incentive to bootleggers to violate the law.

"I would be betraying a trust imposed upon me by the people of Vancouver if I did not raise this matter," he added.

With private and public profits made possible, a condition was created that should not exist. He was glad that the Attorney-General was investigating the matter and hoped that the situation would be cleared up.

Party funds, said General Odlum, are known to exist. Everyone knew they existed. They might not all approve of the system, but they did not make a stand against it.

There were evils connected with elections. Any educational campaign called for large expenditures of money. These funds must be provided. He felt, however, that they must try to see that no come-back followed the giving of funds, and members of the Legislature must be kept independent.

The commission would, he supposed, it again. He felt that the evils that were being unearthed here were not peculiar to the Pacific Coast. They were prevalent across the whole continent.

In some measure these were due to the fact that the opportunity existed for the making of profit out of the liquor business across the line in the United States.

Not Ready for P.G.E. Extension

The Vancouver member then devoted attention to the P.G.E. Railway. He said that he gave the present Government credit for taking steps in getting outside business men to assist in the administration of the affairs of the road. These men were not party men in any sense. They would deal fairly by the Province in the matter. While the P.G.E. might have been a mistake when launched, he had faith in its ultimate success.

He advised a policy of "steady" in connection with the affairs of the P.G.E. It seemed that the expenditure of large sums might bring the solution, but the expenditures that were required in this line were beyond the scope of the Province at the present. They would have to wait until the Province was better able in a financial way to grapple with the matter.

The Government, he said, had canvassed the whole situation, but had not found the stability of any proposal that it would like. They could not expend the money that was necessary today to complete the road.

General Odlum complimented the Premier upon the energy that he had shown in connection with the move to regain the Peace River block. He was himself now convinced that the Province had a bona fide right to this block. It would probably come back and might be the means of securing the extension of the P.G.E.

He also praised the Premier for the energy that he had shown in connection with the freight rate question. Some had got weary of it. There had been some misrepresentation in connection with it, but there had been a start made in the getting of results. There had been a reduction of one-third in the freight rates on grain from the Prairies which was real progress. The Premier was in no small way responsible for this.

Turning to his own city, he said that Vancouver was now a metropolitan city; a world city; a growing city.

Quoting from figures that had been given by Mr. R. H. McMillan, he showed that British Columbia was making more marked progress in the lumber production than were the States of Washington and Oregon. It was the old basic industry of the Province, and it promised to long remain well at the top among the industries.

Other industries were also making rapid progress. At the same time he said that money was not everything in the life of a people.

Spiritual Side of Life

"Life is made up of more than what we eat and what we drink and what we wear," said he. "There is the spiritual side."

In this line British Columbia had had a most remarkable year. He then proceeded to enumerate some of the works that had been turned out during the past year by British Columbia authors in the line of fiction, history, and travel. In this connection he praised the efforts of Mr. B. A. McKelvie, who was a member of the press gallery. He also included such names as Mr. Kay, Mrs. Adams Beck, and also alluded to the valuable historical work by Mr. R. L. Reid.

Before he left this subject he alluded to the controversy that had arisen over the natal day of British Columbia in which Mr. Justice Martin and Judge Howay had differed. There had been talk of a reference to the Legislature in the matter of settling the dispute. This he did not think would be desirable. A declaration of the House on the point would not of necessity be a decision. He was of the opinion that it was a matter to be settled by historians in the end.

The literary production of the Province and even the dispute as to the natal day only went to show that mental activities were at the boiling point in the Province.

Then referring to the Kamloops convention General Odlum said that it was a public duty that the Conservatives had performed there. It named a leader of the party and had selected a man well known in the Province and highly respected. Mr. Pooley, who had the deepest respect of all in the House, was still to be House leader, he understood. He was somewhat sorry that Mr. Pooley had not been given the leadership, even instead of one as popular as Dr. Tolmie. He felt that the present House leader might have had some hope of taking power at an election.

Welcomes Dr. Tolmie

He had felt sure that Dr. Tolmie would have taken the first opportunity of entering the House. It was rumored that there had been offers made to allow him to do so. These were not taken advantage of, however.

In passing the member for Vancouver offered the suggestion that there was too often, in connection with these positions of leadership, too great a tendency to follow the rule "ears down rather than hands up." Dr. Tolmie was entitled to the opportunity and all would welcome him to the House if he would aid in pointing to greater and better things.

The general said that there was too great a tendency on the part of both parties to either strive to keep on the Government benches or to get on them. If the other side in the House had a policy which it was prepared to bring forward with zeal and endeavor to put into effect it would win the enthusiasm of the House.

General Odlum made reference to the Oriental question. This, he said, was gaining strength in Vancouver, and in the line of agriculture the peril and evil were being keenly felt. He had learned that seventy-five per cent of the goods sold from wholesale row in Vancouver went to Orientals. The Chinese were now doing the retail business. It would be only a matter of time until they did the wholesale end of the business. The Chinaman was gaining in his hold upon business. He was not gaining in the payment of taxes. In this latter respect it was difficult to get at the Oriental. There was all kinds of mystery connected with the getting at the turnover of the Oriental.

D E C

1926

LIGHT BUT IMPORTANT BILL OF LEGISLATIVE FARE FACES MEMBERS AS THEY START WORK

Lieutenant-Governor Randolph Bruce Officiates as King's Representative for First Time in Declaring Legislature's Session Under Way; Brief Colorful Ceremony Watched by Large Crowds

With a light but highly important legislative programme ahead of it, the third session of the Sixteenth Parliament of British Columbia was formally opened by His Honor Lieutenant-Governor Randolph Bruce here this afternoon. The colorful opening ceremonies took less than an hour when the House adjourned to start actual work on January 10.

Legislation designed to improve the marketing methods of British Columbia agriculturists through co-operation, and a new law to protect the public in the operations of loan companies were the only measures forecast in the Speech from the Throne, read by the Lieutenant-Governor. Many other matters of importance will arise during the session, however, making the sessional programme important to every part of the Province.

A large crowd of invited guests filled the Legislative Chamber when the House opened, and the public galleries were crammed to capacity as the ceremonies commenced.

Much of the former splendor was lacking, and over the whole assemblage there was a sense of sorrow, for on the desk formerly occupied by Arthur O. Cochrane, Conservative member for North Okanagan, were two immense wreaths, floral tributes of affection and respect from the Government and from his fellow members of the Opposition.

GOVERNOR ARRIVES

Promptly at 3 o'clock the great bronze doors of the Parliament Buildings were thrown back to admit His Honor and his guard of honor. The thirty-five members of the assembly who had come to play their part in the brief moment of history rose; the crowded galleries and distinguished visitors stood to respectful attention, as His Honor, escorted by Mr. Speaker Buckham in his black robes passed through the hall to the dais.

SPEECH FROM THRONE

The guard of honor, drawn from the officers of the naval and military establishments here, stood to rigid attention while His Honor took his station and faced the members, bowing first to the right and then to the left, courtesies that were acknowledged by all. His Honor then read the Speech from the Throne:

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly:

I welcome you to this the Third Session of the Sixteenth Parliament of British Columbia.

Since the last session of this House General Viscount Byng of Vimy completed his term of office as Governor-General of Canada and returned to the Motherland, bearing with him the sincere appreciation of the Canadian people for his public service, and the very best wishes for himself and Viscountess Byng.

The high post of representative in Canada of His Majesty the King has recently been filled by the appointment of Viscount Willingdon as Governor-General. We of British Columbia join with our fellow-Canadians in extending a warm welcome to Viscount Willingdon and the Viscountess.

It is a matter of pleasure to note that business conditions in the Province have continued to improve and that substantial increases have occurred in timber, agriculture, mineral, and fishery production.

It is gratifying to observe that the products of British Columbia in competitive exhibition with the products of other parts of the world, have won highest awards.

My Government has continued its efforts to obtain elimination of unjust and discriminatory transportation rates.

Renewed application has been made by my Government for the return by the Government of the Dominion of the unalienated portions of the lands granted in aid of the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

Construction of main trunk roads has been carried on vigorously during the year and substantial progress has been made. Simultaneously every effort has been put forth to provide requisite settlers' roads.

A report of the Royal Commission appointed to inquire, inter alia, into the problem of mental disease in this Province will be submitted for your consideration.

The annual reports of the departments of Government will be placed before you.

The Public Accounts for the fiscal year 1925-26 and the Estimates of Revenue and Expenditure for the fiscal year 1927-28 will be submitted for your consideration.

Legislation designed for the assistance and protection of the agricultural industry and for the protection of the public in connection with loan companies will be presented.

The removal by death of Arthur Ormiston Cochrane, late member for the electoral district of North Okanagan, is very deeply regretted.

I now leave you in confidence that your duties will be faithfully performed and with the prayer that the blessing of Almighty God may be with you in your deliberations.

CEREMONIES BRIEF

Having concluded, His Honor bowed again to the right and to the left, and once more escorted by Mr. Speaker, passed through the ranks of the guard of honor and out of the assembly hall.

Upon the return of the Speaker to the chair, various departmental reports were filed. Attorney-General A. M. Manson tabled the different reports of his department, including those of the Liquor Board, the Labor Department, Provincial Game Warden, Inspector of Municipalities, Workmen's Compensation Board, Mothers' Pensions Board, Girls' Industrial School, Insurance Department, Official Guardian and the Fire Marshall. Hon. J. D. MacLean, Minister of Finance, presented the Public Accounts, and Mr. Manson, acting Minister of Mines, brought down the annual report of that department.

Premier Oliver made the customary motion that the consideration of the Speech from the Throne be the first order of business to be considered, and also moved the adjournment of the House until January 10.

In accordance with the old tradition of British Parliaments the Government introduced a minor bill at the opening to indicate that public business has the right-of-way at the session. The bill was an amendment to the Interpretation Act. It eliminates what is known in the law as "Personal Designata" except where this is expressly provided for by statute. Some confusion about the functions of Judges and appeals arising out of their work will be removed by the legislation, the Government believes.

After these formalities the assembly adjourned until January 10, when all members will be present.

OPENED PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE TO-DAY



Lieut.-Governor R. Randolph Bruce

**ANNUAL BILL FOR
LIQUOR IN B.C.
NOW \$14,000,000**

**Sale For Last Twelve Months
\$13,622,948 Exclusive of
Beer Men's Profit**

British Columbia's net liquor bill for the year ending September 30 last, totalled \$13,622,948, according to figures laid before the Legislature to-day by Attorney-General Manson in reports of the Liquor Control Board.

Of this amount \$11,447,270 was represented by the sale of liquor to the public in Government liquor stores and \$2,176,678 in the sale of beer by the Government to beer licensees. As no account is kept of beer licensees' retail prices it is impossible to state definitely how much money was spent altogether in the Province on legal hard liquor and beer. Taking the profits of the licensees into consideration the total figure must have been something over \$14,000,000 for the twelve months.

Liquor sales for the last six-month period ending September 30 last were slightly larger than for the two previous semi-annual periods; the Liquor Board's figures indicated. Covering three of these periods, they showed that total sales for the last six months were \$6,999,770, as against \$6,623,178 in the preceding six months, and \$6,823,401 in the six months previous to that.

PROFITS FLUCTUATE

Profits for the last six months were \$1,555,524 as compared with \$1,780,668 in the previous period and \$1,511,265 in the preceding six months. The fact that profits showed a big gain for the six months ending March 31 last was due to the inclusion of annual beer licensees in them.

BEER SALES

The Liquor Board's figures showed a slowly growing sale of beer to licensees. In the last six-month period the total sales included \$5,733,697 to the public and \$1,262,073 to the licensees. In the six months ending March 31 last public sales were \$5,708,573 and sales to licensees \$914,605. In the preceding six months public sales totaled \$5,771,378, and sales to licensees \$1,052,023. The drop in beer selling operations during the Winter months is plainly indicated by these statistics.

ILLEGAL SALE

Review the yearly period ending March 31 last, Liquor Commissioner Hugh Davidson says that most of the municipalities have been energetic in their efforts to carry out the provisions of the law, and the board has not been called upon to enter into this phase of enforcement to the same extent as in previous years. This report, of course, covers a period long previous to the recent liquor raids in Vancouver.

"No cases under the statute of outstanding importance have occurred during the period under review, but the illegal selling of liquor continues," the commissioner adds, "and presents many difficulties despite the opportunities for purchasing liquor at Government stores, and the facilities for the consumption of beer in public."

"Continuous supervision of licensed premises is required, more particularly in the urban centres, and especially in the city of Vancouver, where the density of population affords the greatest likelihood of the act being broken. The board views the receipt of a license as a franchise, and while the enforcement of the law rests primarily with the police, the statute gives the board disciplinary authority to suspend, and cancel licenses, and in the exercise of this authority the board has earnestly endeavored to co-operate with the police. Where licenses have been suspended or cancelled a salutary punishment through loss of trade has resulted, and this, it is hoped, will prove a deterrent to others."

Mr. Davidson's figures show that fifteen beer licenses were suspended in the yearly period 1925-26, and two were cancelled. One club license was suspended and two cancelled.

"The brewing of beer for private use, which is permitted under the Inland Revenue Act, is a very general practice," Mr. Davidson states. "It is regrettable that this provision exists as it adds to the problems of law enforcement."

LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OFFICIATING YESTERDAY AT 2 OPENING OF PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE IN CITY



LEGISLATURE WILL DISCUSS MOVE TO TAKE LIQUOR BOARD OUT OF GOVERNMENT CONTROL

Members to Ask That Whole Liquor Administration Be Made Responsible to Legislature Alone; Would Put Commissioner in Same Position as Workmen's Compensation Board and End All Talk of Party Politics in Liquor Business

That the British Columbia Liquor Control Board be made responsible to the Provincial Legislature alone and removed entirely from the supervision of the Government is the proposal which will be debated at the present session of the Provincial Legislature, it was learned to-day.

This idea is being discussed privately by leading Liberals now as a means of putting liquor matters completely beyond the reach of party politics and probably will be advanced soon after the House re-assembles on January 10.

ABSOLUTELY INDEPENDENT

It is proposed the Liquor Board be put in the same statutory position as the Workmen's Compensation Board, which is responsible only to the Legislature. Its work is entirely independent of the Government. The Board administering the new minimum wage law is another organization with whose decisions the Government is powerless to interfere.

GIVEN WIDE SUPPORT

The idea of making the liquor administration a department under the direct control of the Legislature is finding wide support among Liberals. They feel that it would be to the Government's advantage to relieve itself completely of responsibility for the liquor administration of the Province.

If the Liquor Board were responsible to the House alone, it is felt, the Government of the Province, whether it were Liberal or Conservative, would be removed from all possible adum in connection with campaign fund contribution by liquor interests.

This scheme has not been considered by the Government yet. It was learned, but it is expected it will be discussed by the Cabinet before the House reconvenes.

MOTHER'S PENSION LAW BRINGING HELP TO MANY FAMILIES

Large Number of Mothers and Children Aided, New Figures Show

Province Spends Over Half Million in Year on Compassionate Work

British Columbia spent \$553,871 to aid deserving mothers under the Mothers' Pension Act during the year ending September 30, according to figures made public to-day in the annual report of the board administering the law. Of this amount \$553,871 was paid in actual assistance and \$16,111 in administrative expenses.

During the year 1,161 families, including 3,134 children, received assistance. In the month of September, the last month covered by the report, the board was assisting families with 2,723 children, an average of \$45.92 per month per family. Total payments under the law since it became effective in 1920 amount to \$2,952,182.

MANY IN CITIES

Of the 986 mothers receiving assistance in September 476 resided in Greater Vancouver, 425 in other municipalities and eighty-five in organized districts. Of the assisted mothers 383 owned or held an equity in their homes.

The board's report indicates the growing scope and usefulness of the Province's pioneer mothers' pension legislation.

FINANCIAL POSITION SOUND

THERE ARE A NUMBER OF OUTSTANDING features in the public accounts of the Province which Dr. MacLean tabled in the Legislature yesterday afternoon that will be noted with pleasure by the taxpayers of British Columbia. They show that our financial position is sound and continues to improve. There is a surplus of revenue over all expenditure, both capital and current, which amounts to \$100,793; the public debt has been reduced by \$2,609,264; public debt charges for interest and other items have been cut by \$223,651; current receipts are \$2,378,040 in excess of current expenditure; and the total of provincial assets over liabilities—exclusive, of course, of crown lands and natural resources, which are estimated to be worth \$700,000,000—now stands at \$64,051,126. Dr. MacLean also shows that \$3,900,329 has been disbursed among the municipalities of the Province.

From the fact that the current receipts of the provincial treasury are only little short of a total of \$22,000,000 some idea of the progress which British Columbia has made in the last ten years will be obtained. When the present Administration took office at the end of 1916 the total revenue from all sources was in the neighborhood of \$6,000,000 and the expenditure was a good deal in excess of this amount. The treasury also at that time was in a sorry plight, the credit of the Province in serious disrepair, and it was necessary to pay substantial premiums in order to dispose of provincial securities. The comparison which it is now possible to make, therefore, should be reassuring to the taxpayer. The document at any rate furnishes undisputable evidence that this Province is making steady progress in the various branches of agricultural and industrial activity. For in every department of the Government the revenues are increasing from year to year.

LIQUOR TO

B. C. COMMISSIONER OWN REGULATIONS ONLY TO LEGISLATURE

Government to Divorce Administration With Conduct Own Purchasing Pointments; Liquor Stores May Remain Open at Night

Plans for a top-to-bottom reorganization of the liquor control system are under consideration for presentation to the Legislature.

While details of this program are not yet decided, it is known that it will divorce the liquor administration from the Government.

The new legislation will strip the commissioner powers now exercised to make regulations, conduct his own staff, with responsibility for the liquor business.

While thus putting the liquor control board outside the administrative scope of the Cabinet, the Government is considering other important changes in the liquor law, including the abolition of liquor seals on motor vehicles and the opening of liquor stores in Victoria and Vancouver at night to offer stronger competition to all-night bootleggers.

RESPONSIBLE TO HOUSE

In defining the powers of the liquor board under the reorganized liquor system, it is proposed that the House make the Board consist of one member who will be appointed for a long period and be removable only by the Legislature itself. This would make it impossible for the Government to dismiss the Commissioner at a time. The Commissioner likely will appoint an assistant to carry out administrative work in his own absence. Col. Donald McDougall, in charge of liquor law enforcement, usually has been acting as assistant Commissioner Hugh Davidson some time, but there is no provision in the present law for the position of assistant commissioner.

PURCHASING CHANGES

The reorganized liquor board will be able to change the purchasing system if it wishes. It will have power to appoint its own purchasing agent to buy the liquor sold through Government stores. The Cabinet points the purchasing agent now, all purchasing has been done through the Government purchasing agent offices.

Appointment of liquor vendors now controlled by the Government also would be made a function of the board, under present plans. The board, in fact, would make all appointments and would issue regulations governing the liquor business. All the present regulations of the board are subject to the approval of the Cabinet.

POLICE ENFORCED LAWS

Enforcement of the liquor law will remain in the hands of municipal and provincial police. No provision for the creation of a separate liquor law enforcement wing under the Liquor Board is contemplated.

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1926

LIQUOR CONTROL BY LEGISLATURE URGED

B.C. Members Prepare To Meet Lumber Men's Attack Against Minimum Wage Act Provisions

Hon. Randolph Bruce Pre- sides at Opening of Session

Canadian Press

VICTORIA, Dec. 16.—In the speech from the throne today, Lieutenant-Governor Bruce said:

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly:

I welcome you to the third session of the sixteenth parliament of British Columbia.

Since the last session of this house, General, Viscount Byng of Vimy completed his term of office as Governor-General of Canada and returned to the motherland, bearing with him the sincere appreciation of the Canadian people for his public service and the very best wishes for himself and Viscountess Byng.

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Products Win Awards

It is gratifying to observe that the products of British Columbia, in competitive exhibition with the products of other parts of the world, have won highest awards.

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Renewed application has been made by my government for the return by the government of the Dominion of the unalienated portions of the lands granted in aid of the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway.

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New Legislation

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The removal by death of Arthur Ormiston Cochrane, late member for the electoral district of North Okanagan, is very deeply regretted.

I now leave you, in confidence that your duties will be faithfully performed, and with the prayer that the blessing of Almighty God may be with you in your deliberations.

Pomp and Ceremony Features Formal Assembly in Legislative Halls at Victoria—Government Ex- pected to Voluntarily Relinquish Supervision of Provincial Liquor Problem.

Special to The Morning Star

VICTORIA, Dec. 16.—With a smoothness and precision, seldom if ever equalled, the third session of the Sixteenth Parliament of British Columbia was formally opened this afternoon by His Honor, Lieutenant-Governor Bruce.

The Legislative Chamber was filled with invited guests, for each of whom a reserved seat was waiting. The public galleries, too, were crowded. Thirty-five members of the House were present when Premier Oliver and Speaker J. A. Buckham escorted the Lieutenant-Governor to the Speaker's chair. In accordance with long-established custom, His Honor was escorted by officers of the naval and military forces.

TRIBUTE PAID TO LATE MEMBER

The speech from the throne contained nothing unexpected.

After His Honor had left the chamber, the prime minister moved a vote of condolence for the family of the late A. O. Cochrane, member for North Okanagan, whose vacant seat was covered with flowers. Both Mr. Oliver and Mr. Pooley, who seconded the resolution, paid high tribute to the departed member.

After a few formal motions had been made and a number of reports had been presented, the house adjourned to meet for the transaction of business at 3 p.m. January 18 next.

Burde In Form

The formalities of the day were enlivened by R. J. Burde, the member for Alberni, who was in specially good form and who, in addition to other asides and interpellations, solemnly presented to Mr. Speaker, a report on the Kamloops convention.

While nothing was said about it in the Lieutenant-Governor's speech, it is generally believed that the coming session will see the government voluntarily relinquish its authority over the liquor control board, which will almost certainly be made responsible directly to the legislature.

It also is believed that the expected attack of the lumber men on the Minimum Wage Act will be met by the appointment of special house committee. There is little doubt that a severe struggle is in sight, but very few believe that the lumbermen will succeed in inducing the legislature to change its mind. The bill, when passed, received the support of both parties, only three members voting against it.

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The Session Begins

IT IS written in a law as unchangeable as the decrees of the Medes and Persians that no calendar year shall go by without an assembling of the legislature of the province. Were it not for this there is no telling what might happen. An autocratic governor and a subservient premier, or, perchance, an autocratic premier and a subservient governor, might decide to get on indefinitely without the assistance of the tribunes of the people, providing for expenses by royal warrants or other expedients. For legislatures are regarded as a necessary evil by governments, and the sooner they can be persuaded to grant supply so that they can be shut off by prorogation, the better governments are pleased. Like the passengers on a steamer from the standpoint of the officers, the members of the legislature in the view of any normally-minded body of ministers of the crown, are always more or less in the way.

The B. C. Legislature, having been prorogued last December, it had to meet again before the close of the present month, even though it had been decided that return should be made to the old custom of holding the sessions early instead of late in the year. Therefore on Thursday, with all the accustomed pomp and ceremony, His Honor came down to the House, opened it, and handed out some work for it to do. Therefore, also, instead of beginning its task, the House, as soon as the Governor's back was turned, threw business on one side and went off for Christmas.

Not that there was much to do. The directions of His Honor, as contained in the Speech from the Throne, suggested merely some legislation to promote agriculture and some other legislation to protect the public from loan companies of a certain class. The rest of the Speech was a pleasant little talk about the new Governor-General, the prizes won by British Columbia products at several exhibitions, and the fine new roads that have been built through "scenic British Columbia." As, however, nothing more was expected, nobody was disappointed. For it was merely a technical sitting, a going through the motions, a turning over of the engine. The real session will begin January 10, and announcement of the real program of the Government may then be confidently looked for.

NEWLY APPOINTED OFFICIAL DELIVERS THRONE SPEECH



HON. RANDOLPH BRUCE
Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia, who delivered the Speech from the Throne Thursday at the opening of the Legislature.

Financial Report Shows B.C. In Flourishing Condition

Debt Of Province Shows Reduction Of Two Millions

Assets Exceed Liabilities by \$64,000,000, According to Figures Submitted — Judicious Investment of Sinking Fund Appropriations Nets Profit of \$107,000, Report Indicates.

VICTORIA, Dec. 16.—Public accounts of the province of British Columbia for the year ended March 31, 1926, as presented to the legislature today by the Minister of Finance, Hon. J. D. MacLean, indicate the excellent financial position of this province.

Provincial assets exceed liabilities by \$64,000,000, or an increase of \$35,921,000 over the figures of 1924-25.

The public debt at March 31, 1925, was \$79,396,000, while at the 31st of March, 1926, the public debt, including temporary borrowings amounted to only \$76,786,000. The provincial debt, therefore, has been reduced by \$2,610,000 during the year.

JUDICIOUS INVESTMENT NETS FAT PROFIT

The reduction above referred to was brought about by the retirement of a 10 year loan of over \$3,000,000, which has fallen due and which had full sinking fund provisions. By judicious investments of these sinking fund appropriations, the department made a profit of \$107,000, and this amount was paid into the consolidated revenue fund for the benefit of current expenditures. Borrowings for new capital expenditures during the year amounting to \$484,000 made the net reduction, as above stated, of \$2,610,000.

Sinking funds of the province amounted to \$12,699,770.10, appropriations and dividends on investments for the year amounting to \$2,388,269.

Receipts Increase

Current receipts of the province reached \$20,608,671.67. Receipts for capital returns were \$1,167,197.48, making the total revenue \$21,775,869.15.

Current expenditures amounted to \$18,250,624.88, current receipts were therefore \$2,525,046.99 in excess of current expenditures. There was, however, \$3,444,451.15 capital expenditures made out of income; therefore, the total expenditures, both current and capital, amounted to \$21,695,076.83 against total receipts of both capital returns and current revenue amounting to \$21,775,869.15, leaving a surplus revenue receipt over all expenditures, both capital and current of \$100,792.32.

Industrial Development

The revenues of the province portray the industrial development. Generally speaking, most of the items of revenue receipts, such as motor vehicle, land registry fees, gasoline tax, income tax, mineral tax, etc., show considerable increase over estimates, while several of the large items for expenditures show decrease, such as public debt \$223,651.60; education \$59,242.35; unemployment relief \$156,000 and railways \$167,000.

Liquor sales for the last six month period ending September 30 last were slightly larger than for the two previous semi-annual periods, the liquor board's figures in the house today indicated.

FINANCE MINISTER SCORES TRIUMPH IN ANNUAL REPORT



HON. J. D. MACLEAN
whose statement at the opening of the Legislature showed British Columbia finances in excellent condition.

\$6,999,770 Sales

Covering three of these periods, they showed total sales for the six months ending September 30 were \$6,999,770, as against \$6,610,943 in the previous six months and \$6,823,401 in the six months previous to that.

Profits for the last six months were \$1,555,524, as compared with \$1,780,668 in the previous period and \$1,551,265 in the preceding six months. The fact that profits showed a big gain for the six months ending March 31 last was due to the inclusion of annual beer licences in them.

Liquor System As

High Prices
Attacked
From Thro
Declared N

VICTORIA, rush this afternoon. Columbia legislator Vancouver member complete handling eliminate public he could speak for the house.

Referring to trade and camp investigations in government had first was in en charging big pri ests to profit from RIGID INQUIRY ON LIQUOR URG "If we have the the situation with give the citizens available at cost p let private indiv profit whatever fr he declared.

He said he w that the govern cognizance of co cover. He unde ney-general had vigation and h lieved it would l entless.

Moving the ad the Speech from eral Odium review uation, discussed lem, commended l his freight rate for to secure Peace River bloc He sounded a ne Oriental penetrat ver produce mari self against com tion as the solu agan's fruit trou for higher ideal rapped Dr. S. F. leader of the B. on the knuckles failure so far to leadership.

FREE HAND GIVEN IN SPEE

Before he had the address in r speech, he said, with Premier given a free han mter had accorde cre supporter of but he was not t policies.

"I do not ext Legislature for Odium proceeds a candidate, a speak freely as for this House, province as a v Turning to t investigations, t address thought must be placed or else a great dence had been.

The fault with istration was not but with the sy When the issue people they ma they wanted liqu by public sale, unmistakable, was to be remov vice rendered.